Dear St. Peter’s Members and Friends:

Each year at this time we get the chance to reflect. We give thanks for all the blessings God has poured out on our life together and we assess and accept the challenges that lie ahead. Over the past twelve months we have faithfully lived into the mission that God has called us to and the results are obvious. You have been faithful and generous with your commitment to support our God-given mission with your time, talents, and treasure, which again make this time of reflection a time of great joy. Let’s take a look at some of how God has blessed us.

**Financial –** The Cathedral is coming to the end of another stable year even in the midst of increasing costs of just about everything we need to operate. Although we must continue to remember that each year we need to utilize money held in reserve to fulfill our budgetary requirements, we are ending 2023 having met our budget with the help of these limited, stored-up funds. All of this is possible as a direct result of not only your personal increasing generosity, but also from your dedication to faithfully meet those commitments made to God combined with the generosity and forethought of those who gave to our ongoing mission through estates and endowments that multiplied their impact to God’s mission into our day. Thank you for your commitment.

**Worship –** Worship continues to be at the heart of our existence. Whether it is within Rite I or Rite II, with music or not, Taize, Morning Prayer, Compline, or Wednesday Eucharist and Healing Service, we continued to dedicate ourselves to a life close to God. Chas’s energy has expanded our music program with an expanding choir, our summer offerings on the piano, and our quarterly Parish Choir. We have also welcomed back Musikanten Montana with multiple programs throughout the year. A new group of young Acolytes are in training. And we are actively raising up a new Deacon that will serve God at St. Peter’s. We continued to live-stream our Sunday services and were able to provide the diocese, as their cathedral, a live-streaming option for our diocesan convention’s closing Eucharist for the whole diocese to participate in. Togendawagan continues to be an important part of our worship life.

**Christian Formation** – Our children’s Sunday School program continues to grow with expanding energy. For the second year in a row, we held summer activities that kept children and their parents connected. Godly Play has continued to provide our pre-school aged children with a comfortable environment to encounter Jesus. Leslie Powell and a group of dedicated volunteers continue to provide a safe and nourishing place for our youngest members in the nursery. In order to better adhere to safe church standards, we have added security cameras to our classrooms and grounds. All of this is only made possible by the dedicated volunteers and staff that have committed themselves to our children. Our adult formation continues with Monday Bible Study, Wonderful Wednesdays, and our God & Grog program out within our community.

**Social Concerns** – Our commitment to our neighbors in need remains strong. We were able to expand both the number of organizations we support and increase our monthly financial contributions to each. Each month we use your faithful contributions to feed, house, and protect at-risk members of our community, as we continued to provide an affordable (often free) venue for clothes and household items in our Bargain Basement Thrift Store.

**Repairs** – Our Next Hundred Years Capital Campaign continues and is bearing great fruit. In addition to our roof repairs completed in 2021, we have started the improvements necessary to make our buildings accessible to all people, regardless of mobility issues. As we continue to commit to our long-term mission, we expect that 2024 will show significant progress in achieving our dream of a safe, secure, and accessible facility as God challenges us to receive all those who he will send through our doors over the years to come.

The coming year will be a year of great promise and significant challenges. God is inviting us to stretch our life beyond our day and beyond ourselves into the future that God intends for us and our cathedral. We will be given the opportunity to increase our welcome, expand our ministries, and commit more deeply to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Over the past year, we have faithfully lived into the dedicated legacy established by those who came before us. We must now continue to look forward in dedicated love to the faithful generations yet to occupy our space over the generations to come.

I am excited again to invite us all to join together by committing to our mission through a faithful pledge to the life that God invites us to continue. Enclosed please find a pledge card and a return envelope to make your response easy. If you are able, we hope that you will also commit to a 10% increase for the coming year, so you can help us deal with the economic variabilities that we are all experiencing at this time. Our ingathering Sunday will be November 26th at which we will bless all our pledges for God’s mission for the coming year.

Thank you for your generous gift for the coming year. God has placed before us the opportunity and the continuing privilege of being his church in Helena as we together draw even closer to our Lord and reach more powerfully into the world.

Faithfully,

Scott+

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

Dean & Rector

St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral