

St. Anne's Episcopal Church



**2021
Annual Report**



Order of the Meeting

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Rector's Report
4. Deacons' Reports
5. Senior Warden's, Junior Warden and Treasurer's Reports
6. Committee Reports
7. 2022 Budget
8. Looking ahead
9. Congregation Q & A
10. Closing Prayer

Rector's Report

In the morning and in the evening during my private prayer time, I lift up prayers of thanksgiving for the beauty of this community and the faithfulness you all have shown during this past year. My hope was that we would be able to gather again, together, for our annual meeting, break bread together, laugh and sing together, be awed by the way God is moving in and through this community of faith. Truth be told, we are still gathered, breaking bread, and joining our hearts as we look back on the year we have shared and ahead at the year that stretches out before us. I give thanks for your presence in our spiritual journey as a congregation at St. Anne's, and for the many ways each of you have helped to lend your gifts in our ongoing journey.

When I sat down to reflect on the year we have shared since our last all parish meeting in September of 2020, everything seems a bit fuzzy, blurry at first glance. I would describe the feeling as hectic, uncertain, hopeful, and steadfast. This past year we have been able to move through the ups and downs of positive case rates, following the guidelines of our diocese and set forth by our Vestry, and we have had opportunities to be face to face with one another outside of online platforms. A highlight for me as your rector was our Pentecost Sunday service where close to 100 people came together to worship in person and many more on our Facebook page. What a joy it was to see you, to worship with you, to feast with you on a wonderful picnic provided by our Bread and Blessings Committee. That gathering nourished me on many different levels and my prayer is that we will gather together again soon and continue our feast.

Another highlight of this past year was the blessing of a new ministry from Bread and Blessings, our Blessings Box. This beautifully constructed offering (Thanks Ryan Phillips and family) sits in our parking lot with the invitation to "Take what you need, leave what you can", and it has become a shared ministry between St. Anne's and our neighbors with many folks from Town and Country stopping by to add items to the shelves. I encourage each of you to come and see the Blessings Box and bring some shelf stable items to leave for those who are experiencing food insecurity.

Our Outreach Committee has also continued to offer ways for St. Anne's to be active in our care for our neighbors by collecting food items for Maple Springs Food Pantry and Christ Beloved Community Food Pantry. What a joy it is to see you when you come to drop off food. Every month there are specified food asks in our weekly announcements and we will gladly accept any item offered to our collection.

This past year also saw the first stage of bringing to fruition our outdoor labyrinth. Thanks to the vision of The Rev. Ginny Herring, Michael Anne Haywood, and Debby Casey, a labyrinth fund was created many years ago. Earlier this year when it was clear that we had not met our budget goals and asked the congregation to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge or making an extra gift and you all did so with such generosity, we saw the opportunity to be good stewards of previous gifts to St. Anne's Labyrinth fund and celebrate making our budget goal by building the labyrinth. I give great thanks to all of those who came to St. Anne's on those three Saturdays to dig, build, and set our new outdoor labyrinth. This labyrinth is a work in progress and I am happy to report that our neighbors and congregation members have already put our labyrinth to good use.

I want to pause here and give my thanks to the Vestry of St. Anne's. This year was a challenging year as the work of helping to lead a church in uncertain times is labor intensive, and each member of our Vestry showed up, offered their gifts and time, made hard decisions, spoke frankly with one another, prayed together, and listened for where God was calling us to go and grow. Through each of the challenges we faced, the St. Anne's Vestry was faithful to the work and mission of St. Anne's. For a detailed listing of what your Vestry accomplished this year, please see Julie Risher's report. I

give great thanks for Julie's leadership, her ability to help us move through the process of achieving some important goals that have been unfinished for quite some time, and for her willingness to keep us on task, with humor and faithfulness. What a gift to St. Anne's to have Julie as our Senior Warden this year. The whole executive committee (Julie Risher, Debbie Walker, Susan Gies-Conley, and Nancy Young) helped discern the work of the Vestry and put together our agendas and kept us on task and on time, and when I look back at it all, I am in awe of all that we did. Thank you to you four for your time and energy. In giving thanks for the Vestry, I must also mention Bob Campbell and Heather Morgan. When I think about all that you all have contributed over the past three years, I am so grateful you answered the call to serve, and I am equally grateful to have had three years to work beside you and witness the presence of Christ in each of your hearts. Blessings abound to you all as you rotate off and enjoy a well-deserved sabbath.

I want to also give thanks to the staff of St. Anne's. Mark, David, Lauren, Jenny, Harriet, Mary, Pam, and Katarina, you all have been instrumental in keeping St. Anne's moving, worshiping, active, and faithful. With your help, we haven't missed a single Sunday since this pandemic began. You have been nimble, flexible, and offered your gifts in new and different ways. Live music has returned to our worship and the sound of the organ and piano are blessings to the ears. The Rev. Mary Kroohs has continued to be offer weekly Children's Chapel videos, assisted at our local food banks, and has been my partner in worship all throughout this strange season. The Rev. Pam Haynes has returned to St. Anne's for her first experience as a deacon in the church and what a joy it is to work and worship with you. I look forward to seeing how your gifts will continue to shape and encourage our parish. Mark, as our parish administrator, returned to the building in April of this year and all throughout the pandemic he has continued to stretch in new ways that this pandemic required of him in his position. I give great thanks to each of you and look ahead the year ahead praying that we will continue to discover how to work together faithfully creating a new normal in the daily operations of the parish and in our worship.

During this season we have experimented with how we should use technology in our worship and it has been a season of trial and error while learning and adapting. As Julie Risher likes to say, "we were building the plane while in flight" which is never comfortable for anyone. Throw into the mix that things that worked the week before are no longer working and having mics go dead in the middle of a live stream without knowing why or how to fix it and it became clear that we needed help to get our worship to a point that it felt like worship and not an episode of bloopers. I give great thanks to the technology committee for doing the work of seeking out systems for our livestreaming, for learning the process of making livestreams possible and for taking that off of my plate on Sundays letting me just lead worship, and I give great thanks to each of you who have hung in there while we navigated these new waters. Jason Wilkinson and Darryl Hammill along with Julie Meiburg, Martha Murphy, Grace Phillips, and Jenny Lawrence, thank you all for your gifts in helping St. Anne's worship together on Sunday mornings.

Looking ahead we will begin to navigate new waters in our formation offerings as we move towards hybrid formats making our programs available both in person and online at the same time. We have quite a line-up of programs including Sacred Ground, Fair Housing, Spiritual Gifts, Spirituality of Fundraising/Stewardship, Remember you Baptism retreat, End of Life planning retreat, Advent and Lent Quiet Day retreats, just to name a few. The Youth Group (6th- 12th grade) will experience the Nooma formation program, monthly fellowship gatherings, and a summer mission trip in July of 2022. Our little ones will continue to learn using the Whirl Lectionary curriculum and once vaccinations are available to those under 12 years of age, we will move from our online program to in-person formation for Pre K- 5th grade. I look forward to that day and ask that you join me in praying for the wellbeing of all of our children.

As we begin to move into our new program year I believe that we, as a community, need to seek out ways to build relationships with one another, to strengthen the relationships we have, and to make it a priority to connect with one another. When Jesus called the twelve disciples, much of the work

they did together to help grow the church was based in creating, building and nurturing relationships. My invitation to each of you is to continue to worship in a way that feels safe for you, participate in formation opportunities, offer your presence in our fellowship, and continue to lift up in prayer the whole body of St. Anne's. It is my joy to be your rector and I am excited about the year before us, and I cannot wait to see where God calls us in the year to come.

In peace,

Ginny+

Deacons' Reports

From the Rev. Mary Kroohs

This past year has been unlike any others of my forty years of ordained ministry. The continued ups and downs of the pandemic required me to frequently assess my ministries both at St. Anne's and in the community. At St. Anne's, I assisted Ginny in any way possible with our Sunday worship service(s). There were many occasions of frustration with the technology. However, it was truly remarkable how the Holy Spirit moved throughout our efforts.

Recording of weekly online Children's Chapel services continues. Enriching relationships with our pre-K through 5th grade children through these services is both fun and rewarding.

I continue to serve on the outreach committee. While on the committee, I have been able to work with other parishioners on various projects including the Freedom School fundraiser and efforts to address food insecurity. I have encouraged parishioners to support the Maple Springs UMC and Christ's Beloved Community food pantries. Each week, the food pantry bins near the church office are full of food, and personal care items. I deliver the items to the food pantries and assist with distribution.

I have served as co-chair of the pastoral care committee. During the past year, I have ministered to several parishioners as part of our clergy team. Hospital and facility visits (when permitted) have provided me with the opportunity to be present with folks when their pastoral needs are great. Of course, during Covid heavily restrictive times, I have sometimes resorted to praying with individuals and offering support while facetimeing or calling them on the phone.

Because my former hospital chaplaincy ministry is no longer possible, I am spending time to discern how I might best use my pastoral care gifts in the community. I hope to eventually return to volunteer chaplaincy at non-hospital facilities. I am currently awaiting word about whether I will be permitted to assist struggling students in one of the Title 1 elementary schools this Fall.

In order to enrich my ministries in the community, I am trying to learn Spanish. It is so hard to learn a new language at my age. However, I enjoy utilizing my meager learnings at both of the food pantries. Maple Springs has begun offering a mobile food distribution project at Latino Community Services in Old Town. Once I master more Spanish, I hope to assist with those efforts.

At the request of the Bishop, I am serving as newly ordained Deacon Pam's mentor. It is a joy to work one of the newest and faithful Deacons in our Diocese!

I look forward to continuing our journey in faith together as we seek and serve and as we go forth in the name of Christ.

In peace,
The Rev. Mary Kroohs

From the Rev. Pamela Haynes

After joining St. Anne's just 6 months ago, I have been amazed at how well they have handled the different technological ways of worship. Even though there have been some hiccups, we have provided the congregation with God's word consistently.

I have served on the Outreach Committee and participated in the Shalom Project and I have been able to work with other parishioners on various projects including the Freedom School efforts to address food insecurity.

I volunteer in the community at City with Dwellings which is a Community First Initiative that works to end the crisis of homelessness in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, providing a unique platform for volunteers across the community to connect and build relationships with individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

I have served with the Pastoral Care Team making visits following the Covid guidelines and taken on leading the Prayer Chain a few times.

I was asked early in my Postulancy to serve on the Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing which was formed to support missions and parishes in following the Biblical call to become Beloved Community, which includes taking action to ensure that all of God's children have good, safe, and dignified places to live and thrive.

I am looking forward to leading two Christian Formation classes this Fall: Affordable Housing and Sacred Ground.

I am excited to see how we continue to grow and carry Jesus to those in need our community!!

In peace,
The Rev. Pamela Haynes

Senior Warden's Report

Before writing this, I asked God “has this only been a year? Are you sure?” Yes, only a year by the calendar, but WHAT A YEAR!!!! The uncertainty, isolation, disruption of routines, pandemic challenges, devastating natural disasters, insurrection, pervasive gun violence, polarization of our nation, etc., are exhausting to us all.

BUT/AND, we are St. Anne's; we are still standing and serving our mission “to manifest the love of Christ through worship, justice and community.” I have watched the clergy, staff, vestry, and committees develop and hone qualities and skills (nimble adaptation, creative work arounds, stamina and perseverance, to name a few). Through it all, we laughed – a lot!!!! Thank you all!! Here are some of the things you and your vestry accomplished during the past year:

***Financial resilience:** Faced with a budget shortfall, we reached deeper to meet the provisional budget's pledge amounts – and this in a year when many were suffering financially from the pandemic's economic effects. Nancy Young and Mark Biggam steered us through the uncharted waters of PPP loan forgiveness and another PPP loan application.

***Coping and adapting during with the pandemic.**

a. Diocese connection and guidance: Ginny Wilder, Mary Kroohs, Debbie Walker and I participated in weekly Zoom calls with the bishops, clergy and lay leaders across the diocese.

From information gathered during these calls we were able to adopt (and subsequently adapt as needed) protocols to keep our St. Anne's family safe while never missing a single service.

b. Keeping worship and programming going: Our rector's technology skills were invaluable in this time, and because of Ginny's tenacity the Diocese designated us as the pilot program for communion of one kind, even when we could not meet in person. The film series and Holy Happy Hour were other ways we connected. Please see the Rector's report for a complete summary of activities in this area.

c. Committees worked HARD. Please review the committee and the Junior Warden's reports and thank those who have served so faithfully in this pandemic year. Our committees have carried on with admirable forbearance.

d. Vestry efforts: Your vestry endeavored to maintain contact with parishioners during our months of separation by periodic check in calls or emails. And, during the lockdown, we as a Vestry worked to stay connected, convey parishioners' concerns, and support one another through weekly Vestry check-ins via Zoom for a portion of the past year. Vestry didn't meet in person after March of 2020 until August of 2021, and three of your vestry members are winding up their first year of service with only one in-person meeting (held at a park picnic shelter). Staying connected and having cohesive discussions under these circumstances is trying, and I applaud this vestry for meeting that challenge.

***Addressing administrative, contracting and operational issues:** Yes, this can be tedious, boring, “stick a fork in my eye” work, but not with this Vestry at the table!!! We worked very hard as a team, hearing and considering one another's viewpoints, revising and reshaping drafts, occasionally disagreeing, but always doing what each of us thought best for St. Anne's. When we did agree to disagree, we did so with love, gentleness, and laughter – always laughter. (Indeed, a common thread in this trying year was humor.) Also, Hoppy Elliot and the other members of the Policy and Personnel Committee played a significant role in developing materials for our consideration and approval.

The following is a summary of what we accomplished. (For more detailed information about our deliberations, or should one suffer from insomnia, please consult the meeting minutes on the website.)

- a. Parish Administrator Job Description developed and approved. (This item has been on the “to do” list since at least the early 2000's.)
- b. Job descriptions now exist for the Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk, and committee chairs.

- c. Vacation accrual policy passed and issue regarding accrued time resolved.
- d. Conducted a vendor review to ensure that our contract arrangements are financially prudent.
- e. Developed and approved a Contract Policy.
- f. Reviewed and implemented a regathering plan.
- g. Instituted an Audit Compliance Committee to review the recommendations from the previous year's audit and to implement recommendation compliance measures by August of each year. This should help us move closer and closer to having a "clean" audit.
- h. Approved the 2020 audit. Thanks to the fabulous leadership of Michael Keith and his efficient audit committee, we submitted the audit before the deadline!
- i. Created an electronic asset inventory. In response to a recommendation in the 2019 audit report, the Vestry inventoried (room by room) all physical assets on church property over \$500 (individually or aggregately). The audit report recommended a threshold of \$100, but the Vestry voted to raise the threshold to \$500. The Parish Administrator will update this electronic inventory as the church acquires assets meeting the threshold. The last inventory was in 2017. Although Buildings and Grounds is responsible for the inventory generally, given: 1.) the pandemic, 2) the resulting demands on that committee, 3) the scope of the project, and 4) the limitations on being in the building, the Vestry decided it would conduct the inventory in this situation.
- j. Technology adaptations: In the summer of 2020, responding to the science available at the time (surface contamination was a big concern), the Vestry realized that prayer books and hymnals must be removed. Money from Moore Fund was allocated to engage a long-term vendor to develop and implement technological solutions to the challenges COVID posed to our traditional worship. Measures included eliminating the need for books and enabling us to worship remotely on a more suitable platform than Zoom. Supply chain issues and high demand for this technology meant that the process took much longer than anyone expected. (One part has been on backorder for over a year!) Given the uncertainties and changing landscape the pandemic posed, we were "building a plane while flying it" (as were churches everywhere). Unfortunately, the vendor did not have the skills it represented to us, and eventually we located another vendor who helped complete the undertaking. Ginny, Jason Wilkinson, Darryl Hammill, and I worked many hours behind the scenes to complete this undertaking. And, I am very grateful to Susan Gies-Conley, Alvie Dove-Ali, Martha Murphy, Julie Dubuisson, Julie Meiburg, Sharon Hammill, and any others I may have inadvertently omitted for their invaluable assistance. (A beneficial side effect is that my technology skills improved immensely over the past 12 months.)

And a big thank you! Each member of this amazing vestry ((Heather Morgan, Bob Campbell, Debbie Walker <Junior Warden>, Ray Leonard, Grace Phillips, Eric Ekstrand, Darryl Hammill, Jason Wilkinson) gave their time and talents in a very difficult year. We asked them to do far more than most vestries do, and they delivered! Susan Gies-Conley, our fabulous Vestry clerk, attempted to keep us on schedule, reminded us to frame motions carefully, and shared her wisdom and comments with the Vestry as appropriate. She and Nancy Young (our phenomenal treasurer who fielded questions, generated amazingly useful reports, and always had good advice) enriched and enhanced our discussions. Lastly, Ginny Wilder - were I to list my thanks to her, this report would be way too long. So, Ginny, a global "thank you" will have to suffice. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Senior Warden. Thank you all for being the wonderful community that is St. Anne's.

With best regards,
Julie Risher

Junior Warden's Report

Your Senior Warden has included a wonderful report which thoroughly details everything that has transpired this past year. Therefore, there is no need to mention anything more about the challenges of the last 12 months, other than to say that the challenges were faced head on by the Vestry. Under the amazing leadership of our Senior Warden and Rector, St. Anne's has weathered and continues to weather this storm with aplomb.

Your participation in our corporate life through the Committees of St. Anne's means that St. Anne's and the wider community knows that we are actively caring for God's people. In times like these, we know there are many who are skeptical about gathering in person, and we certainly understand that. However, that does not mean you cannot participate in the life of our church. For instance, the pastoral care committee reaches out to parishioners who have expressed a concern to the Committee. Calls can be made from home by anyone, and who among us doesn't appreciate someone reaching out to you to see how you are doing? Most all of the committee meetings are conducted online at this time, with the hope that at some point in the near future, we can conduct those meetings in person. Even then, if you are not comfortable participating in person, you can join in via Zoom.

During this past year, as mentioned by the Senior Warden, the Personnel and Policy Committee has been meeting and working on various policies, things that you don't hear much about, but which are necessary for the work of the church. The Outreach Committee has been extremely busy with activities (please be sure to read their report), the Buildings and Grounds Committee, in conjunction with Bread and Blessings, built and installed the Blessing Box that you help stock, the contents of which help feed our neighbors. Under the excellent leadership of Robin Baird, the Stewardship Committee did an exceptional job of running our stewardship campaign. We will miss Robin, but she has left us with a committee that has learned how to work together for the good of the church. The Technology committee has done a yeoman's job of helping us transition to an online presence. The Christian Formation Committee has pivoted and turned on a dime's notice to continue to offer worship every Sunday – what a feat that has been, thanks to our Rector. Without all of these Committees working together, I do not believe we would be in as good a position as we are today. Please be sure to thank our Committee Chairs when you see them next, either in person or online. Looking forward, you may rest assured that we have in place Committee Chairs who are willing and ready to help the church share the love of Christ internally and with the wider world. During a Zoom planning meeting with the Chairs, there was much enthusiasm and commitment about the coming year. They know the importance of staying connected to each other. I feel sure that they will be good stewards of the time and talents of our parishioners. If you want to join any of the Committees, please reach out to the following people:

Bread and Blessings – Carolyn Myracle
Buildings and Grounds – Ryan Phillips
Christian Formation – Ginny Wilder
Finance – Nancy Young
Outreach – Alvie Dove-Ali or Julie Dubuisson
Pastoral Care – Mary Kroohs
Policy and Personnel – Hoppy Elliot
Stewardship – TBD
Technology – Jason Wilkinson

Caring for others never stops, and we at St. Anne's have not let this pandemic stop us. Your continued support of all that is St. Anne's will mean that we continue to make a difference in the lives of those we love here at St. Anne's and in Winston-Salem and the surrounding areas.

In Peace, Debbie Walker

Finance/Treasurer's Report

St. Anne's began 2021 much as the rest of the world – full of uncertainties. How do you plan and manage the finances when no one can be certain of what the future holds? How will not being able to worship in the sanctuary affect our revenue? How will not being able to be in the building affect our expenses? Yet, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the parish leadership, and the watchful eye of the Finance Committee, St. Anne's has been able to maintain its financial stability through these unforeseen times.

Because of those unknowns, the Finance Committee recommended a provisional budget for 2021 and tracked revenue and expenses closely in case the need arose to make quick adjustments. Thus far through the year, that has not been necessary thanks to a significant total of pre-paid pledges, loose plate collections being over budget, and expenses through seven months being under budget. The Finance Committee has continued to monitor both revenue and expenses closely each month.

We were able to secure a second Payroll Protection Program Loan for \$30,000 in 2021 which was used for salary and benefits for our staff. Additionally, the 2020 PPP Loan was forgiven.

The Finance Committee also recommended to the Vestry and the Vestry approved establishing a Common Trust Reserve Fund as a means of increasing investment potential for several different “pots” of funds. Using the \$30,000 in the existing Vanguard Investment account, monies from the Wesson bequest, and an anonymous gift, the fund was established with \$52,000.

While there is certainly a potential for more monthly losses as the COVID pandemic continues, we should be able to sustain the budget for the remainder of the year given the funds we currently have on hand along with the restricted funds included in the budget that have not been used through the first seven months.

The Finance Committee is, of course, taking a very close look in the planning for 2022 given that there are so many ongoing concerns within in the church, the community and the nation.

The Finance Committee is to be especially commended since there have been no in-person meetings during the past year. Using email and Zoom meetings, we have been able to continue our work. The church should be proud of the commitment shown by committee members Marlene Druga, Stan Meiburg, Ron Sigrist, Stuart Winikoff and Donna Cowden as well as the support and leadership provided by Senior Warden and Vestry liaison Julie Risher and our rector, Ginny Wilder. Of course, none of my work in support of the committee and the church would have been impossible without Mark Biggam who provided everything we needed for the 2021 PPP loan application, the 2020 PPP loan forgiveness, and all of our monthly financial tracking.

Nancy N. Young
Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bread and Blessings Committee

Bread and Blessings Members

Beverly Gosnell, Sandy Sheldon and Carolyn Myracle Co-Chairs

Heather Morgan: Vestry Liaison

Alvie Dove-Ali, Barbara Fuller, Lori Hill, Judie Holcomb-Pack, Joce James, Roddy Roberts, Becky Sigrist, Carol Strom, Eddy Zuber, Teri Beadle

The work of the Bread and Blessings Committee this year has been very different due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Normally, we would have spent the year providing organization and food for the following:

All Receptions and Celebrations

Chili Cook-off

Community Breakfasts

Workers for the Pancake Supper

Decorating for Mardi Gras

Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers

Food for Freedom School Fundraiser

Crop Walk Luncheon

Bishop's Reception

Coffee Hour and Agape

Pentecost Picnic which we were actually able to do on May 23rd!

In February the committee sent Valentine cards to every member of the congregation just to offer a "Love Blessing".

In March we began the ministry of the Blessing Box. It is a ministry which provides food staples for anyone in need. The Town and Country Homeowners Association is partnering with us to keep the Blessing Box filled. We know that it is being used and that we are helping with hunger in our community.

In May we helped decorate for the Pentecost service and provided all of the food and beverages for the picnic. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed gathering after our long hiatus.

This summer we have been busy cleaning and sanitizing the kitchen, giving away items which were unneeded, and making plans for a more streamlined approach to our events. We will focus on making spaces for conversations and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Myracle

Music Ministry

David Pegg, Minister of Music

The music ministry, like all our ministries, has continued to be affected by COVID-19. We are hopeful for a better 2022.

Highlights of 2021 include:

- On Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, the fourth annual Carnival Sunday was celebrated. Guest musicians by video included former choir member, Ben Rhodes, and fellow members of his jazz ensemble.
- The annual benefit concert for *The Annette G. Pashayan Choral Scholars Fund* which helps underwrite the choral scholars program was canceled. This concert will be rescheduled when conditions are safe.
- The music ministry continued to provide musical offerings during the COVID months through the participation of St. Anne's music staff, choir members, and guest musicians.
- The choir made two virtual choir videos which were shown on Easter Sunday, April 4, and September 12.
- As always, special thanks are expressed to:
 - all our choral scholars for their leadership in the choir.
 - Barbara Johnson and Paige French for their meticulous maintaining of the music library and for their untiring efforts to keep us organized.
 - Dale Link who keeps us tidy and intact through her gifts of sewing, and all the volunteers in the choir who wash our vestments.
 - all the members of the choir and congregation for their generous gifts to purchase music and other needs of the ministry.

The music ministry's ongoing goals for 2022 are:

1. To return to a state of normality and the resumption of choir singing in the church.
2. To nurture the congregation through excellence in liturgy and song.
3. To grow and nurture St. Anne's musicians.
4. To encourage and support future musicians for the Church through our association with institutions of higher learning.
5. To involve instrumentalists of the church and the community at-large in worship.

In conclusion, we are most thankful to all of St. Anne's musicians for their dedication and willingness to share their talents, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. And, as always, we are grateful for the generous support of our rector, The Rev. Ginny Wilder, the Vestry, the staff, and all the members of this vibrant faith community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve among you!

David Pegg
Minister of Music
St. Anne's Church

Outreach

Food pantry support: in the fall of 2020 we had drop boxes at 2 committee members homes. The donations were delivered once a month to the food pantries. (During this time the church office was closed). Now that we are back using the sanctuary the donations are delivered regularly by Mary Kroohs. The donations are split between Christ's Beloved Community and Maple Springs United Methodist church food pantries.

Advent giving project: for the season of Advent our committee published an Advent calendar with different items featured each week. Parishioners dropped off food, warm outerwear, underwear and socks, and personal care items. Through the generosity of our wonderful congregation we supplied City With Dwellings, the Shalom Project, and our 2 food pantries (Christ's Beloved Community and Maple Springs) with several car loads of donated items.

SHIP meal delivery: a small group of dedicated parishioners delivered prepared meals every Tuesday (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) to the shelter hotel that housed medically fragile homeless individuals. The project lasted from May 2020 through April of 2021. Altogether we made over 100 delivery trips.

Shrove Tuesday pancakes and talent show: we got creative for our kickoff to Lent. The committee prepared pancakes, bacon, and syrup for take out. Church members drove through the front parking lot to receive their take out boxes, and donations were accepted to benefit our youth program. Our generous congregation gave over \$400. After the pancake supper there was an entertaining talent show hosted on Zoom.

Freedom school virtual fundraiser: our committee hosted a virtual silent auction and Zoom party. There were plenty of great items in the auction, plus options to make cash donations directly in support of Freedom School. The Zoom party was fun and a great way to connect outside of church services. The auction raised \$5000 when all receipts were totaled. The money was distributed as cash grants among the five new Freedom Schools in Forsyth County.

Guest homily and coffee hour discussion featuring the Rev. Paul Ford: the sermon focused on issues of racial equity that continue to affect quality of life, health, and financial security for people of color. Rev. Ford encouraged engagement in local issues such as the choice of superintendent for our school system.

21 Ways to Give newsletter campaign: each week there is a list of local events or organizations that are consistent with the priorities of the Outreach committee. This is an effort to raise awareness about other groups in our community, and other options for volunteering or giving financial support.

The Big Chill annual fundraiser to benefit the Shalom Project: the committee prepared homemade vegan ice cream using chocolate donated by Black Mountain Chocolates. The event was held downtown and was well attended. Our chocolate vanilla swirl ice cream was a hit!

Support of Sunnyside Freedom School: this year the committee provided 60 bagged lunches on one day, and a hot lunch of KFC fried chicken, macaroni salad, and fresh fruit on a separate day. We also did a joint fundraiser with Bookmarks bookstore that provided credit towards book purchases for the school.

In summary, we feel a sense of accomplishment over the projects we were able to complete during this challenging year. We would like to thank the wonderful people who make up the congregation of St. Anne's. Indeed, there is a sweet, sweet spirit in this place!

If you are interested in joining the Outreach committee, please contact Alvie Dove-Ali or Julie Dubuisson, who serve as co chairs of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Dubuisson

Stewardship

Adapted from the April/May Cross and Circle article: "Stewardship For All Seasons" by Julie Meiburg and Martha Murphy

The word "stewardship" means many things. It can refer to environmental activism, the responsibility as a corporate manager to respect and care for workers for whom one is responsible, or a season in the church year where parishioners are asked to pledge money to help pay church bills in the coming year.

According to Merriam Webster, stewardship is defined as "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

Clearly, this definition gives wide latitude to how stewardship can be interpreted.

Over the past twelve months, the Stewardship Committee, under the guidance and experience of Chairperson Robin Baird, has spent much time considering what stewardship is, what it does, and what it means to St. Anne's. What the committee realized is that stewardship in a church setting is often misunderstood, and we set about clarifying misconceptions and implementing ways to help overcome them.

First, we explored what stewardship is. We agreed it is not just about giving money each year to St. Anne's to meet a budget in order to keep the lights on. Rather, it is about each individual's relationship with God, and one's financial circumstance and perception of gifting. We concluded that stewardship was a year-round way of being and living, not just a two-month campaign at the end of the year. Through thoughtful reflections during monthly meetings, we became aware that the way to help St. Anne's transition to thinking of year-round stewardship, was to talk openly about money matters and involve the church leaders and the parish in spirit-filled discussions.

Early on, Robin recommended monthly meetings of the Stewardship Committee to reinforce the idea that stewardship must be considered throughout the year. She also suggested that in preparation for each monthly meeting, the committee select and read articles and blogs from different sources about church stewardship to expand the committee's views and to ensure St. Anne's was utilizing best practices in its stewardship conversations with church leadership and members of the parish.

As a committee, we became comfortable with asking what the church needed, thanking parishioners for their generosity and support, and sharing stories of how they were making a difference and living into the mission of St. Anne's. We have broken through some difficult issues surrounding the concept of stewardship, and committee members have become a very close, trusting group of friends. We have fun (believe it or not!) during monthly meetings and we look forward to those meetings.

During the pledge season for 2021, we engaged the congregation with "stories of my pledge" videos in an effort to bring a personal touch to such a distant time. We take great joy and pride in writing personal thank you notes to each person that has pledged to St. Anne – each person's gifts are deeply personal and unique to them. As we turn towards the needs of the 2022 budget this fall we continue to seek ways to celebrate the good works of St. Anne's and the service of each individual member.

The Committee welcomes new members. To join the Stewardship Committee and explore with us the significance of stewardship at St. Anne's, please contact Rector Ginny Wilder (rector@stannes-ws.org).

Technology

St. Annes has come a long way with technology since September 2020. The committee currently has 3 members. (Jason Wilkinson, Darryl & Sharon Hammill). The technological updates in our sanctuary and parish hall have allowed us to continue worship during a global pandemic and establish a permanent presence on Facebook Live and YouTube. During the past year, our virtual format transitioned from Zoom to Facebook Live & YouTube.

The committee has spent much of our time learning and broadcasting using the Sling Studio platform. In the past 2 months, we transitioned to using the ProPresenter platform with Sling Studio.

ProPresenter is the platform that adds the text on the screens in our virtual platform and the screens in our worship space. We use Sling Studio as a video mixer to switch between two cameras.

We are still fine-tuning and meeting new challenges every week with weekly “technology surprises.” While ProPresenter has been a steep learning curve, the platform has allowed us greater capabilities and smoother transitions between camera and video.

Overall the feedback that we get from members online and in the worship space has been positive. A big thank you to Jenny Lawrence, who provides weekly support by updating ProPresenter and setting up the text that we see on Sundays during worship.

The committee remains committed to training anyone interested in learning how to operate the cameras, SlingStudio, and/or ProPresenter. Currently, there are only 2 people at Saint Anne's who can operate both SlingStudio and ProPresenter.

Over the next year, the committee will train other volunteers willing to learn how to use the equipment. In addition, the committee will continue research and look for ways to improve our footprint in our worship space and our technological capabilities for an improved worship experience both virtually and in person.

A big thank you to our rector for her patience through all our “technology surprises.” Also, a big thank you to Julie Risher. Much of this would not have been possible if it were not for Julie, our Senior Warden. Thank you to Darryl Hammill, who did the heavy lifting learning and teaching me ProPresenter. A big thank you to Sharon Hammill for operating our cameras and recruiting new volunteers to assist us each week.

A special thank you to all those who served on the committee to get this project off the ground. They include Darryl Hammill, David Pegg, Lauren Willard, Keith Esposito, and Roddy Roberts. Also, a thank you to the Betty Moore fund and the committee for making much of this possible.

Submitted by: Chair of the Technology Committee & Current Vestry Member Jason A. Wilkinson