

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

The 74th Annual Parish Meeting

January 23, 2022



A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ, joyfully serving others.

The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector



994 N. Fifth Avenue • St. Charles, IL 60174
www.stcharlesepiscopal.org • 630.584.2596

RULE OF LIFE at St. Charles Episcopal Church

Our Rule of Life is how we live the Gospel daily.

- ❖ Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and prayer is the foundation of our life together.
- ❖ We come together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.
- ❖ We listen to one another with the compassionate heart of Christ and ask questions for clarification.
- ❖ We respect one another's stories by listening and keeping their confidence.
- ❖ We strive to practice forgiveness as we have been forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- ❖ We behave knowing God is in our midst.
- ❖ We seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- ❖ We respect the dignity of every human being.
- ❖ We actively build worship, education service and giving.

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SWEEPS Chart Back Cover

St. Charles Episcopal Church

74th Annual Meeting on Zoom

Agenda

January 23, 2022

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer/Welcome: The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector
- Appointment of Clerk--Kathy Heikkinen

Philippians 4:4-7

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

4:5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Encouraging word
 - Rector's Report
 - Other thanksgivings for God's sustaining Spirit
- Thanks to those transitioning from leadership in service:
 - Vestry members whose terms are ending (including Sr. Warden) Bob Huber, Bob Madura, Bill Yeck (Sr. Warden)
 - Hesus House Ministry Coordinators (Bob and Karen Madura)
 - Building Committee Chair (Bob Parks).
- Welcome New Members
- SCEC Rule of Life
- Light the Way Campaign Report
- Endowment Fund and Planned Giving
- Approval of Minutes from 73rd Annual Meeting January 24, 2021
- Treasurer's Report for 2021

- Presentation of 2022 Budget
- Elections of Wardens and Vestry Candidates
 - Junior Warden – Regan Jancauskas
 - Vestry at large – Kathy Mertes, Laura Graf
- Election of Diocesan Convention:
 - Delegates (3) and Alternate Delegates (2): Nominations accepted from the floor
 - Diocesan Convention: Friday and Saturday November 18-19, 2022, Westin, Lombard
- Meeting adjourned and closed in prayer

Minutes of the January 2021 Annual Meeting

St. Charles Episcopal Church
73rd Annual Meeting
January 24, 2021

Call to Order: Rev. Stacy Walker called the meeting to order at 1:02.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Stacy led the opening prayer.

Announcements: Bob Madura (Zoom moderator) This meeting is being recorded. There is a 3-minute time limit if parishioners would like to speak. If you leave the meeting turn video & audio off. We will use the Zoom thumbs up for voting; you may raise your hand instead if desired. Kristin Madden is taking attendance.

The Rule of Life: the vestry led the reading.

Clerk for 2021: Kathy Heikkinen was appointed.

Minutes from the 2020 meeting: Laura Graf moved to accept; Katie Thomson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Holly Parks asked if there were any questions about the materials that were distributed. \$1,000 was put into the building budget. Rev. Stacy thanked Holly for 4 years of service as treasurer and chairing the Finance Committee.

Treasurer: Bob Madura announced that Kathy Knobel has offered herself as treasurer for a 3-year term. Kathy introduced herself. The motion to accept her offer to serve passed.

2021 budget: presented by Bill Yeck

Bill asked any questions be written down; they will be answered at the end of the presentation. Income is anticipated to be \$220,844.75, \$200,510 from pledges. We have 68 pledging units this year, an increase from the 60 of 2020. 53% of on-line givers pay the processing fee for online giving. Fundraising has become a pass-thru item instead of line item. Expenses are \$287,175.20, primarily salaries. Increase in the rector's compensation is only for health insurance. Kim Cole and Mark Downey now have access to an EAP. Kudos to Kim for all her hard work as Administrative Assistant. The budget for Facilities is lower than last year; we spent very little last year compared to what was budgeted due to the pandemic and closure of the building to the public for most of last year. There is a deficit of \$66,330. Forgiveness of the PPP loan will cover \$21,000. The rectory mortgage for rehab will be paid off in November this year. It truly was a loaves & fishes year, as pledging members actually gave more than they pledged. The budget was moved by Bill. Motion carried.

2021 vestry: Candace Moline addressed the composition of the new vestry. Bill Yeck was nominated as Sr. Warden, Diana Brown as Jr. Warden. Sandy Peterson and Tara Osborne are nominated for the two open 3-year vestry seats; Lisel Ulaszek was nominated to fill the remaining of Diana's term. All candidates were approved.

Delegates: Rev. Stacy presented the need for delegates for the annual Diocesan Convention in November 19-20.: Deb Sturges, Chris Robinson Jim Bachman volunteered to attend, be it in person or via Zoom as needed; Kathy Mertes was named an alternate. Moved by Rev. Stacy, seconded by Katie Thomson. All delegates were approved.

Recognition of those leaving ministry roles: Kristin recognized Holly (treasurer), Jill Mosshamer (vestry member) & Regan Jancauskas (vestry member). Rev. Stacy recognized Holly, Jill, Regan and Kristin Madden (Sr. Warden).

3 Highlights:

Candace Moline – Formation, The Gospel of Matthew, an anti-racism book club, & EFM are examples of classes held for adults; the Beatitudes were studied in the elementary class – all done by Zoom!

Bob Madura introduced a video created by Mark Downey, our Music Director, expressing the difficulties of continuing music during COVID-19 when no singing or wind instruments are allowed in church. Mark showed all the elements involved in creating a choir recording, bell choir, and the recording of cantors.

Deacon Steve Lowe talked about our Feeding Ministries, particularly our Free Spaghetti Dinner which had to skip 3 months due to the pandemic but served up to 191 meals a month. Hesus House received 2500 meals (suppers & breakfasts) last year; the Sandwich Board in Aurora had meals from SCEC 4 times.

Rector's Report: Rev. Stacy acknowledged the pluses of doing a video ministry. We continue to have hope: invest in our future, minister to each other, be flexible and adaptive, and dream about the future. Keep reading communications, reach out to each other and Rev. Stacy.

Prayers and Gratitude – please type your thanks into chat.

Light the Way (Erik Balisi)

Rev. Stacy –The project began in October 2018, cottage meetings were held in March of 2019, with a feasibility study in September of that year. The fees to cover our consultant, Jim Buggy, are paid from outside our parish with the agreement to give 10% of the amount raised to the diocese. We had a mini-campaign last Fall which paid for new exterior doors where needed and an electronic sign which should be completed soon.

Erik – Other top projects are 1) paying down debt – about \$57,000, 2) renovation of the kitchen, Luedtke Hall & the entry area. Total needed is \$200,000 over the next 3 years.

Jim Buggy – recruiting campaign helpers (10-15 people), direct solution phase, [break for Easter] congregational phase, complete campaign by mid-April

Bo Smith asked a question: How can congregation members have access to Vestry Minutes and observe the vestry meeting? Kristin replied that there is a committee that will be addressing those questions over the next year.

Motion to adjourn was made by Laura Graf, seconded by Bill Yeck.

Closing prayer was given by Rev. Stacy at 2:30.

WARDEN & VESTRY CANDIDATES and BIOGRAPHIES

Regan Jancauskas (Jr. Warden)
Kathy Mertes
Laura Graf

Bio for Regan Jancauskas

I grew up in Geneva, IL.; attended Illinois State University (Bachelor of Music Ed, 1978). Attended St. Mark's Episcopal in Geneva; married in 1996 to my husband Tom; have resided in St. Charles for 25 years; joined St. Charles Episcopal Church @ 2006, where I joined choir and have gradually added Altar Guild, Worship Committee, Sunday School assistant, Fund Raising Committee, Daughters of the King, Spaghetti Supper volunteer, and have served as a past Vestry member. My faith journey here at St. Charles Episcopal Church has been enhanced through experiences and friendships with many of you over the years. I believe in trying things at least once; it is the only way to see if it is a good fit with you. I look forward to serving Christ with you on my journey as Junior Warden.

Bio for Kathy Mertes

My brief history: I am a widow, with three sons and five grandchildren. I have been a member of St. Charles Episcopal Church since 1991, and was received into the community on October 24, 1993. I co-chaired YES (Youthful Episcopal Seniors), am a member of the Altar Guild, and The Healing Mission, and have been counting the Sunday contributions for a number of years.

Bio for Laura Graf

Laura Graf has been a member of St. Charles Episcopal Church for over a dozen years. In that time, she has participated in adult education programs including the Sunday morning formation class, Education for Ministry (EfM), Tuesday Afternoon Scripture Study, and Sacred Ground, a film-and readings-based dialogue series based on race. She coordinated coffee hour hosts for a while and now schedules Whispering Writers. As her biggest passion is social justice, she has led the SCEC team of the Fox River Valley Initiative for the last couple of years.

A native Chicagoan raised in the Roman Catholic church, Laura's faith has evolved over the years. During college, she belonged to Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, a non-denominational group. While in grad school at Syracuse, she primarily attended Lutheran services at the university chapel. She finished grad school in St. Louis where she served on the church council of an ELCA church before moving to St. Charles in 1993, where she initially joined another Lutheran church and served on its council before joining SCEC.

REPORT OF THE RECTOR, REV. STACY A. WALKER

January 23, 2022

Dear Friends,

In preparation for this report I spent some time reviewing my reports from our 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings, and I also viewed my sermon from the Sunday of our 2021 annual meeting (which can be viewed here if you are curious like I was as to what January 2021 looked like: <https://youtu.be/CosxLfXgurE>). My sermon last year was titled: “Change Will Come. Will You Be on Board?” We have continued to live with the Covid-19 pandemic in our daily lives in 2021 and we will clearly be living a pandemic life for a good portion of 2022 as well. It is a wearying existence! And it can be easy to overlook the progress we have made in living through the pandemic as a congregation. Last year I called us to dream about life together with a post-pandemic hope for 2021. This year I call us to dream about our life in Christ together at this moment. We cannot know the future, friends. But we know who holds the future: God. God is holding a future for us that is truly better than we can imagine. And so our theme for 2022 is Rejoice in the Lord Always; Again I will say Rejoice—Philippians 4:4.

Some of you may be tempted to dismiss this theme as unrealistic or starry-eyed. You may say, what do we have to rejoice about? You may disagree heartily with this call to rejoice and celebrate at the beginning of the third year of a global pandemic, in the midst of the Omicron-variant surge, and in the middle of a cold and dreary January! That’s fair. But take a look again at this passage with the understanding that Paul wrote this letter from a *prison cell*. He wrote these words when he didn’t know what tomorrow held for his own life, much less the fledgling church at Philippi:

Philippians 4:4-7

4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

4:5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

When we are aware that these admonitions to rejoice, be gentle, not worry, pray and give thanks, and expect the assurance of the peace of God were written from a place of great suffering these words sound a bit different. If Paul could write these from a prison cell and the Philippians read them as a persecuted people, perhaps they have something to say to us in our own pandemic despairing and frustrated time as St. Charles Episcopal Church. If they could rejoice in the face of such suffering, why not us as well? This is not a shallow happiness Paul is calling them to exclaim. Paul is calling the church to practice joy as resistance to the oppressing powers of his time. Through the Holy Spirit, these words of Paul call us to practice joy as resistance to the negative narrative of despair and hopelessness in our own time.

Here are just a few things in 2021 that give us reason to rejoice and give thanks and praise to God here at St. Charles Episcopal Church:

1. We have held in-person worship on Sundays since March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday and Easter services were held in our parking lot and were live streamed. Since then we have consistently had an in-person worship option, including outdoor worship in the summer of 2021, every Sunday. AND, we have maintained a weekly live-stream worship option every Sunday since the beginning of the pandemic March 15, 2020.
2. We were able to transition to singing together in-person (masked) in the summer of 2021. This after more than a year of not singing together. I am so grateful to Mark Downey, our director of music ministries, and the choir and musicians of SCEC for providing virtual choir offerings prior to the summer of 2021. And I continue to be grateful for their leadership in leading us in song.
3. We paid off our debt and burned our mortgage. The mortgages are no more. We completed a successful Light the Way capital campaign. We have begun renovations on our parish hall and completed other projects around the building, including a new electronic sign, with cash on hand. No debt has been taken on, and the vestry and I are committed to not taking on additional debt to complete the capital campaign projects. Additionally, we have maintained our commitment to paying back 10% of funds raised through Light the Way to the trustees of the Diocesan Endowment who underwrote our capital campaign consultation costs.
4. We have maintained Christian education and formation classes for all ages with a combination of online and in-person classes on Sundays and throughout the week.
5. We have continued to serve in the ministry of hunger relief adapting as called for by our partner agencies at Trinity Sandwich Board and Hesed House. We have continued to serve a monthly Free Spaghetti Dinner by curbside pickup.
6. We have been able to continue to offer in-person weekly meeting space to five AA and one Al-anon 12-step fellowships supporting their essential life-transforming and life-saving work in our wider community.

Here are some opportunities for growth and rejoicing in 2021:

1. Engagement in Fellowship. Winter will pass and we will have seasonable weather that allows us to open windows for proper ventilation or to meet together outdoors. At the direction of our bishop's office, we will have opportunities for fellowship that is safe and appropriate. Rejoice together is essential to the spiritual health of our congregation. We will need people to step up and engage in organizing and leading fellowship in 2021.
2. Engagement in leading worship. We are still modified in how we are operating in worship together because of Covid-19. However, there are opportunities to serve as lector, intercessor, acolyte, choir member, AV ministry (live-stream recording), and altar guild. Some of these ministries such as acolyte and AV ministry are just barely operating with only 1 or 2 members willing to serve at the writing of this report. We have room for many more to serve in all roles of our worship ministry. This is a simple way to serve and grow in your own spiritual life.
3. Engagement in making friends in our community. We have opportunities particularly in

the warmer months of the year during this continuing pandemic to be creative in the types of events and services we hold to invite our neighbors to rejoice in the Lord with us. A good example of this is our annual Blessing of the Animals in October. We could do much more than that one community service a year. Your ideas and willingness to serve in this ministry are essential to the spiritual health of our congregation. New friends and members are the lifeblood of our congregation.

4. Engagement in creative building use—another way to make friends in our community. We have a building that is not used much of the week. How else might our building be an asset in our neighborhood and community of St. Charles? There are opportunities for making new friends and partnerships in our community as well as generating some income for the mission of our parish.
5. Engagement in creative fundraising. It has been more years than one can recall since a balanced budget was presented at an annual meeting of SCEC. Budgets are plans, not set in stone. And thanks be to God, we have been able to end most years either in the “black” or very close through the financial generosity of our members and the conservative stewardship of our resources. However this year I strongly encourage us to engage in some creative and effective fundraising. This could include new fellowship opportunities that are also fundraisers and partnerships with community members to lease some of our building space throughout the week.
6. Engagement in mission. In 2022 we have the opportunity to develop a dream-team for how to best use the distributions from our endowment funds. We already have a policy that these funds are to be used specifically for mission, and not for operational costs.

The moment to rejoice in the Lord always is now, friends. I have given a broad overview of what that has looked like in the past year, and invited us to consider what it could look like in the coming year. There are many other opportunities to give thanks and live faithfully with hope as we follow the way of Christ Jesus in 2022. I pray we will continue to give thanks, to engage, and to pray for God’s guidance daily as we continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord in our 75th year as St. Charles Episcopal Church.

The peace of Christ be with you always,

Rev. Stacy+

The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector

REPORT OF THE DEACON, REV. STEVE LOWE

January 5, 2022

I am writing this report on the 12th day of Christmas. I am looking out my kitchen window with the snow blowing horizontal this morning. As I indicated last year, I really cannot do justice to what we have experienced over the past 12 months in the world, nation, state, city and our parish and in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a game changer for all of us. Yet here we are – ready to go forth into the New Year with hope that all will be well!

Feeding Ministries

The Rector and I have agreed that my primary emphasis will be our three Feeding Ministries: The Free Spaghetti Dinner (FSD), Hesed House and the Sandwich Board. Great conversations have taken place over the past year regarding these ministries. What do I see as my role? Two primary focuses: #1. Be a good listener to the Ministry heads; #2. An encourager. Listening in terms of ministry strengths, weaknesses, and concerns. The Pandemic has impacted these ministries. For example, FSD changed its serving model to one of pickup of a hot meal instead of a sit-down dinner in early 2020. That serving model continued in 2021. The Sandwich Board continues with sack lunches instead of a hot meal.

Lela and I assumed responsibility for The Sandwich Board ministry starting in April 2020. We have worked very closely with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva to continue this ministry through 2021. The Sandwich Board continues with sack lunches most Thursdays instead of a hot meal. For 2021, we averaged preparing 120 – 130 sack lunches. Let me express my thanks to Christine and Hugh Robinson for their help in making sandwiches and bagging them, along with much gratitude to Jim Bachman who delivers the bagged sandwiches to Trinity Episcopal Church. For 2022, we have been asked to provide a minimum of 150 lunches for the six Thursdays that we provide the meal.

There has been one major structural change regarding The Sandwich Board. The Sandwich Board is now legally separated from Trinity Episcopal Church. Last summer, the IRS granted 501c(3) non-profit status to it. Although it still operates at Trinity, this status change allows greater flexibility in terms of moving forward (for example, submission of funding grants) with the overall ministry.

Our ministry to Hesed House will experience a change in 2022 as Bob and Karen Madura are stepping down from five years of faithful service. Ed and Kathryn Manning have graciously agreed to head this ministry going forward. Many thanks to everyone who will assist in this ministry.

Let me give a shout-out to Katie Thomson who picks up two donated boxes of hard salami. The two boxes are used for Hesed House sandwiches and Sandwich Board sandwiches. For the months that we do not have a presence at the Sandwich Board, arrangements are made to donate

the extra box to Hesed House.

In addition to my weekly liturgical duties, here are a few activities that I have participated in:

1. Weekly Scripture Check-In with Reverend Stacy
2. Leading the service of Compline on Thursday evening. Mark Downey and I alternate weeks as the officiant.
3. Posting a daily prayer to our FaceBook page to encourage others.
4. Healing Prayer Team Zoom meetings, when available.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – BILL YECK

I want to thank everyone for their support of our parish this second year of the pandemic. The strength and love for Christ you demonstrated by serving each other and those in need outside our church walls. You have given of yourself with little fanfare and recognition doing the little things that make our parish thrive, yes thrive in this time of worry and fear. You kept 2 buildings maintained and warmed or cooled for love of each other and our neighbors. You arranged flowers, cleaned gardens and made the space around the buildings inviting. You cooked, served meals, cleaned up and delivered. You taught those in the way of our faith and you attended Christian education. You made music, served at the alter or behind the scenes at every service. You even had a parking lots service where the wind could not blow Easter away. You met in fellowship. You had meetings and organized your ministry. You donated your money to our life as Christians together. You loudly stated that you believe in God and the future of our parish by having a successful Capital Campaign. Lastly you prayed, you prayed faithfully and with your heart. I thank you for your love and service to God!

I look ahead in faith that each of us can continue in the love and service to God. Our parish will continue to be a blessing, even as we go through tough times, we support each other. We will teach and reassure each other how to love God, each of us communicating in love and understanding. We will continue to pray faithfully. All these things will help us move forward into 2022 no matter what storms will come.

For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

God Bless

Bill Yeck

JUNIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – DIANA BROWN

Looking back on 2021, I am struck by how our Parish weathered a year of social, political, public health, and spiritual challenges with faith, love, and hope. On the heels of 2020, it was a difficult and painful time, and we cannot understate the emotional toll it took.

But we held fast, adapted, and moved forward. We worshiped, sang, met in small groups and fellowship, and continued our internal and external ministries. Our Free Spaghetti Dinner, Hessed House, Sandwich Board, and Fox River Valley Initiative ministers continued to serve those in need. Daughters of the King and the Prayer Shawl Ministry supported and cloaked us in prayer. The choir, musicians, and altar guild continued to enhance the beauty of our worship. Facing deeply personal challenges, our members gave generously of their time, talents, and treasure.

We learned to live positively in an environment that seemed, and continues to seem, more and more beyond our control. We are learning to place the reins in God’s hands, and we are strengthened by our faith that, with God’s grace, we are able to accept, adapt, and move forward bravely and with determination.

Moving into 2022, we must believe in our strength and possibilities as we find new ways to worship God, care for each other, and serve our community.

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S.W.E.E.P.S. 2021 SERVICE REPORTS

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS – SANDY PETERSON

Free Spaghetti Dinner

Free Spaghetti Dinner celebrated our 12th year in operation (started in 3/2009). This year during COVID, we served 2,101 meals (averaging 175/month) take-outs only (increase of 60.5% from last year). To date we have served approximately 20,860 plates of spaghetti and meatballs. FSD took in \$2,765.55 (increased earnings by 75% vs 2020) as free will offering and donated \$279.00 to SCEC operations. The expenses were \$1854.19 resulting in a profit of \$902.36. Our corporate sponsors Racconto Italian Foods of Addison (for 2021 only) and Felecia’s Deli & Meat Market of Elk Grove Village donated pasta and meat to FSD. Our live entertainment, which was generously provided by Jeremy Glaser (keyboard) and Tom Kirkland (vocals) hosted parking lot concerts when available during the summer months. Lazarus House benefits from our abundance when available. Of course, this is only possible with the dedicated volunteers who cook, bake, and cleanup. Thanks to all who have participated from our Parish and those from the area neighborhoods in making Free Spaghetti Dinner a priority to keep this vital ministry a staple in our community. We appreciate all your hard work and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to serve,

cook, bake or cleanup, please contact Kathy Hari or Dallas Heikkinen. Due to COVID restrictions, we do keep our volunteers to a minimum.

Hesed House

SCEC continued providing monthly lunches and breakfast to Hesed house for its 36th year. The ministry was coordinated by Bob and Karen Madura and regularly supported by church members Katie Thompson, Ed and Kathryn Manning, Sandy Peterson, Jan and Dan Hoffman, Candace Moline, Bo Smith, Jim Bachman, Diana and Doug Brown. Covid restrictions required meals to be dropped off throughout the year. Hesed house started transitioning to in-person meal prep and serving this fall however SCEC opted to continue to prepare food off site and deliver it for reheating.

Numbers of guests at Hesed house has remained stable in the women's and family shelter as well as the Overnight Emergency Shelter. SCEC continued to make 100 sack lunches and provide breakfast casseroles, breakfast sandwiches and grab n go meals to 140-150 people each month.

After 6 years of coordinating volunteers Bob and Karen have decided to step down from leadership of this ministry. Ed and Kathryn Manning will be coordinating volunteers in 2022.

Jobs Ministry

Thankfully, the unemployment situation locally has improved significantly since a year ago, but there remain talented folks in our area who are either underemployed or unemployed. If you know of someone in our parish or a friend who is in job search let them know of SCEC's jobs ministry. We work with TUG Career Services and other mostly free resources to help folks find jobs. Watch for information in the Pulse. If you're interested in getting involved in our ministry, or would like more information, contact Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

Fox River Valley Initiative (FRVI)

The Fox River Valley Initiative focuses on community needs in Kane County by creating relationships among those with the power and resources to resolve them. FRVI is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest community organizing group in the United States.

The SCEC-FRVI team meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month from 7 - 8 PM. Currently, the active members are Laura Graf, Dallas Heikkinen, Kathy Heikkinen, Kristin Madden, Ed Manning, Hugh Robinson, and Rev. Stacy Walker, but in fact, every member of St. Charles Episcopal Church is a member of FRVI because the church is a member of FRVI.

Along with other religious and non-profit social service organizations in Kane County, FRVI was instrumental in two major achievements in Kane County

- Ground-breaking for a Crisis Stabilization Unit ((CSU) at Amita Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, which is part of a larger effort to decriminalize non-violent mental health and substance use disorders by providing a safe alternative facility in which their issues can

be treated medically. Without CSUs, the standard practice has been for police to transport such individuals to jail.

- FRVI's mental health team continues efforts to identify similar locations for CSUs in central and northern Kane County.
- The opening of 48 units of attractive, affordable apartments on the site of the former Larkin Center in Elgin. In addition, the main building of the former Larkin Center has been transformed into studio and one-bedroom apartments for those needing accessible housing. Full Circle also provides onsite services to those who need them. FRVI was instrumental in bringing together officials from the City of Elgin and Full Circle Communities, a non-profit developer of affordable housing. Learn more here: <https://www.fccommunities.org/1212-larkin/>

We continue to work with a national team of IAF affiliates on the *Do Not Stand Idly By (DNSIB)* campaign, the title of which is drawn from Leviticus 19:16: "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed." The team's focus is on using market-based means to reduce the harm caused by guns. To that end, we continue to recruit law enforcement departments to test a variety of gun locks and guns themselves designed to prevent guns from being stolen or used by unauthorized individuals while still making the guns immediately accessible to legitimate gun owners. These devices would also prevent law enforcement officers' guns from being used against them. (The Kane County Sheriff's Department was the first law enforcement department to join the campaign.)

What issues do you believe need to be addressed in your community or in Kane County at large? Please join us in identifying solutions. Contact Laura Graf at graf.laura.j@gmail.com or call her at 630-913-6533 to discuss. We currently meet via Zoom. If you wish to attend a meeting, I'll send you the link.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

\$994 was raised by our bellringers for the Salvation Army this fall. Thanks go out to Bill Yeck, Regan Jancauskas, Kathy Mertes, Laura Graf, Bo Smith, Joyce Moore, Candace Moline and grandkids, Ed Manning, Jim Weaver, Carole Woods, Dan Hoffman and Connie Copeland for their bellringing that made this success possible. Funds will be used in our community to support the needy. Bellringing this year was inspired by Rich Foster and led by Bo Smith. Consider establishing a new, fun family tradition with us next year!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – TARA OSBORNE

Covid-19 safety protocols remained in place for the entirety of 2021, with some fluctuation due to a slowdown of the virus in summer and several surge phases throughout the year. At the current time, we are able to meet in person at church, but all are required to wear a mask at all times when indoors. The only exception is for the short time during a worship service when a person is consuming the bread and wine of Eucharist. The Health and Safety Team has been

working hard to keep our in-person worship healthy and safe.

We have continued to livestream at least one service per week on Facebook and YouTube. There is now a Worship & Liturgy committee called Livestream Services. All services remained exclusively online from January through Palm Sunday. Music director Mark Downey worked with vocalists and instrumentalists to pre-record liturgical music which was then played for the livestream service. In Lent 2021, a Healing Prayer Vigil was held March 18, via Zoom.

On Palm Sunday, St. Charles celebrated its first drive-in parking lot service. An FM transmitter transmitted the sound directly to people's car radios so that people could remain in their cars. A small amount of seating was set up on the sidewalk with chairs spaced 6 feet apart for those who wanted to sit outdoors. Easter Sunday was the second parking lot service, and parishioners expressed joy at seeing each other in person, even though it was from a distance or in a car. Our hospitality committee handed out gift bags to all who attended. All other Holy Week Services were celebrated online, including an online Stations of the Cross.

After Easter, indoor worship was allowed with a limit of 25 people or less. On June 13, an 8:30a.m. outdoor Sunday service started. The regular indoor service moved to 10a.m. with continued livestream. Some new equipment was purchased for outdoor services, including a portable keyboard and amplifier. Equipment was paid for through a diocesan Covid-19 recovery grant designed to help parishes adapt and equip themselves for pandemic and post-pandemic ministry. In the summer, live singing indoors was allowed again. The choir was able to come back and sing, using CDC safety precautions with masks.

Starting on September 12th, we were able to go back to two indoor services with services at 8:30a.m. and 10:45a.m. Masks were required for all. In October, a bench was removed at the rear of the church to make room for a children's space with an area rug and many cushions for children to sit on, in addition to activity bags and books for them to peruse. On Sunday, October 24, both Eucharist services featured music in the style of Taizé.

The Sunday, November 7, celebration of All Saints Day was a very moving service, as we remembered all who have died from the Covid-19 pandemic. We lit a candle for every 10,000 deaths in the U.S. alone—75 candles. While the candles were lit, we tolled the church bell 75 times during silent meditation. The Daily Herald newspaper printed a story about it.

Advent & Christmas services happened in-person and livestreamed. This year, the Advent Lessons & Carols took place incorporated with the Sunday morning Eucharist, instead of in the evening. Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services were able to take place in person, despite a virus surge that kept many home.

Many of the Worship & Liturgy committees remain on "pause" as the pandemic continues. Home Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, altar bread bakers, and in-person Healing prayer leaders are not able to perform their functions during Covid.

Several ministries hope to find some new recruits. Rev. Stacy and Regan Jancauskas contacted

our youth with the invitation to try the service of being an acolyte when we returned to two services. Oscar Frontjes served almost every Sunday! Youth **and adults** are welcome to try the service of acolyte. Those interested can contact Regan or Rev. Stacy via phone call or email; sign up genius is also available. Ushers and lectors would like some new faces as well!

Current list of Liturgical ministry committee leads:

Acolytes - Regan Jancauskas

Lectors & Intercessors - Diane Edwards 8:30 & Lela Lowe 10:45

Ushers - Need someone for 8:30 & Ed Manning 10:45

Altar Guild - Maria Owen & Diana Brown

Flower Guild - inactive

Adult Choir - Mark Downey

Music librarian - Regan Jancauskas

Livestream Services – Bill Yeck and Larry Wolfrum

Altar Bread - Phyllis Otto, but ministry is not active due to COVID

Healing prayer - Janet Craft, but ministry is not active in-person due to COVID

HEM - Katie Thomson, but ministry is not active due to COVID

LEM - need a leader, but this ministry is not active due to COVID

Altar Guild And Flower Guild (Diana Brown, Maria Owen)

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to care for the altar, priest's vestments, vessels, elements, books, and linen used in worship services. The members prepare the sanctuary for services. While the Flower Guild, which decorates the sanctuary with flowers, has been inactive, we are grateful to Phyllis Otto and Karen Madura for keeping the outdoor urns filled with lovely seasonal greenery and flowers. Our hope in 2022 is to reactivate the special occasion Flower Chart, complete with the decorative artwork of Liz Engel. Parishioners may sign up to provide flowers for a selected Sunday or occasion, in memory or honor of a person or special event.

As in 2020, the Altar Guild continued in 2021 to adapt to the changes necessitated by the pandemic. Our four meetings in February, May, August, and November were held via Zoom. Early in 2021, Eucharist was celebrated in the building by the Priest assisted by the Deacon only; the service was on Facebook, and communion cups were distributed to parishioners as they drove through the parking lot. Ash Wednesday was observed by distribution with the communion cups of ashes (self-imposed), nails, and devotional booklets on February 7 and 14. Ashes kits also were available for pick up in the parking lot. Services for Palm Sunday and Easter were held in the back parking lot.

Services normalized somewhat in April 2021 with one hybrid indoor, limited in-person service which was also on Facebook and offered the option of drive-through distribution of communion cups. In June, a second, earlier outdoor, in-person service was added. In September, the outdoor service ended, and we returned indoors for both services. Drive-through distribution of communion cups ended. We were able to fully decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

Throughout 2021, we continued to use the individual communion cups, with the Priest being the only one who used the chalice and host during communion. Rev. Stacy and the Altar Guild have

discussed moving away from the communion cups to another more traditional, but probably modified, method of distributing wine and bread. With the Omicron variant descending upon us in December, we now expect to continue for a while with the cups.

Our membership remained stable. Members are Diane Edwards, Kathy Heikkinen, Regan Jancauskas, Kathy Mertes, Sandy Parsons, Sandy Peterson, Deb Sturges, Katie Thomson, Sheri Weil; Maria Owen and Diana Brown are co-chairs. We lost our very dedicated Barb Haase to retirement, but gained Lela Lowe, who oversees the supply and preparation of communion cups. Longtime Altar Guild member Dorothy Payleitner, who moved out of Illinois several years ago, passed away in April. Diane Edwards was named one of the Honored Women of the Year by the Diocese of Chicago Episcopal Church Women at their annual convention. These are women who are recognized as leaders in the Chicago ECW as well as in their parishes and communities.

An inventory of all Altar Guild vessels, linen, and furnishings was initiated during the summer and continues into 2022. It will include photos of all items, with descriptions and replacement costs.

As we look forward with hope to 2022, the Altar and Flower Guilds would like to invite all parishioners to consider embracing these ministries. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Diana Brown at dianabrown47@gmail.com or Maria Owen at mariaowen9874@att.net.

Healing Prayer Ministry (Janet Craft)

The Ministry is taking a pause from monthly meetings given that in-person Healing Prayer has not been possible going on two years. Nor likely in the near future. We will meet again in Lent 2022 to take a fresh look at the Healing Prayer Ministry.

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT – MARK DOWNEY

2021 continued to be another challenging year for the St. Charles vocal and instrumental musicians. My mother had a favorite saying, “when life gives you lemons, don’t just make lemon-aide, make spectacular lemon-aide!” This became our mantra throughout the year.

We were able to return to in-person choir rehearsals in September and to date no one has test covid-positive as a result. Our musicians feel safe when singing or playing.

In October we celebrated a Taizé style Eucharist and it was well-received by the parish. We will continue this new tradition in 2022.

We celebrated **Advent Lessons and Carols** on December 5. Though it was a much simpler setting than we were used to, it was prayerfully offered and provided relief from the perils of Covid-19. We hope to return to celebrating this service apart from the Sunday Eucharist, traditionally Sunday evening, but the covid-variant will ultimately determine how and when we

celebrate this liturgy.

We celebrated the Birth of Christ with our superb choir and the St. Charles String Trio, who are members of the Elgin Symphony. We hope to have them return for Easter, 2022, but our best laid plans can quickly change with the pandemic still very much controlling our lives.

We joyfully thank our Hand-Bell Ensemble. **Our current members are Lydia Downey, Kathy Heikkinen, and Regan Jancauskas,** who provided a nice variety of handbell repertoire.

We also offer a heartfelt thank you to our choir members: **Kristen Balisi, Lydia Downey, Dottie Finatri, Kathy Heikkinen, Regan Jancauskas, Kristin Madden, Connie Copeland, Melinda Oakey, Phyllis Otto, Martin Pazdioch, Bo Smith, Lisel Ulaszek, Rowan Frontjes, and Bill Yeck,** who spent approximately 200 hours in rehearsal. We sang over 75 anthems and another 50 psalms and canticles. The choir continues being the backbone of our St. Charles Music Ministry and we give thanks for these fine musicians.

I commend and thank our instrumental musicians who enhance our worship by sharing their musical talents during the liturgy: **Kathy Heikkinen, violin, viola and cello; and Regan Jancauskas, violin.**

It has been a pleasure to serve as Director of Music this past year—yes, even in spite of the ongoing pandemic. I appreciate the continued vigilance and support everyone has put forth toward the music ministry. It has always been my goal to create a variety of inspirational music for the Sunday Eucharist and other liturgies.

I look forward to when it will be safe to gather together as a parish family in celebrating the Eucharist. In the meantime, let us continue reflecting on the following quote from Albert Einstein: *“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”*

EDUCATION COMMITTEES REPORT – CANDACE MOLINE

Formation at SCEC in 2021

Christian Formation is the process of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ for the glory of God and for the sake of others. (II Corinthians 3:17-18) Here at SCEC we have continued many of our ongoing opportunities for growing in faith and we have initiated a couple new ones. Despite the challenges of Pandemic gathering we are learning together. Read about the various opportunities below and join us in 2022 as we read the word and make it relevant to our lives.

Children’s and Youth Formation (Kathy Heikkinen)

2021 began 100% online for our young people. We were very thankful for the dedication of both teachers and families as we navigated learning about our lives in Christ using Zoom. Once adults were able to get vaccines some classes returned to in person meetings, adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols. Our youngest class celebrated their online journey by meeting at a nearby park at the end of the school year.

In the Fall classes resumed, in person for all ages. Due to the lower class counts we proceeded with just 3 levels. Candace Moline leads the elementary class with the help of Connie Copeland, Regan Jancauskas and other volunteers. Rev. Stacy and Bill Yeck continue to work with youth in 7th & 8th grades as they discern their places in the journey towards Confirmation. The high school class, our largest group, is led by Tara Osborne as they prepare for their trip to the Grand Canyon next summer. Beginning next June the program will need a new coordinator as I finish my time in this position. If you would like to lead this important ministry please see Candace Moline.

Adult Education (Rev. Stacy Walker)

Adult Education continued to thrive and expand on the Zoom platform in 2021. The Tuesday 1PM Bible Study continued to meet on a regular basis in 2021 on Zoom with short breaks around holidays. This Bible Study group has met consistently since May of 2020. This group is generally led by the Rector, with assistance from the Deacon. Selections for study have been decided by group consensus. Our study this past year has included a Social Justice Bible Challenge, a study of African-American spirituals and accompanying Bible texts, The Gospel of Mark, The Gospel of Luke, and The Acts of the Apostles. This Bible study will continue to meet on Zoom in 2022 as for the current group this is a convenient way to meet midday during the week.

Education for Ministry (Katie Thomson)

SCEC's long tradition of engaging people in Education for Ministry (EfM) continues. EfM is a 4-year distance learning course from The University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Participants meet weekly for 36 weeks. Like so many, our meetings have been held via Zoom, so as to protect the health and safety of all. Likely this will continue into the foreseeable future. Each of the 4 years offers a deep exploration of the Old Testament, the New Testament, Church History, and Contemporary Issues Facing People of Faith. While EfM is not a program that leads to ordination, it offers a level of study and reflection empowering participants to live their faith in ministry in their daily lives. The group is facilitated by Kathy Knobel and Katie Thomson. In May 2022, the end of our current program year, we will graduate 5 of the current 6 participants. We are looking ahead for new folks to join us and there is plenty of room for YOU!!! For more information, please contact Katie Thomson (630-726-2133, katie.thomson@sbcglobal.net)

Keeping God's People Safe (Jan Hoffman)

Our church participates in the "Keeping God's People Safe" program. In order to protect both children and adults from abuse, harassment, and exploitation the Chicago Episcopal Diocese provides screening interviews, background checks and training courses designed to increase our awareness of people and situations that may pose a potential for abuse. Through the awareness developed by training, and by taking care to structure and conduct programs safely, we help create environments which actively discourage those who would victimize others. When we do this we reduce the likelihood that an incident would occur. Abuse prevention training is required for all clergy, paid employees, those who provide pastoral services, and all persons who work with children/youth. This training is tracked on a spreadsheet and needs to be renewed every five years.

Level I Child Abuse Prevention Training is required of all persons who work --regularly or occasionally, staff or volunteer, adult or youth programs. [1] Levels I & II training is required of all Clergy, Paid Staff and Church Personnel who administer programs, perform pastoral ministries. As the program administrator I keep track of our church's completion reports and certifications and report back to the Chicago Episcopal Diocese.

The Adult Education committee, Jim Bachman, Katie Thomson, Kathy Heikkinen, Janet Craft, Bill Yeck and Candace Moline under the leadership of the Rector and the guidance of the Holy Spirit discerned a call to bring the Sacred Ground curriculum to SCEC. Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on race and faith of The Episcopal Church. Rev. Stacy called two mentors (Kathy Heikkinen and Ed Manning) to lead this inaugural circle. The group began meeting in September 2021 and will complete the program in early 2022. We hope to have a new circle formed to continue this ministry of racial reconciliation in 2022. This group has met on zoom as needed for Covid-19 precautions and will be transitioning to an in-person format as is prudent to do so.

Sacred Ground (Ed Manning)

In early October of 2021, nine adult parishioners began a dialogue on the uncomfortable, often times painful subject of race. Drawing on materials and subject matter from the Sacred Ground program provided by the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>), they embarked on a ten-session journey of discovery, honest self-examination, and growth. As the nine enter their final quarter of study and conversation, it is clear that they are a changed and fully energized group, anxious to share their experiences both, with their friends from St. Charles Episcopal, and our greater community as well. For more information, and to learn how to take part in our next Sacred Ground circle, contact this session's co-facilitators Kathy Heikkinen and Ed Manning.

Whisperings (Laura Graf)

During the past year, seven parishioners have provided weekly reflections on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. I give thanks for Jim Bachman, Kristen Balisi, Janet Craft, Dallas Heikkinen, Kathy Heikkinen, and Bill Yeck who, along with myself, provided the Whisperings every week except the weeks preceding and following Christmas Day.

We welcome your perspective on these lessons. Please contact me if you would like to join the team.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT – LISEL ULASZEK

Kathy Heikkinen, Rob Barnes, Jan Hoffmann, Rob Ulaszek and I met in late spring to discuss the church website and what updates are needed. The following priorities were identified: making the website more easily navigable by users and providing general information for newcomers/visitors with links to areas that users could access more information if they need a higher level of detail. Updating photos and keeping website content current were also identified

as priorities. We took the time to visit other Episcopal church websites and discussed the design, content, and layout aspects of those we liked and why and determined which of these elements we wanted to incorporate into our own website.

In November, Rob Ulaszek began creating templates for our website that would enable vestry members and ministry leaders to easily create content for. He gave a presentation at the December vestry meeting and showcased these templates and the new flow of information for the website. Work on new content will begin in early 2022 with Kathy Heikkinen and I identifying which areas of the website to prioritize and then tapping the appropriate vestry member(s)/ministry leaders to create the content and submit it to Kathy for review/approval. Rob Barnes will continue to update the frontpage content on the website each week and will swap in the new webpages as they are completed and approved.

Work with the Newcomers Committee proceeded slowly this year. Kathy Heikkinen created a pew flier with basic information for newcomers. We are hoping to have an in-person newcomer orientation in 2022. Several new members will be recognized at the annual meeting.

Communications (Kathy Heikkinen)

Rev. Stacy has reminded us often how important communication is, particularly during this time of isolation due to Covid-19. Sharing what has happened, what is happening and what will happen is crucial to, not only our congregation, but to our visitors and community as well.

We are very grateful to Bill Yeck and Larry Wolfrum as they share our Sunday and holiday services on Facebook and YouTube. They have brought us from using Rev. Stacy's personal phone for transmitting video to a complete transformation of up-to-date equipment, obtained in part via a diocesan grant. We also want to thank Jan Hoffman for overseeing the comments and prayers made on our public Facebook page during services.

I continue to share service times, special events, and photos of happenings here at SCEC with local newspapers, both hard copy and online versions. Our website is finally being updated after 6 years, due to the time and talents of Rob Ulaszek. He shared his plan with the vestry in December and is preparing to debut the new site in February. We should also thank Rob Barnes for updating the front page weekly.

I am looking for a few people who would like to be part of a team that shares enthusiasm for getting the word out when we have news. Please talk to me or Lisel Ulaszek if you have an interest in PR, our webpage or Facebook presence, or any technical skills that might help us keep making our presence known and sharing what a wonderful place this community can be.

PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE REPORT BOB HUBER

Columbarium (Jim Bachman, Kathy Hari)

During the summer and fall of 2021, the Columbarium was extensively repaired. The caulking around many of the plaques was removed and replaced and the plaques that had become dull and tarnished were refinished.

The "Declaration and Statement of Policy of the SCEC Columbarium" describes eligibility for Columbarium internment as: "Any present or former member of the parish or immediate family member is entitled to be buried in the Columbarium." Church members may select and reserve specific niche space with a deposit of \$200. Columbarium Planning Group: Fay Viverito, Jim Bachman, Walker Bowman, Larry Engel

I (Kathy Hari) have volunteered to be the record keeper for St Charles Episcopal Church's Columbarium. My Dad and I got involved in genealogy for our family and one day by accident while on Findagrave.com, I stumbled on SCEC's columbarium and there were only 2 names listed. With the rector's permission, I obtained all the names who are interned and updated the records so that there are now 83 names posted and during COVID I linked as many as I could to their loved ones using Family Search for a reference. I have gotten a little more than half-way through the names listed in the columbarium. It is a great tool in which to link families together so future generations will know where their families are buried. Findagrave is a virtual website started in 1995 where you can visit your loved ones without having to travel great distances to physically be with them.

Daughters of the King (Katie Thomson)

SCEC's St. Catherine of Siena chapter of the Daughters of the King has continued living into its call of prayer, service, and evangelism. Despite having to engage each month on Zoom for prayer time and discussion, we were able to faithfully gather and engage in a number of ministries. DOK members facilitated a discussion of the book "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter" by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. During the course of the 3 monthly meetings over the summer, open to all the women of the parish, we learned much about women in the Bible, and the roles each played in the work of God on Earth. There will be 3 additional sessions to continue our discussions in 2022. Also, we conducted a supplies drive for HESED House, collecting donations of sorely needed items for its residents. Thanks to Deb Sturges who facilitated delivering the items for us! We also were able to make a monetary donation as well. There were numerous opportunities for daughters to engage in topical discussions with other daughters across the country, via Conversations With Daughters facilitated by staff at the national office on Zoom. As always, we engage in daily prayer. We pray for healing, for repose, for safety, for the Order, for our parish, for church and civic leaders, for guidance, employment, and security. Due to COVID restrictions, we have been unable to collect prayer requests in our prayer box at church. But we always can receive prayer requests via email at: scecdok@gmail.com. Once a request is received, it is forwarded to all the daughters so they can pray. If you have prayer requests, please contact any of the daughters. If you feel called to this

ministry, please contact Kathy Heikkinen or Katie Thomson for information about the discernment process.

Women's Fellowship Group (Laura Graf)

Since the pandemic began, a few women of the church have been meeting via Zoom every other Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM. We have no set agenda; we use the time to catch up on news and concerns any of us may have.

We have discussed whether another day or time would make it easier for others to join us. I am in the process of drafting a brief survey to send to the adult women of the parish to determine their interest and availability.

Men's Group (Bo Smith)

Are you a man in the parish who is looking for camaraderie and the opportunity to share and grow your faith? Then the men's group is for you. The pandemic hasn't stopped this long-time group from continuing on our faith journey. We simply transitioned face-to-face meetings for the moment to Zoom.

Not familiar with men's group? You're invited to join us every Wednesday, now at 6 p.m., where you can explore and share your faith and help support each other.

It is open to all men in the parish. A lot of faithful sharing goes on each week, and your presence can make it even better. Drop in any time you want. No long-term commitment required. You can find the Zoom link in the Pulse or Vital Signs. Questions? Contact Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

YES St. Patty's Lunch (Kathy Hari)

Was not planned due to COVID.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Kathy Hari)

In 2020 we provided 8 prayer shawls, 2 baby blankets and 1 afghan for our graduating high school student. The Living Well Center in Geneva was not accepting donations during COVID so the ones from last year 8 hats and 14 scarves along with the 6 hats and 22 scarves were donated to Salvation Army and a handful to Lazarus House. There are currently 6 active members knitting and crocheting for this important ministry. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, please join us on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30am in SCEC library or contact Kathy Hari for more information.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES REPORT – BOB MADURA

Buildings (Bob Parks, Rich Foster)

Exterior painting was completed for the church for all surfaces with the exception of the

windows. Rich Foster completed scraping and painting of the columns at the front entrance. A persistent roof leak has been attempted to be repaired at the church ceiling - completion pending. Boiler inspection took place, and it is in good working order. Work began on the Light The Way building initiatives.

Grounds (Lee Kolodziej)

Parish Clean-up day occurred on 10/23/21 with 10 parishioners participating. The Labyrinth was worked on as well as gutter cleaning and misc. brush pick up. The current landscaping/plowing contract is up in the spring of 2022 and new quotes have been requested.

Stewardship (Bob Madura, Karen Madura, Candace Moline)

2022 Annual Fund Drive -Time, Treasures, Talents raised \$194,460.08 to date, with 57 pledging units received.

Administration

Shellie Morgan has performed very well as Parish Administrator, and we are blessed to have her.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
KATHY KNOBEL**

I must begin with many thank-yous. First of all my sincere thanks to Holly Parks for spending much time with me showing what she did in her position as Treasurer and then when I was totally slammed at work with my first "tax season" (which coincided with a near whole-house renovation), she again acted as Treasurer for the next four months until I could get my head above water.

A huge thanks also to Bill Yeck who stepped fully in as Assistant Treasurer and was way ahead of me when I was finally able to "return" to the position. He has generously and continuously given of his time and his many talents.

A big thank-you also to the other faithful members of the Finance Committee, Diana Brown, Rich Foster, Dallas Heikkinen, and Dan Hoffman. They continuously prove that five heads are much better than one. And a thank-you to Phyllis Otto who is no longer on the committee, but served very well for more than her three-year commitment. Debbie Hohmann continued to do payroll until July and is still a kind go-to person with questions that I have.

This past year the Finance Committee has developed policies for the bidding process (for a project or repair or other services) and for the electronic payment of certain ongoing expenses. The Finance Committee also continues to work on updating and expanding the Endowment Policy.

2021 has been a challenging year in many ways, but we have been blessed in many ways as well: the PPP loan was forgiven, the Capital Campaign was a success and, as a result, our bank loans

have been paid off and many renovation projects have been completed. Lastly, the Christmas Appeal response allowed us to finish the year "in the black".

In 2022 I'm hoping to simplify some of our reporting and payment processing. I'm also hoping to add a member or two to the Finance Committee. But there are challenges facing us in 2022 as well. We are looking at a deficit budget, which is never easy. But people are generous. I'm always reminded at times such as these of the passage in chapter 3 of the book of Malachi: Bring the full amount of your tithes to the Temple, so that there will be plenty of food there. Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things. I invite you to think of giving as a form of energy. The laws of physics tell us that energy is never lost, but is either transferred or transformed. When we think of giving as energy, we see that nothing is ever lost in giving it away, but rather the Malachi verse rings true: giving brings an abundance of good things.