

# ST. ANNE'S CHURCH



ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT  
2024



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# MINUTES FROM 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

## St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Reston, VA Minutes of the Regular General Parish Meeting February 12, 2023

We integrated the Annual Meeting into our 10:00 a.m. worship service as a way to highlight how the “business of the church” and our spiritual lives are intertwined. The order of the meeting was included in the worship bulletin. Following the Opening Acclamation and The Collect of the Day the meeting was called to order, a quorum established, Jim Jones was named Parliamentarian and Jane Smith, Secretary. The minutes from the 2022 meeting were approved without amendment.

**Senior Warden's Report** (Chris Korbuly). There has been lots of work but 2 things need special attention in this report: first, the transition—the Discernment Committee deserves a big “thank you” for their work. Mtr. Jess started 2-13-22. Second, handling covid required balancing needs and the desire for meeting together. For example, we held a drive-through Nativity scene last year; this year we were able to do the pageant inside.

Many things feel the same but we are being more intentional in finances. The 50-50-50 team is nearing the final stages of design for our new sanctuary furniture. Sunday School is back. We are learning to be more flexible and adaptable in the use of our space. Also, we want to be more intentional in welcoming newcomers.

**Vestry Transition.** Mtr. Jess thanked Chris for his leadership as Sr. Warden, and pointed out that he was canonically in charge while there was no rector nor interim rector. She also thanked the other outgoing vestry members: Emily Besuden, Michelle Ohanian, Mark Tokarski, and Julianna Cox (Youth Representative).

**Vestry Nominees for the Class of 2025** were announced a couple of weeks ago. James Brooks, Clifton Poole, Charlie Saunders, Christine Skitol, and David Egge (Youth Representative) have agreed to serve. The candidate slate was approved by acclamation.

**Treasurer's Report** (Jonathan Krentel). Our financial status is strong. We have average monthly expenses of about \$75,000. The cash flow is very good. All staff received a 5% COLA.

Mtr. Jess thanked Jonathan for his work and especially for producing readable, understandable reports.

**Interim Music Director's Report** (Dj Gunning, oral report). We have a wealth of talent in this parish and we have added new choir members. We are in the process of discernment about what the music program might look like in the future. This is an official invitation to check us out if you want to consider joining.

A public “thank you” to Lisa Tyler for her guidance through the pandemic and a special “thank you” to Laurie Corkey for her consistent support and presence.

Dj asked that we pay special attention to our next hymn, We are Beloved of God. The last phrase is incomplete—we are to fill in what we desire.

**Junior Warden's Report** (Margaret Light). Margaret works with the Building and Grounds Committee. The enclosed report was a joint effort by Dorry and Margaret. Many “thanks” to Angie for all she does.

**Rector's Report** (Mtr. Jess). Mtr. Jess presented the model Gather—>Transform—>Send, which comes from The College for Congregational Development. She taught this model to the Vestry during their Spring retreat. In her first year we focused on Gathering (regathering) after covid, recognizing we are in a genesis II phase where we're recreating, reforming, and rediscovering who God is inviting us to become. For 2023 we are expanding our focus onto Transform, recognizing the opportunities for transformation at St. Anne's, in order for us to be Sent back out into the world. She shared the metaphor of a tree to explore how Worship and Prayer, Study and Learning, Action, and Life in Community are sources of transformation. (See Annual Report 2023 page 9)

**Assistant Rector's Report** (Mtr. Maria). Don Boileau and Suzy Jones will lead the Adult Formation Committee. Sunday School restarted in March 2022 with grades K-2, and then grades 3-6 were added in April 2022. We had a wonderful Vacation Bible School, Passport to Peace, led by Emily Muha and other adult leaders, with approximately 20 children and youth participating. This was the first time having VBS since the pandemic.

David Egge reported on the Youth Group which is meeting once a month now (he really enjoys the discussions they have). The Youth Group will be doing the upcoming pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday.

**Gratitudes** (Mtr. Jess). Special thanks to Angie Gray, Magaret Light, Chris Korbuly, Mtr. Maria, Nancy Searby, Dj and the choir for their dedication, collaboration, and faithfulness in serving St. Anne's. Also thank you to Fr. Vance, Fr. Winston, and Mtr. Annie for their support and leadership.

**Stewardship** (Susan Ficklin). We have reached 92% of our goal for the year. Thank you to all who have pledged and to all who helped in the drive.

Also, as she prepares to move to Vermont, Susan thanked us for helping her, and helping her raise her daughter.

**Pantry Report** (Glen Corso). We have been fed in the spirit and with bread. We didn't miss a single distribution day during the pandemic. Actually the demand increased during the pandemic. Thank you to all the volunteers and to members of the congregation who made donations supporting the pantry.

Please see the attached Annual Ministry Report 2023 for much more detail on the topics above and additionally **Study and Learning, Serving God and Community** (our outreach activities), and **Life in Community**.

The meeting adjourned and worship concluded at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane S. Smith  
Register/Clerk of the Vestry

## VESTRY 2024 SLATE

### **Sarah Brummett**

Sarah grew up in Herndon, and has recently moved back to the area after seven years in San Francisco. She is a member of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church there, and has just completed her term on their Bishop's Committee, in which she also served as clerk. While a relative newcomer to St Anne's, she looks forward to deepening her connections to this vibrant community through service with the Vestry, and is particularly inspired to work with Mother Maria in the Youth Ministry.



### **Bernadette Capelle**

Until St. Anne's, I was content being an active listener to Sunday services and unknowing about my capacity to be involved in a church community on a much more regular basis. Over the past six years at St. Anne's, I have been able to live my faith through our outreach activities and, particularly, through my work as inventory manager of our food pantry. What a blessing! I'm certain I will bring my organizational expertise to our vestry (have you seen our beautiful pantry shelves?) but my hope is for growth in my prayer life, to actively support outreach and the mission of St. Anne's, and to get to know more of our congregation and extended community along the way.

I enjoy books, drag shows, tea, getting home to Philly as much as possible, and every minute spent with Darlene, my wife, and Munchkin, our perfect beagle. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.



### **Christian Pelfrey**

Christian Pelfrey has been attending St. Anne's for about 10 years with his wife Kelsey and their two daughters, Violet (6) and Ophelia (4) -- both of whom were baptized at St. Anne's.

After returning from overseas in late 2022, Christian and his family have sought to become more involved in activities at the church, and Christian is particularly interested in supporting the already-vibrant ministries that focus on young parents and their children.

In his spare time, Christian is an avid vegetable gardener and loves to spend as much time outdoors as possible.



## **Suzanne Robinson**

With soul searching and prayer, I have oriented myself in becoming a candidate as a member of the Vestry. As I continue my journey with God's help, I want to bring more hope, joy, love, and compassion in spreading God's love to all people.

I was born into a family of Episcopalians baptized, confirmed, and worshiped regularly in the Episcopal Churches in Maine, Massachusetts, St. Thomas USVI and in Virginia. I feel that the teachings have shaped who I am today. My church involvement has included the following: Sunday School Teacher, Helping Hands, Vacation Bible School, Alter Guild, Flower Guild, Co-Chair year-long 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Endowment. My leadership goals will include the values of integrity and transparency.

I have held various board positions in the United States and Abroad. My husband and I have happily celebrated fifty-seven years of marriage, we have a daughter and a son that are married and have blessed us with five grandchildren. I love to travel, spend time with my family and participate in outreach where needed.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a candidate for the Vestry of St. Anne's Episcopal Church which will widen my opportunities to serve.



## **Nancy Santoro**

St. Anne's has been my parish since 2012 when I relocated from New Jersey. Before retiring, I worked 27 years in banking as a Vice President/Retail Market Manager responsible for sales and service for 29 branches. I have always enjoyed being part of a team, making new friends and contributing.

At St. Anne's I taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School over the years. In the past I worked on the OAR Coat Drive and the Cornerstone's collection of backpacks for children in need. Recently, I joined the Flower Guild, Bee Keepers Group and Java Junction. I also serve with the Loudoun County Board of Elections as an election official and I volunteer at Inova Hospital, Landsdown. It has always been my intent to give back and make a positive difference. I am deeply honored to be invited to serve on the St. Anne's Vestry. I look forward to working with the Team.



## David Egge

Born in Guatemala, I came home to Reston when I was two years old. Before my third birthday, I was baptized at St. Anne's Episcopal Church and it has been my faith-based community and spiritual home ever since. Over the years, I've participated in many of St. Anne's offerings, including Sunday School, VBS (both as student and teen counselor), Thanksgiving food drives, Youth Group and summer volunteer programs, acolyte, and playing piano for music ministry at Sunday services. I was confirmed in 2021. I'm currently a junior at South Lakes High School, where I'm on the varsity swim team and working towards the IB diploma.

I appreciate this opportunity to serve as the youth representative on St. Anne's Vestry for a 2nd year. I have many long-time friends in this church, and I look forward to continuing to bond more with them, and strengthening our relationship with God, together. I also look forward to exploring how we youth might continue to create new church outreach programs, as well as helping out with existing ones, all while having fun together and making memories!





# RECTOR'S REPORT

*“They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.”  
~Jeremiah 17:8a*

The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.” This past year has been one of trust in God’s presence, peace, and power! We are like trees planted near the stream of God, being nourished by Christ’s living waters. As we root our faith in God’s abundant love and follow where Jesus leads, we are transformed by the Holy Spirit.

At our last Annual Meeting, I shared a model from The College for Congregational Development. The **Gather→Transform→Send** model states that the unique purpose of a faith community is to *gather* those called by God into Christ’s body (the Church), to provide opportunities for *transformation* of heart, mind, and action, and then to send the people back out into our everyday context to serve as God’s loving, transforming presence in the world. In our first year of ministry together we focused on *gathering* (regathering) our St. Anne’s community.

In this second year of ministry together (2023) we have focused on transformation. We have intentionally and prayerfully sought out the holy work of providing opportunities for the transformation of our hearts, minds, and actions to live out our baptismal identity and purpose.

We walked with one another through the transformative sacraments of our lives: baptizing Jude Chwastyk, Madina Danaeva, Michael Ficklin-Sills, Evelyn Glassman, Louise Lawrence, Abraham Murry, Theodore Murray, and Ethan Paul; confirming Melissa Bessey, Christopher Nyarko, Gloria Dwomoh, Calvin Lucier, Scott McDaniel, Katherine McDaniel, receiving Daria Antonucci, Kathy Boileau, Don Boileau, Bernadette Capelle, Kendall Jamison, Alicia Peralta, Jeannie Stipicevic; and celebrating the lives of Ayele Ajavon-Cox, Belinda Jones, Jing Yang Kuo, Harriet Martin, and Iroll Skarr. We rejoiced in welcoming our new Bishop Mark Stevenson to our diocese and St. Anne’s in his episcopate visit where he performed the confirmations and receptions mentioned above. We were delighted to embrace Visiting Bishop Dabney Smith who consecrated our new altar.

Together we transformed our food ministry through expanding the Pantry space and working on a cultural shift away from a “to/for” model of outreach to a “with and among” model. Our aim is to serve our Reston community alongside our neighbors and expand opportunities for choice in our pantry distribution. Instead of simply providing food to and for people struggling with food insecurity, we are building relationships and bridges to truly live out our baptismal vows— to respect the dignity of every human being.

We transformed our sanctuary through embracing our beautiful new chancel furniture from ICS in Ireland, bringing our 50/50/50 dream to fruition. I have tremendous and deep gratitude for the 50/50/50 team, especially Shon Cooper, Marguerite Keady and Chris Korbuly who helped shepherd this project across the finish line.

## MODEL 1: GATHER-TRANSFORM-SEND

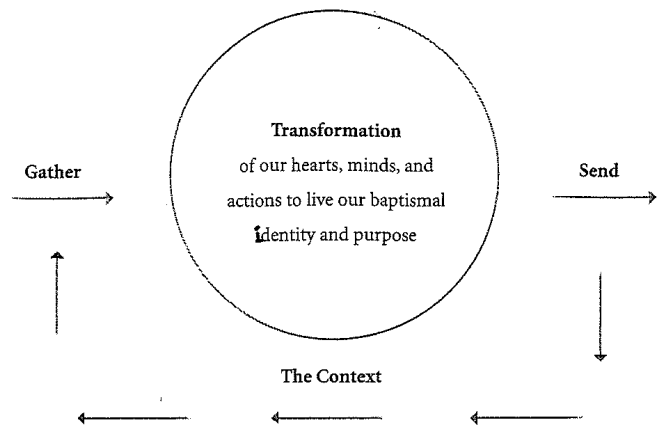


FIGURE A-3: MODEL 1—GATHER-TRANSFORM-SEND

We transformed our Choir Room and music ministry with Dj’s leadership. Dj Gunning has been an extraordinary Interim Music Director! He is always a team player, going above and beyond, and has brought fresh eyes and expertise to our staff, choir, and community. Thank you Dj for your liturgical collaboration, diligence with the organ speakers during the Pantry Expansion, expertise on the sound system and technology, countless hours organizing, cleaning, rearranging the choir room and putting together Ikea furniture! Dj has truly been a God-send blessing to us, and prepared the way for a new music director to join our team. Praise the Lord!

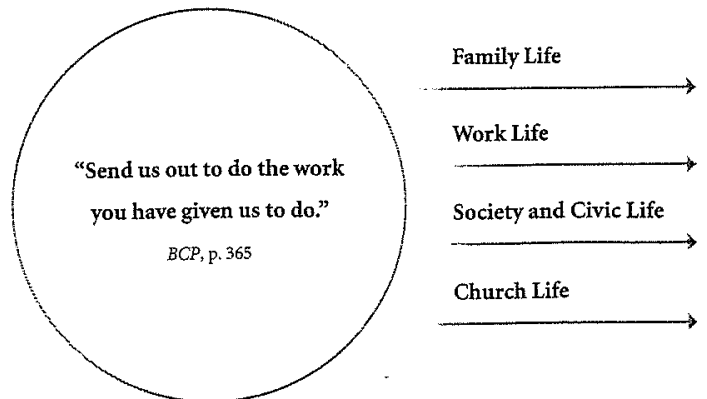
We continued to invite God’s transformative Spirit into our staff and leadership by hiring Sheri Schaffer as our Parish Administrator, officially welcoming Deacon Nancy to our team (IBTG!), and now this past week hiring Francisco Fernandez as our new Director of Music Ministry! Let’s go!! This marks a new season at St. Anne’s, where we are heading into 2024 with a full clergy and staff team, a first since I started in 2022.

Deep gratitudes to the Personnel Committee for their hard work and partnership in the Parish Administrator search process. Sheri has been a wonderful addition and blessing to me, Angie, the staff, and our church. I am truly grateful to Bishop Stevenson who appointed Deacon Nancy to serve with St. Anne’s. Deacon Nancy’s presence and ministry reminds us that all we do here at church is so we can be sent out into the world embodying God’s love. I am also incredibly grateful to the Music Director Search Committee, and especially Kurt Wilkinson, the chair, for their hard work and dedication in our search process. I look forward to our extending a wonderful St. Anne’s welcome to Francisco and his family.

Reflecting on all our community has been through in the past ten years, and dreaming about what the next ten years could hold– I am truly excited! We are a faith community that has cultivated resilience, strength, and courage to wholeheartedly place our trust in the Lord. As our trust is the Lord (Jeremiah), God continues to re-create, re-form, and transform us from disciples (ones who follow Jesus) to apostles (sent ones) being sent out into the world embodying Jesus’ love.

*“Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.”*  
*-BCP p. 365, Post Communion Prayer*

In the year to come, I see us moving from transformation to sending. Naming the ways in which God continues to form and transform us, yet not just for our own edification, but for the betterment of the world and glory to God! Former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple shared that the church is the only institution that exists for the people who are not its members. God sends us out into the world, into our everyday context, relationships, family, work, life so we may be the loving presence of Christ in a world that desperately needs transformation. I pray that we can listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and discern how she is inviting us to be sent at St. Anne’s—to do the work in which God has given us to do.



✠ FIGURE A-6: MODEL 1—SEND

May God’s peace and blessing be upon your path.

*Mtr. Jessica Holthus*

Mtr. Jessica Holthus

## ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR'S REPORT

It is my privilege to report to you all of the transformation that has occurred in our study and action this year. In her Rector report last year, Mother Jess shared with us the “Sources of Transformation” model, illustrated by the metaphor of a tree planted by streams of water. This metaphor, drawn from the first Psalm, offers a helpful tool for understanding how Transformation as a worshipping Body of Christ occurs, as the interrelated parts of a tree are identified: its leaves and fruit, representing our Life in Community; its branches, representing our Action & Acts of Service; its trunk, representing our Study & Learning; its roots, representing our Prayer & Worship—All of this nourished and sustained by the presence of God’s living water, shown at the roots of the tree.

Furthermore, once we access our life source of God’s presence, each of these key areas lead into and give rise to one another: from our roots of prayer and worship together, a widening trunk of study and learning arise. From our thickening trunk of study and learning, informed branches of actions and acts of service begin to sprout. And from those actions and acts of service – indeed, love itself – leaves of shade for one another, and fruit of nourishment for each other, create a Life in Community together worth sharing.

As your Assistant to the Rector for Formation and Outreach, it is my privilege and delight to report on the thickening trunk of Study & Learning and the sprouting, lengthening branches of Action & Acts of service. Of course, they cannot be talked about with some reference to their other parts – the roots, the leaves, the fruit, and of course, God’s living, animating waters of divine presence.

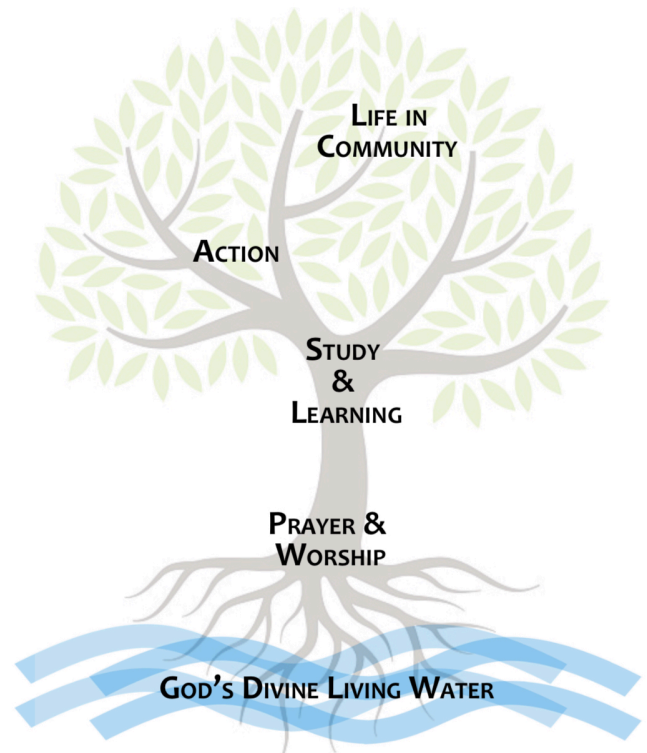
As I look back on 2023, I see four key areas of significant tree growth, or transformation in Christ: the Food Pantry, Adult Formation, Sunday School, and Youth Council.

First, the St. Anne’s Food Pantry. The Pantry leadership team and volunteer corps have plunged feet first into ministry “with and among!” After the vestry passed a visioning statement of sharing ministry “with and among” our community and beyond, the Food Pantry began to explore what this could mean for monthly Pantry Distribution Days. As Pantry Manager Glen Corso observed, the COVID-19 pandemic had forced a more transactional model of distribution to ensure the safety of both food secure and food insecure participants. Now, our Vestry was inviting us into a deeper, more relational form of ministry. What then would we do?

In an all-Pantry gathering following Trinity Sunday, the Pantry volunteer corps & leadership meditated on the Triune life of God, the ultimate model of love: mutual indwelling, giving and receiving. We considered our baptismal vows to “seek and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself” and to “honor the dignity of every human being.” We watched a video of a church whose pantry was living out this relational form of ministry quite well. As one Pantry volunteer observed, the food insecure neighbors aren’t the only ones coming to Distribution Day with needs: We, too, come with spiritual needs.

All this prayer, worship, study, and learning inspired beautiful branches of fresh action! Nametags and volunteer-pushed shopping carts were introduced. A greeter ministry was born; and volunteers began holding longer conversations than were previously feasible with their food insecure neighbors. Data was collected via the Capital

### SOURCES OF TRANSFORMATION



Area Food Bank logging system to help us gain a broad-strokes view of the populations we serve and the amount of food we are distributing. An international table of culturally specific food was offered for our Hispanic and Asian neighbors to peruse. Black, opaque trash bags of anonymous extra items were traded in for clear bags, which allowed folks to take what they actually wanted.

Through invitations from greeters and leadership, food insecure folks started helping us with distribution, thus beginning to blur the lines between “us” and “them” as we served alongside one another. Deacon Nancy and greeters hosted a hospitality table in December to share fellowship and holiday cheer. As the Pantry team looks toward this coming year, we hope to continue this growth in ministry “with and among.”

Next, the Adult Formation Team and Formation Series. An Adult Formation Team was convened by co-chairs Suzi Jones, Don Boileau, and clergy contact Mtr. Maria. They worked hard to draft a vision for St. Anne’s formation offerings. Suzi and Jim Jones launched “Saving Jesus Redux”, a program exploring a “credible” Jesus for the third millennium. Attendance has soared and remained consistent in the 20s. Folks have frequently expressed deep gratitude for the new insights, theological and personal, that have arisen from this.

Mtr. Annie and Chris Cameron launched Praying the African American Spirituals, a curriculum exploring the meaning behind Spirituals sung by enslaved persons and inviting participants to join in the songs of lament, hope, and so much more. The first session saw 29 participants! We learned about and listened to the spiritual “Go Down Moses,” and we observed photos from Emmanuel Parish in Cumberland, Maryland, which was a stop along the Underground Railroad. The powerful photo of “Door of No Return” inspired the group to take a racial justice pilgrimage on February 24th to Emmanuel Parish. (Join us!)

Third, the Sunday School has expanded in beautiful ways. Enrollment has increased from 44 to 52 children overall; and attendance continues at a healthy rate. The 3rd through 6th graders now have a more tailored, age-appropriate experience since they split into two classes: 3rd-4th and 5th-6th. The younger class continues to dwell in study & learning of the Bible and our tradition; the older class has begun to shoot branches from the trunk of learning into Action & Acts of Service as they translate their faith into action with outreach projects. Their bake sale fundraiser, benefitting Inova Children’s Hospital, marked the beginning of this “bridge year” from Sunday School into Youth Group. Teachers have reported a growing sense of community, organization, and empowerment, thanks to our strong leaders: Rebecca Mulder Krentel, Sunday school Coordinator; Lee Hobrla, K-2 Lead; and Margaret Light, Pre-K Lead.

Fourth, youth leadership has catalyzed amazing transformation in Christ together. Last June’s Messy Games offered a taste of what events planned “by and for the youth” could be. Following this energy, Youth Vestry Representative David Egge extended invitations to join a Youth Council. The St. Anne’s Youth Council was chartered in summer of 2023, with six inaugural members, ranging from 8th to 11th grade: Ronan Angerosa (11), Diana Brooks (8), David Egge (11), Santi Hernandez (11), Bryce Korbuly (11), and Lil Sayer (9). They’ve dwelt in God’s presence through leading all aspects of St. Anne’s worship twice last year. They’ve studied Jesus’ command to abide in Christ’s love, and they’ve invited other youth to serve alongside them in a community founded on mutual love, respect and inclusion.

What a year of transformation in Christ it has been! I am looking forward to seeing the further growth of this beautiful tree we all help create together. This year, may our roots sink deeper into God’s living water, may our trunks fatten, our branches lengthen, and our leaves and fruit provide shade and nourishment for one another. Praise be to the Holy Spirit who has invited us, and continues to invite us this coming year, into sources of transformation with and among our amazing community and beyond!

In Christ’s Love,  
Mtr Maria

## DEACON'S REPORT

Imagine my excitement when I learned that Bishop Stevenson was placing me at St. Anne's, where you all supported me in my formation as a deacon intern. As I said good-bye in June, and you all so graciously prayed me on my way, I had no idea how the Holy Spirit would move. Thanks be to God, I was ordained a deacon on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and I started serving at St. Anne's on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

You may be curious about what a deacon is and does. Simply put, deacons serve as a bridge between the church and the world. My vows say it all (see pp. 537 – 547, Book of Common Prayer). I am to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely; to make Christ's redemptive love known; and to study Holy Scriptures and model my life upon them.

During Sunday services, I proclaim the Gospel, call for confession, set and clear the table, and dismiss us into the world. These parallel my responsibilities beyond our St. Anne's community. I have had the honor to represent St. Anne's at Shoresim's Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah services, and participate in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at United Christian Parish. I have engaged with Cornerstones' faith liaison and served at Embry Rucker Community Shelter to listen to needs that are emerging.

It has been a joy to serve with our St. Anne's team at the hypothermia shelter at Epiphany Oak Hill, to offer a hospitality table of goodies at the December food pantry alongside the pantry and greeter team, and participate in vote project activities alongside the vote team. I am having fun figuring out how to invite our neighbors to join in marveling at the stars as part of God's creation alongside the stargaze team. I am excited about my new role to oversee and collaborate with lay leaders on all our offsite/beyond our walls ministries, including Just Neighbors, The Closet, and PRIDE, and to continued relationship building with Cornerstones and the Embry Rucker Shelter. I am looking forward to offering Ashes-To-Go on Ash Wednesday, to our Lenten Book Group together, and to praying together about how we may bring the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action to our community's needs. By my serving as a deacon alongside Mother Jess, Mother Maria, and all of you, I pray we all grow in sharing Christ's love of and service to the world.

May we all go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,  
The Reverend Dr. Nancy Searby, Deacon

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I received since I started last summer! I couldn't have asked for a better place to land after my years in the association arena. I've enjoyed getting to know the parishioners, staff, clergy and building.

Thanks to Chris Cameron, I quickly got onboard developing and sending out the weekly enews. One of the first things on my to do list was to replace the 29 lights that were broken throughout the building. After much research, we replaced them with LED lights that don't require a ballast and should last 75% longer than regular fluorescent lights. I also oversaw the renovation of Rooms 1 and 6, working closely with Dorry, Margaret, and Mtr. Maria to choose and order the paint colors, furniture, chair rails, and crown molding and scheduled the work to bring it all to fruition. In addition, I drafted an RFP and went out to several vendors to find the best snow/ice removal company for St. Anne's. So far, it has been a successful partnership.

Other miscellaneous items I've been working on have been to reach out to the various support groups that use St. Anne's to introduce myself and ensure their needs are being met; manage the parish calendar; research and review safety/security measures we might be able to implement in the future to keep St. Anne's safe; and get to know the Common Ground Director and understand their needs. I've also participated in a Building and Grounds Meeting, have worked with other parishioners on the erosion issue, met with Dominion Power/Honeywell on a potential energy audit of the church, repaired a broken front door lock, and assisted in looking at the potential of replacing St. Anne's roof. In looking ahead, I'm excited about working with George to update the website, create a more cohesive social media presence and improve our livestream. Stay tuned!

Sheri Schaffer

## INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

When I looked back on the year to write this report, I thought “That was ALL last year!?” Here is a look back at 2023 from the choir room: In February, we welcomed our new Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, to St. Anne’s for the first time, our choir chanting *The Great Litany* in procession with him. After a reflective and meaningful Lent and Triduum, we welcomed Easter with the new fire and the *Exsultet* chanted by Jim Jones and a beautiful presentation of the Genesis creation story, set to both Word and song, led by our Choir, Haze Hannah and Robin Drake. On Easter morning, we packed our church, and despite not having a full brass ensemble due to COVID, our celebrations were regal and joyous. Our children and youth choir stole the show, accompanied by our organ, trumpet, and tympani, inviting us to “Join in the dance of the earth's jubilation!”

Shortly after Easter, we saw months and months of planning and meetings come to fruition as we began to meet with contractors, engineers, and organ technicians to transform our mostly empty former pipe organ chamber into useful and much-needed space for our food pantry to expand its ministry. The subsequent revoicing of the organ to its new smaller space allowed us to make a couple of subtle but lovely changes to the way it sounds in the church. As the laughter of children and their voices singing “God is Good All The Time” filled our halls during VBS in July, our choir room was being completely transformed from a room junked up full of things that piled up over many years to a fresh, productive, and inspiring space that now allows us to rehearse in a similar layout as we have in the church.

In August, our “former intern” Nancy, who would eventually become our permanent Deacon, was ordained to the Diaconate at Grace Church in Alexandria with most of our choir singing in the loft, and I had the honor of leading the chanting of the *Litany For Ordinations* in two languages. As we approached a new program year, we welcomed another of our Bishops, The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, as he came to consecrate our new chancel furniture. Our choir, with just two weeks notice of the visit, blessed us with beautiful music to bid farewell to our previous furniture, to majestically welcome the new with bells and a magnificent setting of *Glory To You*, and invited us to “Go Up To The Altar of God.” It was a proud moment when listening to the Livestream recording a day or two later to hear the Bishop say “Wow!” to Mother Jess at the end of *Glory To You*. In December, despite most of the choir and its director being out with COVID at some point, we celebrated an extraordinarily beautiful Christmas, many commenting that it was the most beautiful they had experienced in years.

All of the above sounds, for the most part (and with a few exceptions), like a fairly ordinary year for a music program. And it is. And that is the point of my report. After years of transition and the pandemic, our music program has started to find a “new normal.” Fall brought us to our discernment and search process for a permanent Director of Music. The search committee did a lot of excellent and necessary work to prepare our parish and guide us through the process, and over 20 candidates interviewed and auditioned for the position. That is a testament to the love of music and art in this parish. With our permanent Music Director starting in just a few weeks, as I told the choir at Christmas, our time of transition is over, and 2024 will be a year of fully living into the ministry of music in our parish and our community. With all my heart, I thank you for the opportunity to serve among you the last two years and to play a small part in getting us to this day. A piece of me will always live at St. Anne’s, and I will carry you and our time together with me wherever the Holy Spirit takes me next.

With peace and love,  
David L.M. Gunning, Jr.

## SR WARDEN'S REPORT

Good morning, St. Anne's and welcome to our annual meeting! Today, let us open our hearts and minds to the stories that are shared with us and the achievements that we have accomplished together this past year. May these reflections, like whispered prayers, shine a light towards our future ahead, reminding us of our shared journey and deepening our love and appreciation for this community.

I would like to begin by sharing my gratitude. First, my sincerest thanks to the outgoing vestry members (Glen, Terry, Jennifer, Margaret) and our beloved registrar (Jane) for your steadfast leadership, collaboration and countless contributions. It is my hope that each of you will allow yourself a break but also continue to bless us with your gifts and talents. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new vestry members. Thank you for answering the call. I truly believe that this is an exciting time to serve on vestry as we have so much in front of us and look forward to partnering with you on the work ahead.

Prior to last year, St. Anne's was re-emerging from the pandemic and entering a phase of re-gathering known as "Genesis II" and was also a period of uncertainty, transition and introspection. At that time, we called a new rector and began the process of creating a new chapter. I am pleased to see how far we have come since then. This past year, we felt called to take a step further and begin a transformative journey building on the momentum that had been previously established. **Transformation!** You will hear this mentioned several times today and we intentionally have woven its themes into the fabrics of our ministries within this past year. As you hear from the various readings, I invite you to contemplate on its meaning and how God is changing you and us as a community of faith.

To guide us through this new phase, the vestry established a vision for itself that served as our north star. This vision, anchored in the values of courage, active engagement, trust, intentional growth, accountability and transparency inspires us to:

"...create opportunities for transformation knowing that the Holy Spirit is present with us, inviting us to be with and among our amazing community and beyond. We will listen to the Spirit's guidance and engage with who God is calling us to become. We will do this by uniting in **worship and prayer, study and learning, life in community, and action.** We believe that by creating these opportunities, we can help our community grow in faith and love. We are excited to see what God will do through us as we work together to make a difference in our world."

Have you noticed these elements at work in our interactions, programs, or processes? They all contribute to a unique and uplifting experience. Perhaps you've seen it in:

- **A Nurturing Sanctuary:** We graced our sacristy with new furnishings, a symbol of our dedication to providing a sacred space for reflection and devotion.
- **Staff Expansion:** Through hiring a new parish administrator and full time music director, we have increased our capacity to serve God and support our community.
- **Fostering Connections:** Renovations to our kitchen, pantry, sanctuary gardens, choir and classrooms not only enhanced our physical space but allows for greater interaction and utilization.
- **Welcoming New Faces:** With renewed focus, our newcomers' ministry relaunched with creating moments of connection and establishing a welcoming atmosphere for those joining our church family.
- **Empowering Youth:** We cultivated sustainable models for youth ministry and children's formation, providing leadership opportunities that nurtures faith development and inspiration for our younger parishioners to actively participate and share their gifts.
- **Spiritual Learning:** Revitalized adult formation programs and seasonal liturgical offerings have nourished the spiritual growth of our congregation through discussion and contemplation.
- **Serving Our Neighbors:** By expanding our pantry operations and engaging with the broader community, we extended our hands in service and shared God's love beyond our walls.

- **Community Outreach:** Under Deacon Nancy's leadership, we are re-envisioning our outreach ministry to embrace a holistic approach to connecting with and serving the Greater Reston community in meaningful and impacting ways.
- **Stewardship with Integrity:** Our commitment to responsible financial management supplemented by strong governance ensures we use our resources wisely to fulfill our mission.

This past year, our work has resulted in several achievements, each a testament to the transformative spirit within our community and unlocked opportunities and some challenges for us to address. I look forward to what the future holds; a new music ministry, fostering impactful partnerships within our community and beyond, opportunities for fellowship, the beautification of our grounds, the caring for our woods, our commitment and responsibility to our climate, modernizing our systems and processes and our ongoing journey of faith and discovery. Now, as we set foot on the path ahead, let's open our hearts to prayerful discernment so that together, we may discover an even stronger sense of our spiritual identity and hear where God calls us next. I invite you to be present, share your voice and engage in all that we are doing. The Holy Spirit is alive in this church and is guiding us to new and greater things! Together, let us boldly embrace these moments of transformation!

In Peace, James Brooks.



# JR WARDEN'S REPORT

Consistent with this past year's theme of TRANSFORMATION, the dedicated Buildings and Grounds Committee, under the strong leadership of Chair Dorry Kee, has been remarkably productive. In addition to the routine maintenance of the church building and grounds and the space occupied by our tenant, Common Ground Child Care, a number of major projects have been completed.

## INSIDE

The food pantry was enlarged and remodeled; the kitchen was rewired to accommodate the new industrial fridge and freezer; the kitchen nook area was remodeled for use by Java Junction; the Choir Room was repainted and remodeled, with new flooring extending into the hallway by the kitchen; Classrooms 1 and 6 were repainted and upgraded; Room 1 has been newly furnished for primary used by the Youth Group; Room 6 will also be refurnished in 2024 for continued rental use as well as serving as an additional conference room for church use. Throughout the building, 31 old and broken light fixtures have been replaced with LEDs; new electric outlets were installed in the Narthex and outside the front door; several roof leaks have been repaired.

## OUTSIDE

The sanctuary garden is being completely transformed by the addition of a beautiful new paved patio area, new fountain, new benches, and plans for the addition of many native plants, all with the goal of making this space more beautiful and welcoming. Miscanthus was removed from the parking lot strip; once soil testing is done and deemed safe for re-planting, native plants will be planted, with preference for those attractive to pollinators. New steps were installed from the upper parking level to the lower level and potholes were filled in the parking lot. In St. Anne's Woods a number of dead and fallen trees were removed and several large debris piles were removed. A start has been made to remove invasives, such as English ivy. New snow removal vendor has been hired. 2 new double faucets were installed outside.

## PLANS/ GOALS FOR 2024

Renovation of bathrooms in Common Ground and St. Anne's, with the inclusion of a separate family bathroom; replacement of gas stove in the kitchen with a new electric industrial stove (wiring for this has been done during the kitchen renovation); re-striping the parking lot; completion of the energy audit & implementation of recommendations where feasible to reduce our overall energy consumption; cleanout of both the undercroft and the loft in the great hall; implementation of a new security system for the church and parking lot.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN/ ST. ANNE'S WOODS

St. Anne's is deeply committed to Creation Care and the faithful stewardship of our sacred grounds and building. A number of discussions by the Clergy, Building & Grounds committee members, and parishioners have indicated that a long-term, comprehensive plan is needed to address a vision for the use of this area and the multiple issues involved. These include: correction of serious erosion from storm water drainage, affecting the area where cremains are buried; improved handicap access for family of deceased; removal of invasive plants, including bamboo; the need for an increased volunteer workforce; renovation of existing steps, with the addition of a safety handrail ; and the creation of new steps near the entrance to the woods.

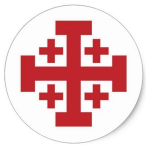
Respectfully Submitted by Margaret Light, Jr. Warden, February 2024



# St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting Finance Report  
February 11, 2024

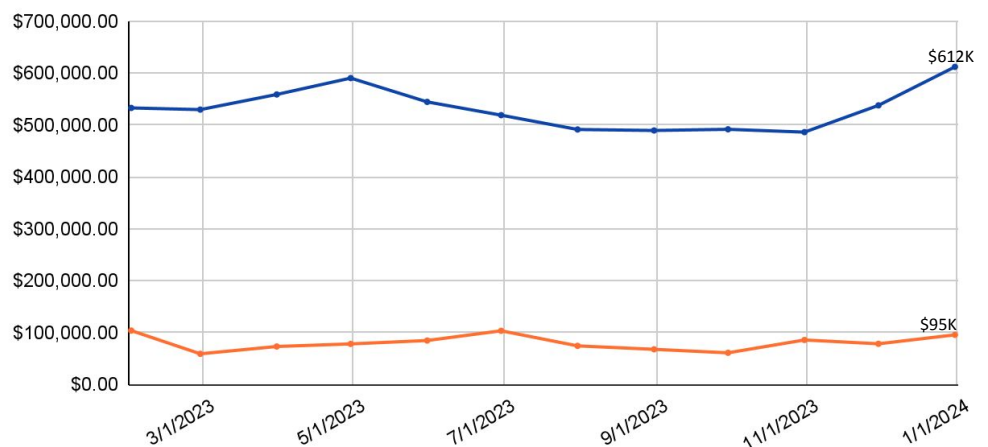
[treasurer@stannes-reston.org](mailto:treasurer@stannes-reston.org)



## The Big Picture: 2023 Operating Fund Trends

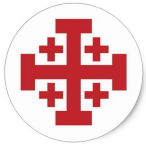
2023 Operating Fund vs Monthly Expenses

● Operating Fund Balance ● Monthly Expenses



Average Operating Fund  
Value in 2023: **\$531K**

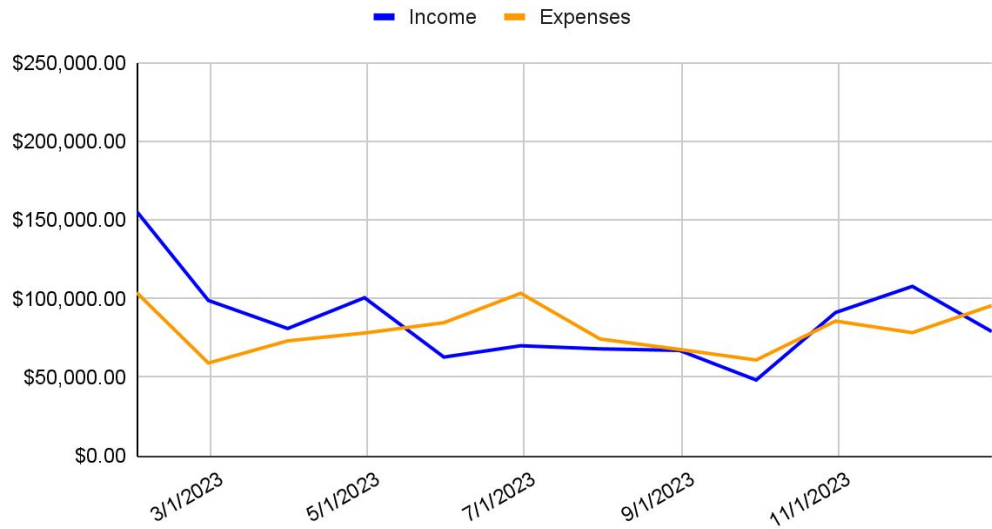
Average Monthly  
Expenses in 2023: **\$80K**



# The Big Picture: 2023 Cash Flow

St. Anne's 2023 Cash Flow Analysis

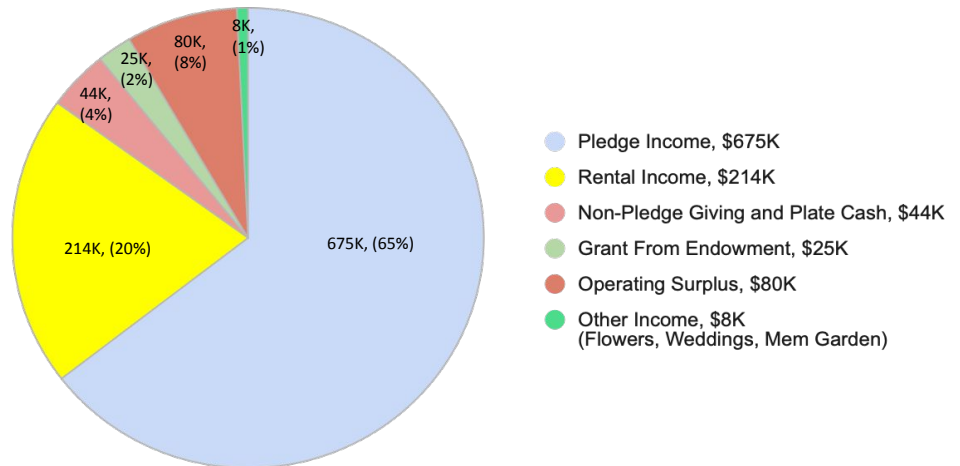
**Income** exceeded **Expenses** by \$99K in 2023



# Breakdown of Budgeted 2024 Income

2024 Budgeted Income

Total 2024 Budgeted Income  
\$1046K  
(2023 Actuals 1076K)

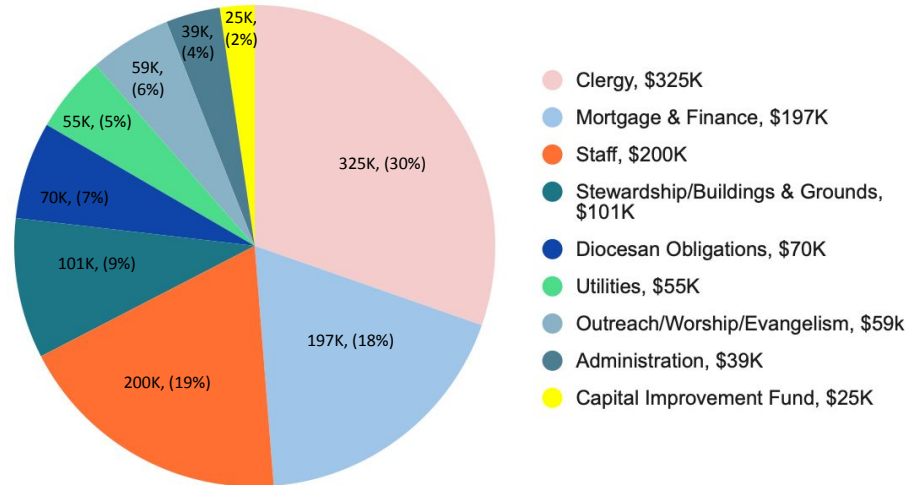




## Breakdown of Projected 2024 Expenses

Total 2024 Budgeted Expenses  
\$1071K  
(2023 Actuals 977K)

2024 Projected Expenses



## Items of Note 2024

- The 2024 Operating Budget was approved by the Vestry on Jan 10, 2024.
- All staff received a 4% cost of living adjustment in January 2024.
- Budget reflects full time Music Director starting in Q1, 2024.
- Hired full time Parish Administrator in Q3, 2023.
- We increased our outreach budget and diocesan pledge for the past 4 years.
- Vestry approved transferring investment assets from the Trustees of the Fund (TOTF) to The Mason Company to optimize fund performance on Jan 28, 2024.
- Vestry and Finance committee will partner on evaluating and improving upon our Stewardship model for 2024

# PRAYER AND WORSHIP

## GROUNDED IN GOD

*Everything we do as a faith community is rooted and grounded in God's Divine presence. We gather for communal worship, sharing in scripture, sacrament, song, prayer, praises, and laments. We also join individually in the Daily Office, as well as personal prayer. The following ministries are vital in our ability to offer opportunities for transformative prayer and worship.*

*Did you know that it takes a total of 63 volunteers (including our 8 ministry leaders) to offer our two worship services every Sunday? Please share your gratitude to the ministry leaders below, and consider joining the transformative teams of leading worship!*

### **ACOLYTES** (James Brooks)

The Acolyte ministry plays a vital role in enriching our worship services. Its name, derived from the Greek word "akolouthos" meaning "server," reflects the essence of this ministry: selfless service. From carrying the symbolic cross and torches to assisting with preparing the altar, our acolytes contribute significantly to the beauty, solemnity, and reverence of our worship experience. Currently, a dedicated team of five adult Crucifers supports the 8AM service, while 13 enthusiastic youth acolytes, ranging from ages 8 to 17, lend their service to the 10AM service. We are incredibly proud of our acolytes for their professionalism, maturity, and embodiment of servant leadership. To nurture this valuable ministry, we offer regular training sessions and refresher courses. Additionally, we implemented an automated scheduling tool last year to ensure a balanced, adaptable, and comprehensive rotational system. This system prioritizes fairness and flexibility, allowing our acolytes to balance their ministry commitments with their personal schedules. Looking ahead, we're excited to launch a new training series this spring, welcoming new members to this rewarding ministry. We encourage anyone interested in serving to join us!

### **ALTAR GUILD** (Emily Besuden, Valerie Mayer)

The year began with a change in leadership. Many thanks to Susan Ficklin for her many years of service as leader. With new leadership came several changes in procedures to accommodate the many services the Altar Guild supports. 2023 saw the installation of new chancel furniture and the need for new candles and linens. An instruction book is being updated to reflect the changes. Once a month a group gathers to make the sacristy "shine." We are especially in need of more members to join our very dedicated team.

### **CHALICE BEARERS** (Tom Smith)

Chalice Bearers are lay members of the community of faith who serve the consecrated wine at communion. We currently need four at the 10:00 a.m. service and two at the 8:00 a.m. service. Training takes about one-half hour, and we also have a manual. Please contact Tom Smith if you would like to join this ministry.

### **DIGITAL VERGER/ LIVESTREAM** (Laurie Corkey & Gary Harvey)

In 2023, the digital vergers streamed each of the 10 a.m. Sunday services and several other services as requested. Currently we have two cameras each with five camera angles. We have four streaming teams and would like to add an additional team. This is a particularly good ministry for young people (with parent-partner) to get involved with as it involves technical and creative skills. We are grateful for the assistance of George Bounacos who prepares the pre-roll tape that we play before the service each week.

## **FIFTY-FIFTY-FIFTY (50/50/50)** (Shon Cooper)

On August 28<sup>th</sup> of 2023, our new furnishings finally arrived at St. Anne's from Ireland! Over the next few weeks, we coordinated on the placement and installation of the furnishings. We celebrated together the consecration of the new sanctuary furniture on September 24<sup>th</sup>, with the Right Reverend Dabney Smith (visiting bishop) presiding. Though many of the old Sanctuary items were removed, we have salvaged the four Gospel carvings, to be repurposed in a way to be determined. The oriental rug has found a new home in the parish office. Though the journey to get to completion of this effort took longer than anticipated, we are truly thankful for the congregation's patience and support. We are grateful for our partner-in-design and fabrication, ICS Church Furnishers, who was a joy to work with. We also feel blessed to have had such a devoted committee who volunteered many hours of work to make this happen. This work is a key part of our continued legacy; here's to the next 50 years!



## **FLOWER GUILD** (Martha Furniss)

Highlights for our flower guild included welcoming Bishop Stevenson in late February of 2023, and the Easter and Christmas holidays. Our parishioner Mary Sims, who also serves on the Cathedral flower guild, gave us an impromptu lesson before our Easter arranging. We hope to offer a scheduled class during 2024. The consecration of our new chancel furniture in September certainly got our creative minds buzzing! We appreciate the new flower stands and look forward to many years of enhancing all our chancel furniture for the glory of God.

## **LAY READERS** (George Bounacos)

Our lay reader team has grown impressively, with seven volunteers for our 8 a.m. services and nearly 20 supporting the 10 a.m. services. Their participation brings the Bible's words to life, enhancing our communal worship experience. Last year's Easter Week highlighted this growth, allowing us to read in 31 reading slots during Holy Week. This commitment from all the team members deepened our engagement with the passion and scripture during these sacred celebrations. We are also opening this rewarding ministry to teens, encouraging them to lend their voices beyond Youth Sunday. If your child is interested in joining, please talk with our clergy team. Their involvement promises to enrich our services further and bring fresh energy to our worship.

## **HEALING PRAYER** (Martha Furniss)

Meeting twice a month on Wednesday mornings, this group responds in prayer to the needs of our congregation. Prayer requests submitted on pew cards or through the church office are used by the group in corporate prayer and private prayer. Please contact Angie if you are interested in joining this group.

## **NEWCOMERS** (Eve Angerosa)

In 2023 we renewed and updated activities to identify, welcome, and engage newcomers. Key steps included: redesigned the print and digital welcome cards, and simplified the data upload process into Breeze and Trello databases; messaged key frontline groups (vestry, clergy, teachers, ushers) on how to approach newcomers; began an ambassador program, matching newcomers with parishioners who can check in with and invite them to events/ministries; launched Second Sundays, where parishioners intentionally engage with newcomers at coffee hour following the 10:00 service.

Looking into 2024, we expect that newcomer efforts may include: expand fellowship opportunities; identify and fill role of excursion/fellowship owners, to ensure regular and consistent event identification, messaging, and participation; host regular newcomer liturgy and brunches; continue and boost marketing approaches to attract potential newcomers; continued digital opportunities to market St. Anne's.

### **USHERS** (Ray Walser)

The St Anne's ushers supported the return to in-person worship in 2023. Our small crew of 11 ushers served at the 10 a.m. service each Sunday as well as multiple services during Holy Week and Christmas. Additionally we assisted at several celebrations of life. Our goals for 2024 are to increase our ranks.

## STUDY AND LEARNING

### GROWING IN GOD

*As disciples of Jesus, we are committed to continual growth through study and learning. We engage our hearts through learning the values and wisdom of our faith. We transform our minds through theological reflection, drawing on Scripture, tradition, and reason to inform our faith walk. We embrace creative practices to understand and live out our faith.*

### **ADVENT AND LENT SEASONAL PROGRAMS** (Mother Jess)

During Lent and Advent in 2023, I drew upon *Sanctified Art* resources, and led two Visio Divina series. Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing”, is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentionally seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of art or visual imagery. In Lent we journeyed through a series, *Seeking Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*, by exploring artist's renditions and reflections of our weekly Scripture passages through the practice of Visio Divina. I held two sessions to once again experiment with preferred timing. Our in-person session was on Wednesdays at 1pm, we had six people attend. The virtual session was Wednesdays at 7 p.m. with 14 screens gathering on Zoom.

In Advent we enjoyed the series *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*. We integrated music into the series starting off singing the unique song paired with each week. I held two offerings. We gathered in person on Sundays during our afternoon 4-5:30 p.m. Adult Formation time slot. This group started out robust and then dwindled as Advent continued closer to Christmas. In the future I won't be holding Advent series as I have observed how busy our families get as December enfolds. The Wednesday 7 p.m. evening virtual series stayed strong, with a consistent 12 gathering on Zoom. It is clear that weeknight Zoom is much preferred in our community for this type of offering. Looking ahead to Lent 2024, we will have Deacon Nancy lead the series *Will You?* which explores how we embody our Baptismal Vows. The series will be held Wednesdays in Lent at 7 p.m. on Zoom, starting February 21. Hope to see you there!

### **BIBLE STUDY** (Jane Smith)

The Monday Morning Bible Study, started by Mtr. Jackie Thomson, meets 10:30 a.m. to noon via ZOOM. We have 12 people enrolled (there's always room for more) with a usual attendance of 8 to 10. In 2023 we started the year with *Ruth and Esther Bible Study* from the Good Book Club (published by Forward Movement). Next was *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine for Lent. We followed that with *Love is the Way* by Bishop Curry in the spring and resumed in the fall after the summer break. We wrapped up the year with *The Gospel of Mark* (another study from Amy-Jill Levine) just in time for Lectionary Year B.

### **BOOK CLUB** (Don Boileau & Kathy Boileau)

The St. Anne's Book Club met eight times during the 2023 year via Zoom, which we have found a convenient way to meet. Our mailing list contains 30 people; we had 9 to 16 members at the meetings. We vote by mail on a list of nominated books and the length and type of book often determines when we will next meet. We move among a series of topics for the nominated books, e.g., fiction, history, non-fiction, spirituality, religion, poetry, drama, and society. We are open to anyone interested, even if they only attend one meeting. A primary advantage of being a part of the church is that one is encouraged to develop links to theological and spiritual development present in the book. Bobbi Regan serves as secretary in organizing our nominations, voting, and announcements--for which we all are grateful.

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** (James Brooks)

The beauty of Christmas was brought to life once again at St. Anne's through the wonderful performances of 40 youth and children aged 4 to 17. With their boundless enthusiasm and talent, they transported us through the timeless story of the Nativity in seven interludes drawn from the Gospels. Witnessing Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, prophets, and wisemen come to life on stage was truly heartwarming. Several young musicians enriched the storytelling with their melodious notes from the piano, flute, cello, handbells, chimes, and even a saxophone, creating a beautiful soundscape. This tradition of celebrating the Nativity through a youth-led pageant is a cherished one at St. Anne's, and we are committed to continuing it for years to come. We extend our deepest gratitude to our talented youth for their dedication and performance, and to the many adult volunteers who made this event possible. Their tireless efforts in costume design, set creation, production, and coordination ensured a truly memorable experience for all. We invite everyone to join us in shaping this beloved tradition by participating in the planning or production of the annual St. Anne's Christmas Pageant!

### **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)** (Paul Bishop)

Education for Ministry (EfM) at St Annes is alive and well with two St Annes members as part of this year's seminar and nine other members from across the country. We have a diverse group including one Quaker, a Druid and other non-Episcopalians. We are 20 weeks into our 36 week academic year and will be finishing up the second week of June. In the Fall of 2024, we will have several openings as we will be graduating four students this year. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm via ZOOM. If you are interested in joining, please contact Paul Bishop at [pbishop4@gmail.com](mailto:pbishop4@gmail.com).

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND HEALING** (Chris Cameron)

In our ongoing efforts toward racial justice and healing at St. Anne's, we began an adult formation series on Praying with the African American Spirituals. We had our first session in November focused "Go Down Moses." In 2024 we will hold three more sessions about African American Spirituals. We also have planned a pilgrimage to Emmanuel Parish, Cumberland, a site on the Underground Railroad. Look for more offerings aimed at Becoming Beloved Community at St. Anne's.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL** (Rebecca Mulder Krentel)

Sunday School is in its second full year post-pandemic and we have been delighted to see steady growth continue. The program offers classes for Pre-K through grade six and enrollment has grown from 44 to 52.

The program's curriculum is tailored to the developmental needs of the children. Pre-K covers key Bible stories in the Old and New Testament; Kindergarten-Grade 2 uses Godly Play; and Grades 3-6 have continued with Weaving God's Promises. Grades 5-6 additionally have incorporated a student-led service project into their class as a way to live out their faith and serve the community. We continued to refresh the classroom spaces throughout 2023, to include the new Youth Room (Room 1) which grades 5-6 uses Sunday mornings.



Mother Maria continues to provide clergy oversight and Rebecca Mulder Krentel stepped into lay leadership as Sunday School Coordinator in early 2023. We offered multiple training opportunities for our parishioner volunteers to increase their confidence as teachers and learn from one another. We are excited at the way God has blessed this program as a key part of our Formation ministry and will continue to look for new ways to serve the children of St. Anne's and their families.

### **VBS (Emily Muha)**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2023 was held at St Anne's July 24-28th from 9:15-12:15 PM. Twenty four campers attended (pre-K - sixth grade), eight junior counselors and thirteen adult volunteers. We selected the Episcopal Relief and Development's VBS program called "Abundant Life Garden Project" which we renamed to be called "In God's Garden." Through daily biblical stories, Godly play, art activities, songs and daily guest speakers we learned about God's gifts for abundant life, including water, soil, seeds, insects and animals. We traveled around the world with the Episcopal Relief and Development team to see how they are changing lives, while helping communities in need of clean water, raising animals and learning new farming techniques.

We had our own Fred Bagley give a wonderful slide presentation on endangered animals and the importance of these creatures in our environment. Lani shared fun facts about the importance of bees while sharing St Anne's beehives. With Roy Copson, all campers planted sunflower and zinnia seeds to create a beautiful flower garden for the St Anne's community.

### **YOUTH GROUP (Mtr Maria Maguire)**

The St. Anne's Youth Group has had a tremendous year of growth and transformation! Last spring, we said thank you to Shon Cooper for getting to know and gathering the youth after COVID isolation, as well as launching our regular youth group offering, as he shifted his focus to other ministries. After a spring semester of once-per-month gatherings, Senior Warden James Brooks and Youth Vestry Representative David Egge helped us to charter and convene a Youth Council. The June 2023 Messy Games revealed a drive for youth to plan, lead, and own their own events; thus, a youth council to continue youth leadership was born.

The July Moving Mountains Mission Trip allowed our youth to forge deeper bonds with one another—and to yearn to see one another more often during the school year. In the late summer, the youth council gathered to envision a fall semester offering. They determined four main focus areas: fellowship, teamwork, youth leadership in worship, and branching out to other Episcopal youth. The youth council chose activities occurring twice a month for the fall semester, an expansion from the spring. Youth-led worship increased to twice-per year; and Ronan Angerosa, Youth Delegate to the North Fairfax Region, teamed up with Fr. Will Drosos of St. Thomas and Mtr Maria to initiate Regional youth events, the first of which occurs in April and involves St. Timothy's, St. Francis, St. Thomas, St. Anne's, Epiphany, and Holy Cross.

Our theme is Abiding in Christ Together, taken from Jesus' injunction to "abide in me as I abide in you." The Youth Council hopes to continue to offer a Youth Group that is an inclusive community, where youth can come together in warm and supportive friendship; as well as to continue to grow in fellowship, teamwork, youth leadership in worship, and Regional relationships.

# ACTION

## SERVING GOD & COMMUNITY

*Action is our stewardship, service, and evangelism. Through the practice of gratitude and generosity we mindfully care for all that God has entrusted to us. We are transformed by serving our neighbors in the Reston community and beyond, preaching the good news of Jesus through feeding and caring for others— using words only when necessary. We organically share our faith with those around us, and invite others to join us in this ministry of action.*

### *Action within St. Anne's*

#### **BEE MINISTRY** (Eileen Ellis)

While only one of our hives made it through Winter 2022-2023, we split the Dandelion Fireworks hive early in the season and acquired two additional hives. This brought us to a total of four. In 2023, the St. Anne's Beekeeping team expanded from 5 to 10. To ensure continued support from our local Beekeeping community and utilization of equipment, Eileen and Lani are members of Fairfax Beekeepers on behalf of St. Anne's. Both attended the Virginia State Beekeepers meeting this past June at Sweetbriar College in Lynchburg, VA. In July and August, we harvested our honey which had mostly been produced by one hive, our Dandelion Fireworks hive. We produced approximately 70 pounds of honey, twice the amount in 2023. The honey was distributed to the congregation in August and resulted in \$664 in donations. We have retained some jars of honey for newcomers and for use during Java Junction coffee hour. In November, because the queen from our Lavender hive swarmed, to ensure viability of the hives during Winter, we combined the Lavender and Honeycomb hives. We went into Winter 2023-2024 with four hives. In Summer 2023 we added an additional hive. This was documented in a short film "What's The Buzz," that Sarah Teagle created for a filmmaking class. Sarah agreed to convert this film to a promotional video for St. Anne's website. In 2024, we are looking forward to our new beekeepers taking the Fairfax Beekeepers class, having Emily Vorek, an experienced beekeeper, add to the mentorship of our team, and potentially going up to 6 hives to ensure sustainability of our apiary.

#### **ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE** (Michael Broddle)

In January the Endowment Committee made a grant to the vestry of \$24,000, thereby continuing the tradition of increasing the value of the grant each year since its inception in 2019. The vestry typically assigns the grant to the Capital Improvement Fund where it is used for non-operational improvements to structures and equipment. The value of the fund rose from \$447,000 in January to \$507,000 at the end of December, thanks to \$15,000 in new gifts and \$45,000 in investment gains. During the year the Endowment Committee organized five Life Planning Workshops, focusing on later-life issues. A reception, attended by members of the St. Anne's Society, (those who have either made a gift to the fund or have committed to leaving a bequest) was held in May to celebrate the completion of our Legacy Month campaign.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE** (James Jones)

The Finance Committee meets every month a week or so before the regular meeting of the Vestry to review the financial results of the parish through the preceding month, to track those results against the operating budget for the year, and to recommend such actions as it deems necessary to the Rector and Vestry. At year-end, the Finance Committee also assists the Treasurer in the preparation of the church operating budget for the coming year. In addition to its on-going normal functions, during 2023, the Finance Committee made plans for the refinancing of the parish's current mortgage upon its expiration on October 31, 2024, and initiated contacts with TD Bank and the Common Ground Child Care Center ("CG Center") to prepare for such refinancing; conducted a preliminary study of the feasibility of expanding the CG Center facilities to add classroom space and to allow for a higher student

enrollment; initiated discussions of ways in which parts of our building might be remodeled to make them more appropriate for use by the church; initiated a review of the use of The Trustees of the Funds of the Diocese (“TOTF”) as the investment vehicle for the church’s investments (including the Operating Fund, the Capital Improvements Fund, and the Endowment Fund); and recommended to the Vestry that our investment management be moved from TOTF to The Mason Company. Expected initiatives for 2024 include continued discussions with the CG Center concerning the future of its lease with the parish, with a view toward concluding an agreement for long-term improvements in the educational wing of our building; continued discussions with TD Bank concerning the refinancing of our building mortgage, with a view toward extending our current mortgage for an additional five-year period, during which time additional space would be added to the CG Center and certain improvements made to the rest of our facilities; and discussion with the Rector, Vestry, and others in the parish regarding a potential new capital campaign to be launched within the next two years.

### **HELPING HANDS** (Lee Hobrla)

If you need assistance with errands, rides or meals, let Helping Hands help you. We are a team of volunteers who support our congregation during times of transition or difficulty. We provide meals to members who are ill or recovering from surgery and also to families with a new baby. We also provide rides for medical appointments or to get groceries.

### **PERSONAL COMMITTEE** (Martha Furniss)

The Personnel Committee exists to provide oversight to the Parish’s employment relationships, primarily through the creation of employment policy. Members are appointed by Mother Jess and the committee is accountable to the Vestry. Highlights this year included the completion of a Lay Employees Handbook and the hiring of our Parish Administrator, Sheri Schaffer.

### **STEWARDSHIP** (James Brooks)

Stewardship is the act of being *stewards* of the gifts we receive from God. It is also the tradition of giving back to God through our work, wisdom and wealth. This year, thanks to your generosity, our stewardship campaign achieved ~90% of our targeted goal! These contributions allow us to make vital investments for the coming year and strengthen our parish community. We are deeply grateful to all who pledged. However, the journey doesn't end here, the Vestry and Finance Committee are collaborating to develop a sustainable stewardship model to drive future campaigns. This model will encourage year-round engagement, helping people discover their unique gifts and their place within St. Anne’s. If you are interested in participating in this vital ministry, please talk with the Senior Warden or Mother Jess.

## *Action Beyond St. Anne’s*

### **CONNECTION WITH CORNERSTONES:**

#### **Christmas Gifts for Kids** (Cat Tucker, Jane Smith)

We are pleased to report that St. Anne Episcopal Church donated 69 gift cards totaling \$3,975 to Cornerstone for the Christmas Gift Cards for Kids Program. Thanks to our generous congregation, all of the young people on the list received a gift card. The recipients were young people in families who are struggling to make ends meet in Northern Virginia. Jane Smith and Cat Tucker teamed up to ensure that this project was carried through to completion.

## **Voters Project** (Sidney Johnson)

In 2023 our VOTE Project, jointly run with Cornerstones and The League of Women Voters, reached out in person at the following places to offer voter registration/education: the Washington Plaza and St. Anne's food pantries, the Neighborhood Resource Center, Embry Rucker Shelter, and, on National Night Out, the four Cornerstones apartment complexes. In the weeks before elections, we send information by text to residents of those complexes. We held a meeting for the congregation on May 7<sup>th</sup> to explain the purpose of the Vote Project. Deacon Nancy Searby shared why this project was important to our faith and as Episcopalians, followed by Vote Project members sharing transformative moments as they participated in this ministry. We are forming promising alliances beyond Cornerstones. We worked with the Fairfax League at library and farmers' market voter registration tables. Our Souls to the Polls volunteers drove 15 voters to the polls. We supplied League materials to volunteers at St. John Neumann. We made 484 contacts at the tables, and we are considering more ways to define and expand our ministry.

## **FOOD PANTRY** (Glen Corso)

The year 2023 was a highly significant one for the St. Anne's Food Pantry. We moved into wonderfully updated and refreshed quarters, purchased a large commercial refrigerator and freezer for the kitchen, and we provided a record number of our neighbors with food and other essentials. Precise statistics on the number of people provided food are available for the first time thanks to a new program provided by the Capital Area Food Bank.

Thanks to the incredible work of our volunteers and the generosity of our congregation,

The **total number of visits** our neighbors made to the Food Pantry was **1,765**.

Food was provided to **248 families** in the Reston/Herndon area totaling **686 people**.

Of those 248 families, **118 families** have children.

Of those families with children, we provided food (**and diapers and wipes thanks to our wonderful diaper ministry within the pantry**) to **117** children aged newborn to 5 years old and **151** children aged 6 through 17.

The number of senior citizens (65+) was **144**, and adults (ages 18-64) was **274**.

## **Artemis House & Embry Rucker Shelter** (Bernadette Capelle)

Our donations to Embry Rucker Community Shelter and Artemis House, two area shelters supported monthly by the St. Anne's Food Pantry, increased in 2023 to total approximately 10,000 pounds of food and personal care items! This past year we worked to better curate the donations, as much as possible, to come closer to the needs of shelter residents. Embry Rucker Community Shelter is a 24-hour, 70-bed residential shelter in Reston. For them, we earmark jumbo-size items for preparation of large meals and easy-open cans and snack-size offerings for individuals. Artemis House, located in Herndon, is a 24-hour emergency shelter for those in danger of domestic and sexual violence. While we also give basic non-perishable foods, we always set aside some personal care items and treats for the residents as those are needed and favorite items. Strides were made in getting to know the needs of the shelters and connecting with their teams in 2023 and this will continue in 2024. Finally, we welcomed new volunteers to the food pantry team who have delivered these monthly donations!

## **Cool Green Bags** (Glen Corso & Bernadette Capelle)

Northern Virginia. People in the Reston-Herndon area, including many members of our congregation, fill the green bags with non-perishable items, that are then picked up and delivered to area pantries. We received approximately 11,000 pounds of food and personal care items from Cool Green Bags in 2023 and this program provided nearly 100% of the personal care items for our monthly distribution days as well as what we share with the shelters supported by the pantry. Bob Schnapp, founder of Cool Green Bags, toured our expanded and remodeled pantry in 2023 and this led to a 20% increase in the food and other items intended for St. Anne's! The six Saturdays of Cool Green Bags brought family fun and fellowship for members and friends of St. Anne's in 2023 as volunteers of all ages came together to share in this ministry.

### **JUST NEIGHBORS** (Peggy Hobler)

Just Neighbors (JN), the non-profit immigration law office that St. Anne's has supported for more than 11 years, continues to provide hope, compassion, and expert legal service to low-income immigrants as they navigate the complex US immigration system. In 2023, JN staff attorneys handled 2,236 cases for clients from 82 countries. Clients included refugees, asylees, those fleeing violence and natural disaster, trafficking victims, and individuals and families with a wide range of issues. Our St. Anne's volunteers spent hundreds of hours interviewing clients; answering phones; translating and interpreting for the attorneys; populating databases, and a retired attorney provided legal services under the supervision of JN attorneys. The generosity of St. Anne's in sharing time, talent, and treasure continues to touch the lives of our immigrant neighbors.

### **MOVING MOUNTAINS MISSION (M3) TRIP** (Clifton Poole)

Seven chaperones and eight teens traveled to southwest Virginia to support Grace House on the Mountain mission. Your missionaries served the larger faith-based communities with their hearts by attending multiple church services, sharing meals with members of the community that bring us closer together. The service project was a handicap ramp for one deserving family, whose parent was having difficulty simply using the stairs to leave the home. The family lived on a farm which allowed for many fun experiences with a menagerie of animals. The M3 trip and construction project was a first for all the teens.

### **RESTON PRIDE** (Sandy Chamblee-Head & Peggy Hobler)

For several years, St. Anne's has been a sponsor of the Reston Pride Festival to celebrate gay pride and assure the LGBTQ+ community, their allies and the general public that Saint Anne's welcomes and loves all of God's children unconditionally - no exceptions. The Festival was June 3 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. We contributed \$1,000 for a community-level sponsorship and spent \$300-500 for handouts. St. Anne's parishioners set up and staffed our tent in shifts throughout the day. This year two other churches in the North Fairfax region of the diocese helped staff our booth and provided additional handouts. Our volunteers, including Mtrs. Jess and Maria, and Deacon Nancy, greeted Festival attendees and handed out information. Our participation was a huge success with many many people stopping to chat and take information. We plan to sponsor the 2024 Reston Pride Festival and look forward to coordinating our efforts and sharing expenses with other North Fairfax region Episcopal churches. Sandy Chamblee-Head and Peggy Hobler will again lead our participation.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE** (George Bounacos)

Our website has seen exciting updates to enhance your experience: Updated staff directory to allow easy access to contact information, simplifying how you connect with staff members; stewardship information for an easier way to pledge & support this mission; music director search with updates on our search for a new music director, keeping you informed; live, updating scheduler which is a dynamic tool for volunteers to view, swap, or sign up for service opportunities with ease. These enhancements are part of our ongoing commitment to making our church's online presence a welcoming extension of our community, fostering engagement and participation in our shared mission.

### **THANKSGIVING BOXES** (Jennifer Cochran)

We are happy to report we exceeded our goal of 100 meals and collected a grand total of 111 meals, including St. Anne's meal donations through the partnership with Giant. Many thanks to the St. Anne's Youth Group who helped prepare the boxes for transport to Cornerstones for distribution to families in need.

# LIFE IN COMMUNITY

## TOGETHER WITH GOD

*As we engage in conversation, listening to one another, create space for silence, and share in the fellowship of a meal we discover the Christ within. Through our communal life together we become more fully who we are and learn what it means to be a people of God, a faith community.*

### **GRILL NIGHT** (Eve Angerosa)

This past summer we again revived our beloved weekly fellowship tradition in the St. Anne's parking lot. The premise is simple – bring parishioners together with food and conversation on Wednesday evenings in July and August. Everyone brings their own protein to grill and a side to share. The adjacent playground allows the kids to play while the adults connect.

This ministry is an excellent and vital channel for both newcomers and long-term parishioners to get to know our church culture outside of weekly worship. This coming summer we plan to continue with grill night, starting in late June or early July. Volunteers to help a bit are needed and appreciated! Please reach out to Eve Angerosa at [eve.angerosa@gmail.com](mailto:eve.angerosa@gmail.com).

### **JAVA JUNCTION** (Eileen Ellis)

In 2023, the Java Junction team expanded and continued to support the "Welcoming" aspect of St. Anne's mission. We primarily manage coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service, but also support hospitality experiences such as coffee hour after the 8 a.m. service when requested and special events like Maundy Thursday, clergy installations, clergy retirements, celebrations and fundraising. In 2023, the Java Junction team included Jennie Wentz, Charles Twardy, Nancy Santoro, Shon Cooper, Terry Robinson, Alicia Narvaez Hernandez, Carol Ivory, Holly Inman, Kate and Scott McDaniel and Olive Harris. In the past year, we learned to work with Ministry Scheduler Pro, maintained the organization of the cabinets we use in the Narthex credenza, embraced a new kitchen nook with organized shelving, learned to share the commercial fridge and freezer that we share with the Food Pantry ministry and brought back our tent cards to support the labeling of food items and their ingredients. We also compost our coffee grounds to share with the Gardening ministry. The Java Junction team looks forward to expanding our volunteer roster in 2024.

### **SHRINE MONT** (Martha Furniss)

Our annual Shrine Mont retreat was October 27-29. The weekend coincided with peak autumn color. Due to illness in Mother Jess' family, Mother Maria capably took the helm and led the group throughout the weekend. Deacon Nancy led the children in a nature exploration. Interim Music Director Dj Gunning led our music. A service of healing prayer and compline was held in the chapel on Saturday evening. The youth finished the evening with a board game gathering. While wet weather kept us from worshipping in the outdoor shrine on Sunday morning, we were blessed by gathering in the Rec Hall for a joint Eucharist with several congregations on retreat. Mother Maria served as Celebrant in the same room where, as a camper, she heard her call to the priesthood.

NOTES:

