



## St. Peter's Episcopal Church Kerrville, Texas

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We live into **God's mission** for us with:

- *our inclusiveness and hospitality*
- *our outreach efforts*
- *our programs for all ages, and our school*
- *our support for one another*
- *our worship*



**“We give glory to God by knowing Christ and making Him known to others.”**

*St. Peter's mission statement*

## **Worship at St. Peter's**

**Sunday:**

8:00 AM - Eucharist Rite I  
(average attendance, 40)

9:30 AM - Eucharist Rite II  
Family service with contemporary music  
(average attendance, 105)

11:15 AM - Eucharist Rite II  
Traditional music with chancel choir  
(average attendance, 122)

**Monday-Friday:**

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer  
(usually priests only)

**Wednesday:**

5:15 PM - Eucharist  
(average attendance, 15)

**Thursday:**

10:00 AM - Healing Service  
(average attendance, 5)



## **Fellowship Groups & Christian Formation**

**Best Timers:** Seniors meet once a month for lunch and fellowship at various local restaurants.

**Episcopal Church Women:** All women of St. Peter's are invited to become members of our very active ECW, which oversees the distribution of funds from the Cottage Shop and provides support for various ministries in the church and in the community. Luncheon program meetings are scheduled four times per year, on the first Thursday in October, December, February, and May. ECW also hosts the annual wine share for the entire congregation and a spring-time afternoon tea for mothers and their children.

**Sunday:**

Children's Sunday school for ages

3 years to 5th grade

9:30 AM in the Chapel. Children join their families during the passing of the peace. (attendance, 12-25)

**Adult Sunday School Fall 2016 Offerings:**

- Book of Luke study facilitated by Ross and Deborah Rommel
- Spiritual Formation led by Lenore Langsdorf
- News and Review of Current Events led by Dane Tune

**Monday:**

Young Adult Life Group

This group is for young adults, couples or singles.

Led by Gavin Rogers, pastor for young adults, the group gathers at a private home, shares a meal, and discusses a lesson. Childcare is provided.

**Tuesday:**

Walking Between the Lines

This group meets for a brown bag lunch at 11:30 AM followed by reading and study of the following Sunday's scripture readings.

**Contemplative Prayer**

Begins with a brief introduction and then sacred reading, leading to a period of silence. Meets 2:00 – 3:00 PM

### Prayer, Fellowship, and Football (PFF)

This group of “middle aged” men gather at noon for lunch on Tuesdays in Tucker Hall with Interim Rector Dick Elwood to break bread together, get to know each other better, talk about football, and pray.

### Wednesday:

#### Path of Life

Weekly Bible or book study. Meets at 10:30 AM

#### Romans 12

Weekly women’s Bible or book study with a focus on service to others. Meets at 4:00 PM

#### Sisters in Scripture

Weekly young women’s Bible or book study. Meets at 6:30 PM

#### King’s Kidz

Weekly class for children up to grade 5. The lesson for the week is the same lesson taught in St. Peter’s School’s Children’s Chapel that morning. Children also are given the opportunity to participate in a craft followed by play time.

#### Episcopal Church Overview

This class is led by the Rector in preparation for joining the church, confirmation, or rededication. Anyone interested in learning more about the church is welcome to attend.

#### Youth Group

This group is for grades 6-12 and meets twice on a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, for dinner, Bible study, and fellowship.

#### Senior Game Day

Seniors meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month for cards, Rummikub, dominoes, and other games. Games begin at 3:00. Coffee and tea are available.

#### Wednesday Night Suppers

All are invited to come and dine at 5:45 immediately following the 5:15 Eucharist. We have a new chef who is excited about cooking and serving us good food.

### Friday:

#### Contemplative Prayer

Same as Tuesday, but meets at 9:45 AM.

#### Book Study

Various books of interest. Meets at 11:00 AM.

### Other

#### Ministries:

Vacation Bible School: VBS at St. Peter’s is an exciting week during the summer. Many adult and youth volunteers help to decorate, lead, and feed the children, and clean up at the end of the week. We serve approximately 75 children from the community with a fun-filled week of learning about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

St. Jerome’s Guild: Volunteers help receive, catalog, shelve, and maintain the parish library. Book talks are offered several times through the year.

Communicats: Volunteers man the front desk, answer the telephone and give information or transfer calls to the appropriate office, file, stuff envelopes, and complete other office tasks as needed

Rock Roadies: This group meets monthly to collate, sort, label, and prepare the church newsletter, the “Rock Road,” for mailing.

Labyrinth Guild: This group supports and maintains the labyrinth, surrounding gardens, and sponsors educational events to share this experience with the community. Occasional trips are scheduled throughout the year to visit other labyrinths in the area.



## Outreach Efforts

### Thursday Aid:

St. Peter's assists those in need with money for gasoline, utilities, and prescription medicines. Aid recipients are allowed to come in every 120 days. Aid amounts are limited to \$15 for a gasoline gift card, \$35 for utility payments, and up to the full amount for prescription medicine.

### Magdalene House:

Magdalene House is a two-year residential community serving women who have been victimized by trafficking, prostitution, addiction, and abuse. St. Peter's supports Magdalene House by providing office space and meeting space. The executive director is a parish member, as are many of the volunteer board members.

### Cottage Shop:

The Cottage Shop thrift store is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Over 50 volunteers are involved in the day-to-day operation of the Cottage Shop. Money raised by Cottage Shop sales are distributed to more than 20 organizations, both local and worldwide, including those listed below.



### Christian Assistance Ministry:

CAM is a cooperative effort among Kerr County churches to help people in need. CAM provides assistance with food, clothing, utilities, prescriptions, and referrals. Members of St. Peter's volunteer at CAM. An offering of goods is collected on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and a monetary contribution is made by ECW.

### Christian Women's Job Corps:

CWJC provides training for women in life skills, job skills, personal relationships, parenting, wellness, Bible study, and self esteem in a Christ-centered environment.

### Christian Men's Job Corps:

CMJC provides training for men in life skills, job skills, basic computer knowledge, financial instruction, and in-depth Bible study in an effort to bring men closer to God.

### Habitat for Humanity:

The Diocese of West Texas is committed to building at least one house in cities throughout the diocese that have a Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Kerrville is the site of the third house to be built in this effort. The slab was poured in June, and construction began in September. St. Peter's provides volunteer workers, housing for volunteers from out of town, as well as meals for all volunteer workers. A St. Peter's parishioner is on the Habitat board.

These are just a few of the outreach ministries that St. Peter's supports locally and globally with monetary contributions and volunteer labor.

## Music Ministry

The Praise and Worship group performs at the 9:30 AM family service. The Chancel Choir, led by Director Kara Joy Baker, sings at the 11:15 service. Lessons and Carols are presented by the music department in December.

We are currently in search of an organist/music director.

St. Peter's vestry feels that providing formal music instruction by a professional music teacher to our school children is important. We began in 2015 with a twice-weekly class for the Kindergarten class, which was very successful. For the 2016 school year, we are adding music instruction for the pre-K classes once per week. St. Peter's is the only private school in Kerrville that offers formal music instruction.

## Youth Ministry

St. Peter's has one youth group consisting of middle school and high school students that meets twice monthly. Youth are invited to help with many of the parish events such as the pancake supper, Easter egg hunt, harvest festival, and Christmas Fiesta. The youth also help with Vacation Bible School.



## St. Peter's School

The school currently has an enrollment of 138 students in preschool through kindergarten.

There are a total of 13 classes with:  
four 2-year-old classes  
four 3-year-old classes  
four 4-year-old classes  
one Kindergarten class.

The school offers Physical Education, Library, Children's Chapel, Music, and Spiritual Enrichment. The Rector and Associate Rector alternate leading Children's Chapel on Wednesday mornings. The School Board consists of members of the church.



The church provides and maintains the school buildings, and helps pay utilities, provides paper goods, and labor for repairs. St. Peter's School is the only school in the Texas Hill Country that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



## Who We Are

### Leadership:

Current staff positions at St. Peter's include a 3/4-time Parish Administrator, part-time Administrative Assistant, part-time Director of Parish Life, part-time Pastor for young adults, full-time Facilities Manager, full-time Sexton, and part-time Choir Director. We are currently searching for a part-time Organist.

There are two full-time clergy positions, Rector and Associate Rector.

The vestry consists of 12 members.

### Demographics:

The demographics of St. Peter's reflect the population of Kerrville. Our members are primarily Caucasian, professionals, and retired professionals, most with a higher than median income. Several community leaders, past and present, are members of St. Peter's.

### Finances:

- Income: \$1,652,624
- Families that actively pledge: 214  
Dollar amount: \$610,707
- Expenses: \$1,642,003
- Endowments: \$1.9 million

### Communication Tools:

- Rock Road newsletter – monthly
- Email bulletin – weekly
- Kid Konnection school newsletter – monthly
- Facebook – St. Peter's Episcopal and Church and School Kerrville
- Website – [www.stpeterskerrville.com](http://www.stpeterskerrville.com)



## The Search for our Next Rector

As part of our search process for a new rector, at our parish-wide workshop, we prioritized what we would like to see in our next rector from a list of pastoral and ministerial skills. The results follow, from highest to least priority:

- *Preparing and preaching inspiring sermons*
- *Providing administrative leadership for the congregation's ministries*
- *Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation*
- *Developing and supporting religious education programs for children and youth*
- *Helping people see connections between scripture and their daily lives*
- *Supporting the school and promoting a strong relationship between the church and the school*
- *Emphasizing the spiritual development of members*
- *Pastoral counseling of members*
- *Supporting a strong music program*
- *Directly involving laity in the planning and leadership of church programs and events*
- *Visiting the sick, shut-in, and bereaved and visiting members in their homes*
- *Planning and leading a program of new member recruitment*
- *Actively supporting outreach programs to the community*
- *Participating in local community activities, issues, and problems*
- *Actively and visibly supporting the church's stewardship program*
- *Developing and leading adult education programs*
- *Collaborating with other churches in community ministry*
- *Openly sharing his or her personal faith*
- *Holding social justice issues before members*
- *Participating in and inviting others into renewal ministries (Cursillo, etc.)*
- *Participating in diocesan or national church activities*
- *Supporting the world mission of the church*



*What is the most important thing for any Rector candidate to know about St. Peter's?*

*Please note: The following are quotes from various parishioners during the parish profile survey, and they reflect the opinions of those individuals:*

*We are a family and our parish is our life. We need a priest who is loving, kind, and fun. This person should reflect Jesus, know Jesus, lead as Jesus would, and preach and teach Jesus. We will love and support you!*

*The congregation of St. Peter's welcomes and supports people of all backgrounds and all views. We love each other even when we disagree. We do agree that the Bible is the true word of God. We are searching for a pastor who will welcome all who come to worship and be accepting of all, no matter their lifestyle or background.*

*St. Peter's follows the guidelines regarding marriage as set forth by the Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas.*

*We expect and hope to hire a priest who is patient and willing to grow with St. Peter's Church.*

*Many of our church members are conservative with traditional views, but we are open to new ideas that are well grounded in scripture.*

*We are a congregation that has an abundance of the "older" generation—we need to aspire to attract younger people and their kids.*

*Our next rector needs to know people's names and be a good communicator.*

*Our next rector needs to know how to provide pastoral care, and its importance to ministry.*

*It is important to have a strong, organized leader/administrator with good communication skills. At the same time it is important that the person is spiritually open and connected with a good ability to preach a good sermon and teach from their actions.*



*We are proud of our history and love our church family. There are areas in which we can grow, but no major changes are needed at this time.*

*Our priest should have a good sense of humor, be able to preach a meaningful sermon, and relate the content to our personal lives.*

*Come grow with us. Teach us, learn from us. Love and be loved by us.*

*We have no debt.*

*Though we are seeking younger members, our membership is mainly over 65.*

*Our parishioners and our priests have always gone out of their way to make newcomers feel welcome and long-time parishioners feel valued and cared about. They are considerate of a parishioner's needs when a loved one passes away.*

*Biblical truth comes first – believing in and worshipping Our Lord and Savior is first priority.*



## Things we'd like to see change:

During our parish-wide workshop, we also identified things we should not be doing, or should be doing differently, to serve God in this community.

### Communication

- Improve communication outlets
- Improve communication between clergy and both office staff and volunteers
- Become more transparent with church budget and financial priorities

### Growth

- Actively reach out to new or potential members
- Recruit new members
- Become more open and inviting to the un-churched in our community
- Offer more activities to welcome new members
- Grow our school

### Inclusiveness

- Support the LGBT community
- Place emphasis on welcoming
- Support all sides of all issues
- Reach out to people of color
- Nurture our differences as well as similarities
- More interaction among groups in the church



## History of St. Peter's

St. Peter's Episcopal Church dates back to 1881 when on August 1, the first service was held in the Kerr County Courthouse, with Rev. C. McL. Howard presiding. In 1888, St. Peter's became the first denominational church built in Kerrville on land donated by Capt. Joseph A. Tivy. The church still stands in the same location.



Self-supporting parish status was attained in 1905. The original part of the present church building was built in 1928-30 of native limestone brought from the Carr Ranch just outside of town. A major expansion took place throughout the 1960s with the addition of church offices, the chapel, and ten classrooms. St. Peter's Episcopal School was opened in 1969. The school currently enrolls 140 students, pre-school through Kindergarten. It is the only school in the Texas Hill Country that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. (NAEYC)

In 1983, the church was enlarged and transepts were added to increase seating to 325. Since that time, Shelton Hall was purchased and converted to house the Cottage Shop thrift store, choir room, and youth room. The labyrinth was completed in 1999 and Tucker Hall and the present office building were dedicated by Bishop Lillibridge on April 30, 2006.



The present congregation consists of 972 baptized members.

