



THE FALLS  
CHURCH  
ANGLICAN



2021  
ANNUAL REPORT



His disciples came to him and he opened his mouth and taught them.

**MATTHEW 5:1-2**

*October 2021*

To the Family of The Falls Church Anglican,

We are “to give thanks in all circumstances,” Paul instructs (1 Thessalonians 5:18). By God’s grace, our Church’s circumstances in fall 2021 are such that gratitude and thankfulness are easy.

At a time when many in our society face uncertainty and challenge, as a church family we’ve seen new energy, great generosity, and unity around our love for Jesus Christ. You are central to this vibrancy in our local church, and we are grateful to have you as part of our family.

Two years ago, we joyfully settled into our permanent home. One year ago, amidst worldwide health concerns, we carried on – never missing a Sunday of worship. And now, we sense we are in a moment of stepping forward in what God is calling us to be and to do.

A vision for The Falls Church Anglican is coalescing, rooted in God’s ancient call on His Church, centered around three things: *Discipleship. Community. Mission.*

Our Church must be that place where individuals grow into robust **disciples**, “growing up in every way into Christ,” no longer “tossed to and fro by the waves” (Ephesians 4:15, 14). Maturing as disciples cannot happen alone, so we must foster

that **community** where we are “joined together by every joint” so that the “body grows” (Ephesians 4:16). As our Christlikeness and love for one another grow, we burn brightly as a Church on **mission**, “through which the manifold wisdom of God is made known” (Ephesians 3:10), and we reach out with Gospel words and deeds to neighbors near and far.

Our fall sermon series, *The Everyday Disciple*, and our launch of a revitalized small group ministry are part of this vision. Under the leadership of our newest pastor, Isaiah Brooms, forty-one new small groups have been organized, adding to the dozens already meeting. We are a big church that longs to feel small, and these groups are one way to achieve this. And our sermon guidebook for the fall is helping so many of us—small groups, friends, families—learn about discipleship together.

At the same time, we are re-engaging in mission, especially locally – at Falls Church High School and the Willston Center, supporting Afghan refugees, and in other ways in our new neighborhood.

What does the future hold for us? The Lord only knows the full answer, of course. But here are the opportunities I am most excited about:

Our digital age is shaping the way we connect with each other and how we are formed. A plethora of recent studies worry about negative effects social media may be having on us—especially on

young people. Our church must see this as both a challenge and an opportunity. What does it mean to be shaped as a disciple of Jesus amid this cultural moment? In the months and years ahead, we must be a community that thinks deeply and creatively about how we are formed and the next generation, considering the challenges of a digital age.

Coming out of COVID, a process slower than any of us hoped, also presents an opportunity for us to grow in many Gospel virtues: how to love, how to be slow to speak and quick to listen, how to find comfort in Gospel Hope, how to take the log out of our own eye first, and how to maintain relationships amid differing opinions.

How to speak the Gospel in love, with our friends and neighbors, is yet another challenge and opportunity. The unsettledness of our times, and the lack of moorings so many people feel, present our Church with a great opportunity to share the hope and assurance we have in the Gospel. I am praying, and I am eager God makes us into a great force for evangelism.

There are also wonderful new positions we've created in anticipation of seeing new leaders come onto our staff this year. We have four key positions now open for discipleship, family ministry, worship, and missions. We have some great candidates we are interviewing and are very excited. We want to prayerfully discern who is being called to leadership in our church and how we can help them live into this calling.

There is so much more I could talk about, such as continuing to strengthen our ministries for children and youth, young adults, men's and women's ministries, and seniors. We also want to continue to

strengthen the Christ-exalting worship we offer both in-person and online.

I hope that you are ready to seek what God has next for us, in confidence that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" (Phil 1:6). May we be a church that is "all in" for our Lord!

On November 14, we will hold our traditional Commitment Sunday of worship. On that day, we will ask that you present your pledge to the Lord of your financial support for the coming year.

Your gifts fund our operating budget, which was \$6,969,455 this past year and will be more than that in this new fiscal year. This helps ensure all the church's ministries work effectively and efficiently in advancing our mission.

Please prayerfully consider what is best for you and your family. You may choose to return the enclosed card or go online to [www.tfcanglican.org](http://www.tfcanglican.org) to make your pledge. Or please plan to present your pledge as part of our November 14 Commitment Sunday service.

As always, I hope that you won't hesitate to reach out to me or our dedicated staff about how we might help you or your loved ones. The Lord has richly blessed this special church, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do to help us, together, "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

Gratefully,



Sam Ferguson

Stepping back to reflect on the circumstances from late summer 2020 until today, we can see manifestations of how God kept us and shaped us as a church in contrast to the unsettling news all around us, nearly every day. We know God uses such times to teach us, to hone our love for each other and love for Him at the same time. If we divide the year into three parts or movements, we see a gradual revival of Sunday activities and church ministries and a refreshment of vision of our life together.

The first came in May as we gathered together once again for a full roster of three services, even though all services mirrored one another and our middle timeslot met in the parking garage. Nevertheless, we were together and in a rhythm once more. The second movement came just a handful of weeks later, removing the need to register to attend a service. And, finally, this September, we resumed our early Sunday morning Rite One service. Now, with much of the pandemic behind us, with the lessons of patience and perseverance closing, we are looking forward to closing 2021 in a more normal fashion.

Our visioning evening in June offers another point of great hope. That evening, we discussed as a church community ways to re-imagine our life together through discipleship, in community, and on mission. One active way we've already seen this summer night put into action is through the re-launching of our small group ministry, a point taken up in more detail later in this report.

And there's even more good news. The gradual revitalization of campus life is not only Sunday morning worship, we see it in each aspect of our church - in children and family, youth, discipleship and outreach, congregational care, worship, and healing and intercessory prayer.

We hope you'll take a few moments to read and see again God's good provision in each area of our church family.

## *Our Vision*

A vision for The Falls Church Anglican is coalescing, rooted in God's ancient call on His Church, centered around three things:

**DISCIPLESHIP, COMMUNITY, & MISSION**

# Disciples

So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

EPHESIANS 4:14-15

## WORSHIP

Our opportunity to corporately gather for worship continued to expand throughout the year while we simultaneously expanded and enhanced livestreaming of our services. We're exceedingly grateful that we never missed a Sunday of worship. Creative reimagining was needed to provide safe in-person services and events such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Though it looked different from past years, we continued the tradition of holding a Sunday worship service featuring Handel's *Messiah*.

In addition to our Sunday services, we continued to broadcast and or provide support for special events, such as: Women's Ministry events, Bible Study, Adult Classes, Forums, Special Classes, Young Adult Events, Youth Events, Children's Back to School Blessing, Healing Services, Ordinations, Confirmations, Funerals, Weddings, and Baptisms. It was particularly exciting to use our baptismal font for the first time this year!

Even though things may have looked a little differently from the past, we are thankful throughout the year, that, during a time of so much change, we were able to support many of the same opportunities for worship and community.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Our children started the fall of 2020 with online Sunday School, but we quickly found ways to connect outdoors through "play and pray" mornings in the park and outdoor family worship services on Sundays during Advent and at Easter. We even held a parents' night out!

Thankfully, by October, we reconvened in-person Sunday School for both services. Despite all the hurdles and hybrid approaches, our teaching continued to be full and rich, including a Stations of the Cross devotional during Lent and Faith Builders Devotions last May that gave children ages 8 to 11 time to explore basic Christian apologetics. In July, more than 90 children PreK-Grade 5 and 60 volunteers converged on our church campus for Vacation Bible School, a week of crafts, fun, and teaching all focused on God's Big Story with the driving purpose of bringing together the Old and New Testaments.

Sacraments continued to be a priority in the ministry as we welcomed to the faith infants and children in baptism, and equipped them to receive the eucharist.

## **YOUTH**

Our youth program divides each month into several life-giving gatherings including Youth Family (adult volunteer leaders), CORE (our student leadership program), senior nights, 8th grade nights, and, of course, the big Sunday evening youth gathering (Crossroads and Cornerstone). Adapting to various restrictions, middle and high school worship and small group times on Sundays carried on whether or not they met in the sanctuary.

Our many volunteers, despite meeting remotely until March, brought their biblical knowledge, patient leadership, and desire to make disciples every week. We were excited to still be able to host a Senior Weekend at Rockbridge, Fusion, and The Gift (our outreach to the community) and we look forward to resuming Breakaway in the new year!

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

Early in 2021, we sent out a congregation-wide survey to take the pulse of our church family in four specific areas of health: spiritual, financial, relational, and emotional. With much thanksgiving, many in our church family showed great fortitude throughout a challenging season. A team of our clergy and trained volunteers took on the task of reaching out and praying with each person who

expressed particular needs.

Though many activities remained virtual through this past year including recovery classes, we began to offer weekly Bible studies and other social gatherings in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) model. The resumption of limited in-person Seniors Ministry activities provided much needed in-person community and encouragement. We also thank God for the start of new families as our sanctuary lit up with weddings this summer!

The circumstances of our times have certainly caused grief and loss, yet, by God's providence, we have shown resilience. We can confidently attest to God meeting us in our profound need and compelling our congregation to new heights of generosity in order to help those experiencing significant hardship.

## **DISCIPLESHIP AND OUTREACH**

Much of our life together outside of Sunday worship is through the activities of discipleship and outreach. For starters, our adult education hit several high marks this year including Sunday mornings "In the Word" class celebrating 25 years together. In addition, our Connect Classes brought together nearly 200 people over the course of six classes, and 83 people took the step to be confirmed.

# *Community*

... from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**EPHESIANS 4:16**

# Mission

... so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

**EPHESIANS 3:10**

Our men's and women's ministries thrived in different ways last year. In a concentrated effort around a weekly class, sometimes as many as 60 men gathered together online, both from our local area and around the globe, to share testimonies of God at work in their lives each week. The women met at various times throughout the week with various emphases: building grace-filled homes, putting on the armor of God, and the book of Revelation, just to name a few.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

One intentional addition to our life together is to become more close-knit with one another through small groups. Gathering in small groups is one of the historic hallmarks of active Christian life and how God works in and through us. We see it in the New Testament, the First Great Awakening attributes God's movement through small groups, and so too is our charge. (Come, Lord Jesus!)

We can now report that more than 200 people signed up in the initial wave of activity during the summer. Currently, that number has swelled to more than 500 adults in 41 different groups around our community. What a tremendous start!

## **HEALING AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

Our healing and prayer ministry took the online world by storm, casting the invite widely to join the "Wholeness in Christ" class. And each week, the number of participants grew until about 200 students were engaged from around the country. Whether they were individuals just wanting to know more about how to live wholly in Christ, persons actively seeking healing, or prayer ministers looking for more training, the response to the class was overwhelmingly positive.

Our intercessory prayer ministry continues to experience an influx of need. More than a thousand prayer requests were submitted online and in person. Our prayer team prayed through each one as they continued the regular prayer for our church, the nation, and the world.

The Lord is at work in our members' lives bringing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing through in-person and online prayer ministry.

# Looking Back

## Fiscal Year 2021

Total Budgeted	\$6,969,455
Total Giving	\$7,411,320
Total Expended	\$6,401,437

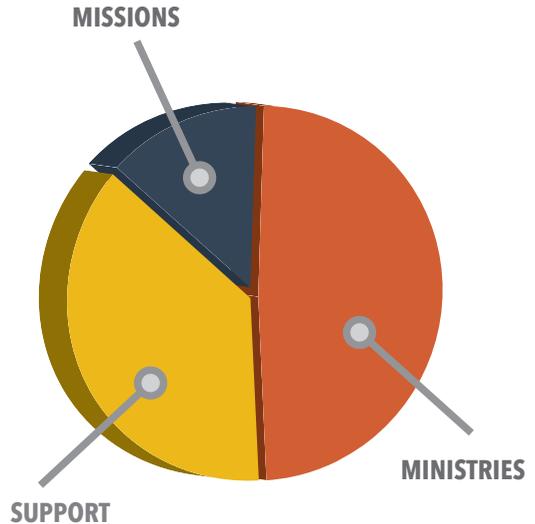
Despite the challenges from COVID on our world, our lives, and our church last year, sacrificial giving to our Operating Fund continued, while additional gifts were given that fulfilled the goals of our Onward Fund. We have received in excess of \$41 million in contributions from our congregation over the past seven years. This generous giving has enabled us to complete the construction of our garage and sanctuary, continue improving our landscaping, and purchase liturgical furnishings that will be installed soon. This generosity truly represents God's love for His church during this time of great trial.

Having completed our garage and sanctuary, we are now working to reduce the mortgage debt on our 6565 Office Building. Reducing our mortgage balance will have the long-term benefit of generating additional funds available for the church's mission. (For example, reducing our outstanding mortgage by \$10 million would result in additional cash available to the church for mission of \$572,000 on an ongoing annual basis!)

Our Church has been blessed to an almost incomprehensible degree, and the continuing generosity of our congregation has provided us not only with our own campus for worship after many years in the desert, but also ongoing flexibility to pursue the Lord's mission and our church vision.

Thanks be to God!

## OUR OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 (\$7.12 MILLION • 2.1% GREATER THAN 2021)



### MINISTRIES = \$3,498,313 (49%)

Worship	\$1,265,967 (18%)
Discipleship	\$832,983 (12%)
Youth	\$614,936 (9%)
Children	\$359,760 (5%)
Congregational Care	\$286,337 (4%)
Prayer & Healing	\$128,730 (2%)
Clergy Benevolence	\$10,500 (0.1%)

### SUPPORT = \$2,618,427 (37%)

Facilities	\$1,347,002 (19%)
Finance & Technology	\$1,083,011 (15%)
Communications	\$188,414 (3%)

### MISSIONS = \$974,020 (14%)

Outreach Funding	\$677,020 (10%)
Diocese, Mid-Atlantic	\$297,000 (4%)