



**ST PETER'S CHURCH
PARISH PROFILE**

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INTRODUCTION

St. Peter's is a diverse, inclusive faithful congregation where we care for each other and are open and receptive to newcomers. We have a strong faith and a depth of spirit that gives us the ability to come together to work toward a goal. We cherish our beautiful old church and our historical place in the community that it represents.

OUR HISTORY

St. Peter's Church is both a historic and contemporary congregation. Our Parish is one of 14 in the Diocese of New York which predates the American Revolution and is one of the three oldest parishes in Westchester County.

The Episcopal Church in Peekskill was founded 246 years ago. The Old Saint Peter's Church Building, located at the corner of Oregon Road and Locust Avenue in Van Cortlandtville and consecrated in 1767, looks unchanged due to restoration in the 1960's and 1970's.



When built in 1767, it was the largest meeting place in this area. The original vaulted ceiling, supported by heavy hewn timbers shaped like ribs of an inverted ship, bears witness to the skilled construction of master craftsmen.

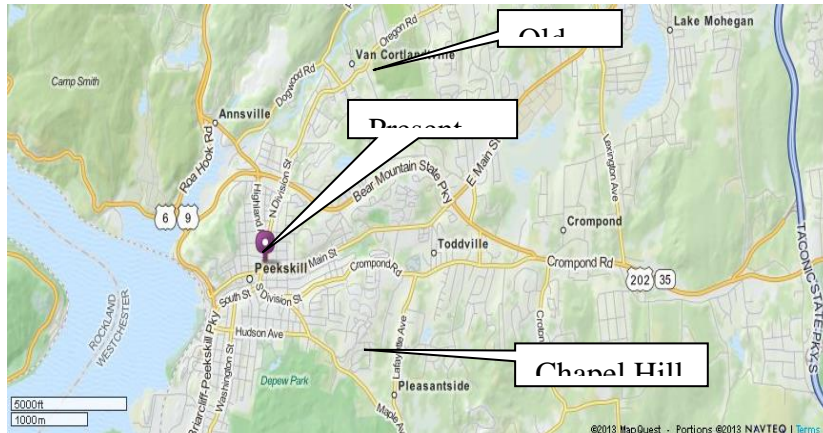
During the Revolutionary War, the building was used as a hospital by French General Rochambeau's troops before and after the decisive battle at Yorktown, Virginia. General George Washington, also a church leader, was said to have read Morning Prayer in the church when staying at the Van Cortlandt Upper Manor House. Eight French Revolutionary War soldiers are buried near the church building; a memorial to these soldiers was dedicated in 1998.

In 1967, the building was completely restored. Currently it is used for services on Memorial Day, Independence Day and the August anniversary of the consecration. It is listed on both state and national historic registers.

The first church of St. Peter's parish built on the present site was a wood Gothic structure erected in 1829. It was replaced in 1890 by the present stone building which was designed by well-known architect Richard Upjohn and consecrated on January 13, 1891. The first Rector of St. Peter's Parish in 1771 was the Reverend John Doty. Since that time, there have been over 50 rectors. The current congregation is comprised of longtime parishioners who embody a strong history and newcomers who represent the vision of our future.

PROPERTY

The original 1767 St. Peter's building is still standing at the corner of Oregon Road and Locust Avenue. The current church, consecrated in 1891, is located on North Division Street in downtown Peekskill.



A large parish house, known as the Frost Memorial Building and a separate residence called Howard House that serves as the parish office and a clergy residence on the second floor are also located on this site. Both the current church and Howard House are listed on the state and national historic registers.

The current church building is a granite structure. The sanctuary has a marble altar dedicated to the memory of William Fisher Lewis, a beloved former Rector. In 2003 the sanctuary was redesigned to include a second free-standing altar, located in front of the older altar, and the altar rail was moved to the front of the sanctuary. The reredos behind the altar was hand painted by Sister Mary Veronica, a nun at St. Mary's Convent in Peekskill. On either side of the chancel are choir stalls and directly behind is a pipe organ manufactured by Austin. The pulpit and lectern are both made of carved wood; the lectern is in the shape of an eagle with spread wings. A baby grand piano to the left of the pulpit near the entrance to the parish hall was donated to the church in 2012. The organ is currently being restored.

The stained glass windows above both the altar and the narthex bathe each area in soft light in the morning and evening. All windows were donated as memorials and are dedicated as such. It was recently discovered that three of the stained glass windows are Tiffany creations. A commemorative plaque in memory of Ann Stevenson, wife of General Pierre Van Cortlandt, Jr., a former senior warden, is affixed to the left wall of the nave, while another plaque dedicated to Calvin Frost, another notable parishioner, is affixed to the right. On the front wall of the nave, to the right of the chancel is the St. Mary's Altar, which is used for 8:00 am Sunday services, healing blessings at the 10:00 a.m. service, the Maundy Thursday watch, and other special services. Three of the eight stained glass windows have recently been repaired with new wooden frames.

The entrance to the church is through a lichgate that is handicap accessible. The previous main entrance was through the bell tower that now houses a columbarium. In the center of the narthex is a marble Baptismal Font. The church can seat 400 people and can accommodate worshipers with special needs. Below the church is an unfinished undercroft with access from both inside and outside. This area is used for storage and also contains the boiler room. The boilers have been replaced with new energy efficient gas boilers in both the church and Howard House. Part of the church roof was repaired in approximately 2011.

Behind the main church building is a parish house, comprised of the Frost Memorial Building to the left, built in the late 1920's with a 1965 addition directly to the rear. The parish house consists of a large hall, recently renovated (2012), funded as a memorial by the Bell family. The first floor also has a full commercial kitchen and handicap accessible restrooms. The second floor has been totally renovated and is currently being rented to a Hispanic Christian Congregation, Iglesia Mar de Galilea.

The 1965 addition contains an acolyte's room, a sacristy which was updated to include new cabinets, a choir room, and a social room, the Barham Room, with a small library where the Sunday School, Adult Education, and the Vestry meets. In the basement below these large rooms are currently being used by Fred's Pantry, a community food pantry, all in excellent condition. There is also access to a city park through the rear door of the parish house.

The Howard House is situated to the north of the church on the corner of North Division and Howard Streets. It is a red brick house with white trim representative of the Federal Period. It was the rectory until 1963, at which time it was converted for use as offices and living quarters. In the fall of 2006, the Howard House underwent a major exterior renovation, consisting of a new copper roof, gutters and downspouts, full repointing and repair of all brickwork. The second floor apartment was also totally renovated. This was completed through the generous bequest of Dorothy Lines, a former parishioner. The building is used for administrative purposes. The two bedroom apartment provides housing for the clergy and/or parish staff exclusively.

The church also owns a two bedroom condominium, donated anonymously by a former parishioner, at Chapel Hill in Peekskill, N.Y. It is used as a rental exclusively for clergy housing.

THE COMMUNITY OF PEEKSKILL



The City of Peekskill is approximately 50 miles north of New York City on the eastern banks of the Hudson River.

History

In September 1609, [Henry Hudson](#), captain of the [Halve Maen](#), anchored along the reach of the Hudson at Peekskill. His first mate noted in the ship's log that it was a "very pleasant place to build a town." After the establishment of the province of [New Netherland](#), [New Amsterdam](#) resident Jan Peeck made the first recorded contact with the [Lenape](#) people of this area,

then identified as "Sachoes". The date is not certain, (possibly early 1640s), but agreements and merchant transactions took place, formalized in the Ryck's Patent Deed of 1684. The name "Peekskill" derives from a combination of Mr. Peek's surname and the [Dutch](#) word for stream, "kil" or "kill".

European style settlement took place slowly in the early 18th century. By the time of the [American Revolution](#), the tiny community was an important manufacturing center from its various mills along the several creeks and streams. These industrial activities were attractive to the [Continental Army](#) in establishing its headquarters here in 1776.

The mills of Peek's Creek provided gunpowder, leather, planks, and flour. Slaughterhouses were important for food supply. The river docks allowed transport of supply items and soldiers to the several other fort garrisons placed to prevent British naval passage between [Albany](#) and [New York City](#). Officers at Peekskill generally supervised placing the first iron link chain between Bear Mountain and [Anthony's Nose](#) in the spring of 1777.

Though Peekskill's terrain and mills were beneficial to the Patriot cause, they also made tempting targets for British raids. The most damaging attack took place in early spring of 1777, when an invasion force of a dozen vessels led by a warship and supported by infantry overwhelmed the American defenders. Another British operation in October 1777 led to further destruction of industrial apparatus. As a result, the Hudson Valley command for the Continental Army moved from Peekskill to [West Point](#), where it stayed for the remainder of that war.

This community was known to be an early American industrial center, primarily for its iron plow and stove products. The Binney & Smith Company, now makers of [Crayola](#) products, started as the Peekskill Chemical Company at Annsville in 1864.

Peekskill's manufacturing base operated well into the late 20th century, with the [Fleischmann Company](#) making yeast by-products under the [Standard Brands](#) corporate name.

Peekskill is about 50 miles (80 km) north of New York City. In the early 1990s, the population was dwindling and the downtown area was becoming more vacant. The Common Council decided to make artist studios and galleries an important part of the City's revitalization strategy.

The city wanted to turn its unused downtown spaces into something useful. In order to have a vibrant downtown area there must be a population living there, so activity extends into the evening hours. In creating spaces where artists both live and work, the city created a situation in which there would be people downtown 24 hours a day.

At the same time that the Common Council wanted to attract people to downtown Peekskill, rising real estate prices in New York City were driving artists to look beyond the five boroughs. Peekskill took an active role in pursuing displaced artists by advertising in So Ho art magazines and offering artists low interest rates, which helped them buy buildings and convert them into useful spaces. Once a few artists had moved to Peekskill, a buzz was created and more artists made the move north.

As an economic development incentive, landlords were offered tax incentives, grants for facade improvements, and loans to renovate buildings that can be used as live-work spaces by artists. The upper stories of a number of downtown buildings have been renovated to meet the city's specifications for Art Lofts. Artists also looked at Peekskill's extensive stock of 19th and early 20th century houses and found homes to purchase and restore.

In 2002, the City of Peekskill and the County of Westchester joined with a private real estate company to develop The Peekskill Art Lofts. This 28 unit Limited Equity Coop between Central Ave. and South St. offered artists an opportunity for affordable home ownership

Most recently, in 2019, the Lofts on Main opened, with 50 units available to artists and 25 to others. 75% of the units are "affordable", and twelve are equipped for those with disabilities. The first floor houses a gallery and 4 commercial spaces.

Cultural highlights include Paramount Center for the Arts (www.paramountcenter.org), a gorgeously restored 1930 movie palace which now serves as the area's cultural hub with music, comedy, drama and independent films. Incorporated in 2013, the newly dubbed Paramount Hudson Valley is managed and operated by the nonprofit Paramount Hudson Valley Arts 501(C)(3) with a goal of making this landmark theater a destination for the very best of live music and performing arts. Other arts venues are the Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art, Dramatic Hall, and the Hat Factory, housing the Clay Studio and other arts and media studios. An annual Open Studios event draws hundreds of visitors to the city. Peekskill is also famous for its vibrant restaurant scene. The Bean Runner Café, The Peekskill Coffee House and Ruben's Café, among others, host live music on weekends.

A block from St. Peter's, at the corner of Howard and North James Streets, a public/private partnership is developing the long needed Peekskill Art and Media Center featuring an exhibition gallery, classroom spaces, artists' studios, an audio/video

multimedia studio and two cinema spaces, one of which can also be used for live performances.

There has been a boom in other residential development as well. Recently completed are: The Gateway Project, 16 Condominium units (two affordable) on Main St. across from Bohlmann Towers (Peekskill Housing Authority), and The Abbey at Fort Hill, 178 market rate apartments in three buildings and an inn and spa on the site of the former St. Mary's Convent.

One Park Place, another 181 market rate apartments above 1st floor retail space, is currently under construction downtown, as is a 52 unit Independent Senior Living project at 1487 Crompond Road. Nine apartments are being created in the Riley building by conversion of former office space, and there are several other such conversions happening downtown.

Site preparation is underway at 645 Main St. for 82 affordable apartments. In the approval pipeline are another 167 units between South and Central avenues of which 10% will be affordable, a 53 unit condominium at 505 South St., 22 units above retail at South Division and Second St. and 13 units on South St. across from the Art Lofts, Under discussion are another 225 mixed income units on Lower South St.

Peekskill recently completed a beautiful state-of -the- art Central firehouse on Main St. \$3M in grants have been obtained from the State to complete the last link in nearly 3 miles of waterfront park and trail way and to re-create the historic Fleischmann's pier as a dock for tour boats and a recreation venue.

Peekskill will receive \$10 million from New York State in funding as the Mid-Hudson winner of the fourth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. With the downtown revitalization initiative, we challenged local governments to propose innovative ideas to create jobs and drive economic growth," Governor Cuomo said, "Peekskill proposed a brilliant plan that builds on their natural resources including the beautiful waterfront - a magnet that draws people and businesses to the area. And they demonstrated they have the secret ingredient: the capacity to actually get it done. This investment will help Peekskill utilize these assets to maximize their full potential."

EDUCATION

School District

The Peekskill City School District is headed by Superintendent Dr. David Mauricio. It consists of four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. The elementary schools operated on a "neighborhood" basis until 1999. Beginning with the 1995-1996 school year, sixth graders were moved from elementary schools to the middle school. Until the 1998-1999 school year, each student attended the school closest to his or her home, beginning in kindergarten and ending with graduation from fifth grade. In 1999, the elementary schools were integrated, each school housing two grades. In 2009, the newly built Peekskill Middle School caused a shift in the locations of grades yet again and consequently moved grades one through five around. The high school serves grades nine through twelve. The Peekskill City School district recently passed a bond to create new STE(A)M facilities at the High School and at Hillcrest Elementary, build a turf field for sports, and convert an unused firehouse into a Parent Resource Center

Transportation and Infrastructure

[Peekskill train station](#) provides commuter service to [New York City](#), 41 miles (66 km) away via [Metro-North Railroad](#). The [Bee-Line Bus System](#) provides bus service to Peekskill on routes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 31. The [Bear Mountain Bridge](#), five miles (8 km) to the northwest, gives road access to [Bear Mountain State Park](#) across the [Hudson River](#), [Palisades Interstate Parkway](#) and to the [United States Military Academy](#) at West Point via [US 6](#) and [US 202](#). The Croton Expressway portion of [US 9](#) ends here. [NY 9A](#) and [NY 35](#) also run through the city.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN A PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

St. Peter's is a small city church located in the historic Hudson Valley with a diverse congregation that reflects longtime parishioners and the influx of urban/inner-city groups of people. Given the diversity in the Peekskill community, the ability to communicate in Spanish would be an asset.

To help us in achieving our goals, we are seeking a Priest who is:

- a ***spiritual leader*** who is compassionate about our spiritual growth and open to the needs of all the members of the church
- a ***pastor*** who can minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the people with humility
- a ***priest*** who is committed to the growth of the membership and developing programs for young people
- an ***inspired preacher*** who will constantly engage and challenge the community to incorporate Christian values into our daily lives
- a ***liturgical leader*** who will continue our Anglican traditions, including the music born from these traditions, and lead us to incorporate diversity in services and music genres to accommodate the changing demographic in our community
- a ***teacher*** who will further develop and sustain church education for all parishioners
- an ***administrator*** who can strongly motivate staff and lay leadership
- an ***advocate*** for the least of us, dedicated to serving the greater Peekskill community

MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT:

"The Mission of St. Peter's Church, Peekskill, is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and being, to love ourselves as Christ loves us, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Through the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will work to equip, support and affirm all people for this ministry of Christ's love."

What is God's vision for this place in terms of worship?

Reach out to people and get them involved in worship, especially the Hispanic community of Peekskill. Work with the Diocese to get a Spanish-speaking deacon or other clergy to help us to meet the needs of this community. Continue to offer the Healing Service and the Family Service.

What is God guiding us to in mission and outreach?

Continue to sponsor Fred's Pantry and to develop stronger relationships in the community; make social workers and teachers in the schools aware of what we do; organize events to raise money for special causes, such as Hurricane Sandy victims. Develop better communication processes.



How is God guiding us to live or learn to live a Christian life?

Encompass *Christian Education*—how we learn to be Christians, *Discipleship*—how to think and act as Christians, *Parish Life*—how do we be community?

Come together in Christian-based programs—adult education, retreats, special speakers, sermons, homilies that give us confidence to be a Christian in the outside world; taking healing ministry to the homebound; overcoming obstacles—learning to reach out in light of deficiencies; asking yourself: *how did your faith hold you this week wherever you went?*

What is God's stewardship vision for St. Peter's?

Maintain our buildings as a responsibility to the past and the future; achieving a balanced budget every year by bringing each pledge closer to 10%; increase attendance at services; develop a surplus in the Barham endowment to provide to others outside of St. Peter's.

Stewardship

St. Peter's has been challenged over the past several years — especially since the 2008 stock market crash and the ensuing global economic crisis — to adapt to a model of supporting God's mission in this place that is radically different from the patterns of previous years. Whereas prior to the economic meltdown, St. Peter's had relied heavily on income generated by its endowment fund, losses to the restricted fund's value in the wake of the stock market crash made drawing any income impossible until the fund's value rebounded. Thus St. Peter's had to make an overnight transition from funding a significant portion of its operating budget from investment income, to funding the entire operating budget through the tithes and offerings of its current members.

The Stewardship Committee and St. Peter's ordained leadership have worked diligently to encourage and educate our parishioners about responding generously — indeed, sacrificially — to God in gratitude for all that God has done for us and continues to do in this place. Recognizing that the Biblical concept of the tithe — giving 10% to support of God's mission at St. Peter's — was new for some and difficult for many, the committee and clergy encouraged members to adopt a discipline of proportional giving that would enable them to grow steadily toward a goal of tithing. Members have been encouraged to pledge at least 2% of their household's income, and to commit to increasing that pledge by at least 1% a year, thus reaching the tithe in nine years, at most. The annual stewardship campaign letters and pledge cards have, for several years, included a reference table that assists members in calculating what a pledge of 2%, 3%, 4%, and all the way to 10% would be based on their household's income. Thus the total amount pledged by St. Peter's members grew from the low \$80,000s to over \$140,000 in only four years, in the face of a harsh economic climate that has affected our parishioners just as the rest of the country has been affected.

Even so, the pledges offered by St. Peter's members have not been sufficient to support ongoing full-time ordained leadership, and so the congregation will seek to call a priest-in-charge to serve in a half-time position. It is the fervent prayer of the Stewardship Committee that the hard and faithful progress made over the past several years will continue as the committee works with a new generation of ordained leadership at St. Peter's, and that the congregation will continue to move toward a place of true sustainability and abundant generosity.

ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAYS

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I and Homily
9:45 a.m. Christian Education – School Age
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir

(Nursery Care provided during Christian Education and 10:00 a.m. service)



WEEKDAYS

Thursdays 12 pm Holy Eucharist, during Advent and Lent

THE PEOPLE OF ST. PETER'S

Ministers: Every Baptized Member of St. Peter's Church
Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Cheryl Parris, Interim Pastor
Staff: Mrs. Janine Wallour Thwaite, Music Director and Organist
Ms. Patricia Richardson, Parish Administrator

Heads of Parish Organizations

Acolytes: Melanie Bussel
Altar Guild: Anne Desmond
Choirs: Janine Wallour Thwaite
Coffee Hour: Leah Agostinoni-Olsen
Lectors: Doryl Wolfe
Buildings and Grounds Harry Cordero
Newcomers Committee: Vestry
Noontime Meals: Barbara Reid
Parish Life Activities: Ellie Moshier
Parish Nurse Ministry: Vida Hinds, Barbara Reid
Stewardship: Vida Hinds, Doryl Wolfe, Grace Gabrieli
Sunday School: Mary Appleyard, Jennifer Turner, Kristina Wilkins
Treasurer Doryl Wolfe
Ushers: Harry Cordero, Susan Gerena
Vestry Clerk Barbara Reid

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
Wardens and Vestry 2020

Terms of Office

WARDENS

12-31-20 (C)	Elinor Moshier
12-31-21 (D)	Kim Wicker

VESTRY MEMBERS

12-31-21 (A)	Harry Cordero
12-31-21 (A)	Judy Taylor
12-31-22 (A)	David Grey
12-31-22 (A)	Judy Isecke
12-31-22 (A)	Elaine Jackson
12-31-22 (A)	Barbara Reid
12-31-22 (B)	Ruth Wells

-
- (A) First 3-year term
 - (B) Second 3-year term
 - (C) First 2 year term
 - (D) Second 2-year term
 - (E) Elected to complete vacant term
 - (F) Third 2-year term
 - (G) Fourth 2-year term
-

SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Constance Dyckman, Chair
John Tomadelli
Elaine Jackson
James Taylor
Sonia Grey
Brian Orsi
Vida Hinds
Jennifer Turner
Ruth Wells

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Worship

❖ **Acolytes** - Acolytes are a varied group of parishioner's ages eight years to adult who assist the celebrant in performance of liturgical rites at the altar. Our participation helps to make the liturgy the very best offering that it can be for the entire congregation as we provide a model of reverence and respect. Our prayer is to take what we do on the altar and carry it over to our daily lives as we serve those we meet each day.

❖ **Lectors** – Lectors know that to read the word of God is a privilege and honor. As such, it is a duty that they take seriously all year but are especially focused during Christmas and Holy Week. To highlight the solemnity of Holy Week lectors assume the role of Jesus, the Evangelist, Peter etc. in the reading of the Passion Gospel. In years past we have also done dramatic readings on Palm Sunday. We encourage teenagers to participate and regularly schedule them to read the Old Testament, Psalm and Prayers of the People.

❖ **Choirs** - Under the skillful leadership of an organist/choir director, the music program at St. Peter's indeed makes a joyful noise unto the Lord. The adult and children's choirs sing hymns and anthems to the glory of God during services from September through June, with special emphasis given to holiday services. A new piano was recently obtained to enhance our music offerings.



❖ **Ushers** - *I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."* Psalm 122:1. Usher's ministry provides hospitality to those entering God's house. First impressions are lasting impressions. A smile, a friendly greeting, being helpful and attentive is a welcome that is remembered. An usher's purpose is not to draw attention to us through what we do or how we act, but to ease the worship of the people and assist with the smooth flow of each service.

❖ **Altar Guild** - The Guild is responsible for the care of the altars, baptistry, sacristy, and all of their appointments which are the sacred vessels, linens, and vestments. Members of the Sacristy Team work on a rotating basis on a weekday polishing brass and silver articles. Other members' duties include cleansing the sacred vessels, putting vestments away and laying out vestments for the weekday service. At Easter and Christmas, all members prepare the church for the celebrations.



Parish Life

❖ **Coffee Hour** - Hosted by parishioners who volunteer each Sunday, the Coffee Hour has become an integral part of the St. Peter's Family as we nourish and feed our spiritual and social needs after the 10:00 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. It is a time when we socialize with old friends, or we can take the time to make new acquaintances. It is also the time when we welcome newcomers to our parish with warmth and extend a hand in friendship. Special events are often recognized – confirmation, baptisms, anniversaries, and birthdays.

❖ **Parish Life Activities Committee**—PLAC Committee is an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for the Church Family to gather for a number of occasions for fun and fellowship, including Shrove Tuesday pancake supper night, game and hot dog nights, riverfront picnics, and also, to support each other when it is needed and most importantly for any special occasions when it is necessary for fellowship. In the past, multiple fundraisers were planned throughout the year, including flea markets, tea parties, and “dining to donate” dinners at various restaurants, brunches, cabarets, and the annual dinner dance.



❖ **Newcomers Committee** - The Newcomers Committee at St. Peter’s ensures that newcomers feel welcome. In addition, we provide general information about parish life, the various ministries and encourage them to get involved. Committee members assist the clergy with hosting the newcomers’ luncheon.

❖ **Mission and Outreach** - St. Peter’s is part of a multi-denominational spiritual community committed to providing assistance to surrounding areas and globally to countries such as Jamaica, the Philippines, Haiti, the Bahamas and to serving the less fortunate in Peekskill. Efforts include: Noontime Meals meeting every third Tuesday evening to prepare a meal which is served the next day at the area soup kitchen, Peekskill Seniors’ events, and Fred’s Pantry, a choose what you need pantry fully stocked open every Saturday morning, emergency relief disaster and the Good Friday offering. Additionally, needy families are sponsored for the holidays, participation in the World Day of Prayer in Peekskill, provide marine water radios and life jackets to Peekskill Boat works, provide equipment for Peekskill High School, make visits to the local nursing homes and to shut-ins with gifts for the holidays, have given monetary gifts to 2 graduating seniors, visited The Hoving Home in Garrison and invited them to the church where they performed. The committee is poised to respond to needs as they occur.



Jamaican school children who received aid

Christian Education

❖ **Adult Education** - With forums and classes throughout the year to encourage community, growth in faith and spiritual nurture, these classes provide a chance to enrich our knowledge. Over the past year, Fr. Sasser has held weekly sessions focusing on religion in art, literature and other areas of everyday life. He has also led retreats at the beginning of Lent and Advent.

❖ The **Sunday school program** at St. Peter's has changed over the past few years. The curriculum that had been used was *Living The Good News*. Two years ago, a new program was started where each month's instruction surrounded a particular Bible story.

The Rector would email ideas to the Sunday school teachers based on this story. The first Sunday of the month, our children's outreach program, KidsCare, meets and discusses ways to spread the good news and help those in need, whether locally or around the world. The second Sunday of the month had been a family service, but *due to decreased participation this is no longer happening on a formal basis*. The children can still participate in the service in this part of the month, whether being ushers, acolytes, or a lector. The Sunday school meets on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. St. Peter's has struggled in finding adult volunteers to teach Sunday school. The solution has been to have a One Room Sunday school. The teachers, with the help of the Rector, find creative ideas to teach the lesson to various ages (3 - 12 yrs). *At this time, there is no teen program in place*. There have been different programs for this age group in the past, and it is an important one that the new Priest-in-Charge could help redevelop. St. Peter's has a wonderful group of children. Our hope is that the new Priest-in-Charge will add a spark to the Sunday school which will not only encourage learning for all children, whether a toddler or a teen, but also increase enthusiasm for the program throughout the church and help our program grow.



❖ **Parish Library** - Located in the Barham Room, the materials and resources offer many titles on a wide range of topics.

❖ **Stewardship Committee** - Encouraging and educating the faithful in the care and fruitful use of the gifts God has given us, this is a year-round commitment in which we emphasize not only financial contributions, but also those of time and talents. The committee organizes the annual pledge drive and facilitates the time, talents and money given by parishioners.

Ministries

❖ **Ministries Committee** - Members of this committee are appointed by the Rector, as needed, and serve at his/her discretion. Its main function is to serve as a support group for aspirants seeking candidacy for holy orders namely, the Diaconate and Priesthood. The candidates begin an extensive examination which may last anywhere from a few months to a year of sessions with the aspirant. In the past ten years, we have seen two of our members become priests. We have also mentored two other aspirants at the request of the Bishop.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - It is a work of love and the Holy Spirit. Each time we gather to work on the shawls, we start by praying. We have lively conversations and companionship while we work with our hands creating something wonderful for others. Our ministry is open to everyone even if you don't have the time to attend the meetings. Shawls can be created at home, on your own time and at your own speed. Sometimes we need a tangible reminder of the love and care that surround us in our St. Peter's Parish Family. This ministry does just that. The Prayer Shawl Ministry offers a warm, soft, hand-knit or crocheted shawl to



those who are sick in body or in spirit. Made by members and friends of the parish, the shawls are a way of surrounding the recipient with prayer and the love of the parish family. In addition to the prayers that are said when the shawls are being created, all shawls are accompanied by a loving message and blessed before given to each recipient.



Parish Nurse Ministry – St. Peter’s has established a health care ministry to promote Christ-centered wellness, spiritual healing through prayers, health education and social interaction by visits to the homebound, hospitals and nursing homes.

Healing Ministry–We believe that healing—of body, mind, and spirit—is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we have been given. To make the fullest use of this gift, we provide opportunities for prayers for healing in our corporate worship and in visits to homes and hospital rooms. One Sunday per month is designated as Healing Prayer Sunday. After the General Confession, those in attendance are invited to come forward to be anointed with oil for healing. This sacrament is quite popular and a majority of the congregation chooses to receive it each month. Later, during the Eucharist, a second opportunity is offered in which specific intentions can be named and extemporaneous prayers are said. Both of these ministries are lay-led. We presently have four lay healing ministers. The healing ministers, lay Eucharistic visitors, and the clergy, also visit parishioners who are home-bound or in the hospital or in a nursing home. Prayers for healing and anointing with oil are commonly offered on these occasions.



KidsCare Ministry—Formed eight years ago by Jean Trehwella, KidsCare has brought the children of Saint Peter’s parish together to help the world around us. Each month the kids choose a charity or cause they’d like to help and then come up with a way to raise money or donations for the group they chose, which they carry out throughout the month. Previous months have been dedicated to showing the importance of education by collecting school supplies for *Peekskill Schools*; taking care of animals, when we collected towels and sewed them into pillows for the rescued strays at *Briarcliff ASPCA*; and helping kids worldwide drink clean water, where we raised donations and walked a one-mile marathon for *charity: water*. Kids Care has been able to show the children involved that making a difference and supporting a charity is not just good, but possible and fun. *This program is currently inactive.*



Our Buildings as a Place for Mission and Ministry

❖**Buildings and Grounds** –This group is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and improvements of the church buildings and other property belonging to the church. This encompasses the church itself, Bell Hall, Howard House and the offsite Rectory. The historic

Old Saint Peter's is handled by "Friends of Old St. Peter's," a special committee dedicated to its preservation. As with any old building, there are constantly things to work on and keep us busy. We welcome any and all input, whether it is suggestions or donations of time, skills or funds. Helping to maintain the buildings and grounds is a great way to get involved with a very interesting and caring community. Current major projects include replacing the three oil-fired heating units under the church and the one in the Howard House, completely gutting and remodeling the sacristy and demolition, insulating and renovation of the second floor of Bell Hall.

St. Francis Garden – Currently being revitalized by a group of dedicated parishioners, the garden provides a peaceful area for mediation and contemplation.

St. Fiacre's Garden in the courtyard and the fern plantings on Division Street are maintained by parishioners who donate plant materials and time to nurture and maintain them.

❖ **Columbarium** – Housed in the Bell Tower–St. Joseph's Chapel, the Columbarium offers a respectful resting place.

❖ **The Friends of Old St. Peter's Committee for Restoration and Recognition**--This committee is bringing Old St. Peter's Church back into the public eye by starting the process of obtaining grants to restore this Historic Landmark. The US Department of the Interior has chosen Old St. Peter's as one of the 15 most historic sites on the Washington-Rochambeau Trail. In the spring of 2013, historical panels will be installed marking the path from New York to the battlegrounds of Yorktown, Virginia. General Rochambeau used Old St. Peter's Church as a hospital for his wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary War. We are busy making plans for the restoration before this important event takes place. After the restoration of the building and the installation of the Panels, the Committee will schedule special events and services to inform the surrounding community of the importance of Old St. Peter's Church and the relevance of its historical past. These special events will be added to the Memorial Day Service and the special Independence Day Open House. We need to keep our past alive and a living tribute to our ancestors who began this long history of worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

APPENDIX

Demographic Information for Peekskill

According to the 2010 census, the population of Peekskill was about 25,000 people.
Population in 2017: 24,272 (100% urban, 0% rural). Population change since 2000: +8.2%
Males: 11,853 (48.8%)
Females: 12,419 (51.2%)

According to 2017 data, the population breaks down as follows:

- Hispanic - 9,915 (40.9%)
- White alone – 7,689 (31.7%)
- Black alone – 4,806 (19.8%)
- Two or more races – 1,157 (4.8%)
- Asian alone – 37 (.2%)
- Other race alone – 780 (3.2%)
- American Indian alone – 58 (.2%)

The Hispanic population has been growing significantly since 2000 when it was only 21.9% of the population. Today, this group is composed primarily of immigrants from Ecuador, Guatemala, and other Central American countries, who are laborers and day workers. Many of them are single men who send money to their families back home. The businesses in downtown Peekskill now boast a distinct Latino flavor as they have begun to invest in the community.

6,735 residents are foreign born (22.6% Latin America).
This city: 27.8%
New York: 22.7%

Education levels for population 25 years and over in Peekskill:

- High school or higher: 78.4%
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 27.1%
- Graduate or professional degree: 11.7%
- Unemployed: 6.6%
- Mean travel time to work (commute): 36.3 minutes

Marital status for population 15 years and over in Peekskill city:

- Never married: 35.5%
- Now married: 44.7%
- Separated: 3.1%
- Widowed: 5.9%
- Divorced: 10.8%

Median resident age: 40.0 years
New York median age: 38.7 years
Estimated median household income in 2017: \$55,211 (it was \$47,177 in 2000)
Peekskill: \$55,211
NY: \$64,894
Estimated per capita income in 2017: \$33,700 (it was \$22,595 in 2000)

Percentage of residents living in poverty in 2017:

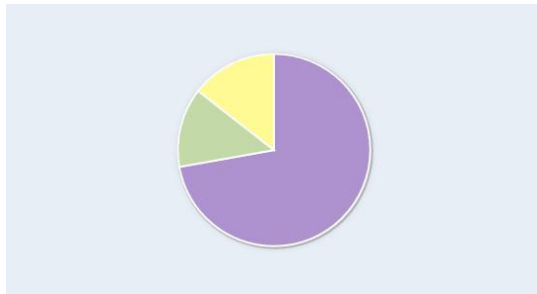
- 13.0% (7.6% for White Non-Hispanic residents)
- 12.2% for Black residents
- 18.3% for Hispanic or Latino residents
- 37.3% for American Indian residents
- 21.1% for other race residents
- 5.4% for two or more races residents

Religion statistics for Peekskill (based on Westchester County data)

Percentage of population affiliated with a religious congregation: 70.46%

Here  70.5%

USA  50.2%



Purple = Roman Catholic; Yellow = Jewish; Green = All Other Religions

Read more: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Peekskill-New-York.html#ixzz2HzH1zxJ2>

64.9% of the people in Peekskill are religious:

- 1.6% are Baptist
- 1.5% are Episcopalian
- 47.0% are Catholic
- 0.8% are Lutheran
- 1.8% are Methodist
- 0.9% are Pentecostal
- 1.5% are Presbyterian
- 0.3% are Church of Jesus Christ
- 1.9% are another Christian faith
- 5.2% are Judaism
- 0.8% are an eastern faith
- 1.5% affiliates with Islam

Source: https://www.bestplaces.net/religion/city/new_york/peekskill