

2021 Commitment to St. Peter's

Good Stewards,

Humanity was a steward from the beginning! A first thing to be understood is that God has made you stewards, caretakers, and managers of all that you have. Your relationships, family & friends and your possessions are for you to steward in God's Name.

Secondly, when it comes to how you manage those things in your care God wants your best. Whether it is financial, attendance in worship, or participation in ministries here at St. Peter's, God's desire for you is to make your offering with a joy-filled, open-heart devoid of rancor. In the things that God has called you to steward, do it with faithfulness, love, and happiness.

Third, God calls for what belongs to him and he promises that when his people are faithful, they will see his abundance. Together, God's people can change the world. And each of you play an important part in that reality. It takes *you* to play *your* part. St. Peter's cannot do it without you!

Finally, your stewardship response to God comes out of the love that he first has for you. When Jesus laid his life down for you it was a free offering. How do you respond? The Scriptures call us to be "living sacrifices." God has given you everything, even his own Son. In what way will you Joyfully respond to that gift?

St. Peter's is a truly fortunate community of faithful people looking to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Jesus is Lord in the sense that when we live our daily lives, we are accountable to him for how we care for the people and things that God has placed in our path. We look to the actions of his life when considering the actions in our own lives. How can you best serve him as Lord in your family, professionally, and in leisure time?

Jesus is Savior in that, in addition to his sacrificial work on the cross, by study of his life his followers find help navigating difficult decisions. When you faithfully-thoughtfully pray to God for guidance, studying the life of Jesus can reveal God's direction for your decisions. By striving to emulate Jesus' life you can be surely guided to actions that reflect God's character and bring about the Kingdom of Heaven in your life.

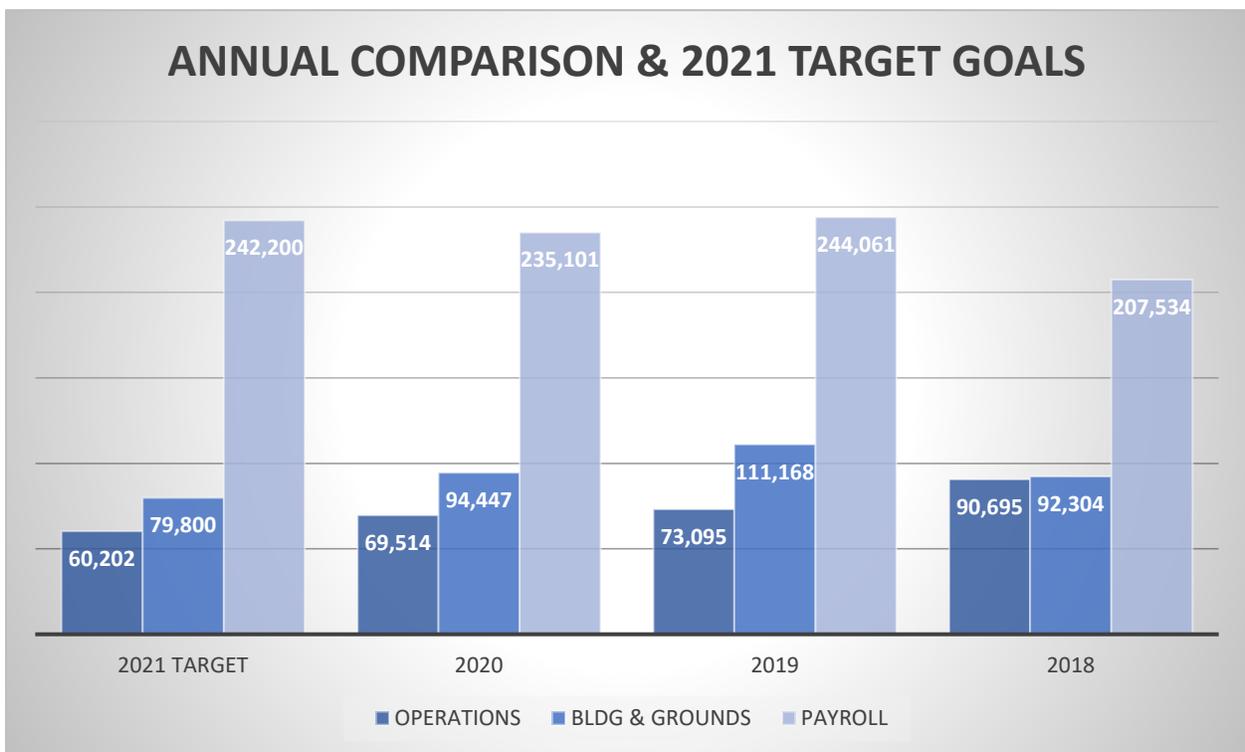
The 2020 year has been rough for many people in many different ways. It has disrupted our patterns of worship, finance, family and work life. Both our pandemic and renovation work at St. Peter's has thrown us for a loop! Through all of this we still have experienced God's protection and the support of God's people in the ministry we share together. As 2020 comes to its conclusion, I stay optimistic and joyful about the ministry God has for us at St. Peter's.

We still look forward to caring for the hungry. That has not wavered. We continue in our various Bible studies and support for recovery ministries. We still look forward to supporting children who are particularly vulnerable to poverty. In January, we expect to embark on new activities to support a local mothers' organization that fosters parenting seminars and fellowship for moms and young children. At the same time, we truly need to shore up our routine maintenance of our church facilities.

St. Peter's *needs your best!* We have such a treasure in our facility (especially having restored it to a clean-air status) that our vestry needs the resources to maintain it properly!

We hope you will join in by contributing your best to St. Peter's. Your Finance Committee and Vestry will faithfully use those resources to maintain our facility and more importantly fund the program that Glorifies God in our Worship, Outreach & Internal Ministries, and Education.

This graph indicates our general expenditures over the last three years. 2018/2019 are actual figures while the latter two years are based on budgeted and projected expenses. We are working very hard to use these figures to guide our 2021 budget and our *healthy* spending. We intend to reallocate funds to payroll that will help us grow in areas that will foster children's programming and general worship. At the same time we want to ensure that resources are provided for preventative maintenance on our campus.



One other item that will impact our 2021 goals is a line-item regarding debt retirement resulting from our remediation and renovation work. That figure will be integrated into our budget when we balance our capital gifts and remaining debt.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship. St. Peter's is looking forward to a great 2021 and we are glad that you are a part of that future. With godly love and faithfulness,

Brenda Squyres—Treasurer
Charles Schubert—Senior Warden
The Rev. Stephen F. Whaley—Rector

P.S. Please take the time to watch the four (4) short video segments on the YouTube Channel regarding stewardship. The videos are linked to the church website's e-giving page.