

2024 began with the urgent need to adjust expenses lower as much as possible and encourage the pledges of the people and review other sources of revenue.

The annual deficit for 2023 was \$140,000, and the 6 month financials reported by the new bookkeeper from January to June, 2024 reflect that the net deficit for 2024 is \$20,000. The good news is we project a decrease in the church's annual deficit of \$100,000 per year, but a deficit remains that will need to be addressed by the vestry and supported by the church.

Income for the six months ended June, 2024 is 16% higher than budgeted by \$14,000. The largest areas of income have come from higher pledging and designated gifts. There is room for increased use of our facilities to generate more income from rental contracts.

Similarly, expenses are also 16% higher than budgeted by \$16,000. The largest expenses not covered in the 2024 budget were the rector's unadjusted salary and pension for January through March (\$7,000), and the initial cost of a new bookkeeper to transfer our books (\$5,500). Backing these two factors out of the deficit to date (\$12,500) along with an adjustment downward under the diocesan assessment (\$2,700) the net effect ($7 + 5.5 + 2.7 = \$15,200$) would be a net loss for the 6 months ending June, 2024 ($\$20,000 - \$15,200$) of \$4,800. On this pace, the church is tracking to have a net loss of under \$10,000 for the year. This is a great improvement over the \$140,000 deficit last year. We ARE on track to save \$130,000 from last year's deficit!

Your vestry is looking at the use of the rectory as an asset to support the ministry of the church either by defraying the cost of the future rector through resourcing the current home into a viable residence, or as a commercial enterprise that aligns with the mission and values of our church. That is great potential.

Numbers do not tell the whole story, but reflect deeper values, truths, and aspirations of St. Peter's. With the help of you (the church), the volunteers, our vestry, and our interim priest, the church can look to a bright future with confidence.

The Finance Committee of St. Peter's