

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Councils

Each of these eight councils are designed to help oversee a particular area of ministry at St. Peter's. The goal is to have five or six people on each council who will commit to serving God and the church in that particular way for three years. However, you don't have to be on a Council to be a part of our life together. There is plenty to do here. There is more than enough for every man, woman and child. So what are you waiting for?

Worship and Music Council

What we do each and every Sunday is the backbone of our community. We worship God, offering praise and thanks for what we have been blessed with, and lifting up our prayers on behalf of the whole world and ourselves. Each worship service is simultaneously personal and communal, hopefully providing each person with what he/she needs, as well as bolstering our entire community to grow more into the body of Christ. Worship services and music that feeds our souls and nourishes our spirits requires significant planning and thought. This council will assist the Rector in the joyful task of planning our worship. Ever been interested in liturgy? Have a musical talent or desire to help our music program?

Contact Barbara Bergen (789-7189) or Anne Todd (294-8671) to learn more about this council.

Pastoral Care Council

One of the biggest ways the early Church distinguished itself from the other cults and religions in the Roman Empire was in the care demonstrated for the sick, weak, jailed or dying. No one was deemed unimportant or insignificant. Time and care was dedicated to all. That is one of the hallmarks of the Christian life, one that we carry on in earnest at St. Peter's. The Pastoral Care Council meets monthly to pray for and discuss members who are struggling with any need or trouble, and plan ways to help them feel the love of God despite their challenges.

Contact Hillary Transue (782-9541) to learn more about the work of this council.

Adult Education Council

Education is a life-long process and certainly not one limited to the secular world. We didn't learn all that we needed to know about the Christian faith and life in Sunday School as a child, nor do we form our "heart, souls and minds" only in church services. Adult Education Council strives to plan relevant, inspiring classes for adults that will feed our minds as well as our hearts and souls. This includes Sunday morning Adult Forum, but also seasonal offerings (Lent, Advent) and special programs or seminars during the year.

Contact Joan Anderson (782-2283) to learn more about the work of this council.

Children and Youth Council

It has been said many times: our children are our future. But are we giving them everything they need to embrace the faith we profess? Are they learning the wonderful, life-giving ways of Jesus Christ? The Children and Youth Council strives to answer the call placed on our community: to feed our children and youth with programs and classes of excellence, sharing with them the Good News and showing them what faithful living is like. This Council will advise Children's Sunday School and our new Journey to Adulthood Program.

Contact Patti Risica (788-9012) to learn more about the work of this council.

Building and Grounds Council

Our facilities are one of our strongest assets and a genuine blessing from God. We have a beautiful church building, handsome Parish Hall, amazing new offices and meeting space, classrooms for all ages and gorgeous grounds (not to mention one of the only Episcopal churches in Rhode Island with air conditioning!). The upkeep of our physical plant requires more than just a Sexton or one or two dedicated people. The Building and Grounds Council meets monthly to discuss the care and maintenance of our facilities and ensure that future generations will also consider them one of St. Peter's biggest blessings.

Contact Junior Warden Sue Raesner (792-8426) or John DiPanni (782-8212) to learn more about the work of this council.

Community Life Council

The Christian life asks that we worship, learn and serve each week, but that doesn't mean we can't have fun, too! Community Life Council helps plan and organize those events offered for our whole community that create fellowship and build community. Events like Coffee Hour, the Parish Breakfast, St. Peter's Day Picnic and the Welcome Back BBQ involve food and beverages, and occasionally entertainment, but the fruits of the event go much farther than full bellies.

Contact Joe Frisella (789-7555) or Claudia Reynolds (789-7526) to learn more about the work of this council.

Hospitality Council

How people are welcomed when they walk in the doors of St. Peter's communicates something about our community—are we welcoming? Are we friendly? Is there a place for me? But to those people who haven't been in a church before (or not for a very long time) it also communicates something about God; our welcome is God's welcome. So hospitality is a sacred duty. The Hospitality Council has the responsibility of overseeing the way we greet people at St. Peter's and make them feel at home, helping us to embody Christ's amazing and hospitable presence. Remember our mission statement: to make our embrace as wide as God's.

Contact Rob Kerr (783-5251) to learn more about the work of this council.

Mission and Outreach Council

Christ said he would be found in those people living on the margins of society (Matthew 25). So if we are genuinely interested in seeking the presence of God in our lives, shouldn't we strive to encounter and serve those same people? The Mission and Outreach Council is dedicated to extending the radical love of God to all those who may not feel or know it—through the Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a-Family, and numerous other programs and events throughout the year. From the needs of Narragansett to the needs across the world, we have a sacred responsibility to show grace and generosity.

Contact Ruth Toolan (294-9774) or Diane Nobles (783-4068) to learn more about the work of this council.