St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Report

2021

Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting,
January 30, 2022, 10:00 am
Parish Hall

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Annual Parish Meeting: January 30, 2022

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – The Rev. Jimmy Grace
3. Sr. Warden Report - Dianne Yeomans
4. 2021 Stewardship Campaign – Bruce Banta-Guevara
5. 2022 Budget - Greg Caudell
8. Gratitude and Appreciation
   a. Outgoing Vestry Members – John Alexander and Dianne Yeomans
   b. Senior Warden 2021 – Dianne Yeomans
   c. Junior Warden 2021 - Adrienne Allie
   d. Altar Guild Chair 2021 – Susan Kelly
   Ben Gibbs, Deb Perl, Jennifer Perry, Eric Reed,
10. Adjournment

Oath of Conformity

“"I am persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; and I accede to the Doctrine, Discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church”.

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Rector’s Report

Dear Friends,

There is a scene in “Star Trek: The Next Generation” when Captain Picard orders a damage report following an enemy attack on the Enterprise. Earlier this year I saw a meme playing on this part of the show, which encapsulates how many of us may have felt during Covid:

As we look back to 2021, there were certainly moments when the above meme was apropos for our time. Ongoing variants of Covid along with an unimaginable freeze in February introduced unprecedented stress upon our parish family.

As you will see in the Jr. Warden’s report, the freeze caused considerable damage to our building, including a part of the parish hall ceiling, the entire parish hall floor, and several rooms on the first floor of our building. All the necessary repairs were made, and the church’s insurance was able to cover most of the repair costs.

The Oak Table Room was repainted and refloored. The electrical panels were inspected and cleaned.

I am tremendously grateful to Adrienne Allie who very capably served as Jr. Warden during 2021, and who was on sight regularly during the repair process. We also took the time to
assess our electrical wiring, and all our electrical components are (as of this writing) in good working order.

This past year saw several staffing changes at St. Andrew’s as we bid farewell to our Curate, the Rev. Bradley Varnell. Bradley was a fine curate and is a gifted priest and Christ Church Cathedral is truly fortunate to have him on staff. We, too, are fortunate to have the Rev. Clint Brown as our Associate Rector for Youth & Adult Formation. Clint is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, and it is a joy to have a colleague on staff here who attended the same seminary as I. He seamlessly has inserted himself into the parish, and I look forward to sharing a fruitful ministry with him.

An appropriate street for two clergy.

Also, in terms of staffing, St. Andrew’s is also fortunate that the Rev. Jeff Bohanski was assigned to St. Andrew’s by Bishop Doyle. Jeff’s ordination last year (just before the freeze) was a celebratory moment in our parish’s life, and we are fortunate to have him and his wisdom in our presence. Jeff works full-time as a schoolteacher and is non-stipendiary at St. Andrew’s. His ministry exemplifies a true servant’s heart. Speaking of service, St. Andrew’s also benefits from the expertise and gifts of The Rev. Canon Joann Saylors and The Rev. Francene Young. Canon Saylors serves as the Canon for Mission Amplification for the Diocese of Texas, and Rev. Young serves as Dean of Administration for the Iona School for Ministry. They both are present at St. Andrew’s regularly, and theirs is a ministry of service and grace. I am grateful to them.

Bishop Monterroso ordained Jeff to the Priesthood on February 14, 2021.

We have a great group of clergy at St. Andrew’s!
There are three milestones we travelled past as a parish in 2021.

**Milestone #1 – St. Andrew’s Garden**
What is now a thriving garden that generates fresh produce for the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry and The Beacon, just one year ago was a vacant lot. Under the direction of Susan Kelly and other resolute volunteers a garden grew from an idea to a possibility. Countless donors gave of their time, talent, and treasure to create the garden. It was later dedicated and blessed to the service of God.

These wonderful people – and many, many more – helped make St. Andrew’s Parish Garden have a successful start in 2021.

**Milestone #2: Transition to four in-person services and re-engagement of in-person activities**
Last year -thankfully- saw a return to more in-person parish activities, including the Blessing of the Animals and Blessing of Backpacks. Additionally, we moved from having only two in-person services at the beginning of 2021 to having four in-person services by the end of the year. These events and services are all a work in progress, and we are not yet back to where we were attendance wise before the pandemic, but we are making strong headway and I am very pleased with how many parishioners and visitors we are now seeing.

Ice cream and blessing backpacks were a good summertime combination. For the first time in almost two years our staff was able to enjoy lunch together.
Milestone #3: Planning for our Future

As our freeze-related repairs were drawing to a close, a Vestry member asked me what sort of plan was in place to insure the long term viability and health of the congregation. I told this person there wasn’t one currently. Upon further conversation, I invited this Vestry member and a few other members of our Vestry to discern with me what such a plan might look like. Many subsequent conversations led to the feasibility study that we are now in the process of wrapping up at the close of January. I hope that by now you have in some way participated in it—whether you were interviewed in person, on line, or through a survey. However you participated – thank you! Your participation means that your voice was heard as we consider some important questions for our congregation as we move into 2022.

I will conclude this year’s report with a word about our past. In 1989, the Episcopal Church Women’s Chapter at St. Andrew’s framed a series of pastel drawings of our beautiful stained glass windows by former parishioner, Gil Gilpin. Gil was a faithful member of St. Andrew’s for over thirty years until his death in 1977. While the pastel drawings were beautiful, after thirty years, the frames they were in had fallen into disrepair. I am pleased to say that all of Gil’s pastels have been rematted and reframed in the beautiful new frames you see in the picture below. They will soon be hung in our building and will offer a fitting reminder of our beautiful stained glass for all to see. To me, the reframing of these pastels signifies a commitment to this church’s past with a desire to preserve it for the next generation. This is very much the thinking that underlies our feasibility work. I am grateful to serve in this, my eighth year as your rector, and I look forward to our continual growth together.

God’s Peace,

The Rev. James M.L. Grace, Rector

Sunday, January 30, 2022
# St. Andrew’s Parish Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>95/143*</td>
<td>184*</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Attendance</td>
<td>175/279**</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>476</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve Attendance</td>
<td>240/351**</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>489</td>
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<td>Sunday Services</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>179</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Confirmations/Reception/Reaffirm</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Membership at Year End***</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>419</td>
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<td>Total Pledge Amount Received</td>
<td>$553,403</td>
<td>$533,385</td>
<td>$439,413</td>
<td>$436,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Pledges Received</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes Average Sunday Attendance through Sunday, March 8. Per Bishop Doyle’s direction, all churches in the Diocese were closed to in-person worship due to COVID-19.

** Includes both in-person and online participants.

***Denotes active baptized members.
Senior Warden’s Report

St Andrew’s ended 2020 with great plans for 2021. We had learned how to worship together virtually to be safe from Covid. We met a robust budget, and had a strong Vestry, and great committees ready to serve. It was going to be a “normal” year of ministry and service.

And then it was Valentine’s Day, the day of the Great Freeze… We were grateful to have friends and relatives who had generators; and we “hunkered down” around fireplaces. I doubt many of us escaped this disaster without some damage to our property. And St. Andrew’s was certainly no exception. The Parish Hall and several classrooms disastrously flooded when pipes in the ceiling froze. You can read the details of our Property Committee’s incredible response in their report.

Adrienne Allie was the perfect Junior Warden for this time! She coordinated clean-up, found a great contractor, worked hand in hand with St Andrew’s School to relocate classrooms, dealt with the insurance company, and generally earned her Angels’ Wings. Adrienne and her team are the reason we now have a wonderfully renovated and improved Parish Hall; truly turning disaster into good.

Doug Pecore and the Finance Committee made sure that we managed and spent the insurance funds appropriately and worked closely with the Property Committee to fund not only these repairs, but other necessary improvements throughout the year. They challenged us with an aggressive budget for 2022 of $645,000 which became our Pledge goal. The budget was based on retaining our wonderful staff, maintaining, and improving our historic property, and continuing to serve our community.

I must admit that I was intimidated by the Pledge goal. It was significantly higher than that of 2020, and we were still in “covid time”. But with the support of each of you, and with the work of an exceptional Stewardship Committee led by Bruce Banta, St Andrews people pledged $730,000! The 2021 stewardship moto was “Serve One Another as Stewards of God’s Grace”. How very appropriate for the people of this wonderful parish.

We closed the years focused on our future. It is so powerful to watch St Andrews “grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”. (2 Peter 3:18). It has been a true honor to serve as your Senior Warden with a Vestry made of people so committed to this parish. St. Andrew’s is such a dynamic community of Christ, and I am so proud to be a part of it.

God’s peace,

Dianne Yeomans, djtyeomans@gmail.com
Junior Warden’s / Property Committee Report

On Feb. 18, 2021, the church building and St. Andrew’s house both suffered broken pipes due to the unusually cold weather that week. Exposed pipes under St. Andrew’s house split in several places. The exposed pipes were all replaced with insulated piping and the whole system was pressure tested to insure there were no leaks.

In the church building, an uninsulated copper pipe in the rafters at the north end of Parish Hall burst, flooding the Parish Hall and leaking into downstairs spaces including the T1 classroom, Oak Table room and adjacent hallways and closets. Reid Renovation was hired to undertake remediation of the damaged spaces. Water-damaged drywall and flooring was removed and new insulated pipe was installed in ceiling. During this phase, it was discovered that some of the structural beams on the north end of Parish Hall were sagging and had to be replaced.

Once remediation was done, Reid Renovation was hired to reconstruct walls and ceilings, install new flooring and repaint all the spaces. During this phase, the church and school took advantage of the ongoing repairs to replace all the flooring in the downstairs classrooms, the Alms room, and the 3 sacristy rooms. Repainting was done throughout all these areas as well. The entire project was finally completed on Aug. 6, 2021 and we are very grateful for the patience of the parishioners and the school staff during this process.

In June, the 3-panel main breaker for all the HVAC systems located in the Electrical Room was evaluated and preventive maintenance done. Thanks to David and Mary Rennie for funding this project as well as a corollary project to evaluate the 10 additional breaker panels located throughout the church building.

In June, the parish garden located on the empty lot adjacent to the parking lot was cleared and raised garden beds built. A late summer crop including tomatoes, okra and pole beans was planted in August and September and harvested through October and November.

In September, the committee began compiling a comprehensive list of projects, repairs, maintenance and desired upgrades for the entire St. Andrew’s physical plant. A prioritization matrix was built to use as a tool to accurately prioritize projects under consideration. This list was shared with the Vestry and is intended to be used by the committee moving forward.

In November, all stained glass windows (except the Rose Window) were inspected and found to be and without issues.

In December, a diseased live oak tree in front of the church had to be removed because it could not be saved. The contractor very graciously chopped the trunk into logs for use by the Men of St. Andrews, and the branches were shredded for mulch for the Parish Garden.

Many thanks to the members of the committee: Felix Abrams, Michael Mergens, David Rennie, Steve Runner, and Kirsti Val Verde for their hard work and commitment. Special thanks to the dynamic duo of Michael and David who undertook many small (and some not so small!) projects throughout the year including rebuilding the back stairs of St. Andrew’s house, trimming the trees along Heights Blvd, repairing a church kneeler and troubleshooting electrical issues.

Thanks also to Catherine Runner who began attending meetings in the second half of the year in order to be able to take over as Junior Warden as seamlessly as possible.

Submitted by Adrienne Allie, adrienneallie@gmail.com, Junior Warden, 2020-2021
Stewardship Report

1 Peter 4:10

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

The Apostle Peter (in the scripture 1 Peter 4:10) calls upon us to be “faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Our Stewardship theme for 2022 was based off this verse in 1 Peter and was entitled “Serve One Another as Stewards of God’s Grace.”

Recognizing that all that we have first belonged to God and was given to us by His grace, alone, the parishioners of St. Andrew’s generously and faithfully gave a portion back to Him through this year’s Stewardship Campaign.

This year’s Stewardship Campaign highlighted four specific budgetary needs for 2022:

a) A cost-of-living wage increase for the Staff and Clergy (as one was not given in 2021)
b) Support and growth of the St. Andrew’s Music Program through the formation of the St. Andrew’s Choral Scholars
c) Continued support and development of the Community Garden
d) Increased hours for a full time Sexton to ensure safe and sanitary church spaces

The 2022 Stewardship Committee was composed of an exceptional team of parishioners and vestry members who included: Bruce Banta-Guevara (Chairman) Spencer Vosko (Assistant Chairman), David Webber, Richard Parr, Dianne Yeomans, Doug Pecore, Dianne Yeomans, and Jimmy Grace (Rector).

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Banta-Guevara, banta.bruc@gmail.com

2022 Results

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Pledged:</td>
<td>$731,443</td>
<td>(2022 Goal was $645,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Pledges:</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>(compared to 128 in the 2021 Campaign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Pledge:</td>
<td>$5,584</td>
<td>(compared to $4,390 in the 2021 Campaign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Goal:</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you to the following parishioners for their thoughtful and courageous 2022 pledge to St Andrews:

Felix Abrams
Adrienne Allie & Clarke Bean
Ken & Patti Anderle
Linda Andrews
Joel & Karen Ballard
Dan & Lynn Barnes
Kipp & Henry Baxter
Allison Bell
Patty Benoit
Bruce & Jeffrey Berry
John & Jan Bloom
DeAnna & Michael Bosch
Clint Brown
Gary & Diana Burton
Gregory & Brooke Caudell
Don & Rosina Chevalier
Carrie Conti
Stephen & Sandi Davis
Liz Dennis
Mary & Sami Eyuboglu
Jerry & Martha Gallagher
Charles & Debbie Gibbs
Bill Gilbert & Pat Caver
Jimmy & Marla Grace
Rex Hall
Paul & Laurie Hardwick
Cathey Harrison
Owen Hehmeyer & Abigail Go
Stephen & Michelle Hitt
Terri Hoever
Frank & Jeanne Ingraham
Michael Jeffers & Monica Canalizo
Heather Johnson & Mark Warren
Mason Jones
Susan & Warren Kelly
John Lanier
John Levett
Pam Lewis
Lyman Maddox
Cindy Marsh
Lucy Matte
Stephen McCormick
Devon Moore & Lisa Moore

John & Julie Alexander
Ed Amash & Sue Walsmley-Amash
Eddie Andrade & Gene Westphal
Cheryl & PJ Arendt-Ford
Bruce & Oscar Banta-Guevara
David Barnett
Greg & Izzy Bayles
Jack & Delaney Bellinger
Stephanie Beranek
Curtiss & Dorothy Blankenship
Jeff Bohanski
Andrew Bowden & Jose Baroja
Priscilla Burroughs
Cydney & Walt Cameron
Marilyn Chambers
Paul & Peach Choules
Steve Darby & Richard Parr
Bob DeCesare & Sam Hsu
Alan & Lynette Edwards
Laurie Fondren
Ben & Megan Gibbs
Melanie & Steve Gideon
Elizabeth Gleason
Nancy Greenwood
Denise Hansen & Jim Rodriguez
Paige Sullivan Harle
Charles & Jaclyn Harrison
Todd Hiers & Dee Jurilla
Elspeth & Jad Hixon
John Ibanez & John William Grothues
Alli Jarrett & Karin Farquhar
Kay Lynn & Stacy Jenkins
Harry & Amy Johnston
Olivia Jordan & Kim Ogg
Sharon Klander
Dea Larson & Alvin Thomas
Julie Lewis
Vinnie Lusk
Richard & Mia Magness
SWayne & Sonny Mathis
Jack & Elizabeth McCormick
Michael & Laura Mergens
Gary & Sarrah Moseley
Scott Newby
Robin Page
Megan & Ben Parks
Douglas & Paige Pecore
Jennifer Perry
Anthony Pryor & James Chapman
Susan & Richard Quarles
Eric Reed
Patrick & Brianne Richardson
David Riley
Bryan & Dana Robinson
Steven & Catherine Runner
Rick Saylors
Erin Sing
Arthur & Susana Smith
John Stephenson
Michael & Kim Sullivan
Kirstie Valverde
Naomi Villarreal & Johnny Almendarez
David & Janna Webber
Peta Williams
Keri & Brian Wittppen
Dianne Yeomans

Margo Ornelas
Androniki Papazoglakis
Betty Pecore
Deb Perl
Susan Peterson
Lisa Puccio
Cristen & Daniel Reat
David & Mary Rennie
Collin Ricklefs & Chad Meyer
Lynn Ringh
Antonio Rodriguez-Lopez & Dusya Vera
Rashmi & Capucine Saikia-Courault
Nancy & Shannon Simpson
Anne Sloan
Bruce & Gillian Steinhauer
Kevin Stevens
Andrew Tipton & Melia Da Silva Tipton
Debora Van Etten
Spencer & Gina Vosko
Stephanie Wells
Garrett Wingfield
Jennifer Wroe
Treasurer’s Report and Financials

I. 2021 Highpoints:
   A. Online Gifts: During 2021, 45% of revenue was collected electronically through OnRealm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Online</th>
<th>Monthly Avg $</th>
<th>Monthly Avg Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7,606</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>113,805</td>
<td>9,484</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>325,808</td>
<td>27,151</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>375,374</td>
<td>31,281</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   During 2021, 45% of revenue was collected electronically through OnRealm. Gifts made through OnRealm:

   - Make it to our bank more quickly.
   - Are posted immediately and electronically to your ledger.
   - Reduce risk by reducing the number of hands through which your gift must pass.

   B. Online BillPay: This year, we moved most vendor payments to online BillPay through our bank. This simplifies the process to obtain two signatures on physical checks while maintaining the control.

   a. Our bank’s online BillPay platform allows us to require two authorized signers to approve payments.

   b. Carrie to record bills to be paid in the bank system and uploads images of vendor invoices to the Finance Committee Group in OnRealm.

   c. Authorized signers can review the uploaded invoices and indicate approval of payment through the bank.

   C. Transfer funds to Active Investment Management: During 2021, we moved funds from bank savings accounts to Actively Managed investment accounts with the Diocese:

   a. Property Maintenance Fund:

      i. We added $75k from savings to this previously established account.

      ii. Total value at 12/31/2021 was approximately $234k.

   b. Auxiliary Fund: We moved $154k to a new Auxiliary account with the diocese.

   D. Paid off loan from restricted funds:

   a. The loan from the Property Maintenance fund was $59k at the beginning of the year. We paid off $29k plus 5% interest on the balance during 2021. The remaining $30k has been paid off in January of 2022.

   b. The loan from the Organ & Music fund was $5.3k at the beginning of the year. This was paid off in full with 5% interest in December.
E. **Pledges:** Over the last few years, pledges have maintained or increased over the prior year. The 2022 Pledge campaign was remarkably successful. Thank you and congratulate yourselves.

![Pledge Commitments Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge $</td>
<td>490.7</td>
<td>574.3</td>
<td>566.8</td>
<td>731.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledge Units</td>
<td>134.0</td>
<td>152.0</td>
<td>129.0</td>
<td>131.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

F. **Historical Revenue & Budget:** Over the last few years, revenue has increased each year over the prior.

![Revenue Budget v Actual Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>577.0</td>
<td>717.0</td>
<td>667.4</td>
<td>911.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>610.3</td>
<td>717.2</td>
<td>830.6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. **2022 Budget:**

A. **Revenue:**
   1. Pledge Revenue budgeted at 92% of pledges.
   2. Typically, we budget at 95% of pledges.
   3. More pledges came in after the budget was approved.

B. **Expenses:**
   1. Parish Events budget is higher because we expect more parish events.
   2. Compensation includes
      a. A two year raise for staff. They did not get a raise last year.
      b. Choral Scholars
      c. A full-time sexton.
   3. Contractor Expense includes cost of Sunday Sitters
   4. Office Expense includes cost of Audit and Capital Campaign feasibility study.
**Associate Rector’s Report**

I am feeling settled and very glad to be a part of St. Andrew’s. I am living in the Montrose neighborhood, not too far away. So far, I have not gotten out to do much exploring because of the pandemic, but no doubt that will change with the arrival of Cavan (my fiancé). I am happy to report that the long application process for his visa has been successful, and he will be arriving on March 14. That’s right around the corner! How grateful I am to have a community like St. Andrew’s to introduce him to. I know that you will embrace him wholeheartedly and help ease his way through the big changes that are coming and the inevitable culture shock. Stay tuned for details about the wedding!

The Rev. Clint Brown, cbrown@saecheights.org, Associate Rector for Youth and Adult Formation
St. Andrew’s Episcopal School

We are a faith-based Montessori school that educates and nurtures the whole child and family with love and respect.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal School (https://www.saesheights.org) is both an Episcopal and a Montessori school for children ages 1-6. This school year (2021-2022) marks the twenty-first year of operation.

Although an extension of the church, the school operates as a separate 501c3 and is governed by a nine-member board of trustees. The school bylaws state that the board of trustees is comprised of 60% church members and 40% others in the community, including parents of children in the school. Significant highlights this past year include:

- The school sustained significant damage from a broken pipe above the parish hall during the big freeze last February. Classroom materials, furniture, and the flooring was damaged beyond repair and had to be replaced. In addition, the school closed for the summer so that repairs could take place.

- Although the school’s fiscal year runs June – May, the budgeting process for the upcoming school year (2022-2023) will be completed by the end of February. The financial recovery from COVID (as well as the closure last summer) is going well; the school is once again at capacity and the waitlist is growing!

- SAES remains fully accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools, which means being held accountable to strict standards in the areas of finance, governance, the process of educating, administration, and our Episcopal Identity.

After an extensive search, I am very excited to share with you a letter that went out to the school community announcing Jamie Martin-Currie as the new Head of School beginning in mid-March. Please see the attached letter for details.

Submitted by Nancy Simpson, Head of School
nsimpson@saesheights.org
St. Andrew’s Episcopal School

Head of School Transition

January 5, 2022

Dear Parents, Families, and Friends of SAES,

Last April, after 9 years of dedicated service to the SAES Community, Head of School Nancy Simpson notified the Board of Trustees of her desire to transition out of her role and retire by the end of the school’s fiscal year (June-2022).

Following Nancy’s announcement, the Board formed a Search Committee to conduct the recruitment and hiring of our next Head of School. Current parent and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church parishioner Sandi Davis was selected to chair the seven person committee composed of both current and past SAES parents, as well as Church parishioners.

The search process commenced in May with a survey to the broader SAES Community (parents, teachers, Church parishioners, etc.) soliciting “input in describing our school and detailing the qualities necessary to maintain the nurturing and respectful community that has been built at SAES”. Survey responses were used to help the Committee focus its search and draft a Head of School Position Statement highlighting SAES’s Mission & Values, and outlining the role, responsibilities, opportunities, and challenges for prospective candidates.

In August the Position Statement was distributed to the SAES Community and posted with the school’s accrediting associations (Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools and National Association of Episcopal Schools) and the American Montessori Society. Applicants were screened in September and October followed by interviews of the top six candidates by all members of the Search Committee. After the interview process, the top three candidates were presented for final interviews with SAES teachers and faculty, Nancy Simpson and Reverend Jimmy Grace.

Following an extensive search process, I’m pleased to announce that the Board has approved the hiring of Jamie Martin-Currie as SAES’s next Head of School. Jamie’s educational background includes multiple degrees and certificates, including a B.A. in Theater and Communications, a M.S. in Early Childhood Education, and an Education for Ministry (EfM) certificate. Jamie’s professional background includes administration and management at schools and churches including the Rodeph Sholom School (New York, NY), St. Bartholomew’s (New York, NY) and St. Martin’s Episcopal in Houston. Her 9-year tenure at the Diocese of Texas included working with the Christian formation leaders at St. Andrew’s as well as all the churches in our Diocese. Jamie has also served as a consultant to the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign for Episcopal Relief & Development and has offered consulting services to
churches nationwide by leading a strategic process of reimagining ministries to build up capacity and think innovatively for the new normal.

Please join me in welcoming Jamie Martin-Currie to SAES!

Jamie is scheduled to start on March 1st and will undergo three weeks of on the job training with Nancy before officially transitioning into the Head of School role when students and faculty return from Spring Break on March 21st. We are planning a meeting in early March for Jamie to meet the SAES Community. Please stay tuned for more details.

Finally, we’d like to thank the entire Search Committee for the time and energy they invested into the Head of School search process. We’d also ask that you join us in thanking Nancy Simpon for her leadership and vision over the years, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Should you have questions regarding this announcement or the upcoming transition, please email nsimpan@saesheights.org.

Sincerely,

Nathan Yates
President
SAES Board of Trustees

Sandi Davis
Search Committee Chair
SAES Board of Trustees
Acolytes

Thanks to the work of my predecessor, The Rev. Bradley Varnell, the acolyte ministry expanded significantly during the past year. We currently have 11 young people supporting Sunday morning services, evening services, and special services as youth acolytes and thurifers. This year’s goal will be to increase that number by at least five and begin scheduling youth acolytes at the 9 am service in addition to the 11:15.

The Rev. Clint Brown, cbrown@saecheights.org, Associate Rector for Youth and Adult Formation

Alms Counters

Alms counters perform the following vital functions every Sunday following the last service:
• Accurate accounting of the plate offerings
• Prepare the Sunday bank deposit
• Record documentation to enable the Treasurer to credit parishioners’ pledge accounts and other donations, which enables St. Andrew’s to meet our ongoing financial obligations
• Time commitment is approximately 1 hour each month.

The following persons generously donated their time in 2021 to perform the alms counting duties:
• Linda Andrews
• Pat Caver
• Elizabeth Gleason
• Laurie Hardwick
• Margo Ornelas
• David Rennie
• Michael Bosch
• Martha Gallagher
• Deidre Grawl
• Sarrah Moseley
• Robin Page
• Mary Rennie

Many thanks to all of you for your time and service.

The time commitment is approximately 1 hour each month. If you are a member of St. Andrew’s, and would like to join our counting team, or learn more about the process, please contact:

Robin Page, crazycatlady729@att.net
**Altar Guild**

This past year has been a good year for the Altar Guild. We acquired two new members: Bryan Robinson and Gina Vosko. All the members have done wonderfully this year through good and not so easy times for the church. They are really dedicated in doing the “behind the scenes” work of preparing the altar.

I found out that we had funds to spend. For some time, we have needed a new Advent Wreath. With this news, Stephen and I ordered the new wreath which we had dedicated to Marianne Haynes for her service as Altar Guild Director for some 25 years. Additionally, Sarrah and Gary Mosley purchased an antique chalice and paten in memory of Chris Barker for Easter 2021.

Christine Barker served on the Altar Guild numerous times and was our church Treasurer. The intent of the chalice and paten is to be used for Christmas and Easter, two of Chris’s favorite services.

The chalice and the paten were purchased at Pilsbury Michael, purveyor of antique and estate silver, in Houston, Texas. The chalice was designed and made by the Gorham Silver Company of Providence, Rhode Island. The two pieces are dated to be around 1900. At that time Gorham had an Ecclesiastical Silver Department that designed and produced many exquisite silver piece for churches and synagogues. The chalice and paten are sterling silver plated with gold, this is a French process known as Vermeil, also known as “silver gilt”. The base of the chalice has six panels with ecclesiastical symbols in each panel. The paten is simple and compliments the chalice nicely. The bottom of the chalice has the original engraving from the former church where it was used in the Eucharistic Celebration, this was left in place to honor its provenance history. A hand engraved memorial inscription was added to honor Chris and to note the donor’s gift. These two pieces are a nice addition to St. Andrews current collection of exquisite Altar Silver. We are thankful to have these piece in our collection and thankful for the various ministries of Christine Barker at St. Andrews.

As always, we can use new members. If someone is interested in becoming an Altar Guild member, they may contact any person serving in this ministry.

Lisa Moore is the Altar Guild Director for 2022, contact her at lacddm@yahoo.com for information.

Submitted by Susan Kelly, suzzieq1971@gmail.com
Adult Christian Formation

We continue to feel our way towards “normal,” but there are quite a few ongoing adult formation offerings at St. Andrew’s if you would like to avail yourself of them.

- Episcopal 101 was offered in the fall and Bishop Fisher was on hand to confirm Andrew Bowden, Carolyn Jones, Paige Pecore, Dana Robinson, Bryan Robinson, and Jonathan Westerman, and receive Lara Arsola and Niki Papazoglakis. Congratulations!
- Bible Outside the Lectionary meets every Sunday at 10:15 am in the Oak Table Room. It is informal, conversational, and will work through the Bible book by book.
- Upcoming events include a Lenten series with potluck supper on Thursdays beginning at 6:30 pm.
- I will lead a study of Richard Holloway’s book *The Killing*, a series of meditations on the death of Christ. It is out of print and I am in the process of securing copyright/reprint permissions.
- Episcopal 101 will once again be offered for inquirers, new members, and adults seeking confirmation. Watch the calendar for when that will start.
- Men’s and Women’s Bible studies meet on Wednesday mornings via Zoom.
- The Spiritual Reading group, led by John Grothues and John Ibanez, continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom.

The Rev. Clint Brown, cbrown@saecheights.org, Associate Rector for Youth and Adult Formation

Children & Families

Due to Covi-19 concerns, Sunday morning in-person Sunday school classes did not resume on a regular basis in 2021. Alternatively, children and parents gathered on Zoom for regular chapel time and then outdoors periodically for special events such as All Saints Bingo and the St. Nicholas Day celebration. It is our hope to resume regular Sunday school classes in the spring of 2022.

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King
Celebrating 136 years of Prayer, Service and Evangelism

Background:
The Order of the Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Our membership currently includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. We don’t just enroll as members and attend meetings. After a three-month period of study and discernment, each new member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. Reaffirming the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service
and evangelism. She receives support in this commitment from a worldwide community of like-minded women.

The members of the Transfiguration Chapter of the Daughters of the King, St. Andrew’s Parish strive to live into this commitment through Parish prayers and service. We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month, at 3:30 p.m. In a confidential manner, the Daughters respond to ongoing as well as urgent prayer requests. The goal of every Daughter is to pray daily and lift up to the Lord the petitions of St. Andrew’s. For the Rule of Service, DOK group activities change each year.

In 2021 Service included: funeral receptions, Valentine’s candy and cards for the residents of Heights House and Heights Tower, an ordination reception for Rev. Jeff Bohanski, a farewell reception for Rev. Bradly Varnell, a welcome reception for Rev. Clint Brown and preparing stones as part of the Upstander Project at the Holocaust Peace Garden with the names, age and camp of children murdered during the Holocaust on one side and an art piece on the other side of the stone.

Looking forward to 2022, we have been blessed with the addition of the Rev. Clint Brown as Chaplain for our Chapter. He will provide spiritual guidance to our members on their journey to a life of prayer and service. Clint also plans to provide periodic programs at our meetings and assist with a spiritual retreat. DOK will be providing an outreach to both Heights House and Heights Tower during the Easter season. We will also host the Confirmation reception when Bishop Monterosso visits St. Andrew’s on August 14, 2022. We look forward to welcoming new members to DOK. We encourage the women of St. Andrew’s to join us on this journey. Please reach out to me, Clint or any of the Daughters (we wear the silver cross of the Order pictured below) if you have any questions or would like to attend a meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Cathey Harrison, Chapter President

Family Fridays

Family Fridays has had a modified schedule during Covid. We have had outdoor meetups for picnic dinners and hosted a family movie night in the parking lot of St. Andrew’s. We continue to thrive as a ministry to families with children and look forward to resuming a regular schedule when possible.

Family Fridays continues to serve St. Andrew’s families with children, meeting the first Friday of every month either in a parishioner’s home or at a local restaurant. We have strived to meet outdoors when possible, including a very fun outing to Preslee’s which has outdoor tables and a play area for kids!

Mary Eyuboglu, mary_eyuboglu@yahoo.com
**Flowers**

We had a good year at St. Andrews for the adorning of flowers to our Altar on Sundays, Easter and Christmas. The dedication to all of your loved ones is deeply appreciated. This year while emptying out the sacristy for church repair, I came across a couple of vases that were used years ago.

Per John Kirk, the flower vases were given on November 18, 1918 in honor of Pearl Edna Dexter. According to our church records, Pearl Dexter died on December 20, 1917 at the age of 45. She and her husband, Fred were founding members of St. Andrews. The church records show that Anne Marie Dexter was born to Fred and Pearl on December 20, 1917. Anne was baptized that same day, in St. Mary’s hospital. From this we can presume that Pearl died in childbirth and that the flower vases were dedicated for the one year anniversary of her untimely death.

Jimmy and I had a discussion on what we could do with the altar flowers after the services. It was decided that they go to the Heights House and Heights Tower weekly, for the residence to enjoy. They are very appreciative of the donation.

If someone is interested in helping with this ministry please contact Susan Kelly our St. Andrews flower chair.

Submitted by Susan Kelly, suzzieq1971@gmail.com

**Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry**

In 2021, St. Andrew's supported the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry, 3523 Beauchamp, as a member church. The parish pays annual membership dues (which comprise a portion of the Pantry budget) and the Pantry provides a wonderful volunteer and outreach opportunity for parishioners as it provides food to families across the Houston area.

Staffed 100% by volunteers, the Pantry served 5,982 families in 2021—20% were new to the Pantry. The Pantry continued serving clients with drive-through distribution in 2021 and distributed more than 350,000 pounds of food, averaging about 60 pounds per client visit. To keep the Pantry running, 465 volunteers logged 9,200 service hours in 2021—with just 20 volunteers working 45% of total hours served.

St. Andrew’s began delivering produce from the garden to the Pantry on a regular basis, and these items help the Pantry provide a continuing supply of healthy and nutritious items for its clients.

Laurie Hardwick and Cathey Harrison represent St. Andrew’s on the Pantry board. Last year, Laurie served a second year as president and Cathey completed her first year of board service. St. Andrew’s volunteers contributed more than 800 volunteer hours in 2021. The Pantry could not operate without volunteer support. Thanks to all who served, including:

- Adrienne Allie
- Ed Amash
- Sue Amash
- Jimmy Grace
- Grace Hardwick
- Laurie Hardwick
Volunteer opportunities for those age 13 and older are available at a variety of times every week. Volunteers assist with food prep and distribution, pick up donated items from area retailers and help in countless other ways.

For more information, please speak with Cathey Harrison catheyph@sbcglobal.net or Laurie Hardwick lauriewh@earthlink.net or visit www.himpantry.org to sign up to serve.

Hook and Needle Guild

Giving with our hearts the works of our hands

Meeting every 4th Saturday from 9:30 to noon, our group works on projects to donate and give to charity or to parishioners who are in need. We also bring our current personal projects to the meetings for comments, help and fun. Our group is all about helping others learn or improve their skills in crochet, knitting, quilting or other fabric crafts.

In 2021 we donated 52 hats and warmers for the Christmas Seafarer's boxes and for the third year in a row we donated about 50 baby and youth blankets to Project Linus https://www.projectlinus.org/ This year we continue with our Project Linus donations in union with Christ Church Cathedral. Our plan also includes making fidget blankets to donate to the Alzheimer's group, hats for the homeless, squares for Warm up America and hopefully participate again in the St. Andrews Christmas Market in December 2022.

We invite all fabric crafters to be a part of this fun group! Drop in between 9:30 and noon every fourth Saturday-- have a donut and hang out!

Interested? email: burroughs.mail.home@gmail.com

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Servers

Luke 22:19-20

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given to you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

The Lay Eucharistic Minister, also called a Server, participates in the church’s most fundamental and communal form of worship known as the Holy Communion, Eucharist, Lord’s Supper or Mass.
The Holy Communion is one of the sacred rites of the Christian religion and is celebrated every Sunday at St. Andrew’s Episcopal. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are the welcoming hosts of the Lord’s Supper and assist the Clergy by bearing the chalice and serving the wine at the altar rail during the service.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are required to attend a training session (usually on a Saturday morning). During the session, participants learn about the various components of the Communion rite and table, and the appropriate logistics of serving the meal to communicants.

St. Andrew’s is blessed to have a strong and vibrant LEM ministry with participants from each and every service. Many thanks to our LEM team:

Bruce Banta-Guevara  Jeff Berry  Vinnie Lusk  Richard Parr  Nancy Simpson
Bruce Berry  Kay Lynn Jenkins  Devon Moore  Arlette Pharo  Spencer Vosko

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Banta-Guevara, banta.bruc@gmail.com

Lectors

Nehemiah 8:1-3

“All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding.”

This reading of the law of Moses (the first five books of the Hebrew bible) occurred approximately around 458 BCE in the restored city of Jerusalem. The tradition of gathering together and reading aloud the word of God dates back a very long time! At St. Andrew’s, we continue this tradition through our Lector Ministry. Every week we gather together to read from the Bible and offer our prayers aloud publicly at each of our Eucharistic services. St. Andrew’s is blessed with a strong lector team with many participants from each and every service. Many thanks to all the members of Lector Ministry team who bring forth the joy of the Lord through the reading of Holy Scripture.

Rosina Chevalier  Don Chevalier  Lara Arsola
Alli Jarrett  Mason Jones  Steve Runner
Michael Mergens  Dianne Yeomans  Niki Papazoglakis
Arlette Pharo  Liz Dennis  Mike Sullivan
Steve Darby  Bruce Banta Guevara  Melis Eyuboglu
Karen Ballard  Vinnie Lusk  Diana Burton
Oscar Banta Guevara  John Ibanez  Joel Ballard
Mia Magness

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Bruce Banta at banta.bruce@gmail.com or 713-805-0065.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Banta

**Linen Guild**

The Linen Guild cares for the communion linen for the church. With three or more Eucharistic services a week this keeps us very busy. In addition to weekly duties, we also maintain all the Church Vestments and Altar Hangings and assist the Priests in keeping their vestments clean and pressed. The Linen Guild falls under the Altar Guild, volunteers that serve on the Linen Guild are Sarrah Moseley, DeAnna Bosch and Stephen McCormick. We each rotate over the month taking duties for a week.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please let one of us know. We are easy to work with, flexible and provide training. The Linen Guild is a great way to serve our Parish and God. This ministry fits well into a busy personal schedule - only requirement is you have a hot iron ready to go. We will teach you the rest.
Contact Stephen McCormick sem1971tx@prodigy.net

**Meal Train Ministry**

In 2021 the Meal Train Ministry provided three meals to one parish member. This parish member was having difficulty getting around and needed help adapting to a new home. This ministry can help individuals or families dealing with such things as surgery, illness, and new babies. We were and are very happy to help those dealing with death as well. Covid-19 has decreased the effectiveness of this ministry. Hopefully 2022 will provide more opportunity for service.

Many thanks are extended to all who have participated in this Ministry. Our greatest challenge is first to identify all who may be in need and second to convince them to accept what we can offer.

- Sue Amash
- Lynn Barnes
- Diana Burton
- Don/Rosina Chevalier
- Martha Gallagher
- John Grothues
- Michelle Hitt
- Elizabeth McCormick
- Lisa Moore
- John Stephenson
- Stephanie Wells
- Cheryl Ardent-Ford
- Ward Birkett
- Walt Cameron
- Kelly Elliott
- Ben/Megan Gibbs
- Rex Hall
- Pam Lewis
- Mary Pauline McElroy
- Martha Rac
- Jean Valka
- Diane Yeomans
- Chris Barker
- Josh Boyle
- Brooke Caudell
- Cathy Fawcett
- Marla Grace
- Laurie Hardwick
- Lucy Matte
- Mary McFadden
- Catherine Runner
- Gina Vosko
This is a need-based ministry with no regular schedule or meetings. It is perfect for those with time restraints. Meal Train is seeking a new leader. If you are interested, please contact The Rev. Jimmy Grace, igrace@saecheights.org

Respectfully submitted, Melinda Boon

**Meals on Wheels ministry**

St. Andrew’s is a distribution point for Meals on Wheels, administered by Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston. Volunteers pick up meals brought by a MOW driver to St. Andrew’s House and deliver to clients at Heights House and Heights Tower, both of which provide subsidized housing primarily for low-income seniors.

Since March 2020 frozen rather than hot meals have been delivered once a week to clients, some of whom also receive weekend meals and breakfast items.

A big thank you to Don Chevalier, who has both delivered meals during the pandemic and served as back-up facilitator. Carrie Conti has been invaluable in assisting with the process as well. We also appreciate the many community volunteers who deliver meals from our location to clients at Heights House and Heights Tower.

Last summer when it appeared that MOW might be able to resume providing hot meals Monday through Friday, volunteers were recruited to be present at St. Andrew’s House to help deliverers load up and stay to store any undeliverable items returned to the House. Volunteers were identified, but the omicron surge has meant a postponement of the pre-pandemic process.

For more information about volunteering or training, please contact Ros Moore at rmoore@imgh.org

**Men of St Andrew’s (MOSAEC)**

The Men of St. Andrew's enjoyed a year of getting back together. A huge highlight was the summer picnic that was a wonderful chance for the congregation to get together outdoors for a safe and delicious barbecue meal. We also enjoyed each other's fellowship at our Thanksgiving barbecue. In between, we got together a few times just to catch up and to help out with some needs that arose in the congregation. We look forward to an even more expanded Men’s group in 2022 as we embark on more barbecues and other outreach efforts.

If you would like to join the group for some Meat, Fire, and Fellowship, please email us at menofsaec@gmail.com or reach out to Ben Gibbs at church.
Miqra

The 2021 MIQRA was held between Ascension Day and Pentecost, May 13 through 22, making it the fifth year that St. Andrew’s has hosted the MIQRA, a community reading of the Bible. In 2021 we changed the schedule of the reading due to Covid safety concerns, with reading during the day and in the evenings, suspending the round-the-clock schedule.

Thanks to the commitment of the Vestry to serve as “shepherds” for the reading, the event brought people of all ages from St. Andrew’s, the neighborhood, other parishes, and other denominations to St. Andrew’s – all coming together to complete the entire Bible.

Miqra is a Hebrew word that means "a public reading of scripture." The goal is to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The MIQRA is a way for the reader to spend some time just reading the Bible. It is not a performance; rather it is a way for us to devote ourselves to understanding and honoring the book that defines what we believe.

Submitted by Lisa Puccio, lpuccio@saecheights.org

Music Department

2021 was, like 2020, an atypical year for the music department. In the first half of the year, choirs rehearsed weekly (socially distanced and masked in the nave) but did not sing weekly. During this time, small groups and individuals from the choirs provided musical leadership for our liturgies. In May of 2021, our Choristers sang a celebratory service of Holy Eucharist to close out their choral season since they did not sing for any in-person liturgies: The Reverend Charles Gibbs preached and guest organist Joel Trekell played.

August of 2021 saw the return of choir rehearsals in St. Andrew’s House and the return of our choirs to Sunday morning liturgies. During this semester, Elspeth Hixon & Gillian Steinhauer sang for our 9am liturgy each Sunday, and I am thankful for their gift of musical leadership in that regard. The St. Andrew’s choir was also enlarged by new members Jeff & Bruce Berry. 8th grader Berscht Stevens also committed to sing and rehearse with the St. Andrew’s Choir on a weekly basis.

August also saw a new class of Junior Choristers (1st/2nd graders) and new Choristers as well, bringing the total number of both choirs to 11. It’s been wonderful to welcome a new group of singers, and I am continually thankful to Megan Parks, Catherine Runner, Stacy Jenkins, and Adrienne Allie for their weekly assistance with these choirs. The Junior Choristers & Choristers joined the St. Andrew’s Choir for A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve joined by guest organist Hank Carrillo and harpist Stephanie Gustafson. One of the greatest gifts I think our music department can offer to both its members and the parish is that of intergenerational singing, people aged 6 through 70 all making music together for the glory of God and the betterment of his people. Truly a gift!

Our 2021 stewardship campaign also included budget for Choral Scholars, 4 students to support our choirs and lead liturgies at the 9am service. I hope to have some singers in place soon!

I am continually grateful to the time and energy that all of our choir members put into weekly rehearsals and liturgies and to the parish at large for their support of our work. It is my continued hope that our weekly offerings give glory to God and inspire our parish to deeper connection to God and God’s people.
Peace be with you,
John Kirk, jkirk@saecheights.org, Director of Music & Organist

**Organ & Music Fund**

In 2021 the Organ & Music Fund trustees received a report from Alden Organ Service that our organ is entering the last years of its life before it will need significant maintenance and restoration costs. This report recommended either preparing for extensive renovation of the instrument or commissioning a new instrument. Furthermore, the report recommended relocating the entire instrument (or a significant part of it) to the chancel/sanctuary area where it would be better able to support our choirs. The trustees voted to pursue getting bids for a new instrument, and this has become a part of our feasibility study for consideration. The report is available for anyone interested, and it’s also something I love to talk about! It is my hope that this parish will invest in an instrument capable of producing beautiful and inspiring sounds and that is physically situated to support both congregational and choral singing: an instrument that encourages, not limits, music making, and beautifies our church.

John Kirk, jkirk@saecheights.org, Director of Music & Organist

**Rhythms of Grace**

In February 2021 we celebrated six years of weekly Rhythms of Grace services at St. Andrew’s. The afternoon worship service was designed for families with special needs members (of all ages - infants through adults). The challenges presented by Covid have been especially difficult for the medically fragile members our Rhythms of Grace family, but some of our families were able to begin meeting again in person in late summer. Despite the challenges, our community has remained strong, and attendance in person and online has included almost all of our regular worshipping community. Through Facebook we have expanded the reach of this ministry far beyond our city and diocese. Services are regularly seen by hundreds of viewers. Rhythms of Grace would not be possible without our dedicated musicians, Tony Pryor, Susan Kuether, and Paul Shanklin, who generously give of their time and talent each week. We offer special thanks to our wonderful helpers, Lisa Moore, Sarah Jo Oller, and Frank & Jeanne Ingraham, and to all in this parish who pray for our Rhythms of Grace community.

Submitted by Lisa Puccio, lpuccio@saecheights.org

**Houston International Seafarer’s Ministry**

This year we collected, boxed, and wrapped 50 Christmas boxes that were delivered to the Port of Houston for distribution by the Seafarers Ministry to merchant marines that come to our city’s port from November 24, until Jan 5.
With the threat of COVID still hanging around, we used Amazon Gift as a way to donate items for the seafarer’s boxes, and it worked great! Thank you to everyone who donated items and help us wrap.

The Seafarers ministry usually hands out between 11,000 and 15,000 boxes to merchant marines every year. And, we are excited to be part of this very rewarding ministry.

Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile ministry!

For more information, please contact Bob DeCesare, bobdec2003@yahoo.com

Usher Ministry

Despite 2021’s Covid surges and variants, the St. Andrew’s Ushers also rose to the challenge – thanks both to the loyalty and generosity of long-time ushers and the enthusiasm and energy of our new and very welcome members, we provided our assistance at each of the three Sunday services, all special services in the church calendar, ordinations, and funerals.

We are, in all times and in all places, looking for additional members to our cheerful band. The Usher Ministry is an excellent choice for any parishioner who wants to take a larger role in worship services and learn more about the Episcopal liturgy and traditions. The time commitment is approximately one hour for one Sunday a month – ideal for those with time constraints and an affinity for making others feel welcome. Please ask any of us listed below about our experiences as an usher for this parish, and please know you’re more than welcome to assist in services by bringing the elements to the altar – we’re more than happy to show you the ropes and have you join us!

Current Members of the St. Andrew’s Ushers Ministry:

Diana Burton, Don Chevalier, Rex Hall, Lucy Matte, Stephanie Wisdom Wells, Walt Cameron, Cole Cameron, Nancy Simpson, Eric Reed, Richard Quarles, Liz Dennis, Olivia Jordan, Jack Bellinger, Delaney Bellinger, Jack McCormick, Cort Peavy, Lynn Ringh, and David Barnett.

As of January 2022, we must say goodbye to Bob DeCesare, Sam Hsu, and Camille Boon, and thank them for their faithful service of many years. We wish them well in their new locations and look forward to their visits!

Submitted by Liz Dennis: 713-826-9765 edennis@stcl.edu

Youth

The youth at St. Andrew's comprise young people in the 6th through 12th grade. The youth group meets for Youth Sunday on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month for an hour of formation, fellowship, and food. I am so appreciative of the parents of St. Andrew's who make the spiritual formation of their youth a high priority and ensure they attend. Since my arrival last August, my priority has been to become acquainted with our youth and
establish a rhythm. The goal this year will be to continue that work and expand opportunities for coming together. In addition to our regular meetings, this will include outings for fun and recreation as well as mission and service. Once a quarter, the youth will participate in some kind of outreach activity. Youth Confirmation class kicks off on February 20 and will run through the spring.

The Rev. Clint Brown