

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
2022 Annual Report  
January 22, 2023**



**OUR MISSION**

*Centered in our love for Jesus, we worship God, reach out to those in need, celebrate our blessings, and love and care for each other. We are inclusive and welcoming of all God's people. Together, we strive to faithfully meet the challenges of a changing world.*

There are many who lead and many who follow in this parish. Often it is the same person who does both in different capacities. Yet it is the One true Shepherd, Jesus who we all strive to follow without fail. We give thanks every Sunday for the blessings and gifts we receive during the week and we come to the rail in humility, courage, and strength from one another to offer our lives and ourselves to Christ. This report is a means to take stock in what our offerings have been for the past year.

Consistently we have been extravagant in our giving of time, treasure, and talent. But there are places we may have fallen short. Let us look to God to help us see the ways in which we may follow Jesus more faithfully and be a good and loving neighbor to those around us.

We pray to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, may the offerings we give always be acceptable in your sight. **Amen.**

**The Rt. Rev. Megan M. Traquair**

The Bishop of the diocese of Northern California

**The Rev. Mary C. Claugus, Rector**

**Pastor Katie Holeman, Assisting Priest**

**The Rev. Rodney Davis, Associate**

**The Rev. Dr. Roy Whitten, Associate**

**The Rev. Jesse Vaughn, Associate**

**John Cozza, Music Director**

**Constance Weichert, Music Director Emerita**

**Kay & Hugh Griffin, Music Librarians Emeriti**

**Michelle Falcy, Parish Administrator**

**Andy Chamness, Sexton**

**Jack Cozza, Videographer**

**John Quené, Treasurer**

**Kate Muris, Bookkeeper**

**Jim Sargent, IT**

**Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Diane Gilmore, Eileen Thomas, Sue Corbin, Sr. Francesca Tina**

**Ferriot Office Volunteers**

*Vestry*

**Doug Davy, Senior Warden**

**Marlo Tinney, Junior Warden**

**Eileen Thomas, Clerk**

**Andrea LaMattina, Pamela Lueders, Robert McMichael, Kate Muris, Jan**

**West, Rick Larkey, Jane Samuelson, Mary Kessler**

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes for Annual Parish**  
**Via Zoom Meeting**  
**January 23, 2022**

Before the meeting was called to order, the attendees were invited to use the Chat Room to write out their expressions of the year and their hopes for the coming year. Those comments were captured in a separate document and will be attached to these minutes.

John Quene, Sr. Warden 2021, called the meeting to order at 12:09. Last year, the Diocese established new rules for Parish Annual Meetings due to the pandemic and our inability to meet in person. For a second year, these new rules supersede regular bylaws and Diocesan Canons, and were once again approved by the St. Michael's Vestry. John announced that via registration and sign-in, there was a quorum of 54. He requested that when a vote was called, attendees would raise their hands or use the electronic "reactions" provided on their computers so that they could be counted.

**Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes 2021:** John asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Sue Gaston so moved, and Jim Sargent seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion and the motion passed with one abstention.

**Election of New Vestry Members and Diocesan Delegates:** John Quene read the names of the nominated vestry members for 2021. They have been publicly noted and their biographies have been printed for three weeks in the parish bi-weekly communication.

- Doug Davy
- Mary Kessler
- Rick Larkey
- Jane Samuelson

Mary Mussell moved to accept the new slate for 2022 to 2025, and Renee Pierce seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John Quene then read the names of the seven candidates for Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2022:

- Sr. Tina Ferriot
- Harriette Carr
- Lis Padula
- Kate Muris
- Renee Pierce
- Jane Samuelson
- Janice Bowdler (alternate)

Susan Johnson moved to accept the delegates; Warner Sargent seconded the motion which carried.

**Financial Report:** Church Treasurer, Bob McMichael, stated that his 2021 objectives were successful and include the following:

- Ensure that the church funds are safe.

- Record and account all financial activities to clearly show the financial position of the church.
- Ensure that all is done to secure St. Michael's financial position.

Bob was pleased to report the following positive notes:

- The church was not hurt too much by the COVID pandemic.
- The vestry decided that we would continue to fund outreach grants recommended by the Mercy and Social Justice Committee, in spite of not being able to have a fundraiser.
- The Diocesan Financial Audit went very well.
- Our investment growth continued and even after taking \$100,000 from the investment account to make significant gifts to nonprofit outreach partners, the church still has over a million dollars in reserves.
- At the end of December 2021, church income exceeded budget, expenses were very close to budget and YTD shows a positive \$5,282.
- Unrealized Investments gain was \$24,576.
- In spite of the pandemic, St. Michael's had a positive financial year.

2022 Budget Summary:

Bob then summarized the 2022 Budget which was approved by the vestry at their January meeting:

- In terms of income, the budget plan is for higher pledges and loose offerings which could be a stretch because of COVID and attendance restrictions.
- At this time fundraising is not scheduled, but could be added later by the 2022 vestry.
- Investment income, realized from the Diocesan investments, will support Outreach grants.
- In terms of expense, the budget shows higher salary expense because a new Associate Priest will be hired.
- The budget plans include fixing the sanctuary roof leak and upgrading our computers and website.
- The 2022 Budget is conservative with a projected loss of (\$4,548) which is actually an improvement over the 2021 Budget.

**Senior Warden's Report:** John Quene reported that if the parishioners of St. Michael's want to continue their outreach ministries, it is important to "grow" the church. Given that objective, the new Associate Priest's ministry will be to help attract more families and individuals to St. Michael's.

**Rector's Report:** Rev. Mary began by looking back over the past year, asking for a moment of silence to honor the nine members we have lost. She then thanked retiring vestry members, Harriette Carr, Chris Chamness, and Jim Cole for their years of service. Doug Davy, Rick Larkey, Jane Samuelson, and Mary Kessler were then welcomed and thanked for agreeing to serve on the 2022 vestry.

Each year the Rector announces the Angel Awards for outstanding service to the church. Rev. Mary announced and commended the following "Angels" for 2021:

- Harriette Carr for her service as a member of the vestry, the Mercy and Social Justice

- Committee, and as the liaison for St. Michael's Cub and Boy Scout Packs.
- Renee Pierce for her leadership and grace as the Vestry Sr. Warden during this difficult pandemic year, for her devotion to EFM, and her strategic roles on the Fundraising and Stewardship Committees.
  - Jay Bowdler for his diligence, time and effort in keeping the sanctuary beautiful through his woodworking skills and personal talents.
  - Chris Chamness for his devotion to Bible Study as both a student and a teacher and for his creativity and inspiration in creating community through the Stewardship Committee.
  - John Quene for his important work as Junior Warden to the Vestry and for sharing his wisdom and grace as he becomes the new church treasurer.

Rev. Mary named the Altar Guild as the recipient of the Silver Wings Award. This ministry worked very hard and showed incredible faithfulness and creative agility in preparing for worship services amid the challenges of a pandemic year.

Looking back, Rev. Mary remembered a year of fits and starts in gathering as a community, and expressed eagerness to come to a time when we can once again worship and work together. Her advice to the parish is to keep participating and helping each other, for it is a privilege for us to be together. If we believe, trust and act, our world will be a better place.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

Respectfully,  
Eileen Thomas, Clerk

## **The Rector's Report** **The Reverend Mary Claugus**

I am so grateful for this church and all the people who are willing to step up and help out. It has been a challenging year. We are doing most things we did in the past with many needing either re-engineering or made hybrid. Additionally, we are doing it with fewer people. I appreciate all the work so many members are doing. There is the old adage: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. I do not experience our church that way. It seems that all of us are engaged and working our best at what we do. Thank you one and all. And if you are not yet involved and want to be, just let me know, I will find a spot for you!

I want to put to paper what I see the “State of the Congregation” is. But before I do, I want to share one story that I think sums up what a fantastic place we are:

In 2021, our treasure at that time, Bob McMichael, walked the vestry through a process to create a policy for our reserve funds. In doing so, the vestry determined that we could give a significant amount away (\$100,000) and still be financially stable. This past year Marlo Tinney, the late John Jervis, Pam Lueders, Mary Ellen Ferguson, Eileen Thomas, and I, with direction from Betsy Stone, went through a process to pick three agencies that were offering relief from the added stress of COVID to those most vulnerable and divided the \$100,000 between them. The recipients were River City Food Bank, Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center (SRFJC), and Women's Empowerment. It was a delight to have these agencies come to worship and receive their checks afterwards at coffee hour. After the gifts were given, I was at a Gala for SRFJC and I met Jan Scully, the retired Sacramento County District Attorney and she shared with me that she had never heard of a church doing such a thing and that St. Michael's must be very special. I agreed and said it was an amazing place that does incredible work in outreach and is faithful to the message of Jesus. I meant this with all my heart!

The state of our church: We continue to be

- a place for people to celebrate the lives of their children and welcome them into a community who is guided by God's love.
  - o We baptized 6 children this past year, re-opened our nursery, had a restart to our youth acolyte program, and re-started Godly Play.
  - o We began re-exploring our relationship with the Day School, St. Francis, and Jesuit.
  - o Thanks to Warner Seargeant's persistence to find a way for St. Michael's to be a place for youth and music to come together we began a plan for a summer camp in 2022. We are now working on a 2-week camp for the summer of 2023.
- A place to receive the presence of Christ within us, surrounded by beauty: in song, liturgy, and place.
  - o Our Sunday Worship services continues with the steady presence of our wonderful Choir. The Sunday 5pm Zoom services continue to meet.
  - o Our Altar Guild is doing fantastic work with far fewer people.

- o All of our worship ministries have seen significant turnover of volunteers due to COVID, members aging out, and members moving away; however, we have also added new people to all of our worship ministries in 2022.
- o Caring for our Sanctuary allows us to do this. We replaced the flat part of the roof which addressed the leaks in ways the repairs never did. We also added necessary video equipment to support live-streaming our services.
- a place to study how to imitate the way Jesus is justice and mercy through love.
  - o Our bible study continues with a central focus on the Gospels and EfM continues.
- a place to come to learn about God's grace and forgiveness.
  - o We are reading, studying and gathering together in small groups. We continued with Lent and Advent series. We added a Welcome, a Growing with God, and a Group Step class. Sacred Circles continues. We have a healthy balance of classes.
- a place to practice accepting others as they are and practice forgiveness.
  - o Our diversity has increased (just a bit) but we continue to be a respectful and welcoming community to all who come.
- a place to come and struggle with understanding the difference between God's equity and what the world says is just.
  - o This is reflected in our preaching and in our Mercy & Social Justice grant choices as well as our Significant Gift Giving. This past year we gave over \$144,422 and are still very financially stable. The \$100,000 came from our reserves determined by a policy that was unanimously adopted by the Vestry in 2021. The \$44,422 was made up by our budget, member donations, and proceeds from the fundraiser.
- a place to come and find community.
  - o Many visitors and new members found St. Michael's through our website. Our website was completely redone in 2022; updated and refreshed.
  - o Our first real social gathering was to welcome our newest staff member, Pastor Katie Holeman, her husband Mark, and their children, Makayla, Addison, Andrew and Logan.
  - o Thanks to our organizers Gail and Bob McMichael, Coffee Hour is back. There is nothing like a great cup of coffee with friends after a lovely Worship Service.
  - o We were privileged to host The Interfaith Hour of Thanks and have our choir lead us in music. We gathered Eight different faith traditions within the Carmichael community to share traditions of gratitude.
  - o Our gatherings continue to be somewhat limited; however, we had a fantastically successful Luau Fundraiser where our net proceeds were \$53,423. We still have \$28,177 designated for future spending on Mercy and Social Justice endeavors.
  - o World Strings Project was back to perform Winter Dance. It was a bit different this year. We employed the help from many members of the congregation setting up and cleaning up. Pastor Katie creatively organized the refreshments in a way that raised money for the summer camp project.
  - o We had a new member brunch for the first time since 2019.
- a place to be when you are dying and seek the presence of the holy.
  - o Our clergy and Circle of Care team was privileged to sit by many in their last days.
- a place to come mourn loved ones, celebrate their lives, and graciously let go of them to return to God's care and love.

- o We had over 15 Celebration of Life services this past year.

There are so many pieces that need to fit together to make our church thrive and grow. I think of the members, the committees, the clergy, the staff, the office volunteers, and the vestry. If you are a visitor and are reading this report, join us. We are doing wonderful work on behalf of God. Thank you EVERYONE for sharing your time, talents, and treasures. We are a successful and vibrant parish because of all the contributions, great and small. It all matters and is appreciated so very much. Let us continue to trust in and be led by God.

Faithfully Submitted,  
The Rev. Mary C. Claugus

### **The Senior Warden's Report** **Doug Davy**

St. Michael's Church provided major grants totaling \$100,000 to River City Food Bank, Women's Empowerment, and Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center, finalizing what has been one of the most noteworthy accomplishments of our church in any year. The Vestry and then Treasurer, Bob McMichael, had proposed this in 2021 in the knowledge that we had not been able to safely conduct our usual fund-raising events due to COVID and the fact that several prosperous years in a row had resulted in substantial growth of our financial reserves. The Vestry this year implemented the major gift program by validating that we have adequate financial reserves to securely make these large gifts, the Mercy and Social Justice Committee members had carefully chosen deserving recipients, and this program would help fulfill our Christian mission in the best way. In addition, we were able to host a fundraiser in October and it was a smashing success, raising more than \$50,000 for charitable outreach this coming year.

The Vestry talked of longer-term planning and goal setting early on, but decided to proceed slowly due to the uncertainties and restrictions of COVID. This Fall we agreed to start longer-term strategic planning in Spring of 2023, circumstances allowing. The Vestry conducted a brief SWOT ("strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats") analysis to begin this exercise. Look for more information about strategic planning early next year.

What stands out distinctly in 2022 is the great generosity and sustaining dedication of St. Michael's people who, despite the limitations of a global pandemic, continue to foster a strong community reaching out to help the less fortunate and each other. We have every reason to believe that this strong ethos of community and generosity will continue at St. Michael's for a long time to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Davy  
2022 St. Michael's Senior Warden

### **Building & Grounds Report** **John Quené**

Once again, I would like to start off by thanking Andy Chamness, who performed so many unnoticed repairs to the buildings. He fixed faucets, toilets, pruned trees and hedges that were overgrown and many more things that we are not even aware of.

The big job this year was the flat part of the roof of the church. It was starting to leak every time we had a small rain storm, so before the rainy season started we had the maintenance done and it certainly stayed dry during the first 2 weeks in January 2023.

Currently we are working on getting quotes for the fountain as the electricity supply to the pump is disconnected due to a breakage in the line under the big stones.

Submitted faithfully,

John Quené

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary)

*Technology has become so necessary in all our daily living, and it is not different with the church. Thank you to Jim Sargent who is knowledgeable and so very helpful whenever we have any issues with our Tech Stuff!*

*We are very grateful for our new roof that has kept us and the sanctuary dry, especially during these crazy wind and rain storms in December and January. Doug Davy and John Quene with Andy have kept our campus in great working order. Thank you for all your help with all the projects, big and small, that keep the buildings functioning well and the space safe.*

### **The Junior Warden's Report Marlo Tinney**

As I complete my term on the St. Michael's Episcopal Church Vestry, I am grateful to have been able to contribute to the ideas and mitigations that moved us through the early COVID-19 risk periods. I hope that the Vestry will have more opportunities in the near future to meet in person. Numerous accomplishments & changes took place in 2022. These include: hosting the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the new church sign and wall, and repairing the church roof. I would suggest that our most significant change in 2022 was welcoming Pastor Katie to our clergy team.

I am thankful that we have continued the legacy of service and support to numerous non-profit organizations whether through Gifts from the Heart or Rise Against Hunger, to decreasing food or income insecurity in our community through a variety of activities and donations.

Thank you to our clergy, staff, and volunteers for their dedication and service.

May the Peace of Christ always be with you.

### **Staff, Vestry, and Diocesan Delegates The Rev. Mary Claugus**

Staff and Office

Let me introduce you to our newest staff member (A really, really cute one): Audrey Renee Falcy. **Michelle** and Kenny's baby, Audrey, who was born September 30<sup>th</sup>, which Michelle worked right up to that date, comes to the office to help us out. She brings laughter, joy, and lots and lots of hope. So far, it has been working out well to have Audrey here. Andy, our sexton, fixed up the front office as a nursery. Thank you Andy! Michelle continues to be an invaluable asset to the church. I

so appreciate Michelle's work to make the transition from the old website to the new website as painless as possible. She is thoughtful, efficient, and effective as well as patient, kind, and generous.

**Andy Chamness**, our Sexton, has been awesome helping to set up and clean up all the events we have enjoyed this past year. Often he has been here late at night to return early the next morning. Andy, we so appreciate your flexibility.

I want to thank again, it is worth repeating, **John Cozza** our Music Minister. He is a wonderful team member of our staff as well as a talented and much appreciated Choir Director.

We have had the delight to work with **Jack Cozza**, our diligent Videographer. He is dedicated to our church and the ministry of making our livestream beautiful and easy to access. Thank you Jack.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with **Pastor Katie Holeman**. She is our new Assisting Priest. She brings the Lutheran tradition with her, along with new insights and ways to do ministry. For me personally, it has been very rewarding to assist such a talented member of the clergy to learn the Episcopal traditions and the way we express the priesthood and diaconate. Pastor Katie, we are so delighted you are with us.

**Fr. Rod Davis**, we continue to be so very grateful for and amazed at your generosity to the people of St. Michael's. As always, it is such a privilege to serve with such a talented, loving, and giving priest. I am lucky to call you my friend as well. Thank you for your presence at St. Michael's.

### **Volunteer Staff**

There are so many pieces that need to fit together to make our church thrive and grow. I think of the Staff and the Office Volunteers as the pieces on the edge that hold it all together and give the puzzle maker the outline and direction needed to fill the puzzle pieces in. Thank you so much for all your effort and all our shared successes! Thank you to Diane Gilmore, Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, and our newest members of the team, Eileen Thomas and Sue Corbin. Thank you so very much! Kate Muris and John Quené are an integral part of our daily life in the parish. Your work is so appreciated and admired!

I want to thank my staff and office volunteers. Without you all, I could not do what I do.

I also want to thank the vestry and diocesan delegates. It has been a delight to work with Doug Davy, our Senior Warden. I am so very grateful for St. Michael's Executive Team: Doug Davy, Marlo Tinney, Eileen Thomas, and John Quené. We have begun the foundational work to prepare for generating a strategic plan in 2023. It is exciting to explore the possibilities for the future. The other extraordinary members of vestry are: Andrea LaMattina, Pamela Lueders, Mary Kessler, Jane Samuelson, Kate Muris, Lis Padula (Lis had to step down a few months early), Jan West, Rick Larkey, and Bob McMichael. It was great to meet in person once again for Diocesan Convention. I appreciate the work of the folks who represented St. Michael's: Harriette Carr, Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, Kate Muris, Renée Pierce, Jane Samuelson, Lis Padula, Holly Yue, and Janice Bowdler as the alternate.

## Stewardship Chris Chamness

The Stewardship 2023 Committee successfully sustained the delivery of another very productive pledge drive. The Campaign was condensed into four weeks only, from after Labor Day until Intaking Sunday, October 2, 2022 so that the October 29th fund raising event might have sufficient preparation time. The stewardship theme was “Looking to the Future where all things are possible with God”. There were three Sunday church service testimonials given by Chris Chamness, Tammy Murray and Rick Larkey. Timely articles on Stewardship themes by Chair, Chris Chamness, Treasurer, John Quene, the Rev. Mary Claugus and Kate Muris were published in the Weekly Messenger. The guest preacher was Vicar Matt Warren of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Quincy who delivered a captivating video sermon. The joint pledge transmittal letter from the Rector, Senior Warden and Stewardship Chair included a prayer card beautifully illustrated with floral artwork by Lisa Sargent. The gala event for the Stewardship Campaign, that signaled St. Michael’s could dine again in community after the social isolation of the Pandemic years, was a barbeque picnic in the courtyard/parish hall featuring hamburgers, canned sodas, packaged chips and even ice cream bars! Eileen Thomas led the meal subcommittee and Michael Johnson and his crew did the actual meal preparation and serving. Key behind the scenes committee members were Doug Davy and Suzanne Phinney. Although there were fewer total pledges for 2023 (6 less due to deaths alone), the total amount pledged increased from 2022 to 2023 by over \$20,000 to \$529,260 with 117 pledging.

			# of Pledges
<b>New Pledges</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$ 9,260</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Increase in Pledge</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>\$ 296,396</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Decrease in Pledge</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$ 26,710</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Pledged the Same</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$ 196,894</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>\$ 529,260</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>We lost 6 Pledges to Death</b>	We lost 2 pledges to members moving away	We lost 11 for other reasons	We lost 19 Pledges in total.

Once again, spirituality and gratitude for the Grace of God continued to shine throughout the pledge drive and the parish community of St. Michaels has responded by generously sharing our treasure with the church in the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Chamness, 2023 Stewardship Chair.

Note from our Rector (Rev. Mary).

*A great big Thank You to Chris Chamness and the stewardship team. I feel confident with our budget this year and that is directly related to the success of our stewardship drive. I am so very grateful for all who contribute to St. Michael's financially.*

## **Treasures Report and Financials**

### **John Quene**

This report is in three parts:

- Finance-Related Activity in 2022
- Church Financials for 2022
- The 2023 Proposed Budget

#### **Finance-Related Activity in 2022**

1) We had a Diocesan Financial Audit this summer. We passed the audit with no problems. The auditors had some minor comments about some procedural improvements.

2) The COVID-19 impacted our numbers, as far as the Sunday attendance but had little impact on the giving to the church.

Some of the church activities that related to large gatherings of parishioners and or others were not exercised.

3) Fundraisers: we did not have a yard sale. The Aloha fundraiser was a great success and we made around \$54,000 after all the expenses. The Mercy & Justice committee has already awarded 13 grants and paid for Habitat for Humanity's Build for Unity Program in early February 2023 for a total of \$20,271.

3) Our investment funds suffered due to the stock market losing value in 2022. Our funds lost value by the value of \$167,546. We also withdrew \$100,000 for the big gift. The total fund investments are currently at \$1,062,531 which is \$213,765 lower as last year.

4) Pastor Katie is our new assistant priest and Michelle went on maternity leave after the birth of Audrey. The vestry had complimented her insurance pay out during the maternity leave so that she would receive full pay while spending time with her daughter.

5) YEAR END 2022 RESULTS: Our financial results for the year end were acceptable given the stock market and COVID-19 impact. Pledge payments were very good and because of the expenses being kept in check the Income ended up better than budgeted. The resulting net income after school reimbursement was positive \$73,090.

#### **Church Financials for the 2022 Year**

This report is available in hard copy at the church office and it includes the end-of-year financial reports. There will be a few printed out at the annual meeting for those who already want to see them immediately.

In summary, it has been an interesting year financially. The stock market and increased utility

prices have affected our financials, but the giving to the church was good and pledges met the budget.

Our Revenue was \$720,490

Our Expense was \$693,021

Net Ordinary Income before school reimbursement was \$27,471

School Reimbursement was \$74,664

School Expenses was \$29,045

Net Ordinary Income after school reimbursement was \$73,090

Other Income/Expenses

The big gift that was paid from our investment funds \$100,000

The school paid their last church rebuild pledge payment of \$25,000

The Unrealized Investment Income was -\$167,546

Depreciation of our buildings -\$53,423

Total net income/loss -\$214,898

Many things contributed to this and here are a few things that stand out:

1. Pledge Payments were great at \$503,000
2. Unspecified loose offerings were exceptional at \$ 106,318
3. We fixed the roof at a price of \$39,500.
4. Unrealized Investment Income -\$167,546. We have no control over the stock market.
5. The vestry took a courageous decision with the \$100,000 gift
6. The depreciation is just a book keeping formality but does make the loss look worse.

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary)

*I am so grateful that our finances are in the good and capable hands of our bookkeeper, Kate Muris and Treasurer John Quene. Thank you both so much. It is great to work with you and with the whole vestry to do some important work with our finances and with our policies. Also a great big Thank You to Chris Chamness and the stewardship team. I feel confident with our budget this year and that is directly related to the success of our stewardship drive. I am so very grateful for all who contribute to St. Michael's financially. Our financial stability helps tremendously in the success of our ministries.*

## **Budget 2023**

Our budget for 2023 is as follow:

### **Revenue**

Pledge offering	\$525,279
Loose Offerings	\$ 53,650
Mercy & Social Justice	\$ 18,500
Fundraisers	\$ 32,000
Employee retention payment	\$ 40,000
Investment income	\$ 18,000

**Revenue Total** **\$692,238**

**Expense**

Salaries & related expenses	\$381,800
Program & Outreach	\$ 74,000
Mission Apportionment	\$ 96,411
Buildings & Grounds	\$132,440
Office Expenses	\$ 49,110
Leadership expenses	\$ 7,600

**Expense** **\$741,361**

**Net Income b4 School Reimbursement** **-\$ 49,123**

School Reimbursement \$80,500

School Expenses \$30,000

**Income after School Reimbursement** **\$ 1,377**

**Other income/Expenses not managed by the vestry**

Unrealize income (stock Market) \$12,000

**Other income/Expenses** **\$10,200**

Net Income/loss **\$11,577**

- ❖ Pledge payments are budgeted at \$525,279. Current Pledges are at \$529,000.
- ❖ Fundraising is \$32,000, last year the actual before expenses was \$58,502.
- ❖ Payroll expenses include a 3.0% cost of living adjustment.

The Head of School's Report: Mary Heise  
St. Michael's Episcopal Day School

Beautiful, bright smiles. That is the image ingrained in my mind when I reflect on the 2021-22 school year. We cautiously and optimistically began the process of removing our masks and getting back to “normal” after many months of distancing and challenges. Never again will we take for granted the facial expressions and smiles of the children, which seemed to shine even brighter as they reacquainted themselves with classmates and teachers, returned to chapel, and enjoyed treasured events such as the Fall Carnival, buddy activities and field trips.

As our St. Michael's community began to reconnect and return to campus, we realized how much had been missing. With grateful hearts, we looked forward to each and every opportunity for connection and participation as athletics programs, campus ceremonies and social events slowly made a comeback.

In the midst of this remarkable transition, the faculty and staff continued to work diligently in anticipation of the arrival of the Accreditation Team from the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The preparation for the visit was an intensive, 18 month process of evaluation and analysis designed to foster excellence in education and encourage school improvement. The exercise included a four day campus visit by the CAIS/ WASC team. St. Michael's was thrilled to receive the highest achievement - a seven year full term of accreditation. As we celebrated this accomplishment, we simultaneously began the process of formulating a future planning document and implementing the team's recommendations. The accreditation process has reaffirmed our commitment to our mission, our core values, and our legacy of excellence as we approach 60 years of inspiring children to dream, learn and grow.

Very truly yours,

Mary D. Heise

## **Music Ministry**

### **John Cozza**

2022 was a much better year than the previous two! After our first live Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve service in 2021, the choir was back to full strength. Things went quite smoothly in the spring, culminating in our Easter Vigil and Sunday services with brass soloists and Pentecost service with string quartet. After a rejuvenating summer break, we resumed after Labor Day, finishing the church year on Christ the King Sunday, again with brass soloists. Lessons and Carols was very uplifting in 2022; although a few choir members got COVID in the following weeks, they have all recovered, and we are all back ready for a musically exciting 2023, with several new anthems to add to our repertoire.

The purpose of the music ministry is to provide beautiful music, which will enhance the worship experience and glorify God by uplifting the hearts and minds of both the listeners and the participants, and to offer participants an opportunity to share their musical talents in a meaningful and fulfilling way.

I also want to thank the St. Michael's clergy, all of whom are so supportive and encouraging of our music program in these unpredictable times.

If you are interested in joining St. Michael's Chancel Choir, feel free to contact John Cozza or any of our choir members, and they would be happy to talk with you. You do not have to be able to read music. The only requirement is that you are able to match pitches and that you bring a willing heart, an open mind, a desire to work hard, and a commitment to give of your best. All sections are open for new members. Please join us in glorifying God through music and being part of the "family", which is the St. Michael's Chancel Choir.

A note from the Rector (Rev. Mary).

*It has been awesome to have the choir back in church. They have been knocking us out with wonderful music. They too have been part of many of our Celebration of Life services, sometimes with one cantor; other times with the whole choir. Thank you so much for all your extra effort to make the church at every service full with beautiful sound. John Cozza, you are such a delight to work with and bring us all such joy with your music.*

## **Family and Youth**

### **Pastor Katie Holeman**

I would like to start off by expressing my sincere appreciation to all at St. Michael's for such a wonderful welcome last year and continued support. This year has been a whirlwind getting programs and ministries started back up at St. Michael's, especially in the realm of Youth and Family Ministries. Since my arrival in April we have been able to bring back Youth Acolytes and had training for four youth in September. In 2023 we plan to expand the roles for the youth acolytes and hold more trainings as the program grows.

We also began to plan the first St. Michael's Summer Theater Day Camp in 2022. We, in collaboration with the day school and MAP, will host a two-week camp, in the Summer of 2023, that is open to the public where at the end of it there will be a performance of *Annie Kids*. In December we kicked off our first fundraiser for the camp by hosting the concessions stand at the Winter Dance. Thank you to all who contributed. The concession-stand also kicked off our

partnership with St. Francis High school having kids come to serve at St. Michael's to fulfill their community service hours. In 2023 we hope to expand the collaboration to include Jesuit and Christian Brothers.

In 2022 St. Michael's also brought back the nursery during Sunday worship and Godly Play. The nursery is staffed by a rotation of talented and incredibly loving high schoolers. In 2023 we are working on creating a dedicated Godly Play space to allow us to expand this program. Our Godly Play students and Acolytes also put on an amazing Christmas Eve Pageant wrapping up our 2022 year. Thank you to all who participated.

Faithfully Submitted,

Pastor Katie

## **Adult Education**

### **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

- Education for Ministry (EfM) continues. Thank you Janice and Ellen for your leadership, wisdom, and grace that you bring to this ministry as the mentors. It is appreciated very much. Thank you. Please see the report for EfM.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study. We are a steady group who gather weekly to seek the Word of God in order to bring holy meaning into our lives. All are welcome to join us. We meet in a hybrid format, making this study available to those who cannot gather in person. Thank you to all who participated and led these opportunities. Thank you Chris Chamness, Kate Muris, Laura Quene, and David Davidson for your leadership in this group.
- Documentary and Discussion. Recently, we began meeting in person and on zoom. We continue these gatherings to learn about social challenges affecting us all and then gathering to discuss our impressions and process our feelings. Sometimes there is a call to action. Often the topics include environmental issues and justice issues. This is a great compliment to the Mercy and Social Justice work we offer at St. Michael's. Thank you Marilyn McEntyre and Pastor Katie for your leadership.
- Civil Discourse Class. Want to Talk? Communication Tools for Divided Times. This class was led by Sue Davis and several facilitators from our congregation. Thank you Sue for your work in bringing this fabulous class to St. Michael's.
- Seasonal Classes. We continue to offer classes that reflect the seasons. Members participated in a Lent and Advent Living Compass Group organized by Lisa Sargent. Thank you Lisa!
- We introduced three new classes in the fall:

- o Welcome to St. Michael's: A three-week class designed for newer members and/or visitors.
- o St. Michael's Step Group: We will explore the ideas within the twelve steps and explore them as a way to deepen our spiritual lives.
- o Growing Deeper with God: Learning, Experiencing, and Reflecting.
- In 2021 we introduced Advent Sacred Circles. These Circles continue monthly with Kate Muris and Marilyn McEntyre leading the Circles. Thank you for your leadership. This group gives the participants an opportunity to sit in silent sacred time reflecting on a writing and prayer. Then there was an opportunity to share a reflection if prompted by the Holy Spirit.
- Pastor Katie led an Advent Book Study by Amy-Jill Levine, *Light of the World: A beginners guide to Advent*. Thank you Pastor Katie.

### **Education for Ministry (EfM)** **Ellen Cehand and Janice Bowdler, Co-Mentors**

Education for Ministry is a four-year study and group reflection process for the formation of Christian ministry. The seminar group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings during the academic year. The materials are developed by the School of Theology of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and are comprised primarily of texts and essays in the study of the Christian tradition. Year 1 students study the Old Testament, Year 2 the New Testament, Year 3 Church history and Year 4 Theology. Students commit to one year at a time. (There are no tests!)

This past year because of continuing COVID cases we held our academic year by Zoom.

The St. Michael's group continues to be enthusiastic, spiritual, and inspiring. Each week we discuss our assigned readings, engage in theological reflection, pray together, and share our life and spiritual experiences. Current students beginning in September include: Doug Davy (Year 4) Tammy Murray and Martie Goodson-Scott (Year 3), Trey Hunter (Year 2), Harriet Wharton and Andrea LaMattina (Year 1).

Co-Mentors are Ellen Cehand and Janice Bowdler.

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary).

*Thank you so much Ellen and Janice for your dedication and faithfulness to this ministry. It is so appreciated by those who graduated from the program, those in the program and by me!*

### **Worship Ministries** **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

One of the areas that the Episcopal Church shines in is its liturgy. St. Michael's Episcopal Church has a tradition of beautiful liturgy. AND it is so exciting in worship to have a whole new crew of acolytes: Harper, Birdie, Andrew, Tally and Jim Hammill. We also gathered for a new member brunch (thank you Kate and Renee) where the idea to re-start our Youth Acolyte

program began. Thanks to Pastor Katie we have children in the service as acolytes regularly.

The 5pm Zoom service is a very steady favorite for many in our congregation. Our gratitude goes to Fr. Rod (and his zoom elves – Doug Davy and Renee Pierce) for providing a meaningful, contemplative, and fun prayer service on Zoom. Only Fr. Rod could provide a service that is both contemplative and fun.

In addition to the 10am Morning Worship and 5pm Zoom, 8pm Compline has been a wonderful end of the day service for many. The prayer leaders have been so very faithful and it is much appreciated by all who enter into it on Facebook. We are also offering Morning Prayer Monday through Thursday and Noonday Prayer on Thursdays. It takes lots of dedicated people to support all these worship and prayer services. I am grateful to all who help!

### **Altar Guild Jan Bowdler**

St. Michael's Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for the following regular services: Sundays, baptisms, weddings and memorials, as well as special services at Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. Members of the Altar Guild are divided into four weekly crews. Each crew member is asked to set up from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. on the Saturday of her/his week and to serve at the service that Sunday.

Members of the Altar Guild in 2022: **Dancy Dobrenick**, Jackie Linn, Patty Green, and Laura Quené. **Sally Jervis, Sue Corbin**, Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, and Harriet Wharton. **Tammy Murray**, Jane Samuelson, Marlo Tinney and Elizabeth Kordahl. **Janice Bowdler**, Mary Ellen Ferguson, and Ann Hall. Those in bold are the crew leaders. Additionally, flower masters are Dancy Dobrenick, Jackie Linn, Connie Weichert, Virginia Henry, and Allison Flower-Arledge.

Special thanks go to Tammy Murray who orders and maintains our supplies, Sue Corbin who devotes many extra hours to memorial services, to Marlo Tinney for wedding coordination and to Jackie Linn and Dancy Dobrenick for their floral inspirations throughout the year. Jan Bowdler attends staff meetings, facilitates communications, coordinates major events, and coordinates major liturgical purchases.

We continue to replace and replenish vestments, vessels and other equipment necessary for our services and are grateful for contributions that make this possible.

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary)

*I want to especially thank the Altar Guild for all your work. You all are the strong silent types, but make no mistake, we notice you and all the beauty you bring to the church services. I know that you have been doing what we have always done with far fewer people and that is challenging. Thank you for all the extra effort you are doing to make it easier for the clergy to do our jobs. We all appreciate it so very much! We are grateful for our new flower arrangers as well. **Janice, you and the St. Michael's Altar guild are the Best!***

**Lay Ministry  
The Rev. Mary Claugus**

We have opened up all our lay ministry opportunities this past year. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are out visiting and sharing the bread of Christ to many members who still are unable to join us and who are homebound.. We are now offering both the host (bread) and wine in the service. Thank you to our Eucharistic Ministers. We have several newer members which is exciting.

Thank you all for your time, talent and effort to make our worship beautiful and meaningful! And a special thank you to our traveler – Mary Ellen Ferguson, who schedules all the services. She must feel like a cat herder sometimes! Jack, our videographer, also brings the beauty of our worship into the homes of all who cannot come to the Sanctuary and who participate through the streaming of the service. Thank you so much Jack! He was especially successful with the challenge of videoing St. Francis Day, which took place in the courtyard. Way to go Jack!

## **Usher Ministry** **Jay Bowdler**

### **Mission:**

The usher ministry is a committed and trained social group focused on the welfare & safety of the congregation who assure the flow of the liturgy. Rev. Mary (Oct. 17, 2018) summed it nicely; “Ushers are warm & caring in the belief that ushers take care of the congregation”. Aka “The Sheep Dog Society”.

### **Membership:**

The ministry is still recovering from concerns related to COVID which resulting in smaller congregations and reduced service offerings. The ushers are scheduled (MSP – Thank you Mary Ellen!) to the 10 am service each Sunday. Ushers are organized into 4 weekly teams of 2 ushers, committing to one Sunday per month. There is a 2-usher team for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday when they occur and a small group of pool ushers who help staff extra services as they occur. Pre COVID, 1 to 2 ushers work the 8 am Sunday service. 4 ushers work the 10 am Sunday service and other large services/events. A single person who does the altar guild needs and limited aspects of the usher ministry volunteers for the 5 pm service.

The impact of COVID limited the Sunday services to just 10 am this year, reducing the ushers needed to two. The **bold** individuals below have been instrumental maintaining the Usher staffing at the Sunday services and occasional special services.

### **10 am Teams:**

Team 1: Harriette Carr, Jack Carr, Ed Lynn  
Team 2: Jim Dodds (leader), Terry Bridges  
Team 3: Rick Larkey (leader), Lennie Silva  
Team 4: Jay Bowdler, (leader), Bill Wilson  
Team 5: Jay Bowdler, Bill Wilson

### **Pool**

Tammy & Todd Murray, Chuck Schaller, Peter Luchini, Suzanne Phinney, Molly Hoever, Dave & Dancy Dobrenick.

### **Membership notes:**

The Pool Ushers are new folks who are learning and “old hands” who can fill in but don’t want to work a regular assigned slot.

We want to thank Toby Tremaine for his service to the church and the Usher ministry. He moved to the Roseville area this year and has joined another congregation to worship.

**Projects:**

The usher ministry has been primarily focused on staffing issues. I have continued coordinating with Michelle to keep the usher checklists relevant to the frequent changes associated with COVID waves and projecting a positive attitude with fellow ushers and greeters consistent with our mission. The ministry continues to sponsor the occasional coffee hour after the 10 am Sunday service. Thank you to the ushers for contributing!!!

I spent some time working with Mary Ellen to begin learning the MSP scheduling system and we were able to re-establish the MSP function allowing subs to be requested in the Usher Ministry. The Usher Ministry sponsored a MSP workshop to share skills with the congregation to access and use the MSP software on mobile and desktop computers and phones.

Jay Bowdler - Head Usher  
[jaybowdler@comcast.net](mailto:jaybowdler@comcast.net)

A note from the Rector (Rev. Mary):  
*I want to thank the Ushers and Greeters. You make the church so welcoming and safe for all. It is a delight to work with you all. It is great to see new members in both of these ministries.*

**Outreach Ministries  
Mercy & Social Justice  
Dancy Dobrenick**

The Mercy and Social Justice Ministry continues “to represent God’s love and compassion through acts of mercy and justice.” To be an outreach partner with St. Michael’s means that the organization offers opportunities for our members to:

- Financially support the organization,
- Take collections and provide “Gifts-in-Kind,”
- Gives parishioners opportunities to serve people in need.
- Allows us to serve WITH those in need.

Our identified partners at this time are:

- River City Food Bank - Our members volunteer at St. Matthew’s and we give them Easter and Thanksgiving gift cards to distribute to clients. They were one of three recipients of our significant gift giving in 2022.
- Parkinson’s Association of Northern California (PANC) - we offer space to Sacramento/Carmichael Young Onset PD Support Group % PANC and we are the only church to sponsor a table at the Northern California Parkinson’s Conference.

- The Center at St. Matthew's - members are involved in leadership, the Center also distributed our Easter and Thanksgiving gift cards.
- Arden Arcade Carmichael Faith Community - we provide volunteers for AACFC's Helping Hands Laundry days.
- Carmichael HART - St. Michael's volunteers led by Julie Linderman help provide a place of warmth and respite which included showers and a hot brunch meal served in person at Carmichael Presbyterian Church.
- Habitat for Humanity, Unity Build - our members helped build 13 homes for the Mandolin Estates Project. They also received a 2023 grant for the Cornerstone project where 31 homes will be built.
- Starr King K-8 - We have provided them with books, an ice machine, and hygiene kits for their 5th grade health unit.

Additionally we partner with St. Michael's Episcopal Day School and Scout Troop 802 and Cub Scouts. The scouts helped with the fundraiser as well as participating in our Rise Against Hunger event, where over 50 people came and packed 10,000+ meals that were sent internationally to help meet the needs of the global hungry. The relationship with these two organizations is a bit different but also very important.

We also have Community Partners, who are organizations we support mainly with financial grants. Our 2022 Grant Recipients were:

- River City Food Bank Nominated by Eileen Thomas
- International Rescue Committee Nominated by Christina Manning
- Carmichael HART Winter Services "Winter Respite Days" Nominated by Julie Linderman
- The Center at St. Matthew's Nominated by Tammy Murray
- Women's Empowerment- Job readiness program for women Nominated by Mary Ellen Ferguson
- Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) Nominated by Dianne Robbins
- Kairos Prison Ministry CSP-SAV Nominated by John Quené
- St. John's Program for Real Change Nominated by Esta Wiederanders

Our focus this past year has been to address needs within the following populations; Families and young families, working poor, immigrants and refugees, multi faith communities, children and youth, teachers, those in prison, children in foster care, developmentally vulnerable adults, global families, unsheltered people, women coping and trying to recover from violent situations, the elderly in need. We have identified opportunities to expand on our work with those who are already recognized as partners or community partners.

Although we did not have a yard sale this year, we look forward to it coming back this summer.

Our community was deeply affected by the death of John Jervis, the Chair of our Committee.

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary).

*I am so grateful for the work of this committee. I too miss the presence of John among us. I am also very grateful for the leadership of Dancy Dobrenick. Thank you for stepping into that role. You are a marvel, so faithful, kind, and inclusive. Thank you!*

**Gifts From The Heart**  
**Laura Quené**

St. Michael's Church participated in the County program GFTH, for the 30th year! Once again, our generous congregation purchased, wrapped and brought their gifts to bring joy to the 120 recipients that the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services selected for us. 70 of these were children and teens, and 50 were seniors and dependent adults. More folks than ever were involved in 2022 and several got their children and grandchildren involved in the selection of gifts.

And once again, for the 5th year, Julie Bugatto and her family and a team of about 30 friends made and filled (to overflowing) personalized Christmas stockings for each of the recipients. It was truly a joy to lead this ministry that serves our community in such a tangible way.

Laura Quené and Holly Yue

Note from the Rector (Rev. Mary).

*Thank you so much for offering this opportunity to our members to reach out and minister to those in need. So many of the gifts we give are for meeting necessary needs. Thank you so very much!*

**Fundraising**  
**The Rev. Mary Claugus**

We also gathered in October for a Luau fundraiser. St. Michael's tried in 2020 and 2021 to have a fundraiser and we were not able to have one due to the pandemic. However, Renee Pierce, our fundraising leader, did not give up hope and went all out when she got the go ahead to have one in 2022. It was a fantastic Luau with great food, awesome décor and lots of auction items to entice our bidders. The silent auction, fund-a-need, sign-up parties, raffle, and wine pull were all super successful. And donations that came from members – some who came and some who did not – just put the cherry on top! The fundraiser's net income to give away to our community partners was \$53,423. How awesome is that?!? So far we gave \$25,246 to community partners, Habitat for Humanity Unity Build, and Rise for Hunger. That leaves \$28,177 restricted for outreach giving in the coming year(s). Thank you to all who participated in this event. It was fantastic. Renee and Ellen and your mighty team of volunteers- we thank you so very much for all you did to make this event what it was: Fresh, Fun, & Festive!!

**Member Ministry & Hospitality**  
**Kate Muris & Renée Pierce**

On Sunday, July 24th, the Member Ministry hosted new people who came to St. Michael's over the past three years, to a Welcome Gathering in Johnstone Hall. We were twenty-six in number and enjoyed a light brunch while we had a chance to visit and get to know each other. Several people from our ongoing ministries were also there to give a brief outline of their ministry. Our new friends were invited to share a bit about themselves, their church going experience, and what drew them to St. Michael's and keeps them here. We were delighted to have a few children in our midst who have become some of our new Acolytes! We discovered together how much we have in common and how unique each of us is. We are happy our new congregants have continued to come and participate at St. Michael's.

Coffee Hour resumed under the gracious leadership of Gail and Bob McMichael and Dorothy Eddings. Parishioners were again bringing a light repast for the enjoyment of all.

At Easter we gathered to fill Easter Baskets to distribute to local children.

The Documentary Series continued both in person and on Zoom. Especially interesting was the Morgan Freeman series "The Story of God".

And finally, Trunk or Treat in our parking lot was back under the leadership of Pastor Katie and Paula Frink. A grand time was had by all!

Faithfully Submitted,

Kate Muris and Renee Pierce

### **The Men's Breakfast Group**

The Men's Breakfast group is a small group of men that meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The group is not restricted to members of St. Michael's and has no agenda or program. For more information about the location of the breakfast, contact Jim Dodds at (916) 505-8932. (Thank you Jim for your leadership). The men's group also helps organize, prepare and serve the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

### **Daughters of the King (DOK) E. Sue Corbin**

The Daughters of the King is a spiritual praying Order of lay women in the Episcopal Church. Our members include Sue Corbin, Dorothy Eddings, Mary Hutchinson, Kathy Lunger, Mary Mussell and Laura Quene. We are women on a faith journey with Christ through prayer, service, study and evangelism. Our prayer list centers around our clergy and intercessory prayers for those who are in need of healing and comfort.

In the year 2022, we began to go over the updated National Study Guide that serves as a review for members of the Order. It is also the official preparation for prospective members. In our Diocese of Northern California, another chapter was installed making us a total of 20 chapters. The 20 chapters are from Anderson, Auburn, Cameron Park, Carmichael, Folsom, Grass Valley,

Kenwood, Placerville, Rancho Cordova, Redding, Rocklin, Roseville, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Vacaville and Woodland.

Our 2 Assemblies per year enable us to gather together as one to praise the Lord and Creator. We continue to support the different ministries at St. Michael's and participate in the Adult Education programs.

Cards were mailed out to our homebound parishioners and the Sundays' bulletins sent to our homebound local and out of State members.

We celebrated our Christmas luncheon at Skip's on El Camino Blvd.

Submitted by E. Sue Corbin

### **Pastoral Care The Rev. Mary Claugus**

In 2022 Pastoral Care continued to help meet the pastoral needs of our congregation. In all these programs lay pastoral ministers and clergy work together to help to meet the pastoral needs of this congregation on many levels.

Our Ministries currently include:

**Pastoral Partners-** This is a ministry of sending cards and making calls to help people stay connected with St. Michael's. Sue Corbin coordinator.

**Meal Train-** This ministry uses an online tool which allows for the organizing of meal delivery for members with a temporary need due to illness or injury. David Daigh coordinates this ministry which has helped parishioners this year in times of need. Please contact the office to request.

**Community of Hope Pastoral Ministers-** Trained pastoral ministers offer a caring presence for people who are going through difficult or lonely times. These ministers go through a 14 session Community of Hope training and also meet monthly as a group for ongoing support and learning. Our team currently has 9 members, who have helped many people stay connected and cared about, especially during this time of isolation.

**Licensed Eucharistic Visitors** are out and about again making visits to those who are homebound and would like to share the Eucharist.

With the isolation of the pandemic, "keeping in touch" with one another has been and continues to be a truly essential ministry and one that takes many to accomplish it. Thank you to each of you every time you reach out to fellow parishioners as well as neighbors. Keeping connections and feeling cared about is so very important. My particular thanks to all who are involved in pastoral care ministries and to Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot, who has been a vital partner in the leadership of all of our pastoral care ministries. Volunteers who feel called to help fellow parishioners in times of need are welcome to join our team. Please call the office or speak with Rev. Mary to request Pastoral Care, or to learn more about how to get involved in serving in these ministries.

Thank you all for your dedication in caring for our community.

## **Prayer Teams**

### **The Rev. Rod Davis and The Rev. Mary Claugus**

**The Men's Prayer Team Offering Confidential Prayers:** For more than 20 years men in the Parish, as well as a few who have relocated but retain a strong connection to us, have been praying confidentially for those needing prayer support. They serve on a team in doing so and currently 28 men serve in this ministry. Through email, Fr. Rod forwards to team members requests that he receives from members themselves as well as requests made directly or forwarded to him. Two lists are periodically updated. One list consists of people whose request will be honored for two weeks. A second list consists of people needing long term support, such as a deployed member of the armed services, an expectant mother and her child, or someone suffering from a chronic illness. Team members hold names up to God in prayer. Most of the men say the names at convenient times during the day, e.g., during morning coffee, while stopped at a traffic light, during a walk or other daily exercise. This is a confidential ministry in that the names do not go onto the public parish prayer list unless they have requested it. The following men are currently serving in this ministry: Dave Abbott, Frank Brown, Chris Chamness, Jim Cole, David Daigh, Rodney Davis, Doug Davy, Bill Fobes, Jay Glad, Hugh Griffin, Don Hall, James Hamill, Paul Hauck, Milton Hoever, Peter Luchini, Todd Murray, Hunter O'Hair, Paul Phinney, Tom Pinto, Jim Sargent, Chuck Schaller, Warner Seargeant, Toby Tremaine, Mark Van Brussel, Jim Weichert, and Mark Wiederanders. In conjunction with this ministry, Fr. Rod forwards the names and photos of expectant mothers to the sisters and brothers of the Order of Julian of Norwich. This semi-enclosed monastic order of our Church prays for expectant moms and their babies each and every day during their noon chapel session. If you are a man and would like to participate in this ministry, please let Fr. Rod know.

**The Parish Prayer Chain:** There are currently 20 members offering this ministry. Any member of the Parish may add someone to the Prayer Chain, including family members and friends, by contacting the Parish Office. Rev. Mary oversees a "Member" Prayer List that is published each week in the Sunday Bulletin and prayed for during the Prayers of the People. This list is limited to members of our parish. This allows our congregation to pray for each other in a time of need. Thank you to all who participate in this important ministry. Many members and those for whom we pray have expressed their gratitude and have reported back the wonderful effects of our prayers. Prayer is a powerful thing!

## **Task Force for Re-Gathering in the Sanctuary**

### **The Rev. Mary Claugus**

A task force made up of members of the church met to prepare a plan to re-gather in the Sanctuary for Worship in 2020 and continue to follow these guidelines as we move forward.

1. We will observe public health initiatives as they are made known.
2. We will strive to protect those who are the most vulnerable.
3. We will work to slow the progression of illness through prevention and mitigation.

The work of this Task Force continues in its guidance for the upcoming planned events for 2023. Thank you to original group members: Bill and Carolyn Wilson, Jay Bowdler, Ed Linn, Janice Bowdler, Tammy Murray, Gail McMichael, Susan Johnson, Michael Walker, Kate Muris, Michelle Falcy, Andy Chamness, John Cozza, Rev. Mary, Renée Pierce and John Quené.

This task force continues to be called upon on occasion, especially when there is a particular peak to cases of COVID. I am grateful for their counsel.

**Mission Avenue Players (MAP)**  
**Kate Muris, David Daigh & Paula Frink**

Although the pandemic has curtailed live theatre, MAP gathered readers for the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the evening of Good Friday, April 15th. It was a moving experience to portray the various Biblical figures and those in the crowds. It allowed us to feel as if we were there. Our cast consisted of MAP and Choir members. Narrators: Andrea LaMattina, David Daigh, Jesus: JC Fisher, Peter: Jim Cole, Pilate: Paula Frink, Woman: Constance Weichert, Servant: Jim Weichert, Priests/Police/Soldiers/Crowd: all except JC Fisher.

We supported the 16th Annual Winterdance (formerly Celtic Christmas) by managing the tickets and refreshments tables on December 1st. All donations were designated for the 2023 Summer Theatre Camp and production. Please see Pastor Katie's report for more details about this exciting endeavor for youth.

Once again, the Christmas tree in the parish hall was donated by Dave Jones' Christmas Tree Farm in honor of his late mother and longtime member of SMAG/MAP, Marilyn Jones. Thank you Dave!



**Life is short  
And we do not have too much time  
To gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.  
So be swift to love and make haste to be kind.  
And may the Divine Mystery,  
Who is beyond our ability to know, but Who made us, and Who  
loves us, and Who travels the way with us,  
Bless you and Keep you in Peace. Amen**

**Adapted from Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)**