

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin



Embracing our Future

2021

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Thank you for your interest in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. We invite you to learn a little about who we are and what we want to be. The congregation proved adaptable to changes in our routines in the pandemic, like everyone made changes in their daily lives. Services and plans were abruptly halted with the hope it wouldn't be too long and we adapted with Zoom and Facebook. This allowed greater access for our shut-in members and new relationships were also formed.

The Vestry made occasional "packet drops" at members' homes to stay connected. When the diocese allowed for it, we started having in person worship but decided to keep Zoom and Facebook options. Even though church life isn't what we had been used to, or wanted, we are hoping to return to our strengths as we move into our future. Let's take a short look back, to help us look forward.

A History of St. Peter's

One hundred and fifty-seven years is a long time. That's how long men, women, and children have gathered as part of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. For all those years, generations of individuals and families gathered for worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and more. Here, at St. Peter's, children, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were baptized, married, or had their funeral services. As we look to our future and the desire to be the Episcopal presence in Sheboygan Falls for years to come, we are insightful enough to understand the need to bring more people to join us in our search for faith, hope, and love.

St. Peter's has had 14 rectors in its 157-year history. The longest serving priest (37 years) was the Rev. Canon Herbert Stuart Stanton who served from 1922 until his death in 1959. The shortest was the Rev. Martin B. Kilpack who served from 1920 until his death from scarlet fever in 1921. Our clergy have had a variety of interests, lifestyles, and backgrounds. We called the first priest who was female to serve in the Diocese of Fond du Lac, as well as the first priest who was African (and became a naturalized U.S. citizen during his time with us). We have had several that were married, some with children. Some things they all had in common was a commitment to sharing the Good News with the people of the congregation and the community and becoming an active member in the local community.

The parish of St. Peter's has a history of being involved in the local community, the greater Sheboygan County area, the Diocese, and the world. In the 1920's chicken pot pie dinners with a craft sale and dance were open to the community and sponsored by St. Peter's. We have held joint services and picnics with the other Episcopal churches in the county. Members of St. Peter's have gone on mission trips to help those in other areas

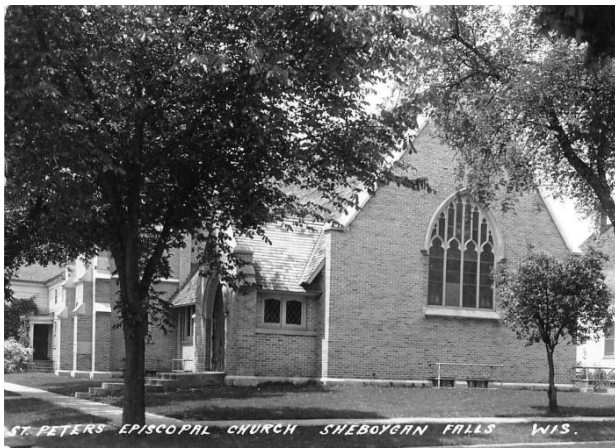
devastated by hurricanes or earthquakes. We have been involved in outreach in Rwanda, and have sponsored different children in need. Locally we have been involved in the local food pantry, Love INC., the Salvation Army, the Sharon Richardson Hospice, Project Angel Hugs, and sending various supplies and goodies to the members of the military, among other things. We have an active Altar Guild, book club, and participate in UTO, Cursillo, and Episcopal Relief and Development.



Our church buildings have gone through changes through the years. The original building was a wooden structure on the east side of Broadway Street. In 1905 flooding of the Sheboygan River caused a decision to move it across the street. In 1925 the current church building was built with a small chapel adjacent and a two-story rectory. In 1969 a new rectory was built and the old rectory and chapel torn down.

On Palm Sunday 1998 a fire struck the church. During the time of rebuilding, members held services in a building across the street, and banded together to help in the clean up and restoration. A new addition was added which allowed an elevator and ramp, and a new chapel.

There is no doubt that much has changed since St. Peter's Episcopal Church was established in 1864. The 21st century world is very different from the 19th century. The good news is that the message of the Gospel we are called to proclaim is still relevant. Proclaiming God's love in the 21st century and beyond will by no means be easy. It will require a renewed commitment and dedication to the values that have nurtured and sustained Christian communities and individuals from the very beginning. Our strong traditions of the past 157 years have not prevented us from changing and evolving as we enter the next 150+ years at St. Peter's. As a small-town church, we believe that local



community involvement is essential to the life and growth of our church. There are still many in Sheboygan Falls, and beyond, who need to hear the good news of God in Christ Jesus.

Who We Are Today

St. Peter's strives to provide as many ministries and fellowship opportunities as possible to allow people to participate in areas where they can use their spiritual and worldly gifts. We are blessed with a talented and giving congregation that has the energy and desire to give of themselves.

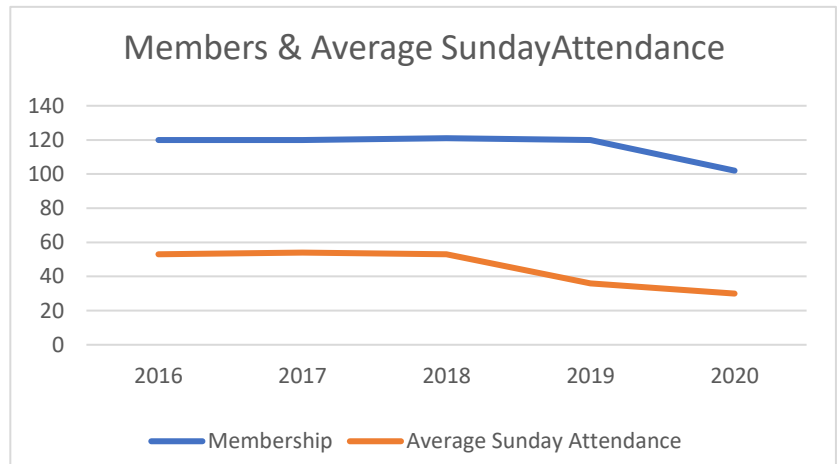
Participation and Giving Trends

St. Peter's is one of three Episcopal churches in Sheboygan County, with the other two being Grace in Sheboygan (7 miles) and St. Paul's, Plymouth (11 miles). Each has its own style. St. Peter's tends to be flexible in our worship styles that can provide comfortable worship that appeals to different people. Approximately 2/3 of our members live outside Sheboygan Falls and while some may live closer to the other Episcopal churches, they choose to make St. Peter's their parish home. Vestry members represent this well, coming from as close as ½ mile to as distant as 17 miles.

People At St. Peter's?

How far members travel.

Less than 1 mile	21%
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1 – 5 miles:	21%
.....	
6 – 10 miles:	32%
.....	
11 – 15 miles	19%
.....	
More than 15 miles	5%
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Financial

While we currently have a small deficit based on our giving income, we have a sufficient asset base to ensure the viability of the parish while we work on growing our faith community.

Who We Want To Be Tomorrow

Our Vision...

A vibrant, Christ-centered community actively reaching out to help others in their search for Christ and to fulfill their spiritual needs.

Our Mission...

To provide opportunities for all people to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love

Our Goals....

As a mutually supportive family in Christ, to:

- Attract and accept new people regardless of where they currently are in their faith journey.
- Rebuild a sense of family within our parish members.
- Rebuild a sense of community and visibility as an inclusive church reaching out to the broader populous as we find our niche.
- Continue our relationship with the local food bank and Love INC.

What We Are Looking For In A Rector:

The rector shall lead St. Peter's as a pastor, priest, and teacher. By word and action, the rector should proclaim the Gospel, love and serve Christ's people, nourish them and strengthen them in their faith journey and help them prepare for the life to come. We are seeking a rector who can develop a caring relationship with us individually and collectively, sharing in our joys, providing comfort and consolation, as needed, in our sorrows, and who is comfortable in joining us in various social activities.

We are looking for in our next candidate to:

- be filled with the Holy Spirit and full of energy!
- gain our trust, even if it means being honest to a fault.
- build a sense of community amongst parishioners.
- Increase the parish's visibility in the broader community beyond the church walls, intentionally reaching out to the broader community of Sheboygan County.
- Partner with parishioners in ways to welcome new members
- Nurture a more inclusive church.
- Be open to new relationships -- with other churches/ministries, with one another, with new people who may enter the doors on any given day.

Description Of Duties

The Rector shall lead St. Peter's Church as pastor, priest and teacher, sharing in the councils of this congregation and of the whole church, in communion with our Bishop. The Rector shall work with the Wardens, Vestry and other lay leaders to maintain the regular schedule of worship services, regular pastoral calling and the general administration of the parish.

In addition to the responsibilities outlined in "The Ordination of a Priest" from the Book of Common Prayer, namely diligent study of scripture, ministry of Word and Sacraments, faithful pastoring, being a wholesome example and persevering in prayer, the Rector shall:

- Maintain a fulltime employment workweek, which shall include Sunday activities.
- Maintain office hours so that he/she is accessible to those he/she is called to serve.
- Supervise employees in their work for the parish
- Teach and preach responsible stewardship through action and example.
- Respond to people who are experiencing a crisis in their lives by counseling, home or hospital visits.
- Preach and teach with clarity and enthusiasm to make the Gospel relevant to all our lives.
- Encourage the development and training of lay ministries and acolytes.
- Lead and train members in their spiritual life and development.
- Become involved outside of the community of St. Peter's in order to encourage others to become part of our community.
- Lead us and walk with us in our faith journey.



Responsibility Of The Laity

To develop a partnership with the Rector, the laity, following the Vestry's example, shall:

- For the glory of God, welcome newcomers, as Christ has welcomed us.
- Participate in the education and nurturing of the laity in areas of faith, Christian theology and spiritual direction.
- Create, nurture, grow, maintain and participate in an active outreach ministry, including the Community Food Pantry and Love INC. (Love in the Name of Christ) - www.loveincsheboygancounty.org
- Attend church services as much as possible.
- Give of your time, talent, and treasure
- Increase participation in special ministries such as acolytes, chalice bearers, lay readers and altar guild, parish newsletter, audio/visual presentations, music and facility care.
- Develop adult social programs and activities.

Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Falls offers a unique blend of “small town living” with amenities that often surprise people unfamiliar with the area. Learn more at sheboyganfalls.org.

Housing – Wide range of affordable housing and living options: old established neighborhoods, modern subdivisions, planned communities, small town and rural options within 5-20 minutes of St. Peter's. The Church House, a former rectory turned office, could be renovated into living space if desired.

Schools – The upper Midwest is known for quality education systems. Children and adults have access to high quality education from pre-school through college.

Entertainment - Being in an area that is a tourist destination and a community with vibrant charitable giving, results in a wide range of interesting and high-quality restaurants and an active “big town in a small town” cultural scene.

Outdoor Activity – A wide range of outdoor activities each season. These include fishing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping, golfing, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling, all that can be done in the many inland lakes, parks, state forests, trail systems, world class golf courses and Lake Michigan.



Contact

To inquire about this position, please contact the Diocesan Transition Ministry Officer, the Rev. Meredyth Albright at meredythalbright@gmail.com or (262)309-3880.