



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Parish Profile

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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 Latinx 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 a 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?

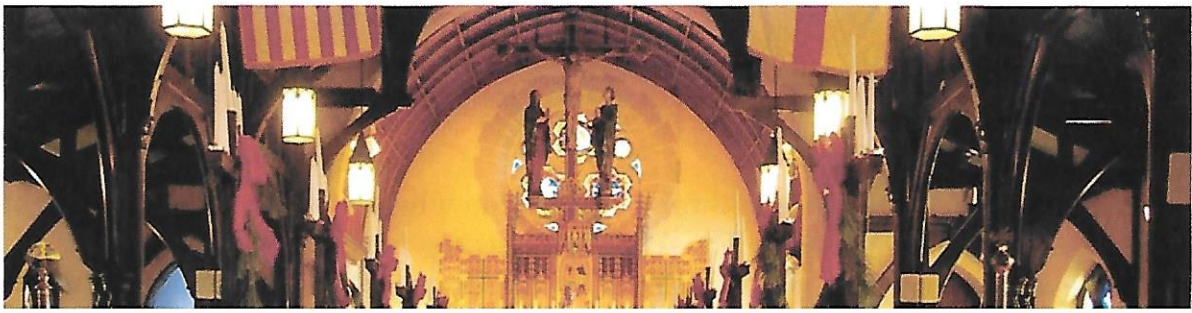
Maintain our buildings as a responsibility to the past and the future; achieving a balanced budget every year by bringing each pledge closer to 10%; increase attendance at services; develop a surplus in the Barham endowment to provide to others outside of St. Peter's.

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.



What we are looking for in a priest-in-charge?

St. Peter's is a small city church located in the historic Hudson Valley in the center of Peekskill 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

Our History

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.

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.



1960's and 1970's.

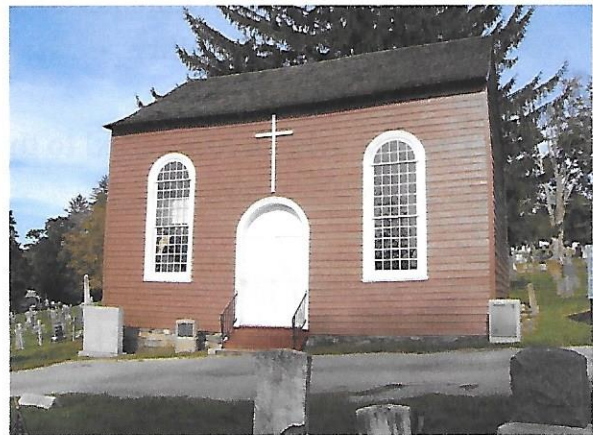
When built in 1767, it was the largest meeting place in this area. The original vaulted ceiling, supported by heavy hewn timbers shaped like ribs of an inverted ship, bears witness to the skilled construction of master craftsmen.

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,

The Episcopal Church in Peekskill was founded 255 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



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, most recently, from 2007-2012, the Reverend Carlye Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, New Jersey; Interim from 2012-2013, The Reverend Howell Sasser; and from 2013-2019, the Reverend Jan Nunley. The current congregation is comprised of longtime parishioners who embody a strong history and newcomers who represent the vision of our future.

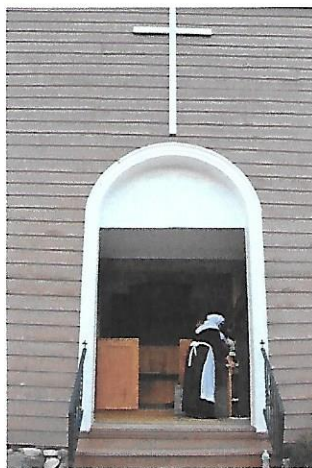
Celebrating 250 Years of St. Peter's Episcopal Church: 1767-2017

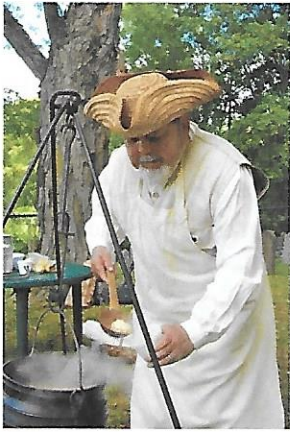
As one of only a few congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of New York with such a long and storied history, it was important to honor the generations of faithful parishioners who have gone before and share our powerful history with those who will come after.

The main celebrations took place over an entire weekend in early September, beginning with the **Gala Dinner** at the Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant on September 8, during which longtime parishioner Jack Lancaster (who was unable to attend due to illness) was honored and the family of the late Dot Leslie, who died in July 2017. St. Peter's was also honored with proclamations by civic officials from Peekskill, the Town of Cortlandt, and Westchester County.

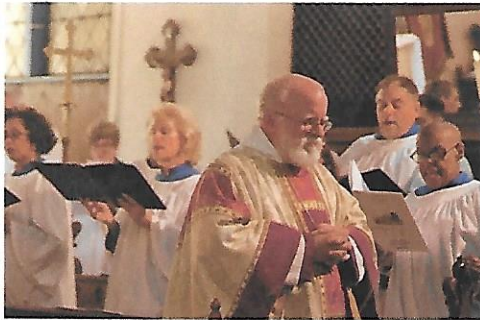


A **Colonial Day** was held at Old St. Peter's on Saturday, September 9 – a glorious autumn day – with historical interpreters, Revolutionary War reenactors, 18th-century cooking demonstrations, and tours of our original church building.

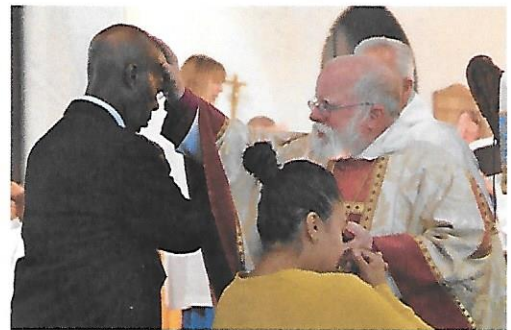




And our voices were raised in prayer and praise to God for the gift of 250 years of ministry as “a Church for All People in the Heart of Peekskill” on Sunday, September 10, as the Rt. Rev. Andrew ML

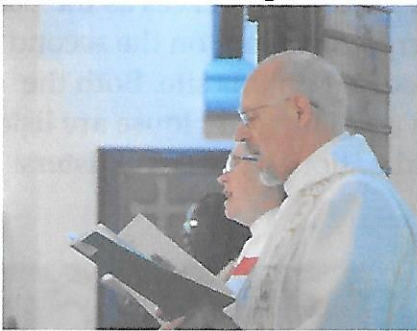


Dietsche, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, preached



and celebrated at the festive **Anniversary Service of Holy Eucharist**. Janine Thwaite brought together a talented group of musicians to join the choir in offering glorious music for the service. A delicious,

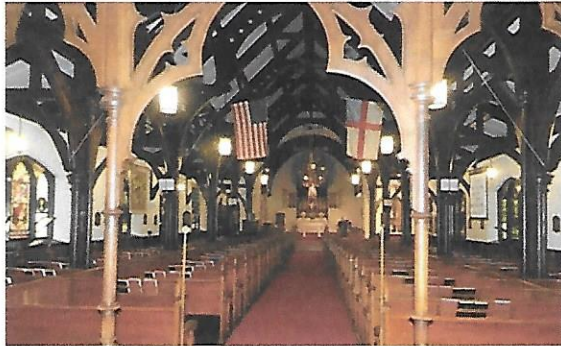
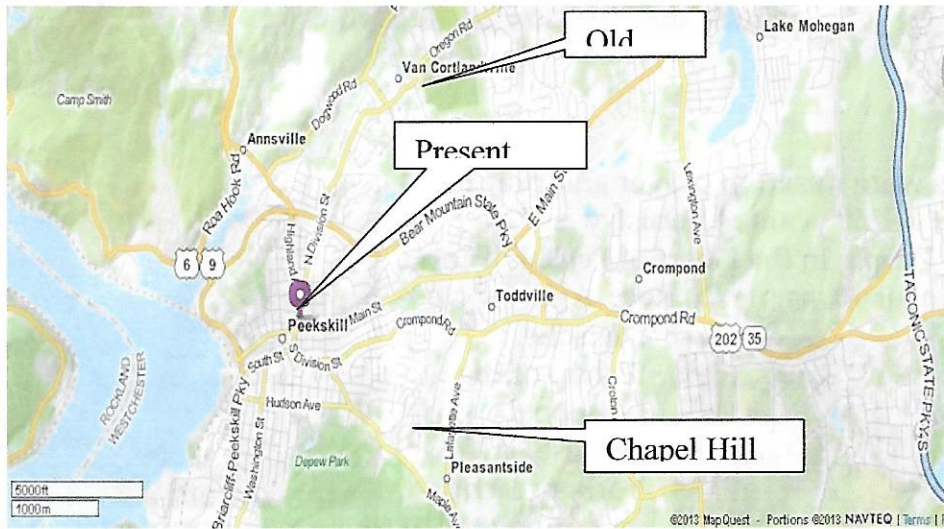
full-on St. Peter’s reception in Bell Hall wrapped up the Sunday events.



The September celebrations concluded with a **Community Picnic** on Sunday, September 24 in Pugsley Park – an unusually hot day for late September and one on which our food and cold drinks were welcomed by our Peekskill neighbors.

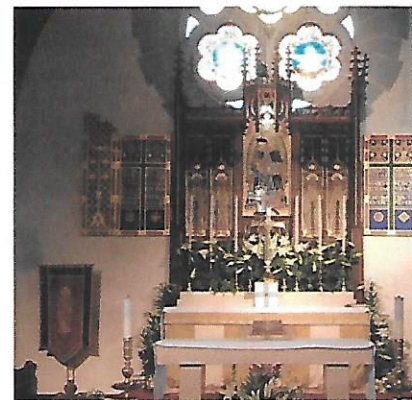
Property

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.

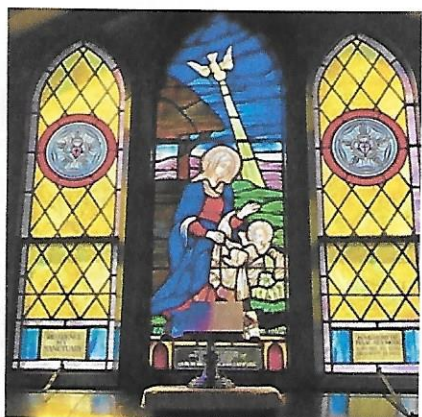


A large parish house, known as the Frost Memorial Building and a separate residence called Howard House that serves as the parish office and a clergy residence on the second floor are also located on this site. Both the current church and Howard House are listed on the state and national historic registers.

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. The organ has recently been 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 Latinx Christian Congregation, Iglesias 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.

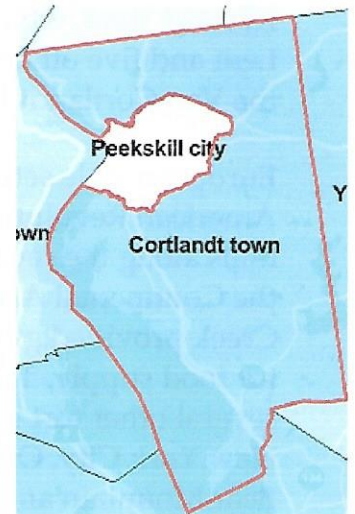


The church also owns a two bedroom condominium, donated anonymously by a former parishioner, at Chapel Hill in Peekskill, N.Y. It is used as a rental exclusively for clergy housing.

Our Community



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



St. Peter's serves the people of the City of Peekskill and the Town of Cortlandt, located in the Northwest corner of Westchester County, NY. A few parishioners reside north of the Westchester border in Putnam County. Cortlandt surrounds Peekskill to the North, East and South, and the Hudson River borders both to the west, providing majestic views of the water and the mountain ridges of the Hudson Highlands. Cortlandt is bounded on the north by Putnam County, the East by the Town of Yorktown, and the south by Newcastle and Ossining. Old St. Peter's Church is located in Cortlandt, and the current St. Peter's campus is in the heart of downtown Peekskill.

Cortlandt now comprises two incorporated villages, Croton- on-Hudson and Buchanan, as well as several hamlets including Cortlandt Manor, Crompond, Crugers, Montrose, Verplanck and part of Lake Mohegan. Peekskill, first incorporated in 1816, was incorporated as a Village within the Town of Cortlandt in 1849. It remained part of Cortlandt until it became the City of Peekskill in 1940.

Hendrik Hudson discovered the Hudson River in 1609, sailing his ship the Half Moon north and anchoring at Verplanck's Point, or Peekskill Bay, depending on whose account one is reading. His first mate noted in the ships log that this would be a "very pleasant place to build a town."

After the establishment of the province of New Netherland, New Amsterdam resident Jan Peeck sailed up the river and made the first recorded contact with the Native

American Lenape people of this area, then identified as "Sachoes". He established a trading post at what is now Annsville Creek, which was first named after him. The date is not certain, possibly early 1640s. The name "Peekskill" derives from a combination of Mr. Peeck's surname and the Dutch word for stream, "kil" or "kill".

Cortlandt derived its name from the Van Cortlandt family. In 1667 Stephanus Van Cortlandt, son of a Dutch immigrant, began accumulating land on the East side of the Hudson from the Croton River east to Connecticut and north to the landform that later was named Anthony's Nose. The one large tract he did not acquire was known as Ryck's Patent, which was purchased in 1685 from the Sachoes by Ryck Abraham Van Lent and five others from New Amsterdam. It is on this 1800 acre tract in the midst of the Van Cortlandt lands that much of the City of Peekskill now stands.

European style settlement took place slowly in the early 18th century. By the time of the American Revolution, Peekskill was an important manufacturing center, with 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 supervised placing the first iron link chain between Bear Mountain and Anthony's Nose in the spring of 1777.

Cortlandt was the site of many skirmishes during the Revolutionary War. Local Roads, such as Watch Hill and Furnace Dock Road, where the furnaces that made ammunition for the war effort were located, bear names reflecting the Revolutionary time.

Though Peekskill/Cortlandt'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.



In 1788 under the Township Act, Cortlandt became one of 20 townships in Westchester County with Philip Van Cortlandt, son of Stephanus, as the first Supervisor. During the 19th century, the railroad was extended to the

area and industrialization began to occur, with the hamlet of Verplanck becoming an important brick making center. Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Town of Cortlandt was predominantly a rural, agricultural community with seasonal bungalow colonies serving the residents of New York City. The Hudson River, the New York City Watershed Lands, numerous wooded hills and steep slopes, wetland areas and streams define the rural character of the Town.

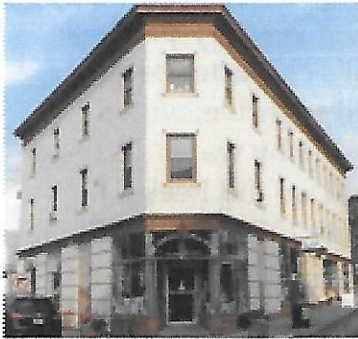
Peekskill, sited on an ample bay conducive to shipping, developed into an early American industrial center, known primarily for its iron plows and stove products. The Binney & Smith Company, now makers of Crayola products, started as the Peekskill Chemical Company at Annsville in 1864. Peekskill's manufacturing base operated well into the late 20th century, with the Fleischmann Company making yeast by-products under the Standard Brands corporate name until 1977. Peekskill's character became decidedly urban. Through the 1950s and into the 60s it continued to thrive, with a bustling downtown retail district. However, as reliance on shipping by water declined, and as the need for the products by Peekskill's foundries declined, so did Peekskill. When Standard Brands closed its last production facility in the late 1970s, Peekskill had already been gutted by Urban Renewal, and the Black -owned business district burned to the ground. Three public housing projects were built between 1951 and 1972. Three subsidized senior housing projects also rose in the downtown.

A small core of historic downtown buildings remained to form a center for Peekskill's revival as an Artists' Community. In the early 1990s, the population was dwindling and there were many vacancies in the downtown area. The Common Council decided to create artist studios and galleries an important part of the City's revitalization strategy. This was a controversial decision because it made affordable dwelling space above downtown businesses unavailable to anyone other than artists. 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 were 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, a purpose-built Limited Equity Co-op for artists. 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.

Another 950 apartment or townhouse units, none specified as artists' live-work space, are either recently completed, under construction or in the approval process. This includes more than 300 affordable units, some restricted to seniors. Many of these projects are mixed- use, including either retail space or light industrial uses. One includes a luxury inn and event space.

Cultural highlights include Paramount Center for the Arts, a gorgeously restored 1930 movie palace which now serves as the area's cultural hub with music, comedy, drama and independent films. Other arts venues are Hudson Valley MOCA, Dramatic Hall, and the Hat Factory which houses 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.

Peekskill recently completed a beautiful state-of -the- art Central firehouse on Main St. The City will receive \$10 million from New York State in funding as the Mid-Hudson winner of the fourth round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative.

\$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.

Utilizing grants and a partnership with Scenic Hudson, Peekskill has preserved its entire riverfront, from the northern border with Cortlandt to the southern border with Cortlandt, as part of the Hudson River Greenway. Peekskill's other large parks are Depew and Fort Hill.



Cortlandt has a beautiful riverfront park in Verplanck at Steamboat Dock. 26% of the town's acreage is preserved open space whether public parks or preserves run by private organizations.



Westchester County Parks in Peekskill/Croton include Blue Mountain Reservation, known for hiking trails and bike trails and Croton Point Park where camping and swimming are available.

Peekskill's population is 29.2% white and 23% Black. Peekskill has attracted many immigrants from Central and South America and its population is currently 43.5% of its total. Peekskill recently signed a Sister City agreement with Cuenca, Ecuador, from which a large number of its residents have emigrated. By way of contrast the population of the Town of Cortlandt is 70% white, 5.8% black, and 19% .

While much of Peekskill's focus has been on the arts and increasing residential density, Cortlandt's is primarily on commercial development. In the town of Cortlandt, 1950's Federal housing programs, combined with improvements to the road network and the railroad, led to the suburbanization of the Town, which was typical throughout New York State. Today, many residents of the Town commute to the major employment centers of New York City and White Plains. Over 94% of the Town's land is zoned for residential or open space while only approximately 6% is zoned commercial or industrial. Approximately 26% of the Town's land area, approximately 5,800 acres, is preserved open space. The largest employer in the Town is the Cortlandt Town Center - a large retail center located on Cortlandt Boulevard, also known as NYS Route 6. A new shopping center, Cortlandt Crossing has recently been built across the road. Other major employers in the Town are mostly institutions, such as the New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Town & Village Governments, the School Districts, and the FDR Veterans Administration Hospital. With the exception of a small business district in the Village of Croton on Hudson, most of the commercial development is strung out in shopping centers small and large, along the major routes through the town, NYS 6, 202/35, and 9A.

New development is planned or sought in four strategic growth areas. The Town is looking at a Transit Oriented District around the Cortlandt train station. Adjacent properties are perfect for mixed use development for residential, office space, and retail. A Medical Oriented District in the vicinity of NY Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital is envisioned as leveraging the vibrant health care industry and the benefits of the New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital as centerpieces for economic growth. Along Cortlandt Boulevard the town is looking to attract a hotel/conference center, health food stores such as Trader Joe's and Whole Foods, and an indoor ice skating rink, dine in restaurants/café's, experiential retail/entertainment as well as industry/corporate parks. In Verplanck's Waterfront Sustainability District, town owned property features a dramatic 800 foot deep water quarry surrounded by natural stone walls and acres of open space available for potential Public-Private Partnership.

Education

School Districts

Most children from Peekskill are served by the Peekskill City School District. Four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school serve its 3531 students. The elementary schools, grades Pre-K through 5, operate on the Princeton system which

organizes schools by grade level rather than by neighborhood. In 2009 the new state-of-the-art Middle School opened and incorporated the 6th grade. The high school serves grades 9-12. The district recently inaugurated a new turf field and a new Parent Resource Center. New STEAM Centers at the high school and at Hillcrest Elementary are planned.

The Hendrick Hudson Central School District educates 2326 students from Buchanan, Verplanck, Crugers, Montrose, Peekskill's southernmost neighborhood and portions of Cortlandt Manor and Croton-on-Hudson. It consists of three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

The Croton-Harmon Union Free School District, serving 1600 students, encompasses parts of the towns of Cortlandt and Yorktown and includes the village of Croton-on-Hudson. It consists of one elementary, one middle, and one high school.

The Lakeland Central School District has five elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools and serves 6000 students from parts of Cortlandt, Yorktown, and Somers in Westchester County and parts of Philipstown and Putnam Valley in Putnam County.

Transportation and Infrastructure

The Metro-North Railway provides service to New York City, 41 miles (66 km) south of Peekskill. There are stations at Peekskill and Cortlandt as well as a Station at Croton-Harmon, an Express stop with daily parking available. Metro-North service continues north to Poughkeepsie. The Bee-Line Bus System provides bus service throughout Peekskill and Cortlandt on routes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 31, and to the Westchester Medical Center, Westchester Community College, and White Plains, Ossining and Tarrytown. Other Westchester points are accessible via transfer.

US6, US 202, US 9 and NY9A and 35 run through Peekskill and Cortlandt. US 6-202 and the Bear Mountain Bridge over the Hudson River give access to Bear Mountain State Park, the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Palisades, the NY State Thruway, NY 17, and I 84. US9 (to Lake Champlain) and US9 W (to Albany) continue north and south on either side of the Hudson. The Taconic Parkway is easily accessed via US 6 and US 202/NY 35 to the East. NY 9A also runs through Peekskill and Cortlandt connecting to the Taconic.

Regional Airports are the Westchester County Airport 3 miles NE of White Plains and the Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, NY.

St. Peter's Parish

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

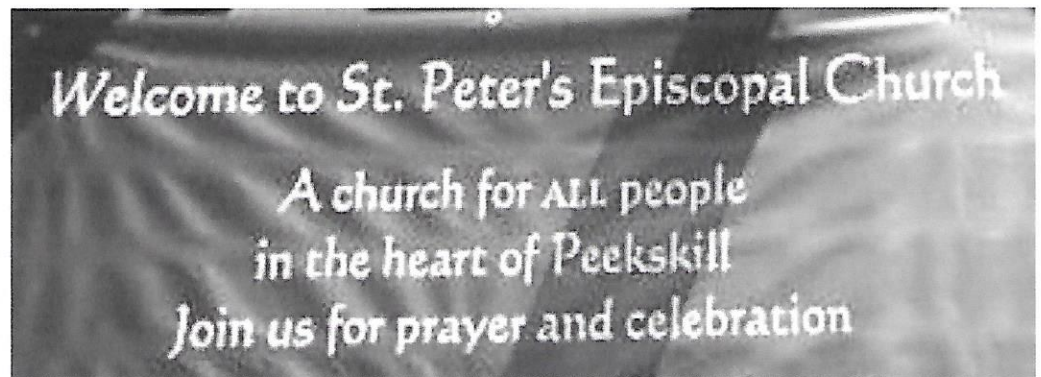
Acolytes: Melanie Bussel
Altar Guild: Anne Desmond
Choirs: Janine Wallour Thwaite
Coffee Hour: Leah Agostinoni-Olsen
Lectors: Doryl Wolfe
Buildings and Grounds: Harry Cordero
Newcomers Committee: Vestry
Noontime Meals: Barbara Reid

Parish Life Activities: Eleanor 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

Wardens and Vestry 2021

WARDENS:
Eleanor Moshier
Kim Wicker

VESTRY MEMBERS:
Harry Cordero
Judy Taylor
David Grey
Judy Isecke
Elaine Jackson
Barbara Reid
Ruth Wells



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.



❖ **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 years, weekly sessions were held focusing on religion in art, literature and other areas of everyday life.

❖ **The Sunday school program at St. Peter's Episcopal**



Church has continued to evolve and transform over the years. The curriculum and number of children may fluctuate but it has remained a constant and



important ministry. It serves students K-8th Grade and high schoolers became

Assistant Sunday School teachers as they have been through the many years of religious cycles, baptism and confirmation. The current study material is derived from the Lesson Plans that work website at <https://lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org/>.

Using Lesson Plans that work means the children are learning the same Chapters of the Bible as the rest of the congregation. To drive the message home we read scripture, pray, talk, play games, watch videos, sing, laugh and learn together. 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.*



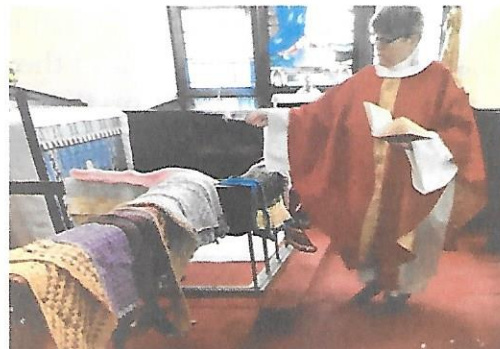
The children can still participate in the service in this part of the month, whether being ushers, acolytes, or a lector. The Sunday school meets on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month. St. Peter's has struggled in finding adult volunteers to teach Sunday school. The solution has been to have a One 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.*

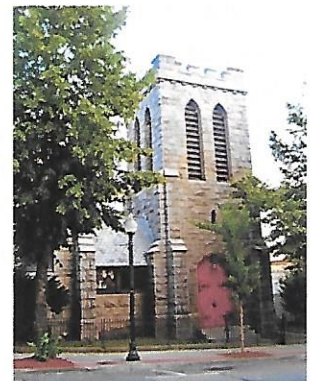


Our Buildings as a Place for Mission and Ministry

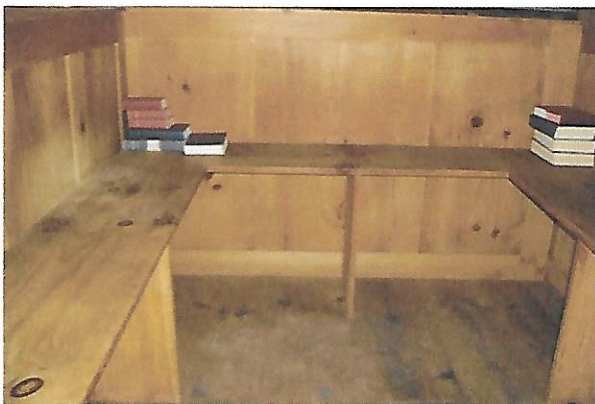
❖ **Buildings and Grounds** –This group is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, and improvements of the church buildings and other property belonging to the church. This encompasses the church itself, Bell Hall, Howard House and the offsite Rectory. The historic Old Saint Peter’s is handled by “Friends 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. Currently completed 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. 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 were 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 and the Town of Cortlandt

Peekskill Town of
Cortlandt

PEOPLE

Population		
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	24,295	42,294
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	23,589	41,585
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	3.0%	1.7%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	23,583	41,592
Age and Sex		
Persons under 5 years, percent	7.4%	5.1%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.8%	22.0%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	15.0%	16.5%
Female persons, percent	52.3%	50.6%
Race and Latinx Origin		
White alone, percent	39.8%	79.0%
Black or African American alone, percent	23.2%	5.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	0.2%	0.0%
Asian alone, percent	2.1%	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.0%	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	5.2%	3.7%
Latinx or Latino, percent	43.5%	19.0%
White alone, not Latinx or Latino, percent	29.2%	70.0%
Population Characteristics		
Veterans, 2015-2019	1,032	1,754
Foreign born persons, percent, 2015-2019	27.6%	14.0%
Housing		
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019	46.0%	76.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019	\$294,100	\$429,400
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$2,320	\$3,117

Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$963	\$1,324
Median gross rent, 2015-2019	\$1,407	\$1,487
Families & Living Arrangements		
Households, 2015-2019	9,402	14,914
Persons per household, 2015-2019	2.54	2.77
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2015-2019	88.8%	91.1%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2015-2019	40.0%	20.5%
Computer and Internet Use		
Households with a computer, percent, 2015-2019	85.4%	94.2%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2015-2019	77.9%	89.0%
Education		
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	79.7%	93.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	29.8%	48.7%
Health		
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2015-2019	8.0%	5.9%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	12.6%	2.7%
Economy		
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	68.5%	67.6%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	63.7%	63.8%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	28,987	29,685
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000)	51,568	723,465
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	117,862	130,192
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	255,373	451,048
Total retail sales per capita, 2012	\$10,714	\$10,662
Transportation		
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2015-2019	36.9	40.8
Income & Poverty		
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$57,206	\$115,572
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$32,460	\$53,608
Persons in poverty, percent	11.6%	4.8%

BUSINESSES

Businesses

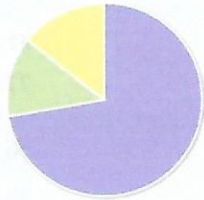
All firms, 2012	2,172	2,745
Men-owned firms, 2012	1,002	1,328
Women-owned firms, 2012	961	933
Minority-owned firms, 2012	921	510
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	1,161	2,162
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	131	143

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