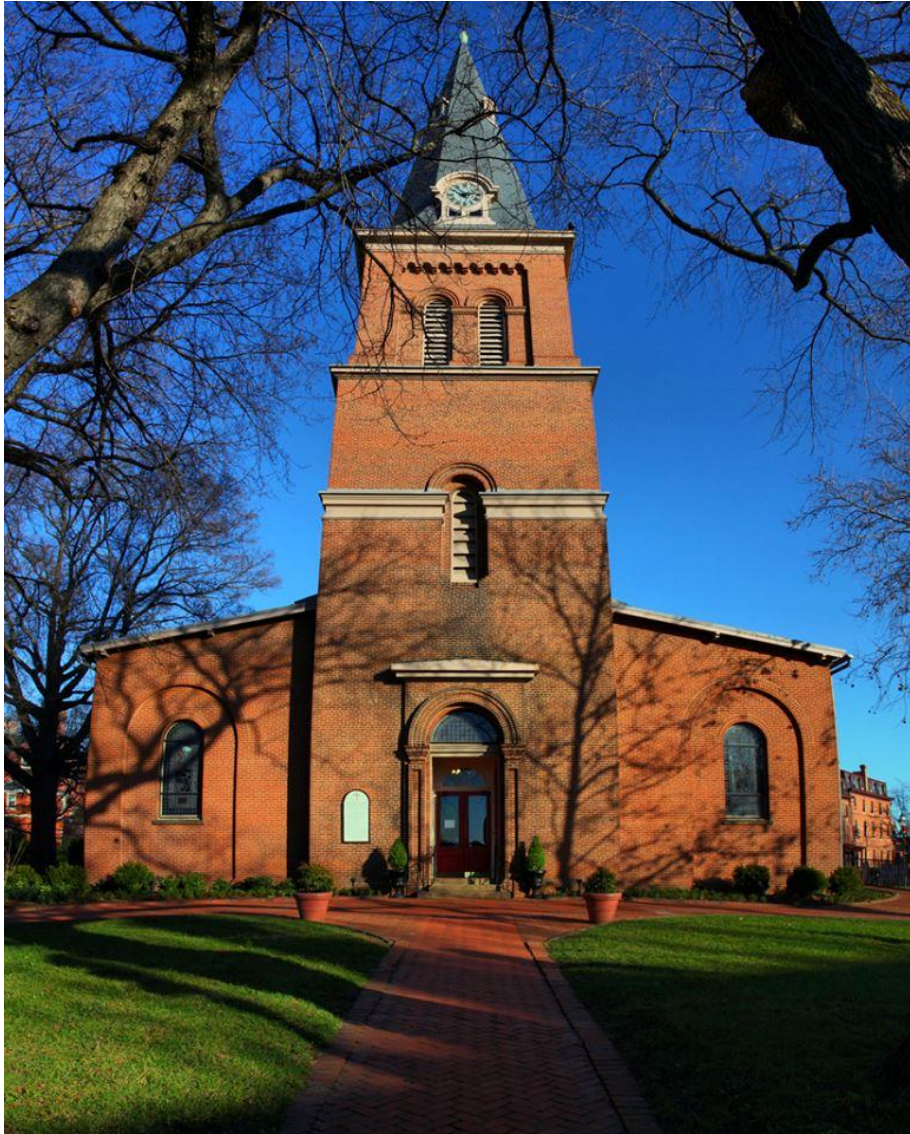


ANNUAL REPORT

2023



St. Anne's Parish
Annapolis, Maryland
www.stannes-annapolis.org

Sacramental and Pastoral Care

The Rev. Dr. Manoj Mathew Zacharia, Rector
The Rev. M. Dion Thompson, Senior Associate
The Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Kathy Shahinian, Deacon

Sunday Assisting Clergy

The Rev. John Smith
The Rev. Corby Zeren, Ret.

Children/Youth Ministry

Tempest Strunge, Director of Children and Youth

Administration

Kirsten Hair, Administrator
Claire Miller, Communications Associate
Linnea Williams, Office Assistant, Communications
Caleb Briggs, Communications

Buildings and Grounds

Bill Wilbert, Facilities Committee Chair
Susan Thaxton, Junior Warden

Music and Technology

J. Ernest Green, Director of Music
Larry Molinaro, Parish Organist
Draper Carter, Audio and Video Engineer
Lindsay Espinosa - Soprano Soloist/Section Leader
Laurie Hays Soloist/Section Leader
Ken Kimble, Accompanist, Youth Music Assistant
Kristin Pagent, Children's Music Director
Kari Shea, Church Circle Consort
Brianna Webster Soloist/Section Leader
Ryan Webster Soloist/Section Leader

Preschool for the Arts at St. Anne's

Katrina Stewart, Interim Director
Krissy Harrison, Office Manager
Tempest Strunge, Chaplain

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Rector's Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Manoj Mathew Zacharia

February 4, 2024

During the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, we pray: set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. This collect recognizes that we as human beings are in bondage whereby, we experience separation from a flourishing and abundant relationship that God intends for us. As Christians, we believe that our restoration to living a life of liberty and abundance is known through a deep relationship with the incarnate son of God, Jesus Christ.

The Church, as the “consecrated community” or the Body of Christ, is the medium through which salvation is proclaimed through our collective worship, discernment, and action. We know that the church is fallible, and we come short of God’s intention to be this consecrated community. Nevertheless, we persevere in living into our mission. Our mission is to offer spiritual sustenance and restore all people to unity with God and each other. This mission is accomplished through the gracious work of the Holy Spirit that draws us towards the sacraments, prayer, the proclamation of the Gospel and the promotion of justice, peace, and love. As a community of prayer, our core values are to preach the Good News, seek justice, walk with humility, and practice hospitality guided by the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We seek to build, engage, evangelize, and form disciples of Jesus. By God’s grace and through your continued generosity, we have made significant strides in the mission undergirded by our core values. Our gatherings remind us about the gift of being connected and our longing for corporate worship inside space specifically consecrated for the administration of Word and Sacrament.

As the Forty-Ninth Rector of the church in the circle, I can say, by the grace of God, the state of St. Anne’s Parish in Annapolis is strong and vibrant.

Worship & Liturgy: Allow me to give you a glimpse into the worship metrics of our ministry. In 2023, we had an in-person attendance of 17,456 over the weekend. We conducted 67 Weekday Eucharists. Most of the mid-week Eucharists were at St. Anne’s. We were privileged to extend our sacramental ministry at Bay Woods and Ginger Cove. Our Daily Offices, offered in a hybrid fashion, totaled 270. In addition, we held a total of 57 services, such as chapel for the Preschool and the Longest Night. We conducted 7 marriages, 16 burials, and 11 baptisms. According to the Parochial Data Report for 2022, our 2023 Average Sunday Attendance and membership places us in the 99th percentile of churches in The Episcopal Church. Given the 2022 statistics noted above, we anticipate that our metrics will fall in a similar situation this year.

Staffing: We were honored to welcome Linnea Williams. Linn has come on board part-time to help with administrative support. Katrina Stewart has accepted our invitation to serve as Interim Director of the Preschool for the Arts. Claire Miller has come aboard as our part-time Communications Associate. We said goodbye to Amy Hoffman, former PASA Director who transitioned to being a teacher at a local school, The Rev, Meredith Kefauver-Olsen who left for military deployment, Paul Manning, sexton, and Mark LaBuda, Cemetery Manager. We are blessed by volunteers who handle the front desk/receptionist role.

The next few years will be a time of rebuilding. It will also be a time of great challenge and more significant opportunities. We have the ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to direct our vision with greater purpose to the cause of the Gospel in reaching out beyond church circle and meeting the needs of a world that so deeply needs to be connected to God.

Rector's wider Episcopal Church Involvement: Priestly ministry entails participation in the wider Church. I currently serve as: Vice-Chair of The Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on World Mission; Trustee, Anglican Theological Review; conference speaker/presenter for various entities include The Episcopal Parish Network. While I am invited to the meetings of the board of Chase-Lloyd House, I am not a voting trustee. I am grateful for St. Anne’s support in allowing me to serve The Church in these non-stipendiary roles.

Gratitude:

I am grateful to be your chief pastor. As your chief pastor, I directly work with a remarkable set of colleagues like The Rev. M. Dion Thompson, Tempest Brevard, Caleb Briggs, J. Ernest Green, Kirsten Hair, The Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton, Claire Miller, Larry Molinaro, The Rev. Kathy Shahinian, The Rev. John Smith, Katrina Stewart, The Rev. Corby Zeren, and Linnea Williams. Our Vestry leadership is remarkable. I am grateful for the Vestry Leadership Jason Houser (Senior Warden), Susan Thaxton (Junior Warden), Kevin Hays (Registrar), Glenn Mortoro (Treasurer), Kathryn Burke, Howard Buskirk, Al Collins, Katie Creely (Advisor to the Vestry), Lauren Dana-Evans, , Phyllis Everette, David Huggins, Emily Langston, Thomas May, Townsend McNitt, and William Silva. C. Edward Hartman III provided the parish with helpful legal counsel. Elizabeth (Betty) Creighton, Kay Davis and Katherine Hilton served as Diocesan Delegates. Cynthia Hartman served as Alternate Delegate. In casting a vision towards racial reconciliation, the Vestry constituted a group of parishioners who have been called to “listen”, through the discernment of the Holy Spirit, to the voices in our parish and broader community. Members of this group are: Doug McNitt (Convener), (The Rt. Rev.) Michael Creighton, Ashley Simon, Emily Langston, and Ford Rowan. The Human Resource Advisory Committee headed by Michael Thaxton provided invaluable assistance and leadership they have provided me. The Nominating Committee was led by Kevin Hays. Kev was joined by Bill Silva, Glenn Mortoro, Dave Strang, and Cardie Templeton. The sage counsel and prudent governance that these individuals offer contribute in life-giving ways to our work in building God’s Kingdom for which I am grateful.

Thank you all for the work and ministry that you do. Whether it is the work of actively participating in and making our liturgy beautiful; carrying out the healing ministry of Jesus through prayer; carrying out plans for our physical plant, cemetery, administration (financial, IT, etc.) and stewardship; outreach at Clay Street, Main Street, or internationally; education through our life-long formation opportunities and PASA; evangelizing through our communication platforms; or, creating a joyful noise unto the Lord, your prayerful presence makes our circle a little more complete. For this work in building God’s kingdom, as your servant in Christ, I am ever grateful.

More than the successes of our parish family, I have been blessed by being in relationship with you. I am grateful to all of you who work tirelessly for the building of the Kingdom of God through the work of St. Anne’s. I ask for your continued prayers and support so that I can minister to you.

In conclusion, I pray that we continue to be illumined by Word and Sacrament so that the radiance of Christ may shine through our church in the circle and radiate the love of God made known in Jesus to this world.

Yours in Christ’s Service,

The Rev. Manoj Mathew Zacharia, Ph.D.

Rector, St. Anne’s Parish, Annapolis

Report of the Warden

Jason Houser, Senior Warden

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Annapolis Annual Meeting Report - 2024

Dear Members of St. Anne's Episcopal Church,

It is an honor to present this report as the Senior Warden, reflecting on the remarkable journey of St. Anne's Episcopal Church over the past year. Despite facing unprecedented challenges, our community has persevered and thrived in its commitment to serving God, Annapolis, and the broader world.

Continued Growth:

I am delighted to report that our parish has experienced continued growth, a testament to the unwavering dedication of our members and the welcoming spirit that defines St. Anne's. This growth is in numbers and the depth of connection and fellowship that binds us together.

Community Outreach and Education:

One of our significant successes lies in our commitment to expanding our education offerings to the Annapolis community, including the underserved. In adversity, we have strengthened our resolve to be a beacon of knowledge, compassion, and inclusivity. Our doors are open to all ages, genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and backgrounds, embodying the true spirit of Christ's teachings.

From my point of view, serving you as Senior Warden for three years, there is no more significant opportunity for St. Anne's than to expand our education offerings, expand PASA, and serve those in our community.

Adapting to Challenges:

The past three years have presented challenges that tested our resilience and unity. From navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic to addressing social unrest, our community has stood together with grace and compassion. Your collective efforts have demonstrated the enduring strength of St. Anne's in times of trial.

Vestry Core Values:

As part of our commitment to transparency and shared values, the Vestry defined core principles guiding our actions this past year. These values are not just words on paper but the essence of who we are as a community:

Preach the Good News: Our mission is to share the transformative message of God's love and grace with authenticity and passion.

Seek Justice: We are dedicated to pursuing justice, advocating for the marginalized, and addressing the systemic issues that challenge our community.

Walk with Humility: In all our endeavors, we approach others humbly, recognizing every individual's inherent worth and dignity.

Practice Hospitality: Embracing the diversity of God's creation, we extend warmth and hospitality to all who seek refuge in our community.

It's my prayer, as the Vestry and Parish move forward and as we grow, that we continue to align all our work with these principles.

Looking to the Future:

As my term as Senior Warden concludes, I express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving this remarkable community. St. Anne's is not just a church but a living testament to the enduring power of faith, love, and community. As we enter the fourth century of our service, we stand on excellent footing, rooted in the wisdom of the past and poised for a future of continued growth, service, and spiritual fulfillment.

With all my heart, I want to thank The Rev. Dr. Manoj Zacharia for being a fantastic leader of our parish and a tremendous partner as we have guided the parish over the last three years.

Our success as a Parish is only possible with our fantastic staff. Their love, care, diligence, and passion for their work make St. Anne's the home it is for so many.

In conclusion, I thank all of you for your dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to St. Anne's. Together, we have weathered storms and celebrated triumphs, and I am confident that our community will continue to shine as a beacon of hope, love, and service in the years to come.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,

Jason P. Houser
Senior Warden
St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Annapolis

Administrative and Financial Ministries

Administration

Kirsten Hair

We are happy to continue to open our beautiful buildings to the public. Our faithful Docents, Bill Maynard and Anne Sloan are at the church on Mondays and Wednesdays, and our faithful Receptionists, Karen Davis, Maggie McDowell, Martha Thorn, and Caroline Purdy are at the Parish House Monday through Thursday. Our receptionists are invaluable. They assist with answering phone calls, welcoming visitors, printing bulletins and many other tasks we ask them to do.

In 2023, we rented our facilities to eleven outside groups, mostly related to the legislative session. For 2024, we currently have fourteen days booked.

In June, we hired Linnea Williams as an office assistant. Lin splits her time between the preschool and the church and has done a wonderful job. Lin is in charge of Sunday service scheduling, facilitating Sunday bulletin printing and many other administrative tasks.

Caleb Briggs continues to produce our weekly bulletins and weekly emails. The addition of Claire Miller in September has been such a blessing to St. Anne's. Claire has tailored our Stewardship campaign as well as many in-house marketing materials.

As the administrator of St. Anne's, I am very blessed to have the support of Father Manoj, Father Dion, Mother Olivia, Tempest Strunge, Katrina Stewart, Krissy Harrison, Lin Williams, the Vestry, and especially the parishioners.

It takes all of us to make St. Anne's a welcoming place to worship and strengthen our relationship with God; our fellow parishioners; and our wider community.

Archives

Eric Fredland

Madeleine Hughes and I have continued our comprehensive survey of current holdings, discarding unneeded and duplicated materials, as well as reorganizing materials to make them easier to find and more accessible. As in past years, the regular monthly feature "From the Archives," exploring bits of St. Anne's history or the background behind some of the treasures of the church has been e-mailed to the congregation and other interested parties. The resources of the Archives are occasionally called on to support parish projects and to inform research by non-parishioners.

Communications

Claire Miller

Communications lifts up the life and work of the parish, and increases the visibility of the many ways to get more engaged with the parish community. Our public facing communications, including email, social media and the website, are the face of our parish to our surrounding community. Communications is a collaborative effort between those who lead the ministries and the communications team.

There is a wonderful communications team at St. Anne's who prepares the announcements, the weekly e-blast, the bulletin, social media posts, live streams the worship on YouTube, and more. I want to acknowledge the work of the staff, Caleb Briggs, Draper Carter and Linnea Williams, Howard Buskirk and Mary Greczyn who post on Facebook, and Martha Thorn who promotes the Adult Forum content in Patch and the Capital Gazette.

Highlights of 2023 – Impact

- Communicated weekly opportunities to engage with worship, adult formation, prayer, and outreach via the e-blast to 1,206 email subscribers.
- Supported increased attendance at special music events, including Choral Evensong (157) and Advent Lessons & Carols (131)
- Communicated the impact of St. Anne's Parish and its ministries to support St. Anne's stewardship campaign from October-December 2023 (see Stewardship report for results).
- Promotion of Christmas services (banner, postcard, paid advertising, social media, e-blast, bulletin) supported attendance results of 1,801 persons worshipping at St. Anne's in-person (1,623) and online (178)
- In total, 977 people were reached with Advent reflection emails or social media posts, 177 clicked to view the Advent booklet, and 136 people visited the Prayer web page.
- In 2023, St. Anne's Facebook had 1.7K followers, a reach of 17.7K, and 7.8K content interactions (46% increase). St. Anne's Instagram had 96 followers, a reach of 330, and 230 content interactions (100% increase).

Goals for 2024

- Communicate personal stories of impact of St. Anne's Parish and its ministries throughout the liturgical year.
- Invite the parishioners and the public to engage with St. Anne's through worship, prayer, music, formation, and outreach weekly.
- Increase followers among adults 18-45 years of age on St. Anne's social media platforms and increase reach and engagement over the previous year.

Digital Ministries

Josiah Dykstra and Mark Grimes, Co-Chairs

Digital Ministries supports and enables the many technology-related activities across the Parish. We help by developing and executing plans to meet St. Anne's digital needs, and we serve as a technology resource for the staff, volunteers, members, and visitors of St. Anne's.

The Realm software system continues to serve staff well for key day-to-day operations including tracking donations and membership. Realm continues to see an uptick in adoption by new ministry groups this past year. It served as an important tool to connect groups ranging from Vestry to the participants in the Bible Challenge, and it is becoming the primary means of scheduling for numerous ministries. To support secure and managed file storage, Digital Ministries has been helping groups move file storage from members' personal accounts to St. Anne's OneDrive.

In addition to larger projects, Digital Ministries was happy to support staff with everyday tasks during the year. This year we helped PASA successfully transition from Google Workspace to Microsoft 365. We also helped the staff integrate a better calendar solution for the St. Anne's website, procured new and replacement laptops for staff, and upgraded our fire and burglar alarm connections. As we did last year, Digital Ministries again helped setup online digital voting for the Annual Meeting.

Digital Ministries is just one part of St. Anne's wide digital ecosystem. We wish to extend our gratitude to Kirsten for her unwavering support as advocate and staff liaison. We appreciate Claire Miller, Howard, and Mary for their dedicated social media initiatives.

The Digital Ministries committee needs and welcomes volunteers to help us manage, plan, and operate our IT. Anyone with an interest in or experience in computers, networks, phones, video, or other digital solutions should contact Mark at mark@tgfmail.org.

Facilities Committee – Annual Report for 2023

Bill Wilbert, Chair

Susan Thaxton, Junior Warden

At the Church ... sometimes it just seems that you can't get a break. If you read our 2022 Annual Facilities Report you'll recall that we started 2022 with a 'hit and run' driver crashing through the churchyard fence at the head of Main Street; well it happened again in May. However, this time the driver remained at the scene and their insurance covered the cost of repairs (again mostly to our perimeter wrought iron fence).

We implemented several handicap access improvements in the Church, specifically adjusting two pews to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, etc. Brass handrails were added to both the lower and upper (high altar) chancel steps and both restrooms now have power assisted door openers. In addition, handrails will be added to the lower stairs to the choir loft.

As reported last year, we have been keeping our eyes on our Elm trees in the Circle. Despite our rigorous tree care program, we had to remove one of the last two Elms. The remaining Elm is being carefully watched and treated as needed. We will be replanting shade trees as required by the City, and as per our landscape master plan.

At the Parish House ...we believe we have resolved our rainwater drainage issues at the South Street doors having installed improved drainage to capture and divert the rainwater that falls in that very confined space. We are still pursuing leaks in other areas...seems to be a persistent characteristic of aging buildings.

After a lengthy delay due to poor advice and over-priced, bad replacement proposals we were able to repair the air conditioning system that serves the Parish House kitchen. Other Parish House AC units were also maintained and repaired; we changed our HVAC mechanical services company to an obviously more knowledgeable and experienced local company. The commercial-grade coffee maker in the Parish House kitchen (and subsequently, the one in the church too) were replaced after both units failed. We also had water filters installed on cold-water faucets at both the Parish House and the Church (the drinking fountains replaced in 2019/20 have filtered water and water bottle fill stations); this is much more economical, and environmentally sounder than the large, bottled water stations we've been using/maintain the past 15+ years.

The exterior HC ramp at the Parish House and the rear porch of the Old Rectory were repaired. The Handicap Ramp is nearing—actually has probably exceeded—its expected life span and plans are in the works for eventual replacement, along with repairs and repaving of the Charles Street parking lot, and the entry patio...hopefully this can be accomplished this year.

There were other items of repair and maintenance throughout our campus. As I've said before, it's like "Whack-a-Mole" at St. Anne's sometimes.

The Planned Giving Committee

Committee Chairman: Bill Davis, Members: Karen Davis, Volney Melson, David Huggins

The Planned Giving Committee is tasked with raising the awareness level of parishioners about Planned Giving and recognizing those parishioners who have indicated that they have left gifts to St. Anne's through their wills or beneficiary designation.

In 2022 we restarted the Legacy Society dinner which had been suspended due to Covid. It is our intention to continue this dinner in the fall of 2024, and every other year thereafter. The Legacy Society is the group of known parishioners who have remembered St. Anne's in their estates. Their names are on a plaque in the Parrish Hall. As of Dec. 21st 2023, I am not aware of any new additions to the Legacy Society for this year and this was confirmed by Kirsten Hair.

In October of 2023 I spoke to a group of parishioners after the service about legacy gifting to St. Anne as part of their estate plans. This was part of Rev. Olivia Hilton's lecture series that month.

We plan to do a letter solicitation to the congregation about the importance of planned giving to the church in 2024.

We now have an updated brochure that can be distributed at church gatherings and is available in the back of the nave before services.

I will speak at a vestry meeting to discuss the importance of vestry members leading by example on planned giving.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Davis, Dec. 21st, 2023

Realm Workgroup

Linda Adamson, Nancy Bayers, Holly Bentley, Kirsten Hair and Chip Tucker

Realm 2023 – St. Anne’s Online Community

Use of the Realm online community software continued to be supported by a dedicated workgroup meeting weekly to discuss current activities and pursue opportunities for greater engagement and adoption. Volunteer scheduling transitions initiated in 2022 became the norm in 2023 with increased training support from the workgroup. In addition, this full adoption provided the opportunity to discontinue the use of MSP (previous scheduling software) and hence duplicate expense line items. Beyond Worship service scheduling new impact areas for Realm in 2023 included:

- Use of the event registration feature – most recently the advent wreath making event was setup for registration and payment through Realm
- Integration of the existing church payment gateway with Realm to streamline payment opportunities and staff workloads for manual processing
- Continued use of Realm to support ministry education through the new Spirit of the Lord forum & Journey programs
- Creation of a website landing page for Realm that offers “how to” documentation & support references
- Scheduling for after church hospitality volunteers, supporting food/beverage & other needs
- Unique scheduling for holiday services
- Pledging – fully integrated to Realm with Vanco – moved members to integrated payment platform to allow for easy viewing of pledges, donation status and donate for special events such as easter or Christmas flowers directly in Realm vs via mail in options (another savings in staff time and ease of use for pledging online)
- Initial discussions and testing for refining workflows for file management across church ministries

Realm 2024

As a robust community resource, Realm continues to offer additional opportunities for supporting St. Anne’s Mission for Building, Engaging, Evangelizing and Formation. Current workgroup focal areas for 2024 include:

- Integrating/aligning Realm content with overall St. Anne communications and community support resources
- Continued efforts to support the use of new schedules for volunteer serving and event registrations
- Ensuring the Realm church directory is updated and readily available to all
- Creating in person engagements for Realm information and adoption support for members
- Continued pursuit of workflows for church file management across ministries with Realm support
- Pursuing use of the Realm pathways feature for new and existing member engagement

Stewardship Committee

Howard Buskirk

The Stewardship Committee includes all the members of the Vestry and was led in the latest season by Townsend McNitt and Howard Buskirk, with help from David Huggins and Parish Treasurer Glenn Mortoro. We have deepened our emphasis on expanding the donor base. Stewardship talks focused on expanding the circle and how contributions to St. Anne’s help programs in Guatemala and Kenya and in the Annapolis community. Continuing prayer and spiritual seeking is an important part of building a financial base for the church. We are also deeply focused on the theology of stewardship and on how the giving of our time and money is an expression of our faith in action.

The results of the 2024 stewardship campaign are in Glenn Mortoro’s Treasurer Report.

Children and Youth Ministries (July-December 2022)

Tempest Brevard, Director of Children and Youth, strunge@stannes-annapolis.org

As I move into the second year of my ministry here at St Anne's, it continues to be a learning experience but one that is filled with more highs than lows. Having the chance to share the love of God is a privilege.

PASA Chaplain-This was new role for me this year and an opportunity to get to know the families and children in pasa better. It has been wonderful and a lot of work but a great experience overall. Here is how the review:

13 weeks (about 3 months) For the Fall 2023 semester

11 classes per week (Wed/Thur)

12 students average per class

EQUALS

132 Students taught

143 classes taught

Movement and Music: Formerly Sycamore Tree continues to be happening in the choir room with music and a lesson. It also is a place for the kids to get their wiggles out during the sermon or at any other time during the service.

Faith 24/7: This is our Sunday School program from ages Prek-12th grade. This program has been following the lectionary lessons and a youth group element during the Sunday morning. We use Holy Moly! For k-2nd graders, Connect for 3rd-5th graders, and Faith Lens for 6th-12th graders.

VBS: This is an annual program that is held in tandem with First Presbyterian Church. It was held July 17-21, 23. It was held on the St Anne's Campus due to the other youth leader being on Sabbatical. The program consisted of a gathering bible story and dinner in the Parish Hall. We charged families \$20 per child for attending this year.

Daily Schedule:

5:30-5:50- Dinner/cleanup/prayer

6:00-6:10- Rotation 1

6:12-6:22- Rotation 2

6:24-6:46- Rotation 3

6:48-7:00- Closing/Pickup

We are re-envisioning what the VBS program will become moving forward, thinking about time, place, and objective.

Mission to Guatemala was held and Fr. Manoj and Kev Hayes attended along with some experienced members of the team.

Program Year Kick-off- 9/10/23- We had donuts and other snacks with the families and allowed the kids to get to know their teachers and orient the parents to the semester plan. Perhaps a bi-semester meeting with parents would be appropriate as well at the start of the new year.

Blessing of the Animals- 10/08/23- Held on our campus in church circle. The event was not well published, and it turned out to be a very windy day. Will re-access whether it was timing, marketing, etc...

Youth Kayaking trip- 10/14/23- Trip was cancelled due to massive rain by the company and will be re-scheduled for the spring of 2024.

Ecumenical Choir- Opportunity for the church's children to share their gift of song with the rest of the church. This project really got off the ground with the support of Kristen Pageant and Ken Kimble accompanying. They presented to the church 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 12/24

Advent Season Preparations-

Advent Wreath Making- 12/03- Great event that had people register this year to come just so I would have enough supplies. We offered, food, wreaths, activities but no live music this year.

Advent Candle Lighting- 12/03-12/24- Grateful for the families and agreed to light the candles this year. Having the prayer in the bulletin was nice for everyone to share in the candle's lighting. Repeat.

Cookies and Chairs - 12/23, 1-2:30p- Members arrived to help set up extra chairs in the church for the holiday and we did a cookie exchange/snack after the work was done. Easy fellowship event. Will repeat.

Christ Child Service- 12/24/23-3p- Wonderful and holy chaos once again. The children offered the Godly Play pageant where they place the nativity scene on the altar. It was clear and the kids did great. Special thanks for Paul Pope, Kristen P, Ken K, and PASA Parents for helping with the pageant as well.

Children and Youth Ministries are about helping our young people increase in believing, becoming and belonging that lead them into a growing relationship with Jesus.

Tempest B. Strunge

Christian Formation for Adults

Adult Forum 2023: The Bible Challenge and more

The Rev. M. Dion Thompson

Last year we completed The Bible Challenge and along the way brought an amazing group of world-class Biblical scholars to St. Anne's, including Amy Orr-Ewing, Michael Gorman and Fr. Dennis Billy. Some of the presentations were recorded and are available for viewing.

Those who followed the year-long Bible Challenge reading schedule found their faith challenged and deepened. A small community of participants continued meeting throughout the summer in the back of the church, using this time to engage in thoughtful, wide-ranging discussions.

During the current program year that began in September, the Forum's offerings have included a session highlighting our ministries in Guatemala and the Stanton Center, a well-attended two-part series on end of life issues, led by Mother Olivia, and a field trip to Ss. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church to hear Fr. Kosmas Karavellas describe how his faith tradition uses imagery to inspire and educate.

Looking ahead, the Forum will highlight more of our church's ministries during the spring and continue our exploration of sacred scripture. I am especially looking forward to our Lenten offering, a three-part master class on the Gospel of John led by the Rev. Jaime Clark-Soles.

As always, the Forum is for everyone and gives us a chance to engage in conversation with each other about the issues of the day and the place of God's word in our lives.

Emmaus

Heather Strang and Lori Marchant

"They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32

Emmaus seeks to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for listening, responding, and resting in the Spirit, which is at work in us. We hope the Emmaus gatherings will increase prayerful awareness of the sacred and holy in our everyday lives as reflected in scripture and modeled by Jesus. We continue to listen for God's call for us as a group and as individuals as we walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the St. Anne's and surrounding communities. We reflect the Emmaus story in gathering monthly to support and nurture the Spirit within our own lives. Listening and walking with one another in community has allowed for us, on an ongoing basis, a more graceful recognition and hearing of God's presence and call. Sharing in community supports our individual work in a diversity of ministry and life settings.

Each month Emmaus gathers in person at the home of one of our participants. The Advent Reflections booklet project has a history of publishing its yearly issue through daily email; social media offerings; and printed booklets. This offering extends to Epiphany, growing the community of contributors as well as opportunities for reflection. The booklet is a compilation of reflections on daily scripture readings by parishioners and provides a way of listening and journeying together as a parish from Advent to Epiphany. In 2023 the Advent booklet project published its fourteenth yearly issue. Emmaus participants include Linda Adamson, Ann Carlson, Hutchey Doley, Paige Ferguson, Kimberly Jillson, Fran Lukens, Sally Garrett, Carol Leach, Lori Marchant, Katrina McMillan-Zapf, Townsend McNitt, Maggie Melson, Julie Peterson, Caroline Purdy, Deede Rivers, Adela Rose, Sue Smith, Heather Strang, Lynn Thonnard, and Gail Tucker.

Episcopal Rainbow Group

The Rev. Kathy Shahinian, Paul Pope, Stan Ward

This ministry welcomes the fellowship and inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals and families into parish life and worship at St. Anne's.

In June, St. Anne's participated in the Annapolis Pride Parade and provided bottled water to participants from our festively decorated booth. In August, we hosted an after-church hospitality table, and then a brunch in November. Several meetings have been held to conduct elections and discuss participating again in the upcoming June 2024 Annapolis Pride Parade.

Also in June, the Rainbow Group participated with the New York Episcopal Diocese and Trinity Episcopal Wall Street Pride Parade in Manhattan, New York. We are also looking forward to scheduling a bus trip to participate again in the New York 2024 Pride Parade.

Life in Balance and Centering Prayer

Lynn Thonnard and Carol Leach

St. Anne's Centering Prayer and Life in Balance ministry meets the first three Tuesdays of the month 10:00-11:15 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

In 2023, we began a new program, Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton, on the first two Tuesdays. The series, edited by Jonathan Montaldo and the Merton Institute, is intended for anyone seeking to live more contemplatively. Our discussion of the book follows 20 minutes of Centering Prayer. The number of weekly participants grew to over 15, many from St. Anne's. We are now beginning Booklet Two. Carol Leach and Jan Wilson are the facilitators.

The third Tuesday is Lectio Divina and Centering prayer, facilitated by Lynn Thonnard.

Men's Bible Study

Wayne Adamson and Bob Sherer

For more than two decades the men's bible study program met in the St. Anne's Parish House each Saturday morning to study and discuss Biblical texts and books about the Bible or theological issues. The gathering now continues via ZOOM, a procedure carried over from COVID days to allow participation by one member who moved to California and others whose mobility is challenged. We value the fellowship that develops from our meetings as well as the spiritual growth and better understanding of the Bible. This past year (2023) we started off by completing an examination of the Gospel of John using a guide by Johnson and Richards. In May we began analysis of the book of Hebrews. In October we commenced an examination of the books of the prophets using "The Prophets" by A. Heschel as a guide. Concerned about the shrinkage of our group from 17 to seven, we are now reaching out to other Episcopal parishes in the Annapolis area to see if ZOOM bible study might appeal to their men. Our group is headed up by Wayne Adamson and Bob Sherer who serve as joint group leaders.

Pub Theology 2023

Lawrence Devadason

A ministry of simple fellowship modeled on the salons of Europe, on the teahouses of Asia, and on coffeeshops across North America, Pub Theology strives to help us relate intellectually to the practical conditions of our modern lives through casual conversations over big ideas and small ideas alike, interpreted through a broad and expanding curation of scholarly articles, books, essays, podcasts, and stories at area bars, cafés, meeting rooms, and restaurants. Seven of us gathered every other month in 2023 in this fellowship ministry's second full year. Discussion works included essays and interviews published by The Hedgehog Review, Mockingbird, and The Trinity Forum. For 2024's readings and settings, write to Lawrence Devadason at waterfront@hotmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

Jo Tetlow (jotetlow19@yahoo.com)

The monthly Women's Bible Study completed its 5th year of existence on December 31, 2023. The study meets on the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Guy. Leadership of the study rotates monthly among members. This year, we finished our study of the Gospel of Luke, and have started the Book of Proverbs in 2024. The bible study averages 5 women per month. Recently, we have had 2 new women join the group.

Patricia Jennings is our Social Director, and she organized our annual Christmas luncheon in December at Wilder Fresh Kitchen in Heritage Harbour. It was a wonderful time and food and fellowship; two newcomers to St. Anne's joined the festivities. The bible study has no budget. The bible study is, and has been, a source of scriptural learning, and provides a community of support, encouragement, and prayer for the women of St. Anne's. I hope and pray that more women will come to the bible study in 2024.

Women's Ministry; Annual Retreat

Townsend McNitt (Townsendmcnitt@gmail.com)

Lori Marchant (Lorimarchant2011@gmail.com)

Gail Tucker (gailtuck@aol.com)

The women of St. Anne's Episcopal Church unite to provide a warm, caring and supportive environment to nourish souls through leading, mentoring, sharing, teaching and helping each other within the church and in the community at large in our efforts to expand the Circle.

The Women's Ministry is dedicated to helping all St. Anne's women grow in their faith and build supportive relationships with women in the parish. St. Anne's women participate in many outreach ministries, often finding

their roots in fellowship and small groups. We come together to share our ideas and support one another in the ministries we serve throughout our parish and welcome all women of the church to join in our activities.

The annual women's retreat is one of our key events each year. In 2023, we were thrilled to welcome 36 women to the Dupont Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach DE to gather for a joy filled weekend of sharing and fellowship with the theme of "Redeeming Our Lives, Stitch by Stitch." We were blessed to be led by several of our female parishioners and hear their stories of redemption and hope, with a very special session led by Patricia Jennings who shared the story of her spiritual life through her beautiful handmade quilts. The music team lifted our spirits and they led us in worship and joyful song, and we had walks on the beach and enjoyed the beauty that surrounds us in Rehoboth.

Our 2024 retreat will take place April 12-16 at the Memorial House once again and registration is underway. The planning committee for the retreat is comprised of 6-8 female parishioners.

If you would like more information or you are interested in getting involved in this active and spiritually supportive ministry, please contact Townsend McNitt at Townsendmcnitt@gmail.com.

Fellowship Ministries

Docents

Anne Sloan and Bill Maynard

We are a two-person ministry these days--Bill spends a couple of hours on Mondays and I do the same on Wednesdays. Most times the few people who trickle in don't want a tour. In my experience folks come in to have a quiet sit, perhaps praying, or just meditating. I welcome them to St. Anne's and invite them to express their interest. In warmer times there are a couple of local tour leaders who bring in a few people--I have heard some interesting "history" from some of them.

Recently I had a unique and very moving experience with a woman who clearly was living very rough. She expressed thanks that the church was open and that I was there. It was very hard to understand her--I think she had been abused and was very fearful. I held her hand and we prayed the Lord's prayer together--she started it, and I joined in. That experience made the program worthwhile, to my mind.

Fellowship

Karen Davis

There were many who volunteered to assist with fellowship events during the year but the team was Lisa McKnight and Jan Reid who did an excellent job of keeping supplies in the kitchen and on hand at church for coffee hour. On Jan 8 we had a potluck dinner with about 40 in attendance. Babs Mersereau managed the food for the Annual meeting in February. In April we hosted the reception for Kirsten Hair's Mother's funeral. Jo Tetlow managed summer fellowship in the courtyard. In September Jo Tetlow and Babs Mersereau took over leadership on Fellowship newly named Hospitality. They did a superb job handling the fall coffee hours in the narthex after the 10:00 service.

Foyer Groups

Coordinators: Linda Adamson, Patricia Jennings, Katy Jensen, and Stan Ward

The Foyer Group program has played a vital role in building relationships among St. Anne's parishioners for many years, welcoming newcomers and integrating them with longer-term members. It helps build connections among worshipers at our different services who may not otherwise encounter one another on a regular basis, and promotes informal exchanges of thoughts and experiences about the life of the parish.

Participants are recruited at a Ministry Fair Potluck reception each fall, and they are assigned to groups of 8-10 people, who typically meet monthly between the months of October and May, with larger gatherings of the entire fellowship during the Christmas season and again at the end of the program year. Foyer groups meet in a variety of settings, most often rotating among group members' homes for structured potluck meals, but also in restaurants or parks as group members wish. We welcome new members at any time, so please contact Katy Jensen (katymjensen@aol.com) if you would like more information.

The 2022-23 Foyer program year culminated with an end-of-season picnic on June 4th, on the church lawn, after the 5:30 pm service. In August, we kicked-off the 2023-2024 program year with another potluck on the church lawn, coordinated with the after-church hospitality program for the 10:00 am service. The timing and location of these celebrations helped us raise awareness and recruit new members for the current program year.

Stan Ward has joined the Foyer Group coordination team, and we are blessed with his leadership. Stan brings a fresh perspective, and he helped us identify and address potential barriers to participation during the recruiting phase of the 2023-24 Foyer season. The 2023-24 Foyer Fellowship consists of 97 participants, of whom 23 are new to the Fellowship. Most of the groups have approximately 8 members, and we take steps to ensure that participants are teamed up with different people each year.

One of the great joys last year was celebrating with a traditional Christmas Party potluck, hosted by Scott Gregory and Angela Eggleston in December. We are so appreciative of their warm and generous hospitality—thank you, Scott and Angela!

On a less joyful note, we also recognize that the timing of that celebration, usually midway between Thanksgiving and Christmas, is a challenging time of year for avoiding the spread of respiratory illnesses. We are discerning alternatives for future Christmas gatherings, and we welcome any ideas to help us continue this cherished tradition in a safe and healthy manner.

The following group leaders have made the program possible for the 2023-24 program year: Linda and Wayne Adamson, Betty and Mike Creighton, Charmaine D'Souza (new leader), Eleanor and David Huggins, Patricia Jennings, Katy Jensen and Stan Ward (new leader), Jeanne and Bill Malicki (new leaders), Judy and Bob Olson, Linda and Bill Silva, Jo Tetlow (new leader), Carol Weichert and Ellen Wakefield (new leader), and Fran and Maureen Wright (new leaders). MANY THANKS for both returning and new group leaders!

Hospitality

Jo Tetlow and Babs Mersereau

The Hospitality Committee was newly formed mid-year 2023 with Babs Mersereau and Jo Tetlow, as Co-Chairs. The purpose of the Hospitality Committee is to organize and provide food and drink for major events at St. Anne's Church, and for any other event or activity requested by leadership. Karen Davis, who previously was in charge of the hospitality functions, is a member of the committee as is Ariel Biddle. Other members of St. Anne's have volunteered to help with certain events, but we hope to add additional permanent members to the committee in 2024.

Budget for the Hospitality Committee was \$3,000 in 2023 and same for 2024.

The committee supported two main events in the Fall 2023:

1. Fall Potluck - this event was successfully held in the vestibule of the church with many voluntary contributions of food and drink from St. Anne's members. The committee purchased finger sandwiches and fruit from Grauls.

Budget Cost: \$ 401.88

2. Bishop Sutton's Farewell - this event was successfully held in the vestibule of the church with many voluntary contributions of food from St. Anne's members. The committee purchased a cake from Grauls.

Budget Cost: \$ 35.99

The Hospitality Committee seeks to be economical with budgetary funds and avoid waste and unnecessary spending. While budgetary funds will be used for events, expenditures may be reduced by soliciting voluntary contributions from St. Anne's members, as appropriate.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

The Rev. Kathy Shahinian

St. Anne's Invite Welcome Connect is the ministry of belonging. Connection helps guests and long-time members answer these questions: Where do I fit in? Can I make friends in this church? Is there room for me relationally? Can I find a place to belong and serve?

St. Anne's Best practices for implementing Invite Welcome Connect culture are:

- Welcoming all
- Promoting inclusiveness
- Discerning ministry opportunities
- Evangelizing the Good News

We are grateful for the group of volunteers responsible for arranging fellowship after the 10:00 service, and special events.

Jo Tetlow, Babs Mersereau (Team Leaders)

Marilyn Beavers, Elisabeth Berry, Ariel Biddle, Bob Biddle, Petey Cosby, Karen Davis, Hutchey Doley, Kevin Hayes, Babs Mersereau, Holly Test, Jo Tetlow

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Kathy+

IWC Bridge Group

Jo Tetlow

The monthly IWC Bridge Group got underway in May 2023 led by Jo Tetlow with the able assistance and support of Lutie Rayhart. As part of the Invite, Welcome, and Connect (IWC) ministry, IWC Bridge Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the home of Lutie Rayhart. It has been a blessing in the lives of all participants. The monthly bridge play begins with a spiritual reflection about playing bridge and Christianity. For example, "acceptance" or "being content in all things" as St. Paul reminds us, is a major part of bridge: accepting the cards you have been dealt (whether it is less than 6 points or small slam potential) and in life is an enduring lesson. Also, as with life, bridge is inexhaustible providing opportunities for continued mental and emotional growth.

In the intervening weeks between the monthly bridge play, members have been playing at Jo Tetlow's place. This has created another "bridge" to formation of friendships and community around the common goal of learning about and playing bridge.

Our IWC Bridge Group is at least 10 members strong, including members who do not regularly attend St. Anne's. Beginners are welcome. IWC Bridge has no budget. I pray IWC Bridge Group will continue to strengthen existing friendships and forge new ones in 2024. ♠️♥️♦️♣️

Outreach Ministries

Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT)

Sharon McElfish

ACT is an affiliate of the Industrial Area Foundation (IAF), 501(C)3 non-profit launched in October 2018 in Anne Arundel County, a non-partisan, multi-faith organization comprised of 26 houses of worship and civic groups. It was founded in 1940. The Light House Shelter is a member. IAF affiliate organizations are in Howard, Montgomery, and Baltimore Counties, in many parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe.

ACT develops systemic change; it is NOT about fixing or service. ACT empowers people to help themselves by building relational power through 1:1 listening campaigns and working together in teams for common ACTions.

ACT moves St. Anne's beyond the circle to enlarge the circle.

Backpack Buddies

Townsend McNitt (Townsendmcnitt@gmail.com)

Lori Marchant (Lorimarchant2011@gmail.com)

Madeleine Hughes (Madeleine617@gmail.com)

The Backpack Buddies ministry is now in its thirteenth year serving students at Annapolis Elementary School (AES). This ministry, which began in December, 2011, was started by St. Anne's parishioners and volunteers from other local churches and the community to meet the needs of students likely to go without food when school was not in session. During this school year, we are serving 69 children in 50 families.

This is a very popular program at AES. We are told that students begin asking for this program on the first day of school and permission slips are always turned in immediately. We are so grateful for the strong partnership we have with the school and the PTA. Our volunteers are in the school every week throughout the year and we are blessed to be a vital part of the AES family.

We are fortunate to know many of these children and their families through our work in the Clay Street community and our involvement with the Stanton Center Homework Club. The children often tell us how important the food is to them and their families. Many of the children served come from single parent families who struggle to make ends meet. The weekly backpacks meet the nutritional needs of the children during the weekend and help ensure that they come to school on Monday able to learn.

At Thanksgiving, Backpack Buddies partnered once again with the St. Anne's Winter Gear Program which gave every child in the Backpack Buddies program a winter coat, fleece or winter boots, as well as a book and flash cards. Families were also given groceries for their holiday meal and a grocery gift card. It was a joy to serve the Backpack families with warm outerwear and food. We also gave families groceries for their Christmas meal and a gift card. The parents tell us how grateful they are for the food we provide each week, as well as the holiday meals and grocery gift cards we provide at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

As they have for the last 12 years, St. Anne's volunteers make this ministry possible. We currently have 10 active St. Anne's volunteers, several of whom have volunteered with us since the beginning of the program. We are so grateful for the faithful partnership we have had with St. Anne's and its parishioners.

Our goal for 2024 is to continue serving the children and families at Annapolis Elementary School who are struggling with food insecurity. We hope to continue our strong partnership with AES and to continue providing needed food and winter clothing to our precious friends.

Back to School Backpack Program

Howard Buskirk and Mary Greczyn

In 2023, St. Anne's continued our successful collaboration with PASA to help Annapolis students, ranging from pre-kindergarten to 5th grade, start a school year prepared with much-needed classroom supplies. Families from PASA and St. Anne's together collectively filled 135 backpacks for students at Annapolis Elementary, Eastport Elementary and Germantown Elementary Schools.

PASA families took on a total of 45 backpacks to support students at Germantown Elementary. St. Anne's families contributed 90 backpacks for AES and Eastport Elementary filled with notebooks, folders, pens and an array of other vital learning materials. Volunteers from St. Anne's staffed tables following Sunday worship services to distribute the name tags, collected and stored the filled bags upon return and delivered the donations to Annapolis Elementary and Eastport Elementary in late August. PASA families distributed name tags and worked to fill and collect the bags for a delivery to Germantown Elementary before the start of the school year. St. Anne's and PASA volunteers make this ministry possible. We are so grateful for the faithful partnership between St. Anne's and PASA for the participants who donate and serve as volunteers.

The program continued a "hybrid" approach of distributing name tags of students by grade and supply lists both "in-person" (following worship services in July 2023) and "virtually" (upon e-mail requests).

Many of the students served by the backpack program are part of other outreach activities that take place at St. Anne's as part of engagement with the Clay Street Community and the Stanton Center, including the Homework Club/Get Smart Club, which assists children mainly from AES. Volunteers from St. Anne's also work with students at Germantown Elementary as part of the Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR) program. This marks the first time that Eastport Elementary has been included in the St. Anne's/PASA effort. Parish volunteers that make this program possible include Bill and Jeanne Malicki, Sharon McElfish, Townsend McNitt, Howard Buskirk, Mary Greczyn and Karen Davis.

Cemetery and Environmental Committee

Ginger DeLuca, Chair and Linda Adamson, Co-chair

We are pleased to report that our work to improve St. Anne's Cemetery has seen some very positive developments this year. Grass cutting was contracted to a firm which did a great job and gave the cemetery an overall well-tended look. The Cemetery Stewards team reported every Thursday morning to plant, mulch, cut and weed all of our gardens as well as to remove English Ivy from trees, bushes and gravestones. As the weather cooled, the team concentrated on cleaning lichen-covered gravestones. We also had much-needed help from the Peggy Stewart Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who volunteered to clean gravestones in the Spring and again in the Fall. The newly-formed volunteer group, Save Our Trees, came out on April 8 to help with removing ivy from our trees that run along Rowe Boulevard. If anyone would like to join our little team, we would love to have you. Just email Ginger DeLuca at virginiacdeluca@gmail.com. We are also pleased to report that Heidler Plumbing Company installed four new waterlines at strategic locations throughout both cemeteries. This was extremely helpful when Ben Hair and his team installed a pollinator garden for his Eagle Scout project in a corner of the lower cemetery that was nothing but weeds. It is now a lovely flower-filled asset to our cemetery.

Early in the year, the Executive Board of our Vestry authorized signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the nonprofit, Nature Sacred (formerly known as the Stoner Foundation) to design a Garden of Remembrance next to

our new Scatter Garden. At last year's Annual Meeting, we distributed surveys to our parishioners and, based on your responses, the Nature Sacred team conducted a charrette at the Stanton Center on September 25. Thirty-six people attended from both our church and the Clay Street communities. Based on the input that they received, their landscape architects are now creating two designs, which they will be presenting to our congregation at a forum in late winter or early spring. Our long-awaited columbarium is anticipated to be part of this design and construction of the Garden of Remembrance should begin this spring with your support. A first columbarium unit will be built once the gardens are in place.

As an outgrowth of the Garden of Remembrance project, a small group of Cemeterians have taken on the task of transcribing the hand-written sexton's journals of the 1800's so that names can be entered into a database of those who are buried in our cemetery and cross-referenced with the names on our gravestones. Through this effort, we are hoping to identify those who have no acknowledgement on existing stones and find ways honor them in our garden.

Finally, with all the positive news of 2023, we must acknowledge that there remain some challenges. Vandals have knocked down several headstones and a drunk trucker drove half-way around the West Terrace moving and damaging several headstones and cracking family plot markers. His insurance has covered the cost of repairing the damage and we have been assured that they will be put right soon. We are also dealing with a poorly constructed mausoleum in Cedar Bluff from the 1960s that has begun to fall apart. This will be a challenge for us in the new year. We are also still awaiting a legal title for the oldest part of our cemetery, without which we cannot apply for much-needed grant money to repair the gatehouse and perimeter brick wall as well as other future projects. When the title is in hand, we trust that we will be able to fund the necessary work.

Family Cooking at The Light House

Dave and Heather Strang

Family Cooking for the Lighthouse Shelter is a group comprised of individuals and families from St. Anne's who prepare and deliver dinner for the Shelter on the third Monday of every month. The group includes families, friends, and neighbors, all working together as one!

Our community began twenty years ago with parents and young children enjoying the cooking and preparation together in the Parish House kitchen. In those early years, meals were then delivered by car, still warm, to residents at the Lighthouse Shelter's first dedicated building on West Street. As many as could gathered once a month to support this new ministry, which also involved serving the residents and cleaning up after the meal. When the current Lighthouse facility was completed, our group grew into a community of parents, teens, young children, singles, friends, and grandparents, cooking onsite at the Shelter on Hudson Street. The larger space allowed for more people to contribute and continue the joyful and loving efforts of family cooking and serving family. All ages were welcome! Each meal served at Hudson Street would begin with a large circle gathering for prayer. We would then all sit down to dinner.

Several years prior to the pandemic, while cooking still occurred at the facility on Hudson Street, the Shelter changed the age policy and limited the age of our younger cooks to 11 or older. This greatly limited the onsite participation for many families. It also limited the foundational experience for the children. Then, with the onset of the pandemic, the Shelter required that all cooking be done off site and delivered. This year, in order to recreate the gathering experience and to include all ages, we are exploring the option of returning to the Parish House for the meal preparation. We would love to hear from you if you would like more information about this ministry.

The group is coordinated by Dave and Heather Strang. Contact the Strangs at dsstrang@outlook.com to find out how to help. This year we were blessed to include fourteen families, individuals, and households in our group, including all ages: middle and high schoolers, and families with young children beginning to participate in the younger years. Each month we create a menu and share the cooking: one home taking the protein, another the vegetable, etc. From time to time, we drop off breakfast items and Christmas cookies. We always need help,

whether in small or large part. We usually cook in our homes on the Sunday before the third Monday and deliver the next day.

Friends of Stanton Center Youth Program

Townsend McNitt

Friends of Stanton Center Youth Programs (FSC) received their first grant from St. Anne's in 2020. FSC was founded in 2015 to support the vital youth programs offered by the Stanton Community Center. We support 40 students at the Stanton Center during the year and provide up to 55 camp scholarships for those in need. Participating children are between the ages of 3-17. The youth programs offered by the Stanton Center provide much needed after school and weekend activities for the children who live in the Clay Street neighborhood. Through the support of FSC, scholarships are provided to the Annapolis Parks and Recreation Department's full-day, 6-week summer camp. FSCYP also supports educational and enrichment programs offered at the Stanton Center, including the Homework Club, Girl Scouts, Teen Club, woodworking and cooking classes, Friday nights out, reading programs, and recreational opportunities. FSCYP provides food and party supplies during the holidays and occasional summer gatherings as well. During the summer months, the City's full day summer camp provides field trips, reading programs, swimming, boating and art, as well as breakfast and lunch.

The Stanton Center programs supported by FSC are staffed by volunteers from St. Anne's throughout the school year and at the summer camp. In 2023, we had 15 volunteers from St. Anne's who made this important work possible. We are so grateful for the generosity and faithful support of St. Anne's and its parishioners.

Our goals for 2024 are to continue to support the Homework Club, as well as the other programs offered for the youth, financially, strategically and with volunteers. We will also continue to work with Stanton to plan, host and provide scholarships for an excellent summer camp.

Iron Rosary

Mary-Sophia Smith (202-213-5325; marysophiasmith@yahoo.com)

Ariel Biddle (410-570-4296; Ahbiddle98@gmail.com)

Six people are involved in maintaining the Iron Rosary. The Ministry team functions without a schedule or work assignments. The members of the team contribute time and creative input as and when they are led by spirit, and this has worked beautifully - there is a wonderful spirit of love, cooperation and caring fellowship within the team. The ministry team most communicates by email, phone, and text, but gathered for team lunches twice in 2022, once in the spring and once in the fall. This was a great opportunity for fellowship and sharing.

Team members check prayer drop boxes several times a week, laminate and place prayers, and keep the project clean and tidy. Special projects have kept the Iron Rosary fresh and interesting.

Advent 2021: The Ministry Launch was blessed and 20 large "Seed Prayers" selected by Clergy and team were placed on the fence. A prayer table was hosted during the Annapolis Midnight Madness Event. Cookies were served, and prayers were laminated on-the-spot so passersby could tie their prayers on the fence.

Valentine's Day 2022: Heart-shaped prayers made by school children on the theme of "Love/Love One Another" were prayerfully placed on the fence.

May Day 2022: Colorful prayers on the theme of "Joy and Rejoicing" were tied on the fence and 40 small flower arrangements were placed around the fence. Due to favorable weather, and the materials used, the flowers remained fresh and stayed on the fence for weeks. A prayer-making table was hosted at the spring Women's retreat and also outdoors by the front door of the Church on May Day. A basket of prayers was blessed at the Sunday service, and the prayers were offered to the Congregation to tie on the fence.

July 4th 2022: Clergy and Congregation were invited to contribute prayers and inspired words on the theme of "Freedom and Prayers for Our Country". The fence with 40 large prayers as well as red, white and blue ribbons, were trimmed weekly to keep them fresh for several weeks.

Advent 2022: A prayer table was a last-minute addition to the Advent Wreath making party in the Parish Hall on the first Sunday of Advent. The Clergy and Congregation were invited to contribute prayers, scripture, and inspired words on the theme "Fruits of the Spirit". Large Prayer cards were hung around the fence following this theme. An outdoor prayer table was planned for the evening of December 15th to coincide with the Midnight Madness festival in Annapolis, but was cancelled at the last minute due to weather.

As the first year wound up, we noted an increase in the number of prayers. The fence looks full on all sides, and the indoor prayer basket at the back of the church is starting to receive prayers, in addition to the prayers received in the outdoor box.

Impact is hard to measure. Prayers are not tracked, and participation comes from the entire community. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive. The Ministry team sees people pausing to read the prayers, and often take photos of them. Many people have commented that they want to take the idea home to their churches. In at least one case, the project has brought a new member to the congregation. At the Women's Retreat, a new member told her story about seeing the prayers tied on the fence when she walked through Annapolis in a snowstorm, and how this led her to St Anne's. Many people have said that they were comforted by having a place to leave a prayer for a sick loved one, or for other concerns.

Other ministries of the church have been invited to hang prayers on the Rosary, and some have expressed interest, but it has not materialized yet. The Clay Street children would like to participate, and we have offered to do a special project for them when they are ready.

Ministry plans for 2023 are to continue to love one another; serving the community and the congregation in a flexible way, as we are led by the holy spirit.

Naomi's Village Partnership with St. Anne's

Lori Marchant

Our partnership with Naomi's Village was established in 2020 after fifteen months of relationship building with our friends and founders Bob and Julie Mendonsa of Naomi's Village, who have lived and worked full time in Kenya for the past eighteen years. In 2019, they made two visits to St. Anne's to share the inspiring story of their life's work with orphans and the generationally poor in rural Kenya. Naomi's Village is a Kenyan children's home, preschool and K-12 academy holistically serving children in the Great Rift Valley. At present, 560 children are served and 230 Kenyan staff are employed through this rapidly growing ministry. Their mission is to provide all that is necessary, for every child served, at every age, so they will grow up to be world-changers. They are raising the children to be change agents who will help bring an end to Kenya's generational poverty crisis and systemic corruption by equipping its children for compassionate and courageous leadership. Twenty-six St. Anne's community members have been directly involved in demonstrating their love and support through child sponsorships for 42 children at LEAP Preschool and Cornerstone Academy; one-time financial donations; mission gifts; mission volunteers to Kenya; and hands -on support for the ministry through awareness building at St. Anne's.

With thanks to the St. Anne's Outreach Committee, Naomi's Village received a \$5,000 grant in March of 2023. The funds are being used to sponsor AntonyNjoroge (age 8), grade 2, and Hellen Wangui (age 12), grade 4, both of whom are students at Cornerstone. As of their new school year in January 2024 these two students have matriculated to grades 3 and 5, respectively. Several of us met the children and their families in August 2021. They are thriving academically, mentally, spiritually, and physically, and are an absolute joy to be around. Our church's

relationships with Antony and Hellen create a rich opportunity for the people of St. Anne's to pray by name for their wellbeing and for them to know how much God loves them. These sponsorships open the door to building a personal relationship with them through letter writing, encouraging them in school and in their spiritual development, and praying for each of them and their families. Not only do Antony and Hellen receive an outstanding education, Christian formation and spiritual care, and leadership skills development, but they also receive 12 nutritious meals and snacks each week, comprehensive medical care, transportation, uniforms, and other forms of community-based support for their families. For more information on them and their families, reach out to our ministry team.

The Naomi's Village Ministry team gathers several times a year to plan awareness events, as well as pray for the children, their families, the Kenyan led staff plus additional stateside employees, and five overseas Christian missionaries, including the Mendonsas, who work and live full time in Kenya. Our ministry team includes Brie Lang, Kimberly Jillson, Janice Jobson, Julie Peterson, Caroline Purdy, Lesly Bell, Townsend McNitt, and Lori Marchant.

Through the children's Home, LEAP Preschool, Cornerstone Academy (K-12), MTOTO (mothers and babies ages 0-2), and community development programs for all the school families, they serve 330 families, 92 school-aged children and 3 babies from the Home, and 13 graduates who attend university. In total: 230 Kenyan employees, 560 children (cradle to university), and 333 community families!

In November 2022 St. Anne's and our wider Annapolis community gathered to pray and walk in spirit with the children. We met at the Bates Middle School track on a cold Saturday morning the week before Thanksgiving to support Antony and Hellen and the other children and staff in Kenya a week before they would be competing in a 5K run. The children at Cornerstone Academy, LEAP Preschool, and staff from the children's home and schools trained to participate through trail running on the mountain behind the school and/or walking their beautiful new track at Cornerstone-all to raise awareness and funds for the Naomi's Village ministries. In 2023 we had a good turnout for this 2nd annual event. In just over an hour this group collectively walked/ran 56 miles/90 kilometers/224 laps. We look forward to offering it again in 2024.

The ministry hosted its third annual sponsorship drive in October 2023, which coincided with a visit from Naomi's Village Founder Julie Mendonsa and Volunteer Coordinator Maddie Millsap. After our sponsorship Sundays series nine additional children are being sponsored. There are many ways to support this active ministry. For more information, please visit the Naomi's village website: www.naomisvillage.org and contact Lori Marchant at lorimarchant2011@gmail.com or (443) 994-5858.

Outreach (Grants) Committee

Judy Guy, Chair

The Outreach Grants Committee solicits, reviews, and selectively approves grant applications for up to \$5000 from organizations and ministries that seek to build understanding, help those in need, and expand a message of love in the world. Preference is given to organizations meeting needs locally and with involvement of St. Anne's parishioners.

In 2023 the Vestry allocated \$45,000 for grants.

The money was distributed as follows:

Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center	\$5000
Backpack Buddies	\$4000
CHERA	\$5000
Maryland Hall/Creating Communities	\$3000

Naomi's Village	\$4992
Seeds 4 Success	\$2500
Friends of the Stanton Center	\$4000
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$5000
Chase Home	\$5000
Annapolis Area Imagination Library	\$5000
St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute	\$1508
Total	\$45000

In addition, the Outreach Grants Committee reviews applications for ministries that are funded through designated funds administered by St. Anne's. The committee approved the following fund distributions in 2023:

Ministry	Funding Source	2023 Amount
The Lighthouse Shelter	Virginia Meredith Trust	\$30,000
St. Luke's Food Pantry	Virginia Meredith Trust	\$5000
STAIR	LaBrot Trust	\$5000
Winter Relief	Virginia Meredith Trust	\$2300

Committee members in 2023 were: Judy Guy, Ann Carlson, Petey Cosby, Mary Greczyn, Scott Gregory, Janet Oakley, Elizabeth Rogers, and Ed Simon. The Rev. Dr. Manoj Zacharia served as Clergy Representative.

A new committee will continue this work in 2024. We are always looking for applications from other organizations that meet our criteria.

Partners in Mission in Guatemala (PIMIG)

Kev Hays, Chair; Linda and Wayne Adamson and Mary Purnell Hearing, Executive Committee

This three-decades-long partnership between St. Anne's Parish and eight Mayan communities in the rural highlands of Guatemala focuses work on the communities' top priorities: education and health. The work is carried out in country by:

- The Administration and Finance Committee: Diego Morales T'ian, Chair; José Ricardo Morales Calel, Victor Nicolas Morales, and María Lidia Chicoj Salvador, all alums of St. Anne's scholarship program
- Rev. Dr. Roberto Armas, MD, an Episcopal Rector and medical doctor
- Mario Alquejay Larios, founder of a private English Academy in Chimaltenango

In 2023, the program provided the following support through the leadership and amazing work of these individuals:

Education

- School supplies for 100+ elementary students and additional support for the school
 - Supplies for students in each grade level are purchased and organized for individual students by members of Dr. Armas' congregation
- Scholarships for 13 junior high and 16 high school students (in Guatemala, free public education ends with 6th grade)
 - Scholarship funds are administered by the Administration and Finance Committee, who also monitor academic progress
 - The number of students who applied and qualified for high school scholarships quadrupled between 2022 and 2023 (great news!)
- Weekly English class for 3 dozen secondary students and young adults

- Classes are conducted by Mario and colleagues from his English Academy
- This program is enhanced by ongoing donations in memory of a beloved youth team member, Finn Trommer of Placerville, CO

Health

- Seven training sessions for midwives and health volunteers, updating skills, providing equipment such as birthing kits, and monitoring health conditions in the communities
- Dr. Armas sees patients of trainees and consults by phone between training sessions
- Dr. Armas and a colleague conduct a 2-day clinic annually to provide direct care and assess overall health conditions of the eight partner communities
- Installation of 65 latrines as part of a multi-year commitment to meet the urgent need for sanitary, maintainable facilities for families. About 160 latrines have been installed to date, funded by direct donations by St. Anne's parishioners.

This year's annual mission trip included a new St. Anne's mission traveler, The Rev. Dr. Manoj M. Zacharia! Fr. Manoj brought fresh perspective and innovative ideas to the discussion. His presence also emphasized to the villagers how important they are to us; they received Manoj+ with reverence, respect and great joy! Ever-changing economic conditions and political unrest are increasing the rural population's desperation; they are helping us envision new opportunities for the future. The most desperate need currently is access to sustainable, potable water. The partnership is strategically planning next steps, including initiating a well project to harvest fresh water from deep, mountainous water tables.

The 2024 trip is already being planned! We welcome your interest in learning more about this life-changing partnership ministry. Please contact Kev Hays (kashays84@gmail.com), Linda Adamson (LSAdamson1@gmail.com) or Wayne Adamson (wayneladamson@gmail.com).

Truth and Reconciliation Ministry

Anne Dierdorff Thomas (alfdt75@gmail.com), Frances Burke (horace721h@gmail.com), Katie Burke (burkekc04@gmail.com), Co-Chairs

The Truth & Reconciliation Ministry meets monthly via Zoom (all are welcome!), and continues its documentary research into the history of St. Anne's with respect to the institution of chattel slavery in Maryland and St. Anne's historic relationship with the parish of St. Philip's. Ministry members who act as liaisons to other St. Anne's groups (Cemetery Committee, Vestry) and community endeavors (ACT, the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative) continue to enrich the scope of our work. Usual meeting attendance is about ten people, but we also have a mailing list of roughly 40 people who stay updated on the ministry's work. We hope to continue to expand our sphere of conversation into the larger congregation in 2024.

In April of 2023 the Truth & Reconciliation Ministry spoke at the Adult Forum on the topic of St. Anne's reconciliation with its own past. The ministry's presentation grounded this work in biblical calls to reconciliation and encouraged a lively small group discussion of various questions that have been central to the ministry's work. Sample questions included:

1. What kind of responsibility do the members of a church have regarding the church's history? If reconciliation with that history is needed, what should it look like?
2. Is there a difference in the process for reconciliation between individuals and reconciliation between communities? Is there a need for reconciliation within our own congregation? Is there a need for reconciliation with specific communities outside of our congregation?
3. How do we at St. Anne's view our own church community with respect to racial reconciliation? Do we know how others outside of St. Anne's view us? Is there a difference between how we see ourselves and how others see us? If so, what would that mean?

4. If we, as a congregation, choose to be more intentional about racial reconciliation, what specific steps within the congregation and within our surrounding community should we take to move us along that path?

In 2022 members of the Truth & Reconciliation Ministry consolidated much of the ministry's research into proposed language for two plaques acknowledging St. Anne's history with the institution of chattel slavery. This language was finalized in May 2022 and examined and endorsed by the Vestry later that year. In May 2023 the rector convened a panel of parishioners to organize congregational listening sessions to discuss the plaques. Members of the Truth & Reconciliation Ministry have spent considerable time during the summer and fall supporting this group with the ministry's research and recommendations as the group prepares to hold the listening sessions.

Truth & Reconciliation Ministry members' ongoing relationship with the St. Philip's Anti-Racism ministry produced in 2022 a new organization, the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative. This group consists of representatives from many Annapolis/Anne Arundel County faith organizations, and is dedicated to facilitating the process of racial reconciliation in our county. During 2023 the RRC hosted two speaker events (a panel discussion on the state of racial relations in Anne Arundel County in April and a workshop with the One America group on the topic of toxic polarization in June), a series of Community Conversations on Race, and a leadership summit for county-wide groups engaged in a variety of social justice issues followed by a Fall Festival for the community. Members of the Truth & Reconciliation Ministry both helped to plan and attended all of these events.

The Get Smart Homework Club Ministry

Sharon McElfish

For over 20 years, St. Anne's has collaborated with the Stanton Community Center to provide an after-school educational program on Mondays- Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 PM.

Initially, we provided homework assistance. Currently, assigning homework to elementary students in AACPS is optional and rarely assigned. Therefore, our volunteers support students by reading books from our great library and acquiring basic math skills. Additionally, we strive to build 1:1 relationships with our children.

We are blessed to have faithful volunteers from St. Anne's, St. Mary's High School, Severn High School, Calvary United Methodist Church, the Bay Area Community Church, the Annapolis Police Department, and our Annapolitan neighbors. Since volunteers serve one day per week, we continue to need additional volunteers.

We strive to be an encouraging presence in each child's life, as there are many opportunities to share and model the foundation of God's love.

The Light House/Food Pantry

Nancy Greeley

When the Light House opened up on West Street in the 1990s, St. Anne's was the first church/organization to commit to providing a monthly dinner for the residents (guests) at the Light House. A group of adults, organized by Nancy Greeley, has been preparing dinner once a month ever since. In 2002, a second group consisting of parents and children began providing a meal once a month. The family group is organized by Dave and Heather Strang (see the Family Ministry at The Light House Shelter report). The adult group, cooks the meal for the first Wednesday of every month. A menu is broken down into parts with different parishioners providing part of the main course, vegetable, salad, dessert, drinks, etc. During 2023 26 different parishioners took part, including one high school student, in providing 12 complete meals. The family group cooks for the third Monday. Two families provide the main dish with others adding side dishes. For a year during the COVID pandemic, both groups provided a dinner twice a month.

The Light House runs a food pantry open to any member of the community in need. Since the pandemic it has been available to the public once a week. (Before the pandemic it was open on weekdays.) Different participating churches of the Annapolis Area Ministries had a month to help restock the pantry. In 1996 we started collecting in October but in 1998 we switched to September. We have been collecting in September since then. Even during the pandemic, when church was not meeting in house, we had a drive through collection in the church driveway. We missed collecting food in 2023 but will return to collecting in 2024 in September or October. We did have some money collected in previous years which is being spent on items for the pantry. In 2024 we will again be collecting food for the pantry.

Winter Relief

Steve Esmacher

The Winter Relief Program, managed by the Arundel House of Hope (AHOH), traditionally provides a homeless shelter during the cold winter months to those in Anne Arundel County who are without means to afford safe housing. Fresh-cooked meals for breakfast and dinner and a hearty bag lunch are also provided to Winter Relief guests each day.

In 2023, over 60 churches participated in the program on a rotating basis, each one hosting the shelter at their facility for one week at a time. It takes more than 100 volunteers from each church to make this all happen successfully each week.

We again worked with First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis in hosting 14 men in need of food and shelter from February 13 through February 20, 2023. This is fewer than the 30 or so men we typically host due to some remaining Covid based restrictions that affected cot spacing.

We raised over \$5,000 during our very successful Christmas card sales fundraiser in December 2022. This money was donated directly to AHOH to provide transportation, shelter and doctors' visits, among other services, for their clients. AHOH sent us a very nice letter expressing their gratitude.

We have sufficient funding left over from the 2023 St. Anne's grant to cover estimated expenses for 2024 so we did not submit a grant request for 2024.

In 2024 we'll be back to hosting 30 guests from February 12th through February 19th now that Covid restrictions are no longer needed. Please be on the lookout for the sign-up link to volunteer that week. Much help is needed.

Pastoral and Health Ministries

The Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton (443-808-1361 or ohilton@stannes-annapolis.org)

As Assistant Rector for Pastoral Care at St. Anne's, it is my profound privilege to focus my energies on the care of souls. I am grateful for the kindness, compassion, and care provided by parishioners -- to each other and to those who hold weddings, funerals, and memorial services in our sanctuary. In addition to these more visible ministries, St. Anne's is blessed to have such lay-led ministries are the Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina group and the Women's Bible Study group. This community truly strives to be Christ's hands and feet and heart to all whom we encounter.

I am pleased to report that we achieved all of the goals laid out in the 2022 Annual Report -- holding a four-part series of funeral/end-of-life planning workshops in October 2023; revitalizing the Lay Eucharistic Ministers program and commissioning six Lay Eucharistic Ministers in Fall 2023; and ascertaining that interest remains in the congregation to continue the Prayerful Knitting Ministry (formerly known as the Prayer Shawl Ministry).

Special Services

Seventeen funerals/memorial services and six weddings were held at St. Anne's over the past year. As with the 2022 program year, funerals and memorial services ranged from long-time parishioners to people/families who feel historically connected to St. Anne's to strangers from other parts of the country seeking a beautiful, supportive church in which to honor and remember their loved one. Several of the weddings were for parishioners or parishioners' adult children. These services are only made possible by the many volunteers from the congregation who time and again rearrange their schedules to prioritize serving, in particular the indefatigable Paul Pope and the intrepid members of the altar and flower guilds.

The Longest Night Service, a special healing service for those for whom 'the holiday season' can be lonely and painful, was held on December 21, 2023 (the Winter Solstice). It was livestreamed for the second year in a row (48 virtually, 29 in-person). As with the 2022 service, online participation was greater than in-person attendance, understandable given the time of year, the evening service time, and the very nature of the liturgy. It is important to offer such services for those who face challenges and struggles in life which – in the final analysis – is really all of us.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

St. Anne's now has six new Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) – three were commissioned during Bishop Sutton's October 2023 Visitation and three at a November 2023 Tuesday healing Holy Eucharist service. Local potter Doug Saadi created the vessels for six travel communion kits, which were blessed at these services and presented to the new LEMs. The group has enthusiastically embraced this new ministry, visiting and connecting with parishioners in the hospital, in rehab centers, and at home.

Prayerful Knitting Ministry

We have recently revitalized this ministry, which had understandably fallen dormant during the pandemic. Half a dozen parishioners responded to the call in our bulletin and online communications for volunteers to join the Prayerful Knitting group. This newly-reconvened ministry held its first organizational meeting in January 2024. The group looks forward to supporting St. Anne's pastoral care ministry by lovingly and prayerfully creating white baptismal baby blankets and colorful prayer shawls for parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, or in rehab/continuing care centers.

Prayer Chain

This important confidential prayer ministry operates in tandem with the public prayer list that appears in the Sunday bulletin and is used at all Tuesday healing Holy Eucharist services and weekday Evening Prayer services. Lay leader Adela Rose, along with the clergy, are the points of contact for those from St. Anne's who would like prayers from their parish community for their medical needs and personal concerns, but in a private rather than a public manner.

Stephen Ministry

Dino Mattessich
Stephen Leaders Team Coordinator

Ministry Background and History

The Stephen Ministries is a non-profit Christian education organization founded in 1975. It is an internationally recognized program headquartered in Saint Louis, Missouri. A staff of about 40 people provide support to congregation Stephen Ministry programs worldwide via a formal education and training system. Stephen Ministers are laypeople who receive extensive Christian- based caregiver training. They provide high-quality one-to-one Christ centered care to individuals experiencing crisis or life challenges such as grief, loneliness, divorce, chronic illness, hospitalization, disabilities, job lose, financial difficulties, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. Each Stephen Minister has one care receiver and typically meets once a week. The care giving relationship may last a year or more. Stephen Ministers maintain their training through semi-monthly Continuing Education and Supervision meetings. The program is directed by a Stephen Leader Team that meets once a month.

The Stephen Ministry program at St. Anne’s was established in 2010. The initial class of Ministers completed their training and provided services to care receivers in 2013.

In 2023, Stephen Ministry completed its 10th year in operation and reports the following:

- 1) The Reverend Dr. Olivia Hilton is the Clergy Coordinator on the Leadership Team which is assigned Coordinator Roles as recommended by the Stephen Ministry System. In 2023, the roles were assigned as follows:
 - a. Clergy Coordinator – Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton
 - b. Team Coordinator - Dino Mattessich
 - c. Communications Coordinator – Janice Jobson
 - d. Training Coordinator – Janice Jobson
 - e. Continuing Education Coordinator – Hutchey Doley
 - f. Referrals Coordinator for Men – Hearon Dickson
 - g. Referrals Coordinator for Women – Patricia Jennings
 - h. Supervision Coordinator – Rev. John Smith and Sue Smith
- 2) The Leadership Team continues to publicize the below mission statement and uses it to guide the activities of the Ministry.

St. Anne’s Episcopal Church – Stephen Ministry
“Stephen Ministers are Christ’s Hands and Heart caring for hurting people”
Mission Statement
The Stephen Ministry at St. Anne’s Episcopal Church provides high-quality, one-on-one Christian care to individuals facing a variety of crises or life challenges.
Vision Statement
To further develop a Stephen Ministry program that will continue to enhance St. Anne’s efforts for outreach and help to people in need.

- 3) The 2023 year started with 11 active Stephen Ministers. Sharon McElfish and Beverly Lowe retired later in the year. The Leadership Team gratefully acknowledges their years of service to Stephen Ministry.
- 4) Of the 9 remaining Stephen Ministers, 6 serve also serve as Stephen Leaders.
- 5) In 2023, services were provided to 6 care receivers.

- 6) The last Stephen Minister training took place in 2020 and the Leadership Team is actively recruiting 3-4 SM's to prepare for the next training the next class which will hopefully take place in 2024.
- 7) The Leadership Team continues to explore ways to identify potential care receivers. The Team continues to inform individuals and groups about the services offered by Stephen Ministry and asks them to confidentially identify people who may need emotional and spiritual care. The Referral Coordinators are trained to follow up with the potential care receiver.

Questions regarding the Stephen Ministry program or the referral of potential care receivers can be directed to: Clergy Coordinator – Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton (443) 808-1366, Referral Coordinators: For females Patricia Jennings (203) 313-4665 and for males Hearon Dickson (929) 270-1683.

Preschool for the Arts at St. Anne's (PASA)

Katrina Stewart, Interim Director

PASA offers an Episcopal-based, early childhood educational program that celebrates and fosters a love for the creative arts. The school represents a faith-based community dedicated to nurturing the development of the whole child with an innovative pre-academic curriculum that inspires a love of learning through all things creative! PASA offers robust curricular morning programs and afternoon extended care for children ages 2-5 in an encouraging and supportive "first school" environment.

This is my first year as the Interim Director, however it's not my first year at PASA. I was a Lead 3's Teacher for over 7 years before I left briefly to be a director at a different Preschool. I was very excited when the offer was extended to come back to PASA this school year and I jumped at the chance to be a part of this amazing Preschool! So thankful to be a part of this amazing preschool and church.

The 2023-2024 school year opened just after Labor Day. 130 students are enrolled in the current school year. We continue to highlight learning through the arts. Along with traditional "homeroom" time, all students spent time each week in Art, Music, Movement, and Chapel. Children explored the art studio and the music room under the instruction of our art and music teachers. Art classes incorporated a wide array of media, from clay to paper maché to pastels and tempera paints. Students are exposed to a foundation in which they learn about master artists and a variety of techniques in creating art. Our music and movement classes incorporated song, dance, and instruments. Lastly, children explored their faith through Godly Play in our Chapel program where they learn about God's everlasting love for us! We have introduced some fun enrichment programs to families this year! We offered a Dinosaur Club in the fall that focused on different Dinosaurs each week for 8 weeks. We are currently offering a Space Camp; the children love blasting off and learning about the planets and stars. We will also be offering a Science Camp once Space Camp ends. It's been wonderful to offer these enrichments to extend our school days for the families who may need a longer school day for their children.

We extend deep gratitude to the faculty and staff as they continue to demonstrate their dedication to our school community. They have committed themselves to creating a safe environment for our students to play, laugh, learn and develop! We have added Preschool Sundays to our regular school year calendar to help create a strong bond between the Preschool and the church. PASA is also extremely grateful for the Parent Teacher Organization that supports the school through fundraising, scheduling enrichment opportunities for the students, and supporting our teachers. The PTO is helping to fund a new sensory room that we can then use for our current students during our regular school day. We are also going to begin offering play groups for people in our community with children under 2. We are very excited about offering this to the families in our community. The PTO is an integral part of the PASA community, and we are so grateful for all they assist us with each school year. Lastly, PASA thanks The Rev. Manoj Mathew Zacharia for his guidance and support.

PASA will again offer fun educational Summer Camps this summer and summer care for our younger students. We are also looking forward to working with Tempest, the Director of Children and Youth and making the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program accessible to our youngest students. We both feel this is a great need in our community and we are excited to work together to make this happen.

PASA is looking to fully enroll for the 2024-2025 school year and considering the potential for additional programs in the fall. We are adding a 5- day 2's program, an all-day 3's program that will run from 9-3 in addition to an all-day 4's program that will help our 4's with kindergarten readiness. We are excited to also offer some more enrichments that will help foster a love of learning in all our students. PASA continues to teach through developmentally appropriate practices, engaging curriculum, and of course, the arts! When children explore art, they learn to trust their ideas, foster their imaginations and build confidence in who they are!

Worship

Altar Guild

Judy Olson and Allison Hyland, Co-Chairs

The ministry of the Altar Guild at St. Anne's is the care and adornment of the Sanctuary to include:

- Preparing the altar for the Holy Eucharist and the cleansing of the sacred vessels afterward.
- Assisting with weddings, funerals and baptisms.
- Ordering and maintaining an adequate inventory of wafers, wine, candles and miscellaneous items.
- Arrangement of flowers and greenery
- Care of candles. Since we have converted to oil-based candles, this entails refilling the 12 altar candles and torches on a weekly basis.
- Changing the paraments as needed to comply with the colors for the liturgical seasons, special holy days and weddings and funerals.
- Polishing the silver and brass items.
- Weekly cleaning and ironing of the altar linens. Repair and replacement of linens as needed.
- An occasional "house cleaning".

As part of the worship team, the Altar Guild strives to assist the Rector and other clergy as they conduct the liturgies of the church. This was significant in 2023 with the growing attendance at all of the services at St. Anne's.

The Altar Guild is composed of more than 40 members. Through our work, we serve the clergy, administrative staff and all of the parishioners at St. Anne's. There are currently 3 Sunday services: 8:00am, 10:00am and 5:30pm. There is also a weekday healing service at 12:10pm on Tuesdays. Communion is offered at all the services, necessitating that Altar Guild members are involved. The in-person Sunday services offer wine as well as wafers, both by intinction and the common cup.

The majority of our members serve on one of 4 teams. These teams rotate on a weekly basis throughout the year. Coordinated by a team leader, the teams normally set up and clear for the Sunday services. In completing our tasks, the AG teams work closely with the designated Verger for each of the Sunday services. There is a separate team with a different team leader for the weekday service at 12:10 PM on Tuesdays, when communion is only offered by intinction.

Members of the Flower Guild are also included on each of the teams and have a separate leader. They order and arrange the flowers and/or greens to beautify St. Anne's on a weekly basis, and particularly at Christmas and Easter. The Flower Guild teams also consult closely with the clergy and family members to provide flower arrangements for weddings and funerals held at St. Anne's.

Allison Hyland and Judy Olson serve as Co-Chairs of the St. Anne's Altar Guild.

At the Altar Guild's Annual Meeting on October 30, Jane Chambers served as the Secretary and recorded the meeting minutes. Mimi Jones is Chair of the Flower Guild. In addition to the 4 teams mentioned above, there are working groups within the Altar Guild that care for candles, brass cleaning and linens under the guidance of separate leaders. Paul Pope is the Coordinator of weddings and funerals (Special Services). The Altar Guild provides support when Holy Communion is part of the funeral or wedding. The Altar Guild also continues to set up and clear for baptisms. In 2023, there were 14 baptisms, 6 weddings and 12 funerals in the church.

The Altar Guild makes a conscientious effort to minimize expenses and work within our budget. The generous memorial gifts at Christmas and Easter enable the Flower Guild to adorn the interior and exterior of St. Anne's with beautiful floral displays.

Deacons

The Rev. Kathy Shahinian

Thank you, St. Anne's, for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your Deacon. The following is a brief report for the year 2023 of the following ministries:

Winter Relief - This year, First Presbyterian, and St. Anne's provided meals, lodging and transportation to guests. For this year the theme for this ministry will be Back to the Future, scheduled for February 12-20, 2024. We will again be working with First Presbyterian Church, providing housing, meals, and transportation to 25 guests. Also, the children from St. Anne's and First Presbyterian will be preparing a meal or two!

Rainbow Group – In June, St. Anne's participated in the Annapolis Pride Parade and provided bottled water to participants from our festively decorated booth. In August, we hosted an after-church hospitality table, and then a brunch in November. Several meetings have been held to conduct elections and discuss participating again in the upcoming June 2024 Annapolis Pride Parade.

Also in June, the Rainbow Group participated with the New York Episcopal Diocese and Trinity Episcopal Wall Street Pride Parade in Manhattan, New York. We are also looking forward to scheduling a bus trip to participate again in the New York 2024 Pride Parade.

8:00 Hospitality Coffee – This Pilot program was instituted to encourage hospitality with folks after the 8:00 service. I was pleased that so many folks offered to bring goodies and help get the coffee set up.

New Visitor - Email contact has been made to new folks that have completed interest cards. I have been sending emails and reaching out to these individuals and encouraging them to continue to join us.

I have also had the opportunity to assist with the Advent Wreath project, a wonderful event in which both the kiddos and parents participate in making Advent Wreaths, writing letters to shut-ins, and making ornaments.

Finally, none of these ministries are possible without the amazing support from SOOOO many people. Thank you all, and I look forward to working with you again in 2024!

Gratefully,

Kathy+

Liturgy

The Rev. M. Dion Thompson

Our current schedule of Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. has worked well. Each service has its own, distinctive feel. Our 5:30 p.m. service features Brianna and Ryan Webster on acoustic guitar and vocals. Their presence and creative use of hymns brings a relaxed spirit to this service of Holy Communion.

We have brought some delightful additions to our worship. We now have a children's choir and members of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra performing with us on occasion. A special acoustic ensemble has also been added to our worship to help expand our musical repertoire. Attendance at our Evensong and Lessons and Carols services has also greatly increased.

A compliment goes out to Paul Pope and Mother Olivia, who have coordinated numerous weddings and funerals. Also, our various guilds and altar servers have done magnificent work on our special liturgies. Consider that we had five services on the Sunday of Advent IV/Christmas Eve with total attendance upwards of 1,700 people. And God was joyfully praised.

Fr. Dion, Fr. Manoj, Ernie Green and Larry Molinaro meet regularly to plan our worship and coordinate our offerings during the liturgical seasons. We are blessed to have such a dedicated, experienced team.

Music

J. Ernest Green, Music Director and Choirmaster

Music at St. Anne's continues to thrive. Our approach has been to create a hybrid program that involves musicians from St. Anne's and the community. This fall we ramped up these efforts to do two Evensong services that included musicians from St. Anne's, Live Arts along with soloists from the region. By the time this is published we will already be deep into rehearsals for the Bach "St. John Passion" which will be sung with a similar combination of musicians and will be shared on Good Friday evening (March 29).

Our team of musicians have also expanded on the work they do for our parish. Ryan and Bri continue to lead the Sunday evening services and occasionally Larry and I join them along with our Tech Director Draper Carter and Alec Green - to create the newly minted "Acoustic Ensemble." This group has also played for a couple of Sunday morning services and will expand on this during the new year.

Our youth music program has also grown with Kristin Pagent, Ken Kimble, Lindsay Espinosa, who are all bringing young people into the church to share some music on a monthly basis. Kari Shea is also putting music together with the Church Circle Consort. All of this means that we have established a new model for youth music in church settings.

The Senior Choir continues to provide the musical foundation for worship at services and is growing back to its pre-COVID numbers. We are looking for some new soloist/section leaders for the coming season.

Last, I would say that if you listen on any given Sunday, you will hear the work and creative energy of all of the staff, and participants of our music program. They are an incredibly dedicated group of people who come together week in and week out to enrich our worship together. It is one of the many things that I believe helps make St. Anne's a special place!

J. Ernest Green
Music Director and Choirmaster

The Daily Office of Evening Prayer

Madeleine Hughes, Daniel Sams

After transitioning entirely to a virtual service during the pandemic, we are happy to report that the lay-led Evening Prayer has gradually worked its way back to officially holding the service Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 5:30 in the church, with the Eucharist offered during Lent on Fridays. The service is once again on the list of services outside the church. Church Circle leaders made the jump to being scheduled in Realm last June, and it has been a success. Currently 20 leaders ranging in age from 19 to over 80 rotate leading the service in-person, with an average of five to seven people worshipping. Virtual Evening Prayer continues every weekday night, with links to join in the Worship section at stannes-annapolis.org. Some leaders lead only online, some only in church, and some alternate. The Summer Gathering was held for the first time since 2019 on June 18 with an evening picnic at the home of Madeleine and George Hughes and was attended by over 30 leaders and the clergy.

In addition to praying for those on the Parish Prayer List, Evening Prayer leaders observe the daily commemorations noted in the Church Year Guide, using our new 2022 Lesser Feasts and Fasts dedicated to the memory of our longtime general secretary, Jerry Chambers (1945-2020). We remember at the service those leaders who go on before us, with this year adding Ramsay Alexander Moran (1935-2023).

All are welcome at this service, including tourists and passers-by, and new leaders are always welcome. If you enjoy the camaraderie of an intimate service with ever-changing prayers and lessons and time for reflection, Evening Prayer may be the service you are looking for. In 2024 we will celebrate 37 years of Evening Prayer at St. Anne's Church

Treasurer Report

Glenn Mortoro, St. Anne's Treasurer

Stewardship

The Vestry established the target as 250 pledgers for a total of \$935,000 for 2023.

Per campaign: 255 Pledgers for \$807,413

Actual: 220 Pledgers for \$748,949

Actual to Pledge: A shortfall of \$58,464

2024

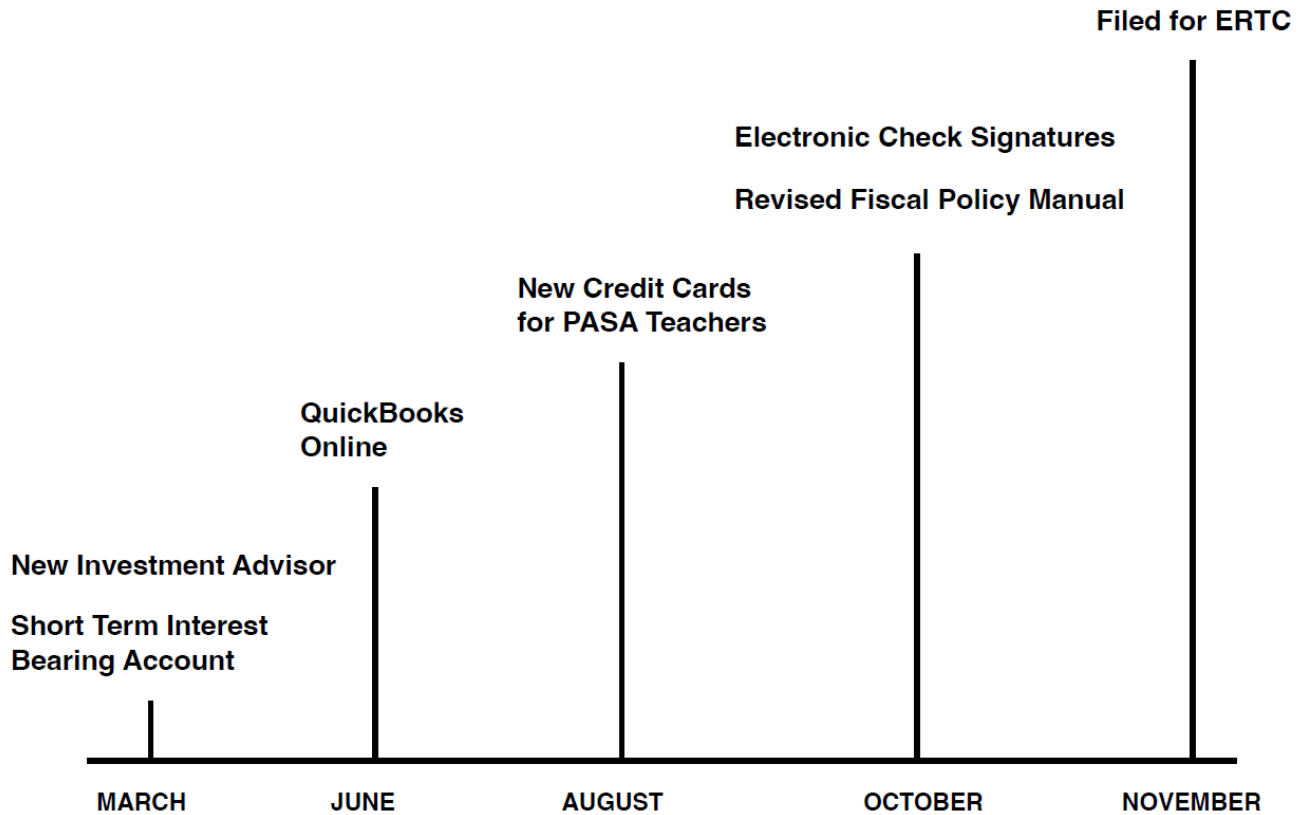
The Vestry established the target of 300 pledgers for a total of \$900,000 for 2024.

As of 1/19/2024, there are 249 pledgers (83%) for \$792,007 (88%).

Report of the Treasurer for Calendar Year 2023

Glenn Mortoro

FINANCIAL TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The year in review

■ Parish

- ◆ The Parish ended the year with a \$118K deficit
- ◆ The Parish budget was balanced by using a transfer of investment income
- ◆ The transfer of investment income was not taken because we had sufficient operating cash to cover the deficit
 - Income:
 - While giving by parishioners exceeded the budgeted amount, it wasn't enough to cover expenses
 - Expenses:
 - In line with the budgeted amount

■ Cemetery

- ◆ The Cemetery ended the year with a surplus of \$2.8K

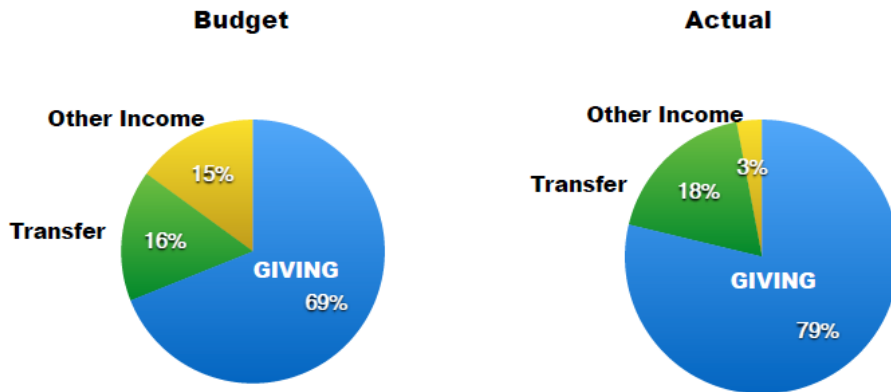
■ PASA

- ◆ PASA is about one half way through the 2023-2024 school year and is showing a positive net income of \$10K

■ Investment Income

- Endowment account had a net gain of 9.5% for the year
- The Operating investment account gained 17.5% for the year
- The Short Term Account gained 4.22% for the year

Operating Income

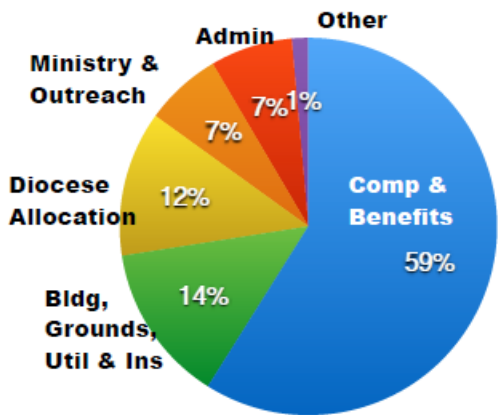


- **Parish Income Sources:**

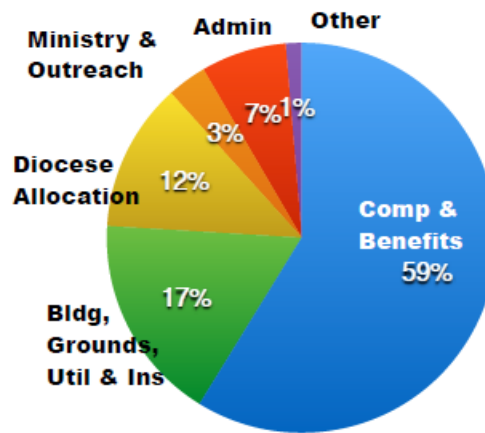
- **Our largest source of revenue comes from the generosity of those who financially give to St. Anne's**
- **Transfers include our annual 4.5% endowment draw, PASA rent**

Operating Expense

Budget



Actual

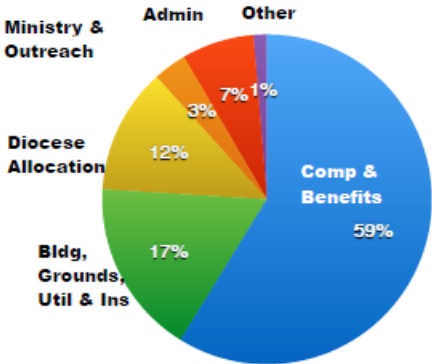


- Parish Expense Allocation:

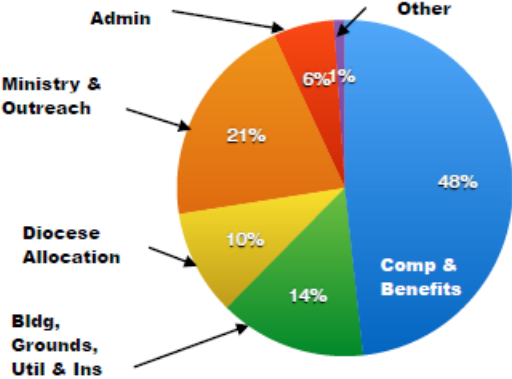
- Our largest expense is compensation and benefits for the staff
- Buildings, Grounds, Utilities and Insurance are the necessary expenses to maintain the Church and Parish House
- The Diocese Allocation is our obligation to the Diocese
- Administration expenses are essential to the daily operation of the church
- Ministry and Outreach expenses are what we do to support our expanded community

Ministry and Outreach

Operating Actual



Actual including restricted accounts and volunteered time



St. Anne's Parish
Profit & Loss; Budget vs Actual
January - December 2023
PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income			
41100 · Total Pledge	748,949	717,524	31,425
41200 · Non-Pledge	153,992	150,000	3,992
41300 · Back Pledges	11,671	22,000	-10,329
41400 · Plate	32,892	20,000	12,892
41500 · Other Gifts	7,492	0	7,492
41600 · Bequests	0	0	0
41700 · Restricted Donation	475	0	475
Total 41000 · Giving	955,471	909,524	45,947
Total 42000 · Investment Income	0	158,209	-158,209
Total 43000 · Other Income	36,525	39,500	-2,975
Total 49000 · Transfers	221,058	212,394	8,664
Total Income	1,213,054	1,319,627	-106,573
Expense			
Total 51000 · Compensation	644,569	653,000	-8,431
Total 52000 · Benefits	138,210	124,500	13,710
Total 55000 · Administrative Expenses	94,365	92,900	1,465
Total 57000 · Classroom Expenses	245	0	245
Total 58000 · Other School Expenses	250	0	250
Total 56000 · Clergy Expenses	11,314	11,000	314
Total 60000 · Buildings and Grounds	111,576	89,800	21,776
Total 61000 · Utilities	76,153	55,000	21,153
62000 · Insurance	41,137	34,498	6,639
63000 · Educ - Children	1,862	4,000	-2,138
64000 · Educ - Youth	1,282	1,000	282
Total 65000 · Educ - Adult	2,825	2,800	25
67000 · Ministry Expenses			
67120 · Evangelism	158	0	0
67230 · Stephen Ministry	924	5,000	-4,076
67220 · Pastoral Care	57	250	-193
67210 · Women's Ministry	0	250	-250
67100 · Acolytes	0	250	-250
67110 · Altar Supplies	1,932	1,600	332
67130 · Fellowship	3,305	2,000	1,305
67140 · Flowers	9,158	6,000	3,158
67150 · Choir/Music	14,774	16,500	-1,726
67155 · Planned Giving	0	1,000	-1,000
67160 · Stewardship	0	1,000	-1,000
67170 · Vestry Expenses	2,127	3,500	-1,373
67180 · Worship - Other	6,640	7,000	-360
67190 · Welcome	331	2,500	-2,169
67240 · Rainbow Ministry	3,769	5,000	-1,231
Total 67000 · Ministry Expenses	43,175	51,850	-8,675
70000 · Diocesan Allocation	164,279	164,279	0
Total 71000 · Outreach	579	35,000	-34,421
Total Expense	1,331,821	1,319,627	12,194
Net Income	-118,767	0	-118,767

St. Anne's Cemetery
Profit & Loss; Budget vs Actual
January - December 2023
PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Over/Under Budget	2024 Budget
Income				
Total 41000 - Giving	3,312	4,000	-688	3,000
47000 - Cemetery Fees				
47110 - Perpetual Care Fee	2,400	2,500	-100	2,500
47120 - Lot Sales	13,600	20,000	-6,400	15,000
47130 - Burials	33,750	28,000	5,750	31,000
47150 - Stone Survey	225	0	225	
Total 47000 - Cemetery Fees	49,975	50,500	-525	48,500
Total 49000 - Transfers	38,245	38,245	0	39,517
Total Income	91,532	92,745	-1,213	91,017
Expense				
Total 51000 - Compensation	41,964	40,364	1,600	32,750
Total 52000 - Benefits	4,798	5,675	-877	4,245
Total 55000 - Administrative Expenses	944	1,500	-556	6,000
Total 60000 - Buildings and Grounds	39,864	43,000	-3,136	45,500
Total 61000 - Utilities	1,173	1,500	-327	1,800
Total Expense	88,743	92,039	-3,296	90,295
Net Income	2,789	706	2,083	722

St. Anne's PASA
Profit & Loss; Budget vs Actual
August - December 2023
PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

	Aug - Dec 23	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income			
Total 45000 - Preschool Tuition	257,037	259,842	-2,805
Total 45500 - Preschool Material Fees	24,848	27,140	-2,292
Total 46000 - Preschool Other Income	55,610	25,272	30,338
Total 49000 - Transfers	-36,250	-36,250	0
Total Income	301,245	276,004	25,241
Expense			
Total 51000 - Compensation	218,603	163,088	55,515
Total 52000 - Benefits	15,271	12,836	2,435
Total 55000 - Administrative Expenses	11,958	5,625	6,333
Total 57000 - Classroom Expenses	14,553	15,333	-780
Total 58000 - Other School Expenses	12,709	10,163	2,546
Total 60000 - Buildings and Grounds	18,132	8,417	9,715
Total Expense	291,226	215,462	75,764
Net Income	10,019	60,542	-50,523

St. Anne's Parish
Consolidated Balance Sheet
As of December 2023
PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Total Current Assets	7,869,277
Total Fixed Assets	1,809,839
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>9,679,116</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities	<u>157,336</u>
Long Term Liabilities	0
27500 · Endowment Restricted Accounts	
27510 · Altar Guild	17,453
27520 · St. Anne's Cemetery	920,352
27525 · Church Circle Fund	28,553
27527 · Cooper Memorial	14,399
27530 · E. Hunt Fund	83,539
27540 · General Endowment Fund	3,017,578
27545 · Harrison Sayre Fund	17,857
27550 · Hopkins Trust	111,994
27555 · Housing Endowment	148,359
27560 · Labrot Trust	189,788
27565 · Lay Retirement Trust	0
27568 · Lewis Fund	590,124
27570 · Good Samaritan Fund	14,338
27590 · Z. Brown Fund	67,431
27591 · Parish Nurse	18,442
Total 27500 · Endowment Restricted Accounts	<u>5,240,208</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>5,240,208</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>5,397,544</u>
Equity	
Total Equity	4,281,573
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>9,679,116</u>

St. Anne's Parish
2024 Budget
2023 Actuals January - December 2023
PRELIMINARY AND UNAUDITED

	2023 Jan - Dec	2024 Budget
Income		
41100 · Total Pledge	748,949	850,000
41200 · Non-Pledge	153,992	135,000
41300 · Back Pledges	11,671	14,000
41400 · Plate	32,892	24,000
41500 · Other Gifts	7,492	5,000
41600 · Bequests	0	0
41700 · Restricted Donation	475	0
Total 41000 · Giving	955,471	1,028,000
Total 42000 · Investment Income	0	116,864
Total 43000 · Other Income	36,525	33,500
Total 49000 · Transfers	221,058	216,566
Total Income	1,213,054	1,394,930
Expense		
Total 51000 · Compensation	644,569	680,000
Total 52000 · Benefits	138,210	162,804
Total 55000 · Administrative Expenses	94,365	104,400
Total 56000 · Clergy Expenses	11,314	11,000
Total 57000 · Classroom Expenses	495	600
Total 60000 · Buildings and Grounds	111,576	98,250
Total 61000 · Utilities	76,153	75,000
62000 · Insurance	41,137	50,000
63000 · Educ - Children	1,862	2,100
64000 · Educ - Youth	1,282	2,000
Total 65000 · Educ - Adult	2,825	1,900
67000 · Ministry Expenses		
67120 · Evangelism	158	
67230 · Stephen Ministry	924	1,000
67220 · Pastoral Care	57	200
67210 · Women's Ministry	0	0
67100 · Acolytes	0	0
67110 · Altar Supplies	1,932	1,800
67130 · Fellowship	3,305	3,000
67140 · Flowers	9,158	8,000
67150 · Choir/Music	14,774	20,500
67155 · Planned Giving	0	1,800
67160 · Stewardship	0	0
67170 · Vestry Expenses	2,127	2,500
67180 · Worship - Other	6,640	6,500
67190 · Welcome	331	2,500
67240 · Rainbow Ministry	3,769	5,000
Total 67000 · Ministry Expenses	43,175	52,800
70000 · Diocesan Allocation	164,279	154,076
Total 71000 · Outreach	579	0
Total Expense	1,331,821	1,394,930
Net Income	-118,767	0

