

HOPE CAN BE FOUND HERE!

A CALL TO THE CHURCH:

*To renew and strengthen our call as the church to be an
“Outpost of Hope” in our community.*

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Nov 14, 2023

THE ENDOWMENT FUND - St Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church

Mim McConnell, vestry member and endowment board member

Every year, thousands of footsteps are felt at St. Peter's and it's not just on Sundays that this activity occurs. The church and the See House are both used for community activities on a regular basis. The church is host to a variety of community musical offerings and spiritual retreats each year. St Peter's Fellowship Farm, located behind the See House, is run by the Sitka Local Foods Network, that grows fresh produce that is sold at the Sitka Farmers' Markets, and has a special program in place to ensure that the local produce reaches low-income Sitkans. A variety of weekly, monthly, and special activities take place in the See House, such as AA meetings, Young Life, 4-H gatherings, Child and Family Playgroup, Manna Meal preparation, HOPE Coalition meetings, and other non-profit gatherings for meetings and events. Having this welcoming place to gather is appreciated by all who use it.

Out of these associations with the community come relationships that are fostered by our clergy and members of the congregation who are a part of the activities, as well as community members who spread the news with others about the inviting space that is available for community use. Our St. Peter's community and the greater community of Sitka all benefit from having an open facility and welcoming environment. What a great gift we have to give!

But these gifts don't end with the buildings or grounds. The St. Peter's Endowment Fund distribution program is a way that our gifts can be used for two purposes: 'Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach' and for 'Facility Improvements and Maintenance'. The Fund recently had its first annual grants awarded for 2022 funds. The distribution amount was \$9,277.42. Each of the two grant categories received \$4,638.50. The Facilities grant will be used for the apartment upgrades. 2023 distribution funds will be distributed at the end of the year. We are blessed to have this Endowment Fund to help foster spiritual growth and outreach in the community, as well as at our 'improved and well-maintained' church and See House that is so loved in our community.

But how do the funds grow? The gifts that have been generously given over the years are carefully managed by the Endowment Fund board of directors in a custodial account at Edward Jones. Parishioners can bequeath proceeds from various sources, besides writing a check, such as investments, life insurance policies, and IRAs. If you are above a certain age, you may have heard of a QCD, or Qualified Charitable Distribution. Anyone older than 70 ½ can make contributions from their IRA. There's a handout in the See House from Edward Jones, explaining more about this way to give to the qualifying charity of your choice.

Below is the announcement that was shared on October 31st about the 'Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach grant opportunity...

*****Special grant opportunity announcement from the Endowment Board of St Peter's by the Sea!**

Opens Nov 1st! (proposals due Nov 28)

The endowment board is rolling out a new grant opportunity to be used to encourage spiritual growth and outreach. This first round of funding to be distributed for 2024 use, will be open to St Peter's members to apply for.

**Please see the brief description of its purpose below and the attachment, for a more complete description, grant program background, and the application form.*

Questions about the grant can be directed to Mim McConnell, Sara Beaber-Fujioka, or the Rev Julie Platson.

Description of Award Distribution

Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach

- The purpose of these funds is to provide for increased parish or individual spiritual growth through training, programs, mailings, workshops, services, or a myriad of other mechanisms.
- Projects may be long-term or one-off to assist an individual or groups in pursuing their spiritual growth or outreach.

The Endowment Board: *Mim McConnell, Brian Massey, Linda Trierschild, Dirk White, Caven Pfeiffer; Ex-officio members are the Rector and the Senior Warden.*

Treasurer, Sara Beaber-Fujioka is actively involved to help with questions related to the church financial matters.

The 2023 Vestry members: *Mim McConnell, Mandy Evans, Loyd Platson, Sara Bergendahl, Lisa Moore (Clerk), Chip Camden. Treasurer: Sara Beaber-Fujioka.*

Clergy: *Rector, The Rev Julie Platson; Deacons: The Rev. Kathryn Snelling & The Rev. Glenda Quintana*