



**Girls' Friendly Society of Western Massachusetts
St. Peter's Branch**

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ...”

Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) provides ministry to girls in a safe and accepting environment where Christ's love is evident. GFS-USA is a community within the Episcopal Church and a member of the World Council of GFS.

Through local GFS branches, the GFS-USA Month of Service, and GFS World Projects, we strive to respond to human need by serving others and seek to transform unjust structures of society, particularly for women and children

GFS USA meets every three years in a National Assembly to renew friendships, share experiences, and complete business of the national board. Each member diocese has one vote. The next one is scheduled for 2019 in Philadelphia which will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Diocese.

GFS World Council is held every three years, with over 20 countries in attendance. The Council in 2017 was held in Australia. The 23rd GFS World Council will be held in South Africa, tentatively from July 9 to July 19, 2020 and the 24th World Council will be held in the U.S.A in 2023.

St. Peter's is the only active branch in Western Massachusetts. Currently we have 11 sponsors and advisors at our branch and we meet two Saturdays a month during the school year (September – June). We have approximately 14 girls in our branch.

Some of our yearly branch activities include collecting school supplies for distribution to a local elementary school, the mitten tree (collection of winter outerwear items that is donated to the homeless), visiting the sick and shut in, participating in CropWalk and more.

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