



High Plains Executive Committee Grant Report - August 2026



In October 2025, St. Peter and St. Mary's held a full-day retreat with Rob Douglas from Cyclical Full Circle, an organization that works with churches in transition. Rob challenged and inspired our congregation to imagine new ways to engage with each other and with the neighborhood surrounding our church. We brainstormed "courageous experiments" to engage the wider community. At our January Annual Meeting, we selected projects that fit our neighborhood and the St Peter and Mary community: Farmer's

Market, beekeeping, and connecting with other Episcopal Churches to engage in social justice and outreach work. We formed teams to learn more about each project and what it would take to implement each program. We scheduled a neighborhood walk for May 9 to learn more about our neighbors.

We learned quickly that we do not have capacity to host a full Farmer's Market. We started exploring the possibility of becoming a Community Sustained Agriculture dropoff site.

At the beginning of May, we held a workshop after church on beekeeping. We have begun talking with neighbors about keeping a hive on our property.



On May 9, we had a successful neighborhood walk. Baker neighbors love living in the neighborhood and are looking for ways to engage in community with their kids. We are a stop on the Baker Neighborhood Historic Home Tour August 8. Members of the congregation will be on site to engage with the neighbors who come through. We have been a popular site in past years.



In January 2026, we moved our accounts and began banking at the Native American Bank, a block from our church. This move aligns with our learning on dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery.

At the end of April, we said goodbye to St. Mary Magdalene Equal to the Apostles, the bi-ritual special congregation that shared space with us since 2023. We celebrated our time together with a Eucharist and potluck on April 26. Their departure left us with an additional budget deficit. We have, however, paid our way and grown as a community. We are also relearning what it feels like to have full use of our buildings on Sunday.

We are grateful to the High Plains Executive Committee for their support as we continue to thrive, grow, and work to become a financially sustainable congregation. We welcome new members on a regular basis. Members actively engage in community life, book discussions, and spiritual practices.

Our parish hall is used almost every day, either by St. Clare's Ministries or 12-Step programs. We are home to Baker Community Arts Association, an organization that offers free concerts to our neighbors several times a year. These concerts and the receptions in the parish hall which follow are popular. It is a joy for us to see the church and parish hall full of neighbors enjoying live music and engaging conversation.



This December, our church turns 135. We will celebrate with a screening of Come From Away on 9/11 and a program of 135 Acts of Kindness to engage our neighbors in a conversation about kindness and gratitude.

In the meantime, we enjoy time together building our community and sharing God's love with one another.