



2024 Annual Report
The Community of St. Peter

Beloved Community,

As we enter into a New Year and the seventh month of our ministry together, I give thanks for all the ways God has accompanied us through our pastoral transition. And much faithful work has been done beyond the celebration of Fr. Bob's pastorate and the inauguration of my own. Each week we continue to gather as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery in word, song, and sacrament... each week we visit and check in on members of our community in times of sickness or separation... each week we seek to offer comfort to those who mourn or are in a time of need. AND:

-Before I arrived in June, the Community welcomed Matthew Dolan as our new Music Director. We celebrate the gifts he brings to us as he leads us in musical praise and prayer.

-In August we partnered with New Life at Cavalry Church, our local LDS Ward, and the Holiness Church to support 200 students in our neighborhood with backpacks and back to school supplies. Members of our community also helped with clean up after a day filled with food, music, and fellowship at New Life at Calvary. I am grateful for the ecumenical partnerships we are growing as we seek to be about Christ's ministry and mission in Cleveland.

-In September, Martha developed a social media calendar for the Community which she has implemented on a weekly basis. Drawing on the branding materials provided by Prosper for Purpose, Martha has posted quotes from each Sunday's homily, prayer intentions, volunteer opportunities, and events from wider community partners in addition to our own special events.

-In October we launched our first annual stewardship campaign. Reflecting together on how we are called to care for all things great and small, 62 individuals and families made a commitment to financially support our congregation in a concrete way in 2025. As we look to next fall, we will seek to increase the number of CSP members willing to not only contribute but also to pledge to better help the Board and staff plan for the 2026 fiscal year.

-In November we began the transition to our new church database, REALM. Spearheaded by our administrative assistant the Rev. Susi Kowalics, REALM will serve as our new church directory, event registration system, and giving tracker. Individual members are now able to update both their contact information and their giving preferences, as well as track their own giving, through the database. I trust this will be an important tool for us as we continue to implement its many features and help us better steward our resources and connect with one another.

We shared in the Vote-ives for Peace project, forty days of prayer leading up to the November election and hosted a pre-election labyrinth walk to center ourselves and our community in God's presence and grace.

We gathered for our first Advent Planning Session as members of the Community shared what Advent meant to them, traditions and music that holds deep meaning, and how it is we might mark the season.

-In December, Matthew led us in our Advent Taize service, an evening of prayer, beautiful music, and meditation.

We partnered with the Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation and their incredible Jesse Dismukes to support a neighborhood family with Christmas gifts for the holiday season.

We recorded and shared our first Blue Christmas Service for those who may be struggling with the joy of the season and experimented with weekly anointing at the tabernacle during the reception of Communion to offer another opportunity to experience the healing and wholeness God offers.

As we continue to learn and grow together, I am grateful to serve with such faithful colleagues in Martha, Matthew, and Susi; with our Board and President Dr. Louise Prochaska; with all of you as we live ever more deeply into preserving and renewing a living tradition.

In peace,
Joe

Outreach to Refugee Ministry

*“As Salaam Alaikum” Ongoing support for refugees continues through the efforts of individuals and the greater Community of St. Peter. The generosity of the Community consistently surpasses expectations evidenced by the numerous donations received during semi-annual collections for USCRI, (United State Committee for Refugees and Immigrants), and St. Coleman’s Refugee Resource Center, during this past year.

What began early in 2016 with CSP members cleaning and preparing homes for new families arriving from around the world, has evolved into multiple and varied volunteer projects and programs CSP members are currently involved with.

Tom and Kate O’Donnell continue to volunteer twice weekly at St. Coleman’s Refugee Resource Center (2027 W. 65th St.), organizing and assembling hygiene and cleaning supply “go bags” each Tuesday for Saturday distribution. Kate told me she and Tom simply love the work they do at St. Coleman’s, which serves 450 families. St. Coleman’s Refugee Center was awarded a CSP Social Justice grant in 2023.

USCRI has been supported by CSP volunteers since 2016 when Bob Kloos introduced and recruited members for house setups. Community members transformed dirty, rundown apartments into clean, furnished homes welcoming new families to Cleveland. Bob continues to be a strong advocate and consistent volunteer for USCRI, renting trucks to pick and deliver donated furniture to the homes of refugee families. It’s a difficult logistical task and finding additional volunteers to assist with moving furniture would be appreciated by USCRI.

Nancy Crow, Paula Campbell, and Kate Howley continue to volunteer at USCRI’s Resource Center on a weekly basis. Their dedication began in 2020 during the evacuation of Afghan refugees when a new Resource Center was created to accommodate the many newcomers arriving. In addition to usual tasks, Nancy enjoys creating “Grab and Go” bags with age-

appropriate toys for children. Paula expressed how she loves the comradery of the volunteers and staff as well as the generosity of the people responding to the needs of the Resource Center. (3167 Fulton Rd. suite 101). Post election 2024, the number of new arrivals has increased significantly as USCRI attempts to resettle as many refugee families as possible before the new administration takes office. There is a great need for donations and volunteers at this time.

Simple gifts with profound outcomes:

Rosemary and John Ludway met an Afghan family six years ago while delivering a stroller to the home. That simple gift has led to their weekly visits for the past 6 years assisting in the family's needs while enjoying the evolution of becoming extended family in every way. Rosemary said they have learned so much about the family and culture and enjoy the close relationship they have formed.

Mark and I met an Afghan family seven years ago while delivering toys to multiple refugee families. Unable to stay for a visit, we returned later for tea and experienced an instant bond with the family. The mother of this family has become my third daughter and Mark is considered a brother to her husband. I was gifted the joy of helping her through her labor and delivery of their youngest daughter, now 5 years old. They too are our family. Such a gift they are.

Mark and I continue to assist and support several other Afghan families with food, transportation and essential items for their homes. They are a joy to be with. It's impossible to leave their homes without chi, (tea) or a full meal. We were also blessed to house a young Afghan woman in our home for nine months. We have become family.

Many members of the Community have thoughtfully contacted me throughout the year offering items they wish to gift to a refugee family. Barb Glasener, despite her grief after losing her son, offered almost the entire contents of her late son's apartment to a family in need. The recipients were an Afghan family who traveled from Afghanistan to Brazil, then into the United States seeking asylum with no belongings of their own. They carried their child much of the way, traumatized by the difficult and dangerous journey. When meeting the family, I arrived at their apartment to find it completely empty except for a rug and two blankets which the parents shared with their toddler daughter. This was their bed and all they owned. Barb's gifts filled their home with everything they needed. They were overwhelmed and beyond grateful.

Many Community members have offered various donations including fabric, sewing machines notions, cultural clothing, household goods, appliances and other items throughout the year, *and the Community has been more than generous during the semi-annual collections for the refugees.* It is clear, assisting refugees has become a mainstay in the hearts and minds of CSP members. The work of individual Outreach to Refugee Ministry members along with the ongoing support of personal donations and semi-annual collections of goods illustrates the deep commitment to helping those marginalized and traumatized after leaving their homeland and resettling in a foreign country. CSP has become a community that embraces and supports refugees through gifts of goods and works of love.

The goal of this ministry is to continue supporting various organizations that assist and support refugees as we move into uncertain times in 2025. Along with periodic collections, it is with

hope that we can expand the Outreach to Refugee Ministry into providing additional support and/or services to families who have recently settled in the Cleveland area.

In Peace and Gratitude.
Darlene Davis

*“As Salaam Alaikum” is a Muslim greeting meaning “Peace be unto you”.

Year End Financial Report

The end of fiscal year 2024 said a heartfelt goodbye to Bob Kloos and a warm welcome to Joe Blotz as the new pastor/administrator of CSP. This change will make for new financial challenges going forward as outlined below.

The good news for 2024 is CSP’s total assets as of January 1, 2024 were \$874,000 and \$899,000 at the end of the year. The disconcerting element in the financial report is the fact that the total income in 2024 was \$279,000 vs. expenditures of \$343,000 or a deficit of \$64,000. This deficit was covered by cashing in some investments which had produced an unrealized gain of \$88,000 in 2024.

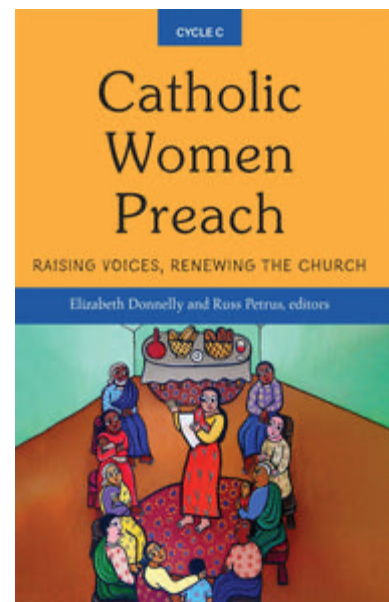
The Budget for 2025 reflects the realities of 2024 in that it shows a deficit of \$57,000 which will require cashing in investments in the Reserve Fund. This can only be rectified by an increase in contributions or a reduction in expenses. CSP must be made aware that the Reserve Fund is subject to the changes in the Stock Market which can decrease as well as increase. For the long-term viability of CSP a serious review of income and expenses should be undertaken in 2025.

Submitted by Tom O’Donnell, Treasurer

The Education Committee

This year, we sponsored seven presentations, including:

- November 20 — **Catholic Women Preach Book Launch**, a panel of women preachers co-sponsored with FutureChurch.
- February 17 – **Lenten Day of Reflection** with Sr. Diane Pinchot, Dorothy Valerian, Sr. Anne Marie Dietrich Martha Ligas, Eileen Pappalardo, and Bob Kloos.
- May 18 – **A Synod Experience** with the Communities of St. Bridget and St. Hildegard with Deb Rose, emerita Director of FutureChurch.
- June 12 – Movie Night **“The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture.”**
- June 26 – **“Working for Social Change in an Election Year”** with Greg Colderidge, Move to Amend.
- September 24 – **“Facing Racism and White Supremacy: What Church Communities Can Do”** with Jeannine Hill Fletcher of Fordam University.



- October 21 – “**Catholics and Conscience**” with Fr. Ken Himes of Siena College.

Turn out and audience engagement for each was very strong, especially the Lenten Day of Reflection.

New Committee Chairs took over in early November 2024. Barbara Belovich and Tony Felice will share those responsibilities. Tony will represent the Education Committee to the Board. Barb will run the meetings and keep the minutes. New members joined the Committee. Membership now includes: Connie Herron, Judy Maher, Mark Pestak, Martha Ligas, Maureen Pergola, Armand Accordino, Judy Comeau-Hart, Joe Konen, and Scott Sella.

The two-plus hour planning meeting was held yielded many ideas that were recorded for inclusion in a 2025 planning calendar for Committee review and assignment. Other ideas were raised that more appropriately fall within other committees. Those will be passed along.

The Committee met again on December 4 by Zoom to finalize planning for 2025 and agree on assignments. The group will meet each third Wednesday of the month in 2025. We are looking forward to another year of exciting programing covering several topics with interesting speakers.

Submitted by Barb Belovich, co-chair

Social Justice Committee



The Social Justice Committee at the Community of St. Peter is privileged to serve the Community through its work with, advocacy for, and relationship-building with the marginalized in our city. Through monthly meetings, programming, events, and a passion for accompanying the marginalized, we have prayerfully engaged in social justice work throughout the past year. While our work and our interests extend beyond this report, here are a few 2024 highlights:

Winter:

The Social Justice Committee started the year strong with a Martin Luther King Day Program on racism led by our guests Katie and Ann from the “Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation initiative” with the Sister of Notre Dame. As a continuation of our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. annual celebration, we invited all present at Liturgy to recite the Artisan of Peace Pledge.

Spring:

Inspired by that celebration, as the year continued we sought ways to engage with the local community and began building a relationship with our neighbors at Griot Village. Griot Village is a housing development for intergenerational households and is the first development of its kind in Ohio. Throughout the year we met for conversation, art projects, and even a party. We are excited to continue collaborating with Griot and growing this relationship in the new year.

Summer:

For the second year running, in June of this year the SJ Committee led the charge for CSP's participation in "Pride in the CLE," Cleveland's LGBTQ+ pride march and festival. We gathered 30+ community members to march, dance, cheer, and chant, and had fun sharing information about our inclusive community with passersby while tabling at the festival.

Fall:

Throughout the summer the committee revised the process for receiving, deliberating, and awarding Social Justice Grants, and in the early Fall we were happy to receive eight nominations for the grants. The organizations nominated were: Re:Source Cleveland, HOLA Ohio, Blessing House, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Turning Point Community Cleveland, Casa Juan Diego, House of Champions, and Brookdale Orchard. We were happy to award the \$5000 grants to the following organizations: Re:Source Cleveland, Blessing House, Casa Juan Diego, House of Champions, and Brookdale Orchard. We invited all recipients to share more information with the Community about their work, and have gratefully hosted both Brookdale Orchard and Institute for Poetic Medicine (a 2023 award recipient) after Liturgies this year.

Winter:

As Fall turned to Advent, the Social Justice Committee once again hosted a holiday fair trade sale in collaboration with the Interreligious Task Force on Central America. Total purchases equaled roughly \$1,200, all of which will support IRTF initiatives.

Looking Ahead...

As we look to the year ahead, the committee remains committed to serving the Community of St. Peter by leading its service, advocacy, and relationship-building with and for the marginalized in our city. Most imminently, we are excited to host Turning Point Community for our Martin Luther King Day program next week and look forward to conversation about future engagement with their efforts.

-Submitted by Martha Ligas, Committee Chair

Pastoral Care of Community Members

“We value time together and promote bonds of personal support.”
...*from the Mission and Values Statement of the Community of St. Peter*

When we gather for liturgy, we keep in mind the members of the Community who are unable to join us in person at 7100 because of illness or mobility concerns. We miss our friends, we pray for them, and extend care to assure they are re-membered in the Body of Christ and connected to the Community.

While Pastoral Care is provided foremost by our pastor and pastoral minister, we support their ministry. We bring Eucharist from our table to CSP members who are homebound (temporarily or long-term), hospitalized, in nursing facilities or under hospice care.

We reach out in other ways, including calls and notes. Jeanne Heffernan sends greeting cards monthly on behalf of the Community. The newsletter includes reminders for others to keep in touch with the homebound. Many participate in the liturgy from home via the CSP YouTube channel. Their concerns are included in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Highlights of this past year:

- Pastoral Care facilitated introductory visits for our new Pastor Joe to meet some of our homebound members.
- We made calls of invitation for the Anointing Liturgy on September 8th, and offered transportation as available. All were grateful for the Spirit's healing presence. We suggest an Anointing Liturgy be offered in the spring, as well.
- The opportunity for personal anointing and prayer at an “anointing station” after receiving Eucharist was presented at a few liturgies in November. We will continue to explore this with the Pastoral Team.
- A wheelchair and a walker were donated to the Community. They are available in Martha Ligas' office.
- We affirmed the Pastoral Team's creation of a “Blue Christmas” Advent prayer service for homebound members as well as those alone or grieving.
- Christmas cards for the homebound were provided for members to sign after a liturgy. All were mailed and happily received. We plan to repeat this project.

CSP members who provided Pastoral Care support this past year included Nancy Crow, Marie Dietrich, Jim Everett, Lynne Ford, Mary Gill, Jeanne Heffernan, Patrick Henry, Joanne Wagner and Dorothy Valerian (chair).

Looking ahead, we renew our commitment to Pastoral Care. With the implementation of a new data base and updated directory, we will work to improve communication and reinforce connections with our homebound members.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 2nd, following liturgy. Please contact a member of Pastoral Care if you would like to join us. Currently, a new chair is needed for this committee.

Dorothy Valerian (retiring chair)

Climate Conversations Group

The Climate Conversations Group of CSP has been active as a committee since 2022. Made up of community members dedicated to learning about climate change, we provide educational opportunities for CSP and the broader community and engage people of conscience in the interconnectedness and sacredness of the natural world and one another. Our mission statement is as follows:

“Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to recognize and learn from the prophetic voices of our time - to discern a path forward through the crisis of climate change. We hope to gain the wisdom to joyfully and humbly find balance of human endeavors within all Creation.”

Members of the Group include the following:

Judy Comeau-Hart, Chair
Mary Kelsey, Co-Chair
Joe Blotz/Pastor-Administrator
Martha Ligas/Pastoral Minister
Joyce Conway
Mike Coughlin
Connie Herron
Bob Kloos
Joe Konen
John Ludway
Judy Maher
Charlie Michelson
Julie Michelson
Cindy Milhalek
Eileen Pappalardo
Diane Pinchot
Joanne Wagner
Kathleen Webb

The Group has several program tracks: 1) a zoom series entitled: **FaCT Distinguished Speakers** in partnership with **Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future**, a statewide environmental organization that works with faith communities of all denominations to address the climate change; 2) a series of events held in person at CSP and via zoom examining

the climate crisis from a faith perspective, through listening to prophetic voices of various writers and speakers.

CSP is a **FaCT Anchor Church**, which means CSP is in step with FaCT's mission and values. Believing in the moral imperative of addressing climate change – engaging faith communities and people of conscience in the interconnectedness and sacredness of the natural world and one another is what drives FaCT. Their website provides a wealth of information and resources on climate change and environmental sustainability.

Events in 2024 so far, include:

- 1) FaCT Distinguished Speaker: **Donal Wuebbles – Climate Change and the Great Lakes**; Saturday, February 10, 2024
- 2) Hosted several activities Sunday, April 21, 2024 – the day before **Earth Day**. Activities included a session with Charlie Michelson to learn how to sign up for renewable energy; a postcard writing activity to encourage the passage of community solar in the state of Ohio and distribution of a handout on assessing our use of “**plastic**” in our homes and workplaces - making changes to our behavior and habits.
- 3) Showed the film at CSP: **Common Ground** in partnership with FaCT – a film about regenerative farming: May 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm .
- 4) CSP members **visited Ohio City Farm**, May 8, 2024, to learn about **urban farming**.
- 5) FaCT Distinguished Speaker: **Justin Nobel – Petroleum 238: Big Oil's Dirty Secrets**; May 17, 2024 – West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, OH
- 6) FaCT Distinguished Speaker: **Jennifer Ackerman – What an Owl Knows**, June 15, 2024 via zoom.
- 7) FaCT Distinguished Speaker – **Jake Bittle – The Great Displacement**, July 31, 2024, via zoom.
- 8) FaCT Distinguished Speaker – **Ted Auch – The Use of Data in Evaluating Social Justice**, September 25, 2024, via zoom.
- 9) FaCT Distinguished Speaker – **Mohamed Amer Meziane – the State of the Earth**, October 9, 2024, via zoom.
- 10) FaCT Distinguished Speakers – **Featuring 3 FaCT interns** – college students majoring in environmental studies – **Saturday, December 14, 2024**. The students were recruited from Kent State, Kenyon College and Marietta College to study the harm caused by radioactive brine waste and to make presentations to student and civic groups at their respective colleges. At the December 14th event they presented their challenges and successes in tackling the subject.

In addition to all these activities, the Climate Conversations Group meets monthly – the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 am via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Comeau-Hart, Chair, Climate Conversations Group

Growth Task Force

Marketing Handbook: Lorraine Schuchart of Prosper for Purpose created a communication blueprint for the Community of Saint Peter including branding and messaging based on interviews she conducted with CSP members. This included ink colors for publications, a social media calendar of “evergreen” postings (focused on CSP’s message rather than a specific event and can be used intermittently as the need arises), and suggestions for marketing CSP including a revised website. She presented her recommendations in a Power Point presentation at the May Board of Trustees meeting. She also wrote/distributed the news release announcing Bob Kloos’ retirement and welcoming new pastor/administrator Joe Blotz. A website design company has been hired to redesign the current CSP website in 2025.

Email marketing: In February the weekly eNewsletter transitioned from being sent as an attached PDF to using MailChimp and now Mailer Lite as the platform to create/email the eNewsletter and track the reach and impact, which proved to be very favorable (over 50% open rate). Because CSP’s email address is through gmail, there were delivery issues to some email addresses so the goal was to change the staff emails from @gmail.com to a CSP domain email to alleviate these problems.

The following marketing/communication suggestions arose from monthly GTF meetings:

- Add a QR code linking to donations on the website to the weekly bulletin and including a donation ask in the weekly eNewsletter;
- Use Google Analytics to assess website usage and aid in website redesign;
- Promote Education events through listings on Eventbrite;
- Develop a Welcome to Worship guide explaining CSP’s liturgy and encouraging participation from visitors;
- Responsibility for social media postings and Facebook updates is on staff;
- Storytelling member profiles sharing their choice for CSP;
- New Visitor Experience: member name tags, welcome bags for adults, activity bags for children. INCOMPLETE: new member blessing, quarterly new member coffee/brunch/open house;
- Neighborhood Outreach: partnering with MidTown on sharing CSP news on their website;
- Outreach to non-attending members as far as phone calls or letters has stalled; they were all invited to the events surrounding the transition from Bob Kloos to Joe Blotz and a few attended. INCOMPLETE

report by Ksenia Roshchakovsky

Ministries at Community of St. Peter For Annual Report, 2024

Our community is very active not only doing committee work but volunteering in a variety of ministries. Included in this category are groups that fulfill a service to CSP and beyond. Listed here are these groups, their mission, and the person who organizes the participants.

<p>Bookclub organized by Barbara Schumacher Goal is to enrich the intellectual and cultural background of members. 16 regular members but anyone is welcome read and discuss the monthly book selection.</p>	<p>Hospitality teams scheduled by Patrick Henry Their goal is to provide coffee, tea, and light refreshments after Sunday liturgy. There are 36 volunteers organized into 9 teams.</p>
<p>Choir director is Matthew Dolan Goal is to deepen and enrich worship at CSP with vocal and instrumental music. There are 14 choir members and five who play handbells on special occasions.</p>	<p>Outreach to Cleveland Metropolitan Schools organized by Jayne Janus These volunteer services, typically tutoring, at the request of the principal(s) of CMSD elementary school. At present, there are 6 regular volunteers.</p>
<p>Liturgical ministers: acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, clipboard managers Pastor Joseph Blotz Their mission is to serve at weekly liturgical celebrations and other worship services. 15 acolytes, 27 Eucharistic ministers, 16 lectors, and 4 clipboard managers.</p>	<p>Outreach to Refugees organized by Darlene Davis Goal is to provide and organize donations and do a wide variety of services needed to settle refugees in the Cleveland area. There are 9 regular volunteers. All CSP members donate critical items twice a year.</p>
<p>Cleaners of worship space scheduled into teams by Joe Konen Their work is to clean the worship space weekly. 18 volunteers.</p>	