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I. HISTORICAL NOTES

St. Peter's Parish history really dates to 1823 when a clergyman known to us only as the "the Reverend Hopkins" conducted the first Episcopal service in Niagara Falls.

By 1846 there were enough settlers desiring regular services for the Rt. Rev. William B. DeLancey to give Canonical Consent for the "organization of the Episcopal Church in the City of Niagara Falls, N.Y."

The new parish incorporated itself in that same year under the name of "St. Peter's" because the saint is associated with the "foundation" of the Church and because the property for that first chapel on First Street had been donated by the estate of General Peter B. Porter, a prominent settler.

After the Civil War the city experienced rapid growth, and St. Peter's congregation outgrew its first home. The Wardens and Vestry launched a new building drive and soon accepted the Gothic design of New York City architect Henry Dudley. The present edifice was consecrated in 1880 during services conducted by the Rt. Rev. A. Cleveland Coxe. The Guild Hall, which adjoins the church, was added in 1901.

The last five Rectors of St. Peter's were:

1897 - 1932 - The Rev. Philip Wheeler Mosher, D.D.

1932 - 1942 - The Rev. Charles Noyes Tyndall

1943 - 1955 - The Rev. Blake B. Hammond

1956 - 1970 - The Rev. Canon Richard B. Townsend

1971 - 1985 - The Very Rev. W. Michael Cassell, Jr.

In 1923 an observance of the 100th Anniversary of the First Service was celebrated by the Reverend Philip W. Mosher.

In 1973 the parishioners of St. Peter's gathered to celebrate 150 years of history, led by their new Rector, the Reverend W. Michael Cassell, Jr.

A "Faith in Our Future" Fund Drive was launched in May of 1974, financing through special subscriptions several capital improvements to the church proper, parish house and rectory.

In the spring of 1976 the parish took part in a very successful Faith Alive Weekend. This event was followed by Faith Alive II in the fall of the year, this latter conference focusing on lay ministry.

Early in 1978 the Vestry voted to develop a special ministry to downtown employees and residents. "The Place to Be" was born. The Vestry authorized a "Faith in Our Future Fund II," soliciting special funds to finance the salary of an Assistant Rector who would direct "The Place to Be," supervise a new church school program, and train lay persons for their various ministries. The Rev. Donald M. Huber was hired for this position in the summer of 1978, and he served the parish until the fall of 1980.

"The Place to Be" opened its doors in October 1978. This noontime, weekday program sold inexpensive lunches with "homemade" appeal, sponsored health programs, art exhibits, musical performances and much more. Supervised by a paid cook and a program director, volunteers from the parish and the community carried on this ministry for five years. During 1982 and 1983 "The Place to Be" was a member agency of Episcopal Charities of Western New York.

Major changes in the downtown retail scene, coupled with the loss of many office jobs during 1983, resulted in a steady decline in daily attendance and forced the closing of this program in early 1984.

We at St. Peter's value our past, which is rooted deep in the history of the Niagara Frontier. God willing, we have much more history to record, as we faithfully bear witness to His love in this community.

II. FACILITIES

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, attached Parish House, and the former rectory, named the Philip Wheeler Mosher House, are located at the corner of Rainbow Boulevard and Second Street, Niagara Falls, New York. The famous cataracts are about 1500 feet from the church door, "as the crow flies."

The Church and Parish House

The church and parish house are constructed of grey stone in Thirteenth Century Gothic architecture. The accompanying photographs attest to the beauty of the architecture. The interior woodwork of the church is walnut and much of it is hand carved.

The church seats 350 people. Adjoining the body of the church are the sacristy, choir room, and the church office extending into the Parish House. The first floor of the Parish House also contains the Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi, a choir dressing room and another office which houses the headquarters of the Niagara Council of Churches.

Located on the second floor of the Parish House are the Rector's Study, which has a fireplace; a Guild Hall with a stage; and a restaurant-equipped kitchen. The Guild Hall can accommodate 125 people at a sit-down meal, and this floor can be reached by an electronic chair lift. The Guild Hall is presently used for church school classes and other church community activities.

The undercroft houses the boiler room and large storage areas; another large meeting room which can be divided into two smaller rooms when the folding "wall" is extended; and a small kitchen. Restrooms are located on the second floor and in the undercroft.

The church pipe organ is a dual-manual Odell organ built in 1908, rebuilt by Teller in 1950, by Burmaster in 1975 and updated in 1983-84. While it is quite serviceable at present, the Wardens and Vestry have been advised that extensive work should be undertaken in the near future.

There is a Steinway grand piano in the choir room and a Henry Miller grand piano in the Guild Hall.

Other equipment and facilities in the parish House include: a 16mm movie projector, a slide projector and screen; a sizeable lending library and access to a library of film strips; two electric typewriters; a Xerox copying machine and multigraphing equipment; a pool table and a soft drink dispensing machine.

Philip Wheeler Mosher House

The Philip Wheeler Mosher House is a Victorian frame structure. The first floor is used for the church school nursery, meeting rooms and social rooms. The second floor provides an apartment for the resident custodian and family.

Parking

Parking facilities on Second Street and Rainbow Boulevard are very good on Sundays, and there are large public parking lots behind and directly across from the church. The property provides about four parking spaces for the Rector and staff.

The church property provides some lawn on the east side of the church and in front of the Philip Wheeler Mosher House. In summer the after-church "coffee hour" can be moved outside to the lawn as desired.

At present the church buildings are in generally good shape, needing some minor repairs. Because our facilities are older, the budget must anticipate regular repairs to roofs and heating systems.

Use of Facilities

In addition to the uses mentioned above, St. Peter's facilities are gladly offered for all worthwhile community activities, varying with the needs of the times. In the past it has hosted: Girl and Boy Scout Troops, choir schools, organ recitals, ecumenical meetings and services, over-night groups of young people travelling through the area, health education meetings, health-related testing programs, and of course, "The Place to Be."

The Rectory

Our present Rectory, at 740 Park Place, is a spacious three-story brick residence, built some 90 years ago. The lot is approximately 60' X 90' and there is a two-car garage. The neighborhood can be described as "downtown residential" and is a five-minute drive from the church.

The first floor is in excellent condition and consists of:

- a. Living room with fireplace
- b. Walnut-paneled dining room with fireplace
- c. Kitchen with pantry and dishwasher
- d. Den or library with built-in bookcases
- e. Bathroom with shower

The second floor is in good condition and consists of:

- a. Four bedrooms
- b. Two bathrooms
- c. Sewing room
- d. Linen closet

The third floor is in fair condition and consists of:

- a. Two bedrooms
- b. Large play room
- c. Bathroom
- d. Large storage room

There is a full basement which is divided into several rooms. The heating system uses radiators with a new oil-fired boiler. The most unusual feature of this house is an elevator that operates between the first, second and third floors.

Obviously the Rectory will accomodate a large family and can provide a warm setting for social gatherings of any size. The Annual Spring Tea, the Choir Christmas Party, and Adult Social Club functions have all been held within the gracious, high-ceilinged rooms.

Alternatives to the continued use of this Rectory are outlined in the section on "Compensation."

III. OUR CONGREGATION

Physically and aesthetically our church is very beautiful. St. Peter's was built in a lovely, affluent neighborhood, and the walnut woodwork and brass appointments are a legacy from that time. The early congregations were conservative, "low church," and reportedly cool in character.

Our questionnaire response indicated that we now see ourselves as a caring, warm, Christian community. We are truly a congregation of "all sorts and conditions of men." In the past twelve years our church has entered into several programs of renewal. The Faith Alive and Cursillo movements have awakened many individuals to deeper faith. "The Place to Be" and Sunday morning coffee hours provided an opportunity to know and appreciate others' talents and contributions.

Our weaknesses as a congregation reflect the problems of the community. Most of the surrounding homes were razed during the 1960's to make way for tourist-oriented development: hotels, parking ramps, a shopping mall, and a Convention Center. Most of our present-day members drive in to church from every part of the city and surrounding suburbs. Two quality apartment buildings in our neighborhood are also home to many of our members.

Because of corporate relocations, the community and the parish have lost significant leadership. Our retired parishioners comprise 55% of our pledging base. Our employed parishioners are again typical of the community: they are mainly in service occupations and professions.

The past several years have seen many changes, and we are hoping to remain as we are and regroup. Traditionally our Rector initiates change and the people follow. Among our assets as a parish are a strong and stable leadership base, an absence of factions, and a great loyalty to our Rector. This was evidenced when we gamely accepted the new Prayer Book and the Anglo-Catholic practice of daily Eucharist.

Why are we so fiercely loyal to our church? Our people have come from widely differing denominations and represent every ethnic, social, and educational background. Our one common denominator, in addition to our acknowledged love of Christ, is our beloved St. Peter's Church - welcoming anyone who needs us.

CONGREGATIONAL TRENDS

| | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>1984</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Baptized Members | 605 | 597 | 603 |
| Family Units | 114 | 114 | 121 |
| Active Members | 265 | 254 | 251 |
| Pledging Units | 229 | 219 | 210 |
| Average Sunday Attendance (First Sunday in Advent) | 223 | 175 | 224 |
| Sunday School Attendance (Teachers and Students) | 105 | 66 | 76 |

IV. WORSHIP

Under the leadership of its recent Rector, St. Peter's adopted many traditions and practices of Anglo-Catholic worship. The Eucharist is celebrated at all regularly scheduled services.

There are two services on Sunday mornings. The early service, at 8:00 a.m., is the Holy Eucharist Rite I. The later service, at 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. in the summer), is a Choral Holy Eucharist with both Junior and Senior Choirs. The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, is employed on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month; on the second and fourth Sundays a service of Morning Prayer precedes the Holy Eucharist, Rite I.

Responses to a questionnaire circulated during the Parish Self Study indicated that a large majority of the respondents felt the present rotation of Rite I/ Rite II is "about right." Nineteen per cent of those responding would prefer more Morning Prayer and fewer celebrations of the Eucharist in the Sunday schedule. Seventy-three per cent felt that we have "a good balance," and eight per cent favored less Morning Prayer.

In recent years the Rector established a schedule of weekday Eucharists. Each Rite II celebration is followed by the Sacrament of Healing.

The Eucharist is also said at the Niagara Falls Memorial Nursing Home on each second Sunday of the month as part of St. Peter's Nursing Home Ministry.

The rites of Holy Baptism and Confirmation are usually performed during congregational worship on Sunday mornings.

Celebrating the Eucharist

For the past two years St. Peter's has been served by a non-stipendiary deacon who assists the Rector at the 11:00 a.m. service. Acolytes, layreaders and liturgical sub-deacons also take part and are appropriately vested. Eighty-four per cent of the questionnaire respondents felt that laity participate "just enough" at this time. Eleven per cent would increase that participation.

The original High Altar is still situated in the sanctuary, but for the past five years the Eucharist has been celebrated at the "People's Altar," a movable, free-standing altar at the foot of the chancel steps. Sanctus bells are rung at each service, and we have recently added incense to our Christmas Eve and Easter liturgies.

The parish has been fortunate in retaining the services of a well-qualified musician who serves as both organist and choir director. The choir leads the congregation in chanting the psalms and canticles, using the new pointing of the 1982 Hymnal. (The Wardens and Vestry have already authorized the purchase and implementation of that hymnal.) In recent years we have included a selection from Songs of Praise in each 11:00 a.m. liturgy, using guitar accompaniment.

Special Liturgies

Christmas Eve services are at 7:45 p.m. with the Junior Choir and at 11:00 p.m. with the Senior Choir. The first service is designed for families with young children. A celebration of the Eucharist with congregational singing is held on Christmas morning. Traditionally a church school pageant is presented during the Christmas season.

During Holy Week there is a service of Tenebrae; a three-hour Good Friday service sponsored by the Niagara Council of Churches; and the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. Easter Day services are at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., the latter being a full Choral Eucharist.

Special Pentecost Sunday observances have featured the reading of the Gospel in several languages. A special Eucharist is also celebrated on Thanksgiving Day. In recent years, in the spring, we have held a "Celebration of Generations" Sunday, when we focus on the contributions of our senior members. We may use a service from one of the earlier prayer books on such occasions.

In recent years we have held two annual all-night vigils in the Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi. One is maintained during the night before the First Sunday in Advent and focuses on prayer for the parish and its mission; the other takes place Maundy Thursday evening through Good Friday morning before the Altar of Repose.

Weddings and funerals are arranged through the Rector, and he accepts them at his own discretion.

During the past two years the Episcopal clergy of the city have carried out a "pulpit exchange," trading pulpits on a once-a-month basis, primarily during the winter months.

In recent years, as the Episcopal Church has implemented the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and experienced renewal in its many facets, the people of St. Peter's have - on the whole - accepted graciously the many changes initiated by the Rector. While the congregation considers itself "somewhat conservative," it is far from inflexible. The people of St. Peter's are traditionally disposed to honor the teaching and authority of their Rector and follow his lead in most matters pertaining to worship.

V. PARISH ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM

St. Peter's is administered by two elected Wardens and a Twelve-member elected Vestry. They are assisted by an appointed Auxiliary Vestry which numbers about fifteen members. Ours is a "rotating" Vestry, its members limited to two consecutive three-year terms; one becomes re-eligible for election after a year off. Wardens are elected to two-year terms, and the number of consecutive terms they may serve is not limited.

The Wardens and Vestry meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month from September through June. Meetings are preceded by a service of Evening Prayer or Compline, led by a layreader, and in recent months Vestry night has started with a "Dutch treat" dinner, as this body strives for greater fellowship among its members.

The Vestry convenes for a general business meeting, breaking into three sub-committees (or more as our programs dictate) to study Finance, Property and Parish Life. The full Vestry reconvenes at the end of the evening for committee reports and a general wrap-up.

Forty-seven per cent of our survey respondents believe that our Vestry is a "very positive" force in our parish; and additional forty-eight per cent see it as a "fairly positive" force. Sixty-nine per cent believe that the Vestry gives "strong and enthusiastic" support to the Rector; thirty-one per cent feel that their support is "moderate".

Church School and Adult Education

Our church school program takes place on Sunday morning. The Adult Class, numbering about fifteen members, meets at 9:45 a.m. with the Rector as their teacher-lecturer. They also have heard invited guest speakers from time to time. In recent years the adult class has done an extensive study of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, a course on St. Mark's Gospel, a study of the parables, and another on the Book of Psalms.

The Senior High Class and the Junior High Class also meet at 9:45 a.m. from mid-September through mid-June. All youth and children's classes use various parts of the Winston-Seabury Press JOY Curriculum.

Classes for Pre-K through Grade 6 meet at 10:45 a.m. These

children begin with a brief worship service in the Guild Hall, singing selections from Songs of Praise and Sounds of Living Waters with piano accompaniment. From 11:00 a.m. until 11:40 a.m. they meet in one of three classes: Pre-K and Kindergarten; Grades 1 and 2; and Grades 3 - 6. They join the full congregation at the time of the offertory to participate in the Eucharist.

Our children receive communion from the age of six years, provided they and their parents have attended a short series of Communion Classes taught each year by the Rector.

A breakdown of the church school enrollment for 1984-85 would be:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Nursery, Pre-K and Kindergarten | 12 |
| Grades 1 - 8 | 21 |
| Grades 9 - 12 | 12 |
| Adults | 15 |

The church school is administered by a lay person and has the services of 7 full or part time teachers, bringing the total involved to 68.

Additional Opportunities for Christian Education

Confirmation Classes: Confirmation classes for youth ten years or older and for adults are formed annually. These classes have generally been taught by the Rector and the Deacon.

Kerygma Bible Study: In the Fall of 1984 a group of 15 men and women enrolled in the Kerygma Bible Study Course at St. Peter's. This course was led by the Rector and projected to be a two-year undertaking. It is hoped that the new Rector will continue in the leadership of this class. There is consistently a group of interested parishioners who feel a need for continuing study opportunities within the parish to enable them to grow in their faith and especially in their understanding of the Bible.

Lenten School of Religion: For the past two years area Episcopal clergy have collaborated in a "school" which met on five consecutive Tuesday evenings during Lent. Participants from local congregations meet together for the Eucharist and

hear two different lectures or discussions focusing on Scripture, Church History or Christian Living.

Ecumenical Bible Study: Although not specifically a St. Peter's program, our facilities are used once a month by the First Tuesday Ecumenical Bible Study Group which meets during the noon hour for a bag lunch, fellowship and study.

Organized Groups

Layreaders: Eight licensed layreaders presently function at St. Peter's. They also serve as liturgical sub-deacons, administering the chalice at the Rector's direction.

Acolytes: The priest and deacon are assisted during the Liturgy by trained acolytes (men, women and boys) who are overseen by a lay person. This group presently numbers eighteen.

Senior Choir: Comprised of twelve adults (including three paid soloists) this group sings at the 11:00 a.m. service and at special festive services. Rehearsals are held every Thursday evening.

Junior Choir: Comprised at present of eight teenaged girls, they also sing at the 11:00 a.m. service and at specified festive services. They rehearse at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday morning and at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. We plan to enroll some younger children in this group in the fall of 1985.

Altar Guild: This guild is made up of approximately fifteen women who care for all of the linens, clergy vestments, and vessels. They set up the altar for Sunday Eucharists, and they perform housekeeping duties in the sanctuaries of both the church and the chapel. Trained and supervised by a lay person, the members meet before the Christmas and Easter festivals to coordinate their work.

The Philip Wheelers Moshers Guild: This group of approximately twelve women sponsors the Annual Spring Silver Tea to which parishioners and their guests are invited. In the past they have met five or six times during the year, attending the Eucharist before their business meeting on a weekday morning.

While the members of this organization have enjoyed their activities over the years, they are now older, and there is a growing interest in the parish for an all-inclusive "Women of

St. Peter's", which would take on some of the functions of the former guilds.

The Episcopal Young Churchmen: Under the direction of two lay couples, the EYC meets bi-monthly throughout the school year for social functions and fund-raising events. At present this group numbers 15 teenagers in grades 7 - 12. A favorite event is the annual "over-night" at the church. Discussion groups and recreation, as well as a celebration of the Eucharist highlight these weekends.

In recent years the Vestry has offered financial aid "scholarships" to our teens who wish to attend either of the Diocesan Youth Conferences in the summer.

Softball Team: For the past three years St. Peter's has sponsored a boys' team in the Inter-Church Softball League.

Social Activities

Adult Social Group: This informal group is open to all members of our parish and sponsors such social functions as St. Patrick's Day parties, cocktail and dinner parties, etc., solely for fun and fellowship.

Pot Luck Suppers: In recent years one means of fostering fellowship among our people was a series of pot luck suppers held on Sunday evenings. Popular among our younger families these evenings featured simple programs and community singing.

Other Social Events: In addition to the Sunday morning coffee hours held after the late service, we schedule special receptions at Christmas; on Easter Eve, following the Great Vigil; on Pentecost Sunday, when we have a birthday party for the Church; and on the last Sunday in February, when we honor the newly elected Vestry. We also plan Halloween and Christmas parties for the church school each year, and we close the church school year with a family picnic at a nearby city park. The picnic includes a Folk Mass and an awards presentation for students, junior choir members and acolytes.

Service Projects

Visiting: The Rector and Deacon are assisted in Parish

visiting by a small group of laypersons who call on shut-ins, nursing home residents and hospital patients. A lay-led nursing home ministry is highlighted by monthly celebrations of the Eucharist at the Niagara Falls Memorial Nursing Home. This ministry has grown since its inception two years ago, and we are hopeful that more of our members can volunteer for this much appreciated ministry.

Food Pantry: As an urban parish we are ideally situated to serve the needs of the poor and unemployed through a parish-run food pantry and bread distribution center. Parishioners are encouraged to support this ministry with monetary contributions and with non-perishable food items. We also service clients of the Community Food Bank, which gives us food supplies for those who meet the qualifications for that community program.

The Place to Be: As described under "Historical Notes", in this Profile, the "Place to Be" was a parish ministry which served many in our area and proved most beneficial to St. Peter's and our efforts to build community. There is considerable interest in reviving a modified version of this program.

Living Nativity Scene: Many of our youth and their families take part in a Living Nativity which is a week-long feature of the Niagara Falls Festival of Lights during the Christmas season. Organized by one of our parishioners, who recruits volunteers from several local churches, the scene was enacted on St. Peter's front lawn in 1984.

Fund Raising

Parish Dinner Dance: For many years St. Peter's held a Bazaar in October as its chief fund-raiser. In 1981, a decline in "womanpower" caused us to discontinue the bazaar format and institute a Parish Dinner Dance in its place. The Annual Dinner Dance is held on a Friday night in October at a local hotel; tickets are sold to parishioners and their friends in the community.

In conjunction with this event a Patron's Booklet is subscribed from local merchants and parishioners. We have realized a profit of approximately \$1,800.00 from these two sources, all of which goes into the General Fund. Attendance at the dinner averages about 180 persons.

Craft Sales: Talented parishioners who previously donated handmade items to the Bazaar have in recent years sold their wares at a community-wide "Do Gooders Bazaar" at a major shopping mall, as well as at other mall-sponsored craft sales. They have earned between \$900.00 and \$1,000.00 each year from these sales.

Parish supported bake sales have also been held in connection with the mall sales, the last such sale netting about \$350.00.

Rummage Sales: Two annual rummage sales provide additional revenue of approximately \$1,350.00 towards the budget or specified funds. These sales are chiefly the efforts of a group of 10 - 12 women, many of whom were formerly members of the Canon Townsend Evening Guild which officially disbanded three years ago. They still enjoy contributing to the parish through this project and have a lot of fun in the process.

Intra-Parish Communications

Information and requests are generally channeled through traditional means such as Sunday bulletins and parish-wide mailings. Special mailings precede the major feasts, the Annual Stewardship Campaign, UTO Ingathering, Episcopal Charities Appeal, etc.

Our recent Rector edited a publication called "The Keys", a collection of articles instructive or inspiring, which also contained a schedule of planned events, and was published two or three times each year.

In recent months printed highlights of the monthly Vestry meeting have been inserted in the bulletin on the Sunday following the meeting. We also mail out a monthly "Calendar of Events".

Stewardship Program

Some six years ago we carried out a Stewardship Campaign incorporating home visits by laypersons to discuss "stewardship". We found that our parishioners were not receptive to such a stewardship campaign, and we have returned to a campaign based on mailings and follow-up phone calls when pledge cards are not returned. The calls merely stress the importance of returning

the card and are well received.

The Rector preaches on the subject of stewardship at the beginning of the Every Member Canvas, which is held in November. In recent years several laypersons have addressed the congregation on the subject of proportionate giving, relating their personal experience with this style of giving.

Beginning in 1976 our parishioners have been urged to take "tithing" as a goal to work towards from year to year. Many have accepted this goal. It is encouraging to note that despite a decline in pledge units, we have consistently increased our budget for the past eight years, which reflects the increased efforts of individuals to raise the value of their pledges.

A summary of the past three Stewardship Campaigns is appended to Article X of this report.

VI. COMMUNITY

The city of Niagara Falls, New York, is located 22 miles north-west of Buffalo, New York. It was incorporated in March 17, 1892, from an amalgamation of two villages and reached its present size in 1926 with the annexation of the village of LaSalle. It has a current population of about 70,000.

Government:

The city is unique in that it has a City Manager/Council form of government together with a Mayor who serves as the chief spokesman of the city and who presides at council meetings. There are four elected councilmen and the elected mayor who also serves as the fifth member of the city council. The City Manager is appointed by the council. The city is divided into 12 legislative districts, each having an elected county legislator. The legislators represent each district in the county government at the county seat in Lockport, New York.

Education:

Niagara Falls has both public and parochial schools. The public schools are administered by a superintendent who is appointed by an elected Board of Education. While having the same problems that most urban school systems experience, they nevertheless provide an adequate level of education for the students. The parochial system is divided between those serviced by the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo and those of the Lutheran Church. These include enrollement from elementary through high school level.

Niagara County Community College is a two-year junior college located east of the city in Sanborn, New York. Niagara University, just north of the city, confers Baccalaureate and graduate degrees in many areas of study. The City of Buffalo, 20 miles away, offers a fine state university, state and community colleges, as well as private colleges.

Industry:

Niagara Falls, having at present an adequate source of hydro-electric power has a goodly amount of heavy and light industry. Such firms as DuPont, Olin and Occidental Chemical Co. along with various smaller corporations provide a total work force of approximately 6000 jobs. Tourism is becoming a major economic factor in the future development of the city. Attractions such as the Falls, the Maid of the Mist, State Park and Recreation Facilities, International Convention Center, the Wintergarden and the Annual Festival of Lights have contributed greatly to success in this area.

Public Service:

The city has fully equipped and professionally trained police and fire departments. There is a city operated sanitation department which provides for garbage pickup on a weekly basis. Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. and New York Telephone provide basic services. Other related services include a Drug, Alcoholic and Suicide Prevention Hot Line manned 24 hours a day by volunteers. The community Mission and other related social agencies provide service and care for the less fortunate members of our community.

Health Care:

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center has the facilities to diagnose and treat any and all types of medical problems. It has an extended care facility on the grounds and can provide short term care for the emotionally handicapped as well as regular inpatient and outpatient care. Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, located five miles outside the city in Lewiston, New York, also provides many of the same services on a smaller scale. Several geriatric centers extend care to senior citizens.

Cultural:

Located in an old church building, the Niagara Falls Little Theater uses local talent to provide the community with several stage productions a year. The International Convention Center offers entertainment in every area from Rock to Country-Western, and The E. Dent Lackey Plaza is the scene of Summer Experience.

The Plaza, adjacent to the Convention Center, fills the summer with a weekly ethnic production of music, dancing and food sponsored by the Niagara Council of the Arts. In addition, the Earl W. Brydges ArtPark at Lewiston State Park, Lewiston, New York, presents a wide variety of family entertainment-comedy to opera. Within the immediate area of Niagara Falls, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Shea's Theater are close by in Buffalo, New York. Equally fine entertainment is also available in the Province of Ontario, Canada, at the Shaw Theater, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, in Toronto, Ontario. The City of Toronto is only an hour and a half drive from Niagara Falls.

Parks and Recreation:

The year 1885 saw the opening of the first State Park System in the United States at the Niagara Reservation in Niagara Falls, the setting of the Falls. A wide range of tourist attractions combined with historical vistas are found not only at the reservation but at many state parks in the immediate area. The parks provide picnic areas, swimming, fishing, camping and recreational facilities all within a 20 mile radius of the city.

South of Buffalo is a choice of good skiing areas. The Niagara River, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie provide fine opportunities for boating and fishing.

Close by in Buffalo there is the Buffalo Bills football team, the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team, and the Bisons AAA Baseball Team, while Toronto has The Blue Jay Baseball Team and the Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey Team.

Transportation

There is a small International Airport located just six miles from the center of the city. Its use is coupled with the 107th Air National Guard and the 914th Air Force Reserve Unit. Buffalo International Airport also services the area. There are three International Bridges, giving easy access to our Canadian neighbors, and a network of highways including Interstate 190. In addition, Amtrak, Greyhound and The Niagara Frontier Transit Authority provide rail and bus service.

Housing

Many fine residential areas are available in our community. We also have three highrise housing developments giving low cost apartment living to the elderly and disabled. Costs of residential housing are below the national average in many areas.

Organizations

Several Fraternal and Civic groups take an active part in the leadership of the city. These include four Masonic Lodges and their concordant bodies, Niagara Falls Rotary Club, Niagara Falls and LaSalle Lions Clubs, Sertoma Club, Eagles, Moose, Elk, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis and others. Womens groups include the Women's Auxiliary of the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, The Tatler Club, Womens College Club, Parent Education Groups, several Mothers Clubs and Garden Clubs. For seniors there is the American Association of Retired Persons, an active Retired Teachers Association and Golden Age Clubs.

Shopping

Recent years have witnessed a development of indoor shopping malls. Niagara Falls has three malls. The first is the Summit Park Mall with over 90 stores, two banks, several restaurants, and a drug store. Just two blocks from St. Peter's is the Rainbow Centre Mall. A smaller mall, it is bright, airy and pleasant for shopping. Not fully completed is the Factory Outlet Mall, which has over 50 stores at present. All of these stores are stocked directly from the manufacturers and offer bargains that draw shoppers from miles around.

Weather

As you would expect, Niagara Falls has almost typical Northeast weather. Winter is average with about 100 inches of snowfall spread from November to March. Fall includes Indian Summer; spring and summer are typical of the Northeast.

In summary we feel Niagara Falls is a pleasant community in which to live. It offers cultural and recreational activities the year round. Despite the economic down-turn experienced by so many cities recently, Niagara Falls seems to be on the verge of "coming back". The quality of life in Niagara Falls does not differ greatly from other industrial cities despite the adverse publicity generated by the Love Canal.

VII. PARISH GOALS

Before stating any specific goals for our parish and its next Rector, it is essential that we return to the statements contained in St. Peter's By-laws, Article III,

Purpose: St. Peter's Looks at Itself

The parish church is a microcosm of the historic one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church throughout the world. It is the local cell to which like-minded Christian men and women are drawn together to share the experiences of their common faith. No man is an island. Each man needs his brother and sister. We need us. Christians require community.

The parish exists to strengthen and develop the individuals who turn to it for guidance and direction in ordering the priorities and values of their lives. It is the central function of the parish to hold up Jesus Christ as the Saviour of all men everywhere. This is essential and central message toward which all else is secondary. It is the cardinal priority. It is that which makes us unique from all other man-made organizations.

Our concern is not only with our membership, but with the needs of the immediate community and world around us. We exist not so much for ourselves, but for those Christ would have us serve. We respond with the corporal works of mercy our Lord gave us to guide us in the avenues of service we should follow.

Worship is our primary activity, through which we lift up Christ as Lord, provide grace and strength for living the Christian life, and make available the means for union with him. The Holy Communion is our Lord's own way for us to be united to Him and is, therefore, the most emphasized mode of worship at St. Peter's.

The total Sacramental life of the Church and the Way of Prayer are stressed as most helpful vehicles to develop the interior life of the soul.

Modes of worship may vary from time to time, manners of presenting the unchanging faith may take different approaches, but the central core of the Message of Christ is

eternal and we at St. Peter's will labor not to forget that fact.

The world and its values of pleasure and its confusion and drift towards meaninglessness and absurdity are the inevitable fruit of alienation from God. We at St. Peter's will seek, with God's help, to radiate joy at all times, as the result of our sure and certain faith in Christ's resurrection and as the antidote to the prevailing dolefulness and despondency of a bitter and hostile world. We celebrate life.

Over the past five years our goals and concerns have focused on building up the parish community and ministering to the greater community around us. The responses of our parishioners to specific questionnaire items regarding strengths, weaknesses, programs and goals indicate that while the ideal of "community" is becoming a visible reality among us, it must be nurtured faithfully to meet the needs of our St. Peter's family, as well as those who come to our door seeking help.

While reiterating the goals stated above, we list the following as specific means of implementing our broader purpose.

Under the leadership of our new Rector, our Wardens and Vestry would pursue the following long-range goals:

1. Attract, accept and involve new parishioners.
2. Promote and build upon a "parish family" atmosphere.
3. Assist parishioners in identifying and using their gifts in service to the Lord within our parish and in the community about us.
4. Implement the use of the new hymnal in our weekly worship, emphasizing joyful participation.
5. Develop a youth program that provides social, educational and liturgical experiences for our teenagers, encouraging them to be visible and contributing members of the parish.
6. Develop a program of family activities geared to young working parents and their children, to foster community and family ties.
7. Increase our members' proportionate giving of their time, talents and finances.

8. Provide additional support services to the elderly and shut-ins of our parish, particularly in the area of transportation to weekly services and in the nursing home ministry.
9. Foster an environment that will facilitate the mutual growth of clergy and laity.

In the first year of his ministry among us, we would ask our new Rector to address the following short-range goals:

1. Preach and teach the Gospel as GOOD NEWS and lead Sunday worship that is joyful and upbuilding.
2. Call upon each family (and individuals who live alone) at least once during the first year to become acquainted.
3. Work with the Wardens and Vestries to improve intra-parish communications.
4. Work with Wardens and Vestry to develop a method of keeping attendance on Sunday mornings and contacting absent members.
5. Authorize the preparation of a parish directory which would contain photographs and biographical data on parishioners to facilitate the growth of community.
6. Work with parish leadership to develop a plan for sharing certain responsibilities on Sunday mornings, for example, greeting, coffee hour hosting, children's hosting, encouraging new-comers to become involved in our parish family activities.
7. Work with the Wardens and Vestry to plan parish-wide functions such as bazaars, parish dinners, breakfasts, etc.
8. Work with the EYC advisors and church school staff to plan effective programs for the year.

VIII. POSITION DESCRIPTION OF THE RECTOR

Pastoral Specialties

Essentially, we at St. Peter's are looking for a good preacher, an individual who enjoys mingling with people and is family oriented. We feel our parishioners are asking for a shepherd, someone who is available to them for guidance and counseling, especially in crisis situations.

Our stated goals would require that our Rector spend most of his time within the parish. We would prefer that he have some urban experience, but we do not require the Rector to spend large amounts of time in community activities.

We are seeking a Rector with a minimum of five years parish experience, and prefer that this individual have a Master of Divinity degree or the equivalent from an accredited Seminary.

The results of our parish survey*, in order of importance, were as follows:

| <u>Priority</u> | <u>Specialty</u> | <u>Points**</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Preacher | 401 |
| 2 | Crisis Minister | 291 |
| 3 | Counselor | 218 |
| 4 | Theologian | 193 |
| 5 | Youth Worker-Teacher | 185 |
| 6 | Administrative Leader | 165 |

* 125 Surveys were completed and returned.

** Points were determined as follows:

- 1) Assigned priorities from each returned questionnaire were tabulated by points.
- 2) Arbitrary values (6 points for #1 priority to 1 point for a #6 priority) were multiplied by the responses to give total points.

As a matter of interest, the remaining specialties and their point ratings are shown below:

| <u>Priority</u> | <u>Specialty</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 7 | Teacher-Children | 122 |
| 8 | Spiritual Guide/Leader | 117 |
| 9 | Teacher-Adults | 96 |
| 10 | Visitor-Homes | 83 |
| 11 | Social Ministry Leader | 67 |
| 12 | Liturgical Leader | 61 |
| 13 | Evangelism Leader | 58 |
| 14 | Stewardship Leader | 51 |
| 15 | Community Leader | 30 |
| 16 | Ecumenical Leader | 25 |

IX. PROPOSED COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

POSITION: Rector.
PARISH: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Niagara Falls, New York 14303.
DATE OPEN: Currently open.

1. BASIC SALARY: \$18,000.00
Paid semi-monthly. To be increased \$1,000.00 per year* minimum for the first five years.
2. HOUSING: (See following for full explanation of Rectory/Housing options) Parish owns and maintains a large, well kept rectory in a fine neighborhood about 1 mile from the Church for use of Rector/family. Rental value figured at 25% of base salary and cost of utilities. 5,875.00
3. PENSION PREMIUM: Paid by parish in accordance with Diocesan policy. 4,050.00
4. SOCIAL SECURITY: Rector and parish each pay 50% in accordance with Diocesan policy. 1,070.00
5. RECTORY UTILITIES: The parish pays all utilities and repairs for the Rectory. Actual budget for 1985
Note: Rector should maintain insurance on contents. 5,500.00
6. AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE: \$250.00 per month
Car is not provided. 3,000.00
7. MEDICAL/HOSPITAL INSURANCE: Parish pays premiums for Diocesan Group Blue Cross, Blue Shield 82-83 single/family, plus major medical and prescription plan and dental indemnity program. 1,920.00
8. LIFE INSURANCE: Parish pays premium for \$30,000.00 Diocesan Group Life Insurance on the Rector's life. 220.00

| | | |
|-----|---|--------------------|
| 9. | VACATION: One month per year, per Diocesan policy. | - - - - - |
| 10. | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: \$200.00 per year plus two weeks per year for continuing education paid in accordance with Diocesan policy, accruable up to 7 years. (\$1,400.00 - 14 weeks) | 200.00 |
| 11. | COMPENSATION REVIEW/PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: As required by Diocesan policy, the Rector's compensation and performance will be evaluated by the appropriate committees annually. | - - - - - |
| 12. | PARISH SECRETARY: Paid by parish. 25 hours per week, Monday through Friday 9-2 p.m., at \$5,000.00 per year. | - - - - - |
| 13. | DISCRETIONARY FUND: The Rector maintains his own discretionary fund with 8:00 a.m. (Sunday) and weekday loose offering, special gifts, and special allotments voted by Vestry if required. | - - - - - |
| 14. | WEDDINGS, FUNERALS: Rector retains all gratuities, \$500.00 (estimated), not included in total. | - - - - - |
| 15. | RELOCATION EXPENSES: Parish to pay relocation expenses . | - - - - - |
| | TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE OF RECTOR'S COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: | <u>\$39,835.00</u> |

* It is hoped and anticipated that the Rector will take an active and positive role in the Every Member Canvas so that the total pledges, if not the number of units, increases each year as it has in about 12 of the last 14 years.

Approved by the Wardens and Vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Niagara Falls, New York.
May 14, 1985.

JOSEPH L. PERKINS, Sr. Warden CECIL N. HUNT, Jr. Warden

RECTORY OPTIONS

As is readily apparent elsewhere in this profile, St. Peter's tradition has been to retain our Rectors for long periods of time and we continue to dedicate ourselves to making our new Rector and his family as comfortable and happy as possible.

Toward this objective, it is the express policy of the Wardens and Vestry to maintain a very flexible policy with respect to the Rector's housing. Since we cannot know the preferences of our new Rector until he is called, we are setting forth the following options as a partial list of the possibilities.

1. The Church would be happy to continue to own and maintain the present Rectory at 740 Park Place, Niagara Falls, for the use of the Rector and his family, and to pay for all utilities as heretofore.
2. We would likewise be happy to sell the present rectory and acquire a new church owned rectory selected principally by the new Rector, provided the standing committee of the Diocese approves and such a trade can be accomplished without a substantial additional cost to the church over and above the sale price of the present home.
3. We could sell the present rectory and provide a monthly housing allowance for the Rector to maintain a home of his choice which he may see fit to rent or purchase for himself.
4. If the new Rector desires to acquire equity in a home and also likes our present rectory, the church could (with permission) sell the present rectory to the new Rector. The new Rector could obtain a mortgage from a bank to pay the church for the home, or perhaps could buy the home on a Land Contract from the Church. The Church could also hold a mortgage for the Rector where he would pay the principal and interest each month to the church from his housing allowance or other income.
5. One other variation on the above is that if the Rector wants to purchase a home of his own the Trustees of our Endowment Fund would be willing to discuss the possibility of providing the funds for the Rector to purchase a home by holding a mortgage with an interest rate that would be favorable to both the Rector and our Endowment Fund.

The details would have to be worked out, but presumably such a mortgage could not be assumed, would be callable in the event the Rector left St. Peter's, and the interest rate would have to be renegotiated at 5 year intervals.

The foregoing should provide a good idea of the broad range of possibilities available to the new Rector.

X. 1985 BUDGET

EXPENDITURES:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Salaries and Related Expenses: | \$ 66,367.00 |
| Operation and Maintenance: (Includes Diocesan Pledge of \$14,403.00) | 55,878.00 |
| <u>Total Expenditures:</u> | <u>\$122,245.00</u> |

RECEIPTS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges: | 74,750.00 |
| Endowment Fund Income: | 30,000.00 |
| Plate Offerings: | 1,800.00 |
| Miscellaneous Gifts: | 5,000.00 |
| Special Offerings: | 5,070.00 |
| Parish Dinner and Booklet: | 4,000.00 |
| Council of Churches Rent: | 600.00 |
| <u>Total:</u> | <u>\$121,220.00</u> |

RECENT BUDGET COMPARISON

| | <u>1978</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1984</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Budget: | \$ 81,500.00 | \$108,400.00 | \$116,900.00 |
| Total Pledged: | 52,700.00 | 71,000.00 | 77,100.00 |
| Endowment Income: | 17,500.00 | 20,000.00 | 24,000.00 |
| Pledge to Diocese: | 10,000.00 | 12,900.00 | 15,200.00 |

ST. PETER' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Every Member Canvas Reports, 1983 - 1985*

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dates: | November 1982 | November 1983 | November 1984 |
| Goal: | \$76,437.00 | \$82,162.00 | \$81,714.00 |
| Total sum pledged | \$75,298.00 | \$77,162.00 | \$74,750.00 |
| % of goal: | 98.5 | 93.9 | 90.2 |
| Pledge analysis: | number value | number value | number value |
| Total pledges: | 229 \$75,298 | 219 \$77,162 | 197 \$74,750 |
| Same | 153 \$63,010 | 172 \$71,626 | 134 \$67,845 |
| New | 10 \$1,490 | 4 \$1,040 | 4 \$312 |
| Increased | 58 \$10,798 | 37 \$3,974 | 51 \$5,337 |
| Decreased | 8 \$1,546 | 6 \$522 | 8 \$1,256 |
| Lost pledge analysis: | | | |
| Death | 1 \$175 | 5 \$806 | |
| Transfer | | | |
| Moved | | 2 \$1,020 | |
| Unknown | | 3 \$656 | 9 \$1,380 |
| Total lost pledges | 6 \$1,094 | 10 \$2,482 | 9 \$1,380 |
| Average pledge per unit per week | \$6.32 | \$6.77 | \$7.20 |
| Average pledge per unit per year | \$328.80 | \$352.30 | \$374.37 |
| # of pledges \$5.01 per week or less | 147 | 117 | 79 |
| # of pledges \$25.00 per week or more | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| # of units who pledge | | | |
| Weekly: | 143 | 137 | 131 |
| Monthly: | 21 | 15 | 10 |
| Quarterly: | 31 | 34 | 40 |
| Semi-Annually: | | 8 | |
| Annually: | 34 | 25 | 16 |
| TOTAL: | 229 | 219 | 197 |

*These figures are taken from reports submitted in December of each year and do not reflect additional pledges which may come in during the winter.