Potomac Region Report for 2026

The Potomac Region conducted an exercise in extended community building as all seven parishes gathered for a Regional Picnic on the afternoon of Sunday, May 17, at Gristmill Park near George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. More than 200 attended the picnic that included Pot Luck food, live music and games for children. The event is intended to foster inter-parish understanding and fellowship and was widely heralded as a great success.

The Potomac Region suffered the unexpected death of its former Dean, the Rev. Laura Cochran of St. Aidan's, who was on medical leave following a heart transplant. The Region voted unanimously to contribute $1,000 to a memorial established to honor her ministry.

The Potomac Region members also continue to discern a new mission for our region, perhaps a spiritual outreach to a college campus within our Region or some other means to stretch our spiritual muscles. These deliberations will be ongoing.

At our September 10 meeting, Thomas Hargrove of St. Luke's was elected President and Jay Anderson of St. Aidan's was nominated for our position on the Diocesan Executive Board.

St. Martin de Porres
Over the past year, St. Martin de Porres has continued to strengthen its commitment to community engagement and formation. The parish hosted the inaugural Ventures in Community meeting, and Rev. Colleen Schiefelbein was selected for a year-long Episcopal Divinity School fellowship on Innovating Beloved Community, using St. Martin de Porres as her project. The parish is also preparing to launch the "Being With" formation program.

St. Margaret's
St. Margaret's navigated a year of transition while continuing to grow its community, welcoming 16 new members following the retirement of its rector. The parish has provided continuity through Rev. Katherine Ferguson's extended service as priest-in-charge, begun work with a discernment committee, and continued building community through parish formation and fellowship opportunities.

St. Aidan's
St. Aidan's faced a profound loss with the unexpected death of its rector, the Rev. Laura Cochran, after a long medical leave. The parish community came together to honor her ministry through a special memorial service and contributions toward memorial altar items, while welcoming interim leadership from Rev. Rebecca Troutman and maintaining continuity through this difficult transition.

St. Luke's
St. Luke's continued its strong tradition of outreach and community service, with its annual craft festival raising funds to support organizations serving people experiencing homelessness and its Pumpkin Patch supporting outreach as well. The parish also strengthened its ministry capacity by hiring new staff and developing a parents morning-out program, while continuing to engage the broader community through events such as the annual picnic and a program focused on animal adoption.

Pohick
Pohick continued its longstanding tradition of community-building and outreach through its annual Apple Butter Festival and other seasonal activities. The parish also strengthened its ministry to children and families by hiring a new Children and Family Minister, even as it navigated the departure of its assistant rector, Rev. Ted Renaud, for a new call in Washington State.

All Saints Sharon Chapel
All Saints Sharon Chapel expanded its formation and ministry offerings over the past year, including the development of its Atrium programming and summer camp opportunities for young children. The parish also hosted the ordination of a deacon and launched a new "Coffee Bites" initiative, offering brief opportunities for formation and learning following worship.

St. James
St. James spent the past year strengthening its connection with the wider community and navigating a significant period of leadership transition. The parish developed a profile for its search for permanent clergy, continued interim leadership, and prepared to welcome the Rev. Melanie McCarley as priest-in-charge, while building on its efforts to make the church a more visible and welcoming presence in the surrounding community.