



**ST. MICHAEL
& ALL ANGELS**

2024 Annual Report to the Congregation

at the 57th Annual Meeting of
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
in Corona del Mar, California

Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 10:30 AM

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Minutes of the 56th Annual Meeting | Colette Spence, Clerk

The Episcopal Parish Church of St. Michael & All Angels
3233 Pacific View Drive, Corona del Mar, CA 92625
Sunday, February 3, 2023

1. Opening - Fr Shane Scott-Hamblen opens with prayer at 10:20 AM.
2. Election of the Clerk of the Meeting - Stacie Tibbetts nominates Colette Spence as clerk of the meeting. Corinne Stover seconds the motion, and it passes.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting - Kim Montgomery moves to accept the minutes. Jim Palda seconds the motion, which passes.
4. Annual Reports
 - a. Rector's Report - Fr Shane has questions for discussion and deliberation.
 1. What time do we want to hold the Sunday service? Going back to two services, staying with just one service, changing the time of the one service, etc. The consensus was to change the service to 9:30 A.M. We will stay at 9 AM for the time being and will announce when the change will occur.
 2. Are we comfortable with the burning of incense at special ceremonies? Discussion followed. Not everyone cares for incense. Shane+ feels strongly about keeping it.
 3. Holy Week - Shane+ wants to keep the Holy Week liturgy (3 parts) Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Saturday. He wants to push getting everyone here. He wants to know how we have done it before. He proposed an open baptism where all are welcome to be baptized "free grace." There was some discussion. This approach was supported by all present. Will we still do the stations of the Cross? Yes, we will.
 - b. Senior Warden - Louise Stover mentioned that this year, 2023, will be a year of transition for the church. The focus of the coming year will be to look at long & short-term plans for the parish's financial future.
 - c. Commission Reports
 - Ombudsman Report - Steve Morris - Steve is happy to report that it was a good year and that there were only two issues that came up this year.
 - Mission Commission Report - Mary Bailey - Mary thanked everyone for their contributions to MOMS Orange County.
 - Evangelism Report - Clyde Dodge - Clyde asked for people to sign up for Embracing Evangelism in Lent.
 - Christian Education Report - Kim Montgomery and Susan Caldwell - They welcome new ideas/topics and sharing experiences. Shane+ offered his skills for lectionary bible studies and/or the history of the Episcopal Church.
 - Fellowship Report - Gail Haghjoo - Gail mentioned the four large events that were held after services this last year. She said the best part of fellowship is the people who help make the events happen and the parishioners who attend.
 - Buildings & Grounds Report - Don Sheetz - Don said "HELP." This is a challenging job, there is much to do as our property ages. "If you see something, say something."
 - Stewardship Report - Keith Lumpkin - Keith is completing his third year and will continue for an additional year. We are close to meeting our proposed budget and asked those who have not pledged for 2023 yet, to please do so.
 - Communication Report - Brooke Pauley - Brooke mentioned that there are many people involved in communications. The committee was able to save money by changing our Zoom licensing. Wayne Hastings has been an important help to the committee.

5. Presentation of Program and Budget for 2023 - Stacie Tibbetts

Stacie hopes that everyone has had a chance to look at the proposed 2023 budget.2022 budget. We know that revenue will be going away with the loss of income from Harbor Day School and St. Monica's Coptic Church. The finance committee has been careful and acted conservatively. We have a deficit and this will be a year of transition. We do have a surplus/reserve that can cover the deficit this year but we need to find new ways to bring income to the church. The Vestry approved the 2023 budget. Shane+ does not want to use the reserve money. We asked us all to think of other ways we can bring in income.
6. Old Business - nothing to discuss since we have found our new rector!
7. New Business
 - a. Easter Triduum- talked about earlier by Father Shane.
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee- Lenten suppers.
 - c. Safety & Security Task Force 2023 grant application.
 - d. Celebration of a New Ministry giant party- we have to wait until Shane+ is here 6 months.
8. Vestry Elections
 - a. Nominees for the Vestry are:
 - Beth Bianchi- Mission (three-year term)
 - Julie Sheffield- Junior Warden (three-year term)
 - Keith Lumpkin- Stewardship (one-year term)
 - Don Sheetz- Buildings & Grounds (TBD)

All are approved with multiple motions and seconds.
 - b. Delegates to the diocesan convention - With multiple motions and seconds, the congregation approves the following members as delegates to the annual diocesan convention: Beth Bianchi, Brooke Pauley, Don Sheetz, and Sue Ahearn (alternate).
9. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
 - Jim Palda- Junior Warden
 - Mary Bailey- Mission
10. Closing Prayer - Prayer closes the meeting at 11:28 AM

Rector's Report | Fr Shane Scott-Hamblen

This morning's Annual General Meeting coincides and falls on a very important event – and no, I do not mean Super Bowl Sunday. I mean the Transfiguration. Though, knowing how some of you are itching to get to the game festivities, I will try and keep my report as brief as possible.

Here in my second Rector's Report to you, I feel I have to remark on our liturgical festivity. The Church always give us a glorious glimpse of the Transfiguration as we stand on the threshold of going into Lent. It's all glory, shining, glowing, miraculous chariots of fire, and great leaders of the past reappearing to support what will be new, glorious, and resurrected in the future. That vision and experience is meant to accompany and strengthen us as we go through the dark, soul-searching, deprivation of our desert experience of Lent leading us to Easter. It's both a liturgical experience and a metaphorical personal experience of our individual lives – but for us as a parish, this year it especially resonates as our community experience.

We have had a glorious first year together. We have had a wonderful honeymoon, learning a lot about each other, and I believe we have grown from the potential of mutual love to a deepening reality.

Our glimpse of a future glory has given us: a partially freshly painted and decorated beautiful church where people can walk in and feel like they are stepping into Heaven. Our mighty organ is off being restored not just to its former glory, but vastly improved. We have been blessed with a new choirmaster and organist – perhaps the best one in all of Orange County. Just wait for the future glory of Easter this year with a first-ever (for us) Mozart Mass with choir, hopefully a start of a girls' choir, trumpets, strings, and timpani – What less would we expect from an Austrian director of music? All of this being possible thanks to a generous anonymous gift of \$25,000 from a New York friend to our newly restored Friends of Music fund, and for all your outstanding gifts to the fund drive.

Our average Sunday attendance is growing steadily. Parishioners of the past who had fallen away are returning, and new people are being attracted by what we have to offer and are becoming part of our loving community. We had a couple bumps in the road on the path to growing with the “flag-gate” issue, but even that became an opportunity for us to learn more about each other and grow in trust. I might tell you that our controversial Pride flag already attracted some unexpected new people who came to see us as a safe place for them.

In the last year, we have welcomed hundreds of people through our doors for baptisms, (too many) funerals, the Induction of a new Rector, and a record-number of attendees for our Holy Week Triduum rituals, our Patronal Festival, Christmas, and Easter. At each of these, we took the opportunity to offer radical hospitality and service to all those people whenever they might need us in the future – a message that surprised and excited them.

In addition to enhancing our beautiful buildings and grounds, enriching our mystical liturgical service to God and our community, we have also fed the minds and souls of those entrusted to our care by Bible and lectionary studies, Godly Play with the children, and so many educational opportunities throughout the year. For those outside our community, we have looked outward for opportunities to help and serve anyone we can. We have helped to feed and clothe the homeless and destitute; we aided the United Thank Offering to help those in need, globally, nationally, and locally; we helped and supported Moms in Need in Orange County; and we've helped our sister and brothers overseas. Just recently, I received a handwritten letter from the Episcopal bishop for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe thanking us for our generous donation to help them in their work as missionaries across Europe. If I may delay your Super Bowl festivities just a little longer to share what the Bishop in Europe wrote:

“Dear Shane & St. Michael's – Word has reached me of your incredibly generous gift from your Rector's discretionary fund to the Board of Foreign Parishes, in such a way as to support the resources

of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. I am more grateful than I know how to express for your kindness to me and to the Convocation in making this gift. We are a peculiar outpost of the Church in many ways, as you know – and among the more peculiar things about us is that we are a “diocese-like” entity with no ability to do fundraising (indeed, we are prohibited from it!). The upshot of this is that your gift is doubly valuable not only the fact of it, but as well because it comes entirely voluntarily and unbidden – the rarest gift of all. With my deep gratitude and best wishes, Bishop Mark Edington”

And that is just one of many wonderful thank-you notes we have received. The Moms OC note after Christmas was moving. There was also a remarkable thank you from drag queen Miss Pickle who, after being attacked publicly for reading stories to children in libraries, was so moved to tears by the kind and loving words of support and safety from our Bishop in his sermon here, not to mention your kind hospitality, that Pickle has now started attending Episcopal Mass regularly in Los Angeles. And these are merely a few examples of which we know. I am certain there are many other people, yet unknown to us, who have taken solace and comfort from your kindness. You have reflected the shining brightness of divine glory into some very dark and lonely places to so many people longing for it. Our work has only begun – there is a lot more glory to be reflected to so many more people.

But... Before we all rest from our labors, there is still so much work waiting for us – and it involves some massive challenges. As we knew would happen, we have entered the darkness of our budgetary Lent already. We are now operating in a massive deficit-budget for 2024. The Finance Committee and the Vestry will be presenting a greatly reduced budget. We have had to make very uncomfortable budgetary cuts; reductions of hours to staff; enduring more cold without heat; and countless hours given to trying to figure out a future financial rescue.

A word of thanks to the Stewardship team, Vestry, and all of you. You responded very generously to our distress call and pledges for 2024 were significantly increased – and we are very grateful. Unfortunately, it will not be quite enough. By the end of 2024 we will have “eaten up” much of our reserved savings. We must find a viable and lasting way to fund our work – not just to keep things the same, but to magnify and enhance what we already have. Like Jesus' parable of the Talents, we do not want to just hand back to God what we were given, we want to hand back double or more.

As you know, I am absolutely convinced the way to achieve that for us is the founding of a Girls' Choir. Imagine 30 girls regularly participating in our liturgies; imagine all their parents, siblings, and grandparents sitting in our pews to support them; imagine the name of St Michael & All Angels in concert programs around our area and in symphony halls. And then imagine that the people in concert halls deciding “We should go check out St Michael's – they seem to be doing a remarkable thing, both traditional and innovative”. When they walk through our doors, it will look like they are stepping into heaven; it will sound like they are in heaven, with our fabulous organist, on the remarkable new organ; and they will feel the loving hospitality and kindness by all of you – as if our guests were being greeted by Christ himself. That is my vision for us. It is totally possible and within reach. We've already started building the structure of it. But money remains the problem. For that dream to happen, we will have to increase the Director of Music to a full-time position – at a time when we are presently having to decrease staff.

So, we place our hopes in the building of condominiums on our massive parking lot. We may have to relinquish the gym as well to make room – and to escape having to invest a small fortune into restoring it. But this building project is a massive project involving the Bishop, the diocesan standing committee, the city of Newport Beach, and countless brokers, advisors, and real estate professionals. As of this date, we have no clear idea if we should either sell the property (if that's even possible) or lease it for 99 years (if that would be attractive to developers). We need your most fervent prayers.

I will confess to you that there have been times when I have found this project to be too overwhelming, especially in light of our budgetary cuts, programs, and projects. I was so depressed at having to cut staff that I even offered my possible resignation to our bishop. He rejected it. I am deeply uncomfortable having to cut the salaries and program budgets of others when my own salary is

one of the biggest expenses in our budget. It is a catch 22. I would love to be able to reduce my stipend to save others, but I cannot afford to live here on less. It's already difficult with the living expense as it is. I will have to leave that decision to all of you, our bishop, and to God. If it would help this community and parish I now love so much, I would (painfully) let it go to save it.

Meanwhile, we will keep working, keep building, keep dreaming, and keep preparing for the shining glory that is within our reach – if God helps us, the diocese helps us, and we help ourselves. Today, we get a glimpse in the Transfiguration of the hope that awaits us, after our season of Lenten reflection and deprivation, when Christ re-creates us and our parish in the Glory of Easter. God takes what is broken and resurrects and revives it into something even more glorious than ever before. God has done it over and over for centuries and even millennia, and I am convinced God will do it again here, amidst such loving, eager, and willing beautiful people.

In conclusion (because I know you have a game to get to!), I will not risk naming all the many people who are working so hard in so many ways because I know I would forget or neglect someone. I will single one person out in particular this year: Our deepest thanks to Louise Stover for her remarkable years of service during a pandemic, a time without a rector, and the many transitions due to a new rector and challenges that even a family full of Wardens never had to manage! As God would say: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Or, as the Rector would say: “Kudos, Gurl!”

Just know, we are so grateful for all of you and for all you are doing to help carry out God's work here in this taste of Heaven. I'll end my report with the prayer we offer at every vestry meeting:

“Almighty God, we beseech you to direct the counsels of your servants at this time, that we may be enabled to do those things that are pleasing in your sight, and may wisely plan for the furtherance of your Church in this parish. Remove from us all that hinders your purposes; establish amongst us peace and love, unity, and concord; and grant that your blessing may continually rest upon our worship, our work, and our witness; for the Glory of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Warden Reports

Senior Warden | Louise Stover

Two years of careful, prayerful, and sometimes frustrating discernment at last revealed God's choice for St. Michael & All Angels fourth rector. 2023 concludes Fr. Shane's first full year at St. Michael's. Fr. Shane is a visionary and inspiring spiritual guide. Fr. Shane is a mensch. We are blessed to have him! God is good!

Fr. Shane arrived at St. Michael's in January 2023 and hit the ground running! The year saw much discussion of ways to provide sustainable revenue and allow St. Michael's to focus on faith ministries. The "sticky" option for our Sharing Spaces initiative reveals itself to be building housing on a portion of the property. Let that idea simmer and be ready to share your opinion: Land Lease or Sale?

Recent Parish Meetings have emphasized the budget shortfall that arrives in 2024. Huge thanks to all of you whose pledged financial support buys the Vestry a bit of time and breathing room. Gifts and pledges in 2024 increased by over \$42,000! This combined with budget cuts of \$66,000 and \$158,000 in reserve gets St. Michael's through 2024. The Vestry must maintain focus and a healthy sense of urgency as they decide what plans to recommend. Please give them your prayers and support. There is a tight timeline.

Change is here. A generation ago, the faithful attended church every week. Now, it's twice a month on average. Sundays are no longer a day of rest reserved for church. Sunday church competes with a myriad of other commitments. We need more butts in seats!

Change is opportunity. To keep people committed to church and to support opportunities for the growth we say we want, we might offer options other than Sunday mornings or weekdays. If we honestly want to grow, let's consider programs that meet people where they are instead of working harder on things that don't accomplish that objective.

I welcome the new Vestry and look forward to working under their leadership. I'm pleased that the work of 2023 leaves the next Vestry with an endowment fund holding \$32,451. It's a start! We also "found" \$88K in an overlooked fund that we reassigned so it can be put to use.

I need to thank St. Mike's past Senior Warden's for their examples of faith and service, particularly (in chronological order) Allan Stover, Victor Rumbellow, Gwen Felton, Nancy Sattler, Myrna Ireland, Corinne Stover, Laird Blue, Norris Battin, Mark Peterson, and Lynn Headley. Thanks for having my back, guys!

I am profoundly grateful to Fr. Michael Seiler for this opportunity to serve, learn, and grow with this beloved community. I'm even more grateful to Fr. Shane for being such a good and patient man. Thank you, my friend.

Junior Warden | Julie Sheffield

What year 2023 was, both for our parish and, for me personally. There were such highs and lows which I never could have imagined. When Jim Palda asked me to consider the Junior Warden position, I queried some of my trusted “veteran” parishioners and former Juniors on “what does this role entail?” “Oh, not too much,” was the general response and so I took the leap of faith and said, “Yes.” Maybe because it has been a long time since I was on a committee, or because of this year’s pressing financial concerns, and a new rector – It’s actually been a lot, but I’m finding my way.

I love St. Michael & All Angels; I pray for it to not only continue but flourish. I believe in our potential. The potential not only to be a great place of faith, worship, education, and music, but perhaps expanded as a community center and destination church.

What a relief to have a new rector – Father Shane. He reminded Vestry often in his early days, that as in all families change can be hard, but that his desire is to be transparent, and for Vestry to be a safe place. While it’s not been perfect, it certainly has been exhilarating, and I commend what I call Shane’s “magical thinking” and his push to just “try more” for the future of St. Michaels.

In September, Anne Conover died so unexpectedly and I, like many in our parish, was undone by her loss. Let me close with a prayer from one of our old bulletins, “An Advent Prayer” – Anne’s beloved time of the church year, for I feel it is perfect for me not only at Advent, but Christmas, Lent, Easter..... just about every day:

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, “Come Lord Jesus!”

Thank you kindly for supporting me last year.

Ministry Reports

Canterbury UCI | Fr. Shane Scott-Hamblen and Susan Caldwell

January

- The UCI Canterbury Irvine/Community Table Spring event took place on April 30th at the base of the UCI Social Science Towers. 25 in attendance.

June

- The June graduation event and closing of the year for Canterbury Irvine, Community Table took place in June and recognized the Student Team Leaders who are graduating. Nathan Viray Barquira, Jennifer Ramirez Aguilar, Frida Katrina Romero, and Freddie Francisco Ramos.

September

- The new Canterbury Irvine/Community Table Board met at St. Andrew's in Irvine. The Chaplains, Fr. Glenn+ Libby, Cathie Capp+, Joyce Swaving continue to lead this ministry. Fr. Shane Scott Hamblen has stepped into the role of President of the Board. The Reverend Peter Browning is the Vice-President. Susan Caldwell is the Treasurer and Secretary. Tammy Smecker Hane is also on the Board.

December

- The UCI College group, Canterbury Irvine, Community Table, had a movie night with hot chocolate, watching Polar Express at the Vista del Campo Student theater.

Christian Education | Kim Montgomery and Susan Caldwell

"A year in reflection."

In loving memory, Anne Conover, Godly Play; Bob Anderson, Men's Group

January

- Tuesday Night @ St. Mikes finished the book "The Church Cracked Open" by The Reverend Stephanie Spellers.
- Thursday Morning Men's Group "The Great Experiment: Why Diverse Democracies Fall Apart" by Ruscha Mounk.
- Inklings "Praying with CS Lewis" by Charles Taliaferro.
- The Bible Challenge continued to read "O Wisdom: The Names of Jesus" through January 2023. This is a Forward Movement Publication.
- Celebration of Bob Wolfe, long time Men's Group stalwart

February

- The Men's Group, Masters of the Planet, by Ian Tattersall
- The Bible Challenge, Read "Of Other Worlds: Essays and stories" by C.S. Lewis.
- Tuesday Night Fellowship continues with "My One Word" and celebrating birthdays. This group is led by Beth Bianchi, Barbara Stewart+ and Brooke Pauley.
- Shrove Pancake Sunday, pancake breakfast after worship was served. The children and youth enjoyed pancake races in All Angels Court.

March

- Lenten Suppers to the form of four guest presenters on five Wednesday nights, Brooke Pauley, Richard Zevnik, Stacie Tibbets, and Ali Haghjoo.
- On March 19th, Fr. Shane led the Instructed Eucharist for the children at the 9:30AM Worship service.

- Holy Week The children, youth and parents and dramatic readers of St. Michael's gathered to share in the annual tradition of the Good Friday Stations of the Cross for Families which took place on the church patio. The children and youth enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt which covered the gardens, labyrinth, and citrus grove.

April

- Sarah Rosenson in Adult Education, Thursday afternoons, Women of the Bible.
- Men's Group – The Writing of the Gods, by Edward Dolnick

May

- In Sunday conversations, Timothy Tackett spoke on the topic of the Silk Roads. Susan Caldwell shared a PowerPoint on Marco Polo.
- Brooke Pauley gave a presentation on The Book of Common Prayer. Kim Montgomery continues to host the National Geographic Great Courses Series Biblical Archeology of Prof. Jean-Pierre Isbouts.
- In May and June, Julie Jenkins, Brooke Pauley, Susan Caldwell, and Kim Montgomery shared the presentation of Mothers and Fathers of Old and New Testament.
- The Youth Group attended Dr. Kaboom at the Samueli Theater.
- St. Michael's College Spring Care Envelope Drive supported the ten college age students who belong to St. Michael's parish families. This ministry reaches the St. Michael's college students in the autumn and spring.

June

- Youth Sunday, Matthew Poska returned home from college to give the homily.
- The Youth Group went to Knotts Berry Farm.

July

- Vacation Bible School, Journey with the Saints to Alaska to place on two Friday nights in July. Sarah Rosenson's Thursday afternoon class with the Harry Potter series was a great success!
- The Men's Group attended an Angels baseball game.

August

- The Youth Group went to OC Ropes Course at Featherly Park off the 91 Freeway.
- Back to School, Sunday School! Godly Play and Youth Group begin.

September

- Anne Conover passed away on September 26th. The children in Godly Play grieved the loss of their beloved Sunday School teacher. Carter Gribben suggested planting pumpkin seeds in remembrance because it is autumn. Anne's birthday on September 22 marked the first day of the autumn season.
- St. Michael's Feast Day Obstacle Course in the citrus grove. The children and Youth had a pinata provided by the Stovers, Corinne, Louise, and Catherine.
- Men's Group – launched the Organ Rehabilitation fund. It has exceeded its target of \$135K. Also, A World Lit only by Fire, by William Manchester
- Kristy Kiper, Elizabeth Henry, Marjie Blevins, Skylar Mineshima, Jan Cannan, Brooke Pauley, and Julie Sheffield continue the Godly Play legacy that Anne Conover created in the Yellow Room.

October

- On Sunday, October 15, Professor Jean-Pierre Isbouts, National Geographic, and Great Courses speaker, was a guest presenter at St. Michael's. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on his book "The Fracture Kingdom", a new publication by the Episcopal Church Publishing House. There were 50 people in attendance. Refreshments were served by Gail Haghjoo, Beth Bianchi, and Jane Woodson.

- The children participated in two costumed events, Halloween, and the Parade of Saints.

November

- At the Alternative Gift Fair, the Youth Group had booth for raising funds for the Episcopal Relief and Development. Skylar Mineshima donated twelve knitted scarves. The proceeds all went to helping those in need in Israel/Palestine.
- Bob Anderson, a long time Men’s Group stalwart, passed away. Also, How the Irish Saved Civilization, by Thomas Cahill.

December

- On the first Sunday of Advent, an intergenerational ministry of Advent Wreath making took place on the church patio.
- The children’s Christmas Pageant took place on December 17 with a reception following. The children received books from Barnes and Noble. Ali Haghjoo was Fr. Christmas and Gail Haghjoo was his helper. A big thank you to all those who supported this wonderful St. Michael’s tradition, Kristy Kiper, Elizabeth Henry, Brooke Pauley. Evans Henry was the narrator.
- Sunday Conversations enjoyed the annual traditional favorite of Amahl and the Night Visitors. The Youth Group went to Elizabeth and Evans Henry’s house in the Huntington Beach Marina for a Duffy Ride. Evans Henry was the captain. Thank you, Henrys!

A special Thank you to the Adult Christian Education Committee members who met faithfully on the second Sunday of the Month through 2023. Kim Montgomery, Peggy Montgomery, Norris Battin, Ann Morris, Ruth Poole, Beth Bianchi, Brooke Pauley, Julie Jenkins, Mary Bailey, and Susan Caldwell.

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

Communications | Brooke Pauley and Wayne Hastings

The Gospel of John tells the story of two of Jesus’s first disciples. He asks them, “What are you looking for?” They ask him in return, “Where are you staying?” and, in typically cryptic fashion, Jesus replies, “Come and see.” In essence, those two responses of Jesus, “What are you looking for?” and “Come and see,” are apt frames for our goal on the Communications Commission. This year, with the support of our rector, vestry, and staff, in ways familiar and novel, we have tried to discern what our community is looking for, and to invite them to come and see what we are up to.

Thanks to Junior Warden Julie Sheffield, in the early part of this year, we put monthly advertisements in neighborhood magazines highlighting a different aspect of our common life each month. Our indefatigable communications specialist, Wayne Hastings, continues to keep our website, Messenger newsletter, and social media up to date with event photos, advance posting, and inventive, cohesive design. We again participated in the diocesan-wide Christmas ads in the Orange County Register. In this time of financial transition, we made some cuts to our budget that we hope will focus and streamline our efforts. My second year as your Communication Commissioner has been a joy. We hope to continue to do this work with transparency, consistency, and creativity—making sure those already here know about our abundant life together, and inviting those in our wider community to come and see. The overview below has insightful information and statistics from Wayne about the fruits of our efforts. Behind each of those numbers is a person, looking for something – perhaps community, music, spiritual nourishment.

It’s always important for me to remember that the Gospel first spread one person at a time – from John the Baptist, to his disciples. Those disciples in turn told others. In that same Gospel story, one of them, Philip, finds Jesus, and is surprised when Jesus already recognizes him from

underneath a fig tree. Jesus says, “Do you believe because I saw you under the fig tree? Truly, I tell you, you will see greater things than these.” You never know who might be looking for our kind of vibrant, loving community. In the spirit of the first disciples, don’t be afraid to tell people about it. Then ask them to come and see. Lastly, please know that we pray for you, and I ask your prayers for us. Our words to God are the most important words we have, and God loves you so much. The way you care about each other and our neighbors in ways big and small is such a beautiful picture of God’s love. We look with courage, wisdom, and hope toward whatever greater things God would have us see in 2024.

Evangelism | Clyde Dodge

After a successful initial class of Embracing Evangelism in 2022, we offered three more sessions of the class at different times in 2023. No one signed up for any of those sessions. This was disappointing, as it is an excellent class, enthusiastically endorsed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. We are offering it again in 2024. The first class is the Tuesday after the Annual Parish Meeting, and you can jump straight into the Mardi Gras celebration after the first lesson. I encourage anyone who wonders what the Episcopal understanding of Evangelism is to take this class. After multiple design trials, new nametags were printed this year for 78 parishioners, which cost more than \$800. In February we will print some more, creating new red ones for the incoming Vestry members, and new blue ones for outgoing Vestry and new members of the congregation.

Fellowship | Gail Haghjoo

Fellowship hosted five large events this year. In addition, on the night of Easter Vigil we had four baptisms and celebrated afterwards with champagne, punch, and cake. Fellowship supported the Share Our Selves Taco Night at the Orange County Fairgrounds on May 18th and provided baked goods and plants for sale at the Alternative Gift Fair in November. A new program was introduced this year for after service coffee and snack hosting named “We Serve” which premiered in August. The “We Serve” name utilizes the double meaning of serving others in Fellowship and to “Serve the Lord in Gladness.”

The first large Fellowship event was the Shrovetide Breakfast, “Pancakes and Palms” where traditional pancakes were served and Father Shane introduced us to the ceremony of the “Burning of the Blessed Palms” from last year’s Palm Sunday. In May the Pentecost Brunch was delicious and wind chimes were hung from the trees to remind us of the winds of Pentecost. In late August we had a new event, a “Summer Tea Party” which was a celebration of the women of St. Michael’s and especially our “Nonagenarian” members who were interviewed and honored at the tea. By late September it was time for St. Michael’s Day and we partnered with the Education Ministry for a big party. We had a Mexican Fiesta Brunch along with an obstacle course, crafts, and a piñata!

The Rector Installation Celebration was on November 4th and a large party was thrown with the help of many volunteers. Our theme was Corona del Mar the Crown of the Sea. Visiting clergy, friends and the family of Father Shane were in attendance and the church was full. The weather was great and the food was plentiful, elegant, and delicious. Father Shane brought in a DJ to keep the party lively.

By the end of the year 25 volunteers had participated in spicing up our coffee hour as part of the “We Serve” program. Some brought home baked goodies or casseroles, fruit and cheese, canapes, or

delicious croissants from a local café. In between we had our regular donuts to fill out our schedule. Overall, the plan is working and I hope it will continue to be self-supporting through the talents and gifts of our parishioners.

Fellowship is a ministry that wraps the “edges” of our parish as we provide the coffee, food, and compassion after service to enfold our attendees into closer fellowship and lead them towards participation in parish life. It has been an honor to serve on vestry in this capacity.

Mission | Beth Bianchi

We support our community with our treasure.

Alternative Gift Fair - \$2,600 - Supports Free Wheelchair, Episcopal Relief, UNICEF, Moms OC, and Zatoun Fair Trade

Canterbury Irvine - \$500

Compass Rose Society - \$500

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe - \$500

Good Friday Offering-Supports the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

Moms OC - \$3,650.

United Thank Offering - \$1,325.

We support our community in the sharing of our space.

Our campus is home to art and music lessons, 12 Step programs, basketball and volleyball, Girl Scouts, homeowners’ associations, and other non-profits meetings.

Our campus provides a friendly space for those walking dogs, with poop bags!

Our labyrinth is listed on the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator.

Our campus is a Certified Wildlife Habitat that provides food & shelter for the animals and insects that live in our area.

Our parking lot is used every school-day for the safe pick-up of Lincoln and Harbor Day students.

We support our community with our energy.

9/11 Commemorative Blood Drive.

Moms OC volunteers.

Youth Group projects.

Prayer Shawl Ministry | The Rev. Dr. Barbara Stewart

A faithful group of knitters and crocheters meets each Friday morning to pray and knit shawls. The shawls we knit and crochet are filled with love and hope, with our prayers, and given as a visible sign of God’s love and caring to those needing support and comfort. You are welcome to join us!

Prayer Vigil for Peace | The Rev. Dr. Barbara Stewart

Inaugurated in February 2022, our Friday Prayer Vigil continues to pray for peace, in our lives, in our world. This quiet 20-minute space is a time to bring before God our hopes and our concerns. Thank you to those who help make this possible: Kim Montgomery, Brooke Pauley, and Mary Bailey. Please join us either in person or on Zoom.

Ombudsman | Steve Morris

An ombudsperson's role in an organization is to investigate complaints made by members of that organization and to work to resolve such issues from a neutral, independent position.

2023 was a memorable year in the life of St. Michael & All Angels, notably the arrival and installation of Fr. Shane Scott-Hamblen as Rector. I am pleased to report that in my third year as Ombudsman, there were no issues with which I was invited to be engaged, and that made for a positive aspect of a memorable year. It has been an honor to serve as Ombudsman on the Vestry.

Stewardship | Keith Lumpkin

2023 Pledges

2023 Pledge Income of \$293,104 came in at \$13,104 over the budget of \$280,000. We closed 2023 with 62 Pledge Units.

Other Income for 2023

Plate Offerings were \$8,216, versus a budget of \$4,000.
Donations Non-Pledge were \$43,281 versus a budget of \$10,000.
Parish Center Donations were \$187,866 versus a budget of \$159,780.
Unfortunately, these will drop significantly in 2024 – by \$80,000 – due to the departures of Harbor Day School and St. Monica's Coptic Orthodox Church.

2024 Pledges

In 2023, we had 62 Pledge Units who pledged \$280,000.
In 2024, we have 53 of 62 responding with \$263,035 pledged, an average increase of 14.8%.
Despite 9 non-responding who pledged \$48,700 last year, we have 9 new pledge units in 2024 who pledged \$55,700. We are net down one pledge unit for 2024.

Pledges for 2024 as of 2/1/24

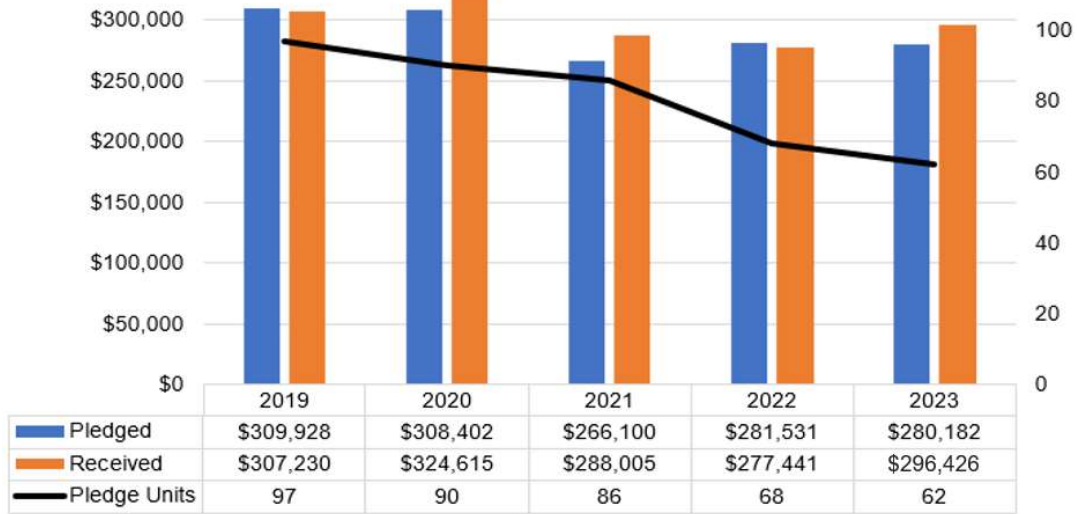
Renewed (53)	\$268,536
New Pledges (9)	\$ 55,700
2024 Total (61)	\$323,736

We were able to achieve this increase due to renewing pledges increasing their pledge and several large new pledges. We now have eight pledge units over \$10,000, two of which are in the \$27,500-\$30,000 per year range.

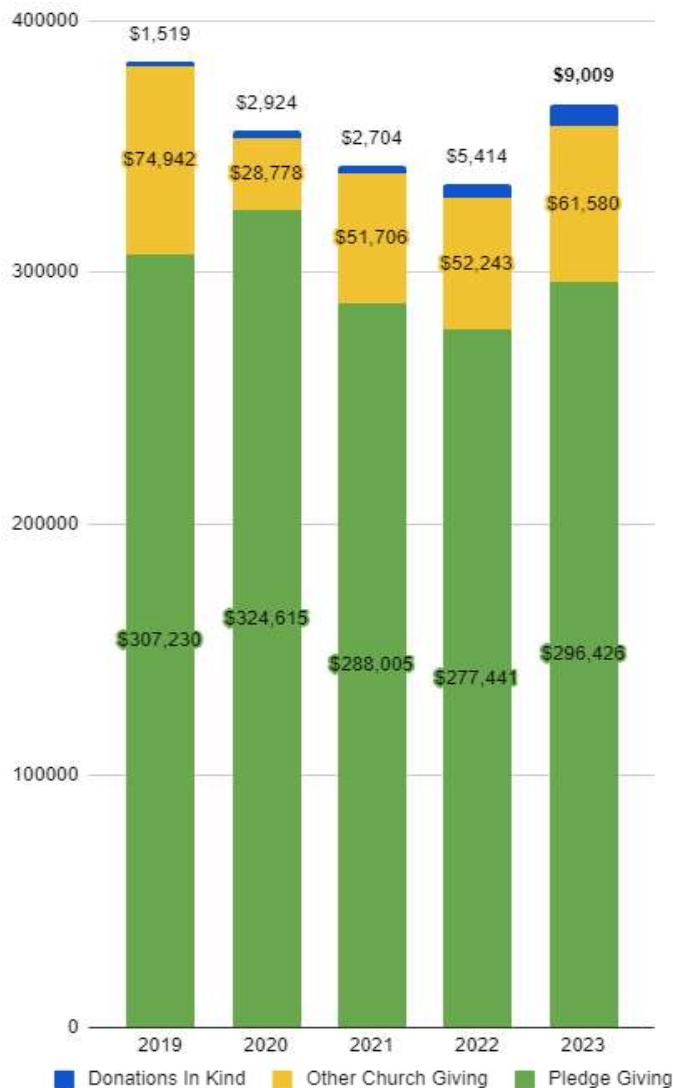
We have been truly fortunate to increase our pledge income over the past few years despite less pledge units. However, St. Michael & All Angels is still facing a budget shortfall. We currently have reserves to carry us through 2024 and the budget gap has narrowed. The Vestry is actively exploring new opportunities to replace the lost revenue and reducing expenses wherever possible. Your pledges are important. Remember, no pledge is too small... or too large!

My sincere thanks to all. It has been an honor to serve on the Vestry as your Stewardship Chair for the past four years.

Year-Over-Year Pledged/Received



Year-Over-Year Parish Giving



Balance Sheet of Gifts & Bequests

VESTRY DESIGNATED	
ENDOWMENT	\$32,451
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	\$65,880
RECTORY FUND	\$146,357
RESERVE FUND	\$158,000
THE BLESSINGS FUND BEQUEST	\$25,000
DONOR DESIGNATED	
PARISH EMERGENCY FUND	\$7,144
RECTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$9,123
RECTOR SABBATICAL FUND	\$15,000
MEMORIAL GARDEN	\$22,682
ROSE GARDEN	\$211
ALTAR GUILD	\$837
ALTAR GUILD ICON WALL FUND	\$2,021
ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND	\$8,593
2023 ORGAN REFURBISHMENT	\$84,579
FRIENDS OF MUSIC	\$889
MISSION & OUTREACH BEQUEST	\$2,776
MISSION ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR	\$1,734
UNITED THANK OFFERING	\$400
PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE	\$270
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	\$490
GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY	\$200
TEEN MINISTRIES	\$2,320
TOTAL	\$586,957

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who responded. Your participation fills us with gratitude!
Please send in your 2024 Pledge Card if you haven't yet.

Sue Ahearn	Keith & Leonie Lumpkin
Patricia Albers	Joni & Tom Malcolm
Sue & Nicolaos Alexopoulos	Kim Montgomery
Mary Bailey	Peggy Montgomery
Norris Battin	Ann & Steve Morris
Beth & Norm Bianchi	Kati Mowat & Tom Nicholson
Laird Blue	Paddy Nelson
Judy & Bill Brady	Gloria Oakes
Susan Brown & Frank Bean	Jim Palda
Marjie Blevins-Boor & Michael Boor	Brooke Pauley
Sally Buschek	Barbara Paulson
Jan Cannan	Kathleen & Mark Peterson
Sherry & Joe Crail	Ruth Poole
Connie & David Davidson	Melinda Rader
Jackie & Larry Dodd	Lynne Ruedy
Clyde Dodge	Verda & Dick Schroeder
Jill & Michael Draffin	Shane Scott-Hamblen+
Michele & Steve Dulson	Julie Sheffield
Cathy & Jim Dunlap	Colette Spence
Gail & Ali Haghjoo	Susan & Harry Stahl
Lynn & Jim Headley	Stacy & Jeff Stone
Elizabeth Henry	Catherine Stover
Paul Hoag	Corinne Stover
Sara Hyatt	Louise Stover
Myrna Ireland	Peggy & Michael Strong
Julie Jenkins	Mark Taylor
Anette Johnson	Stacie Tibbetts
Burton Karson	Rusty Vail
Libby Keating	Jane Woodson
Kristy & Mike Kiper	Kate & Bill Yost
Anne Logie	Susan & Richard Zevnik

2024 Program & Budget | Stacie Tibbetts, Treasurer

The parish continues to have a strong finance team in place. Systems for timely monitoring of income and expenses are being followed rigorously. We have developed a budgeting process that is realistic, and that suits the needs of the Parish. The Rector, Vestry, Finance Commission, and our bookkeeper Maile Jansen all keep a close eye on our cash flow. They also coordinate with the Stewardship Commission.

The budget proposed for 2023 was carefully and conservatively constructed to provide a realistic picture of the parish finances moving forward. As a result, it did project a significant deficit. Factors involved included the following: first, we expected that two of our sources of income would end (the rent from both Harbor Day and the Coptic congregation), and second, we had called a fulltime Rector, which increased our expenses. As mentioned in previous reports, both actualities were known in advance and planned for. In 2021, the Vestry set up a Reserves fund to help offset any future deficit. Again, at the end of 2022, the surplus revenue from that year was put into this fund.

As expected, the parish ended 2023 with a deficit. The good news is that the deficit was much less than expected – about one-third of the original projection – due to unexpected increases in revenue and careful spending to keep costs down. The reserves that had been set aside will cover the shortfall with a significant amount remaining in the Reserve Fund.

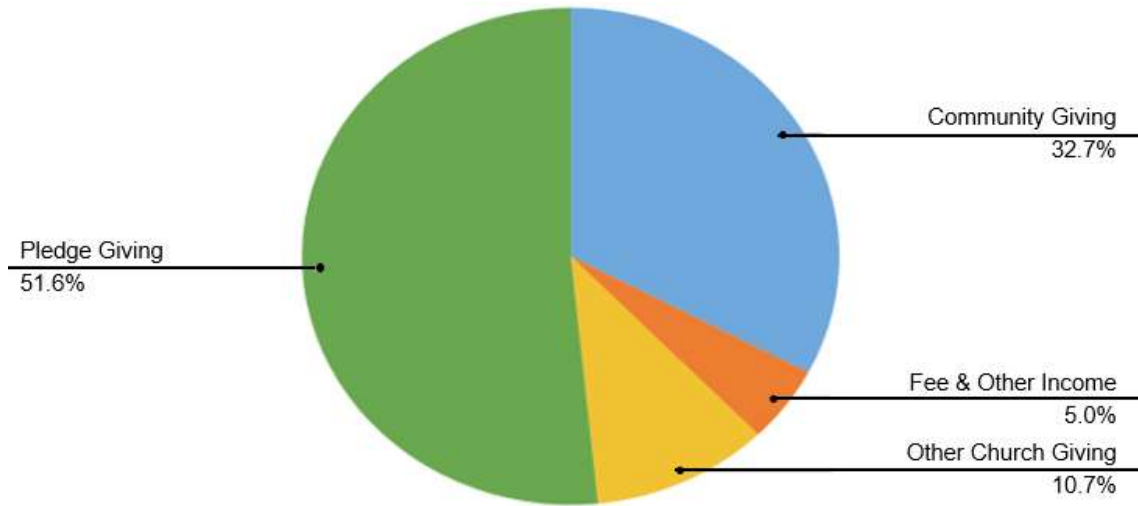
2023 was a year of transition for St. Michael's. Knowing that we had funds to cover a projected deficit gave the parish time to continue work to determine a new path and to find additional sources of income. While good progress has been made, more remains to be done in this area.

The budget for 2024 has been carefully constructed to provide a realistic picture of where we are as a parish. The Vestry worked on budgeting through the zero-based budget process, meaning that all budget areas were considered carefully, not just as a continuation of the status quo. We are proposing a deficit budget again this year. The projected deficit for this year can be covered by the Reserve Fund, if needed. The Vestry notes that this trend cannot continue. This is a second year of transition for the parish, while the investigations begun in 2022 come to greater fruition. Some of this has already occurred as our pledge income has increased, as have other areas of giving.

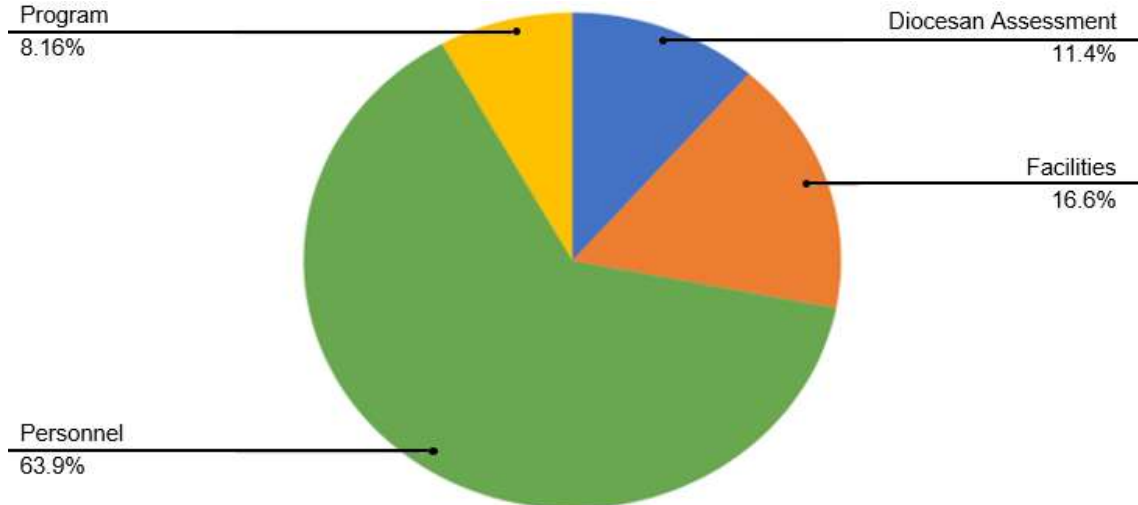
Year-Over-Year Net Revenue/Expense



FY2023 Revenue



FY2023 Expenses



2024 BUDGET COMPARISON

2023 Budget 2023 Actual 2024 Budget Variance

Income

PLATE OFFERINGS	4,000	8,216	6,000	2,000
CURRENT PLEDGE	280,000	296,426	322,436	42,436
DONATIONS-NON PLEDGE	10,000	43,706	20,000	10,000
EASTER/CHRISTMAS/THANKSGIVING	4,000	4,571	4,000	0
ALTAR GUILD			700	700
ALTAR GUILD - FLOWERS	3,000	5,160	5,100	2,100
PARISH CENTER DONATIONS	159,780	187,866	80,000	(79,780)
VERIZON WIRELESS LEASE	24,000	26,683	26,700	2,700
INTEREST INCOME	0	62	0	0
GAIN/LOSS/INVESTMENTS	0	1,941	0	0
Total Income	484,780	574,630	464,936	(19,844)

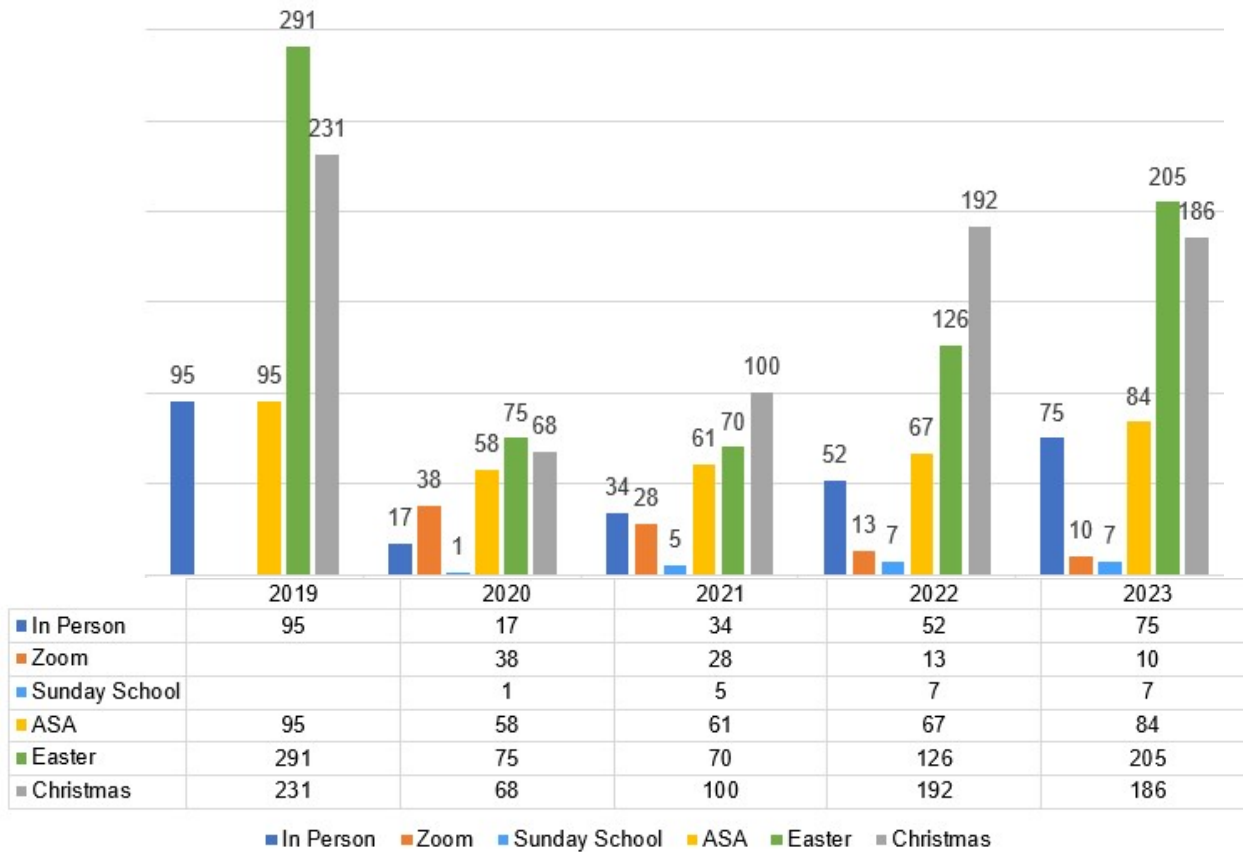
Expense

PAYROLL				
RECTOR SALARY	133,000	127,458	133,000	0
RECTOR SELF EMPLOYMENT TAX	10,175	9,751	10,175	0
ASSOCIATE RECTOR	6,500	3,500	0	(6,500)
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR	62,000	62,282	31,000	(31,000)
MUSIC DIRECTOR	38,200	29,605	38,200	0
CHOIR SECTION LEADERS	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	13,000	13,000	13,000	0
BOOKKEEPER	18,000	21,463	18,000	0
NURSERY CARE	2,000	814	0	(2,000)
SEXTON	25,905	25,905	25,905	0
VISITING CLERGY	500	0	1,000	500
Total PAYROLL	339,280	323,778	300,280	(39,000)
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
RECTOR BENEFITS	12,788	14,965	15,000	2,212
RECTOR PENSION	25,771	21,945	25,771	0
RECTOR CONTINUING ED	1,500	55	1,500	0
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR BENEFITS	11,388	12,440	12,672	1,284
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR PENSION	1,800	1,800	1,800	0
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR CONT ED	500	0	0	(500)
Total EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	53,747	51,204	56,743	2,996
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMISSION				
BUILDINGS	15,000	15,829	15,000	0
GROUND	33,000	34,524	31,000	(2,000)
SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS	5,000	3,048		(5,000)
Total BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	53,000	53,401	46,000	(7,000)
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
ADULT CHRISTIAN ED	2,500	2,103	1,200	(1,300)
ADULT CHRISTIAN ED BOOKS/TRACTS			300	300
YOUTH MINISTRY	1,500	1,738	500	(1,000)
SUNDAY SCHOOL	2,050	2,164	450	(1,600)
FAMILY MINISTRY	50			(50)
NURSERY FURNISHINGS	50	0	0	(50)
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	600	0	100	(500)
Total CHRISTIAN ED./SUNDAY SCHOOL	6,700	6,005	2,450	(4,250)
COMMUNICATION COMMISSION	4,741	7,444	2,118	(2,623)
EVANGELISM COMMISSION	1,000	909	235	(765)
FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION				
FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION	2,000	(631)	750	(1,250)
RECTOR INSTALLATION	500	619		(500)
Total FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION	2,500	(12)	750	(1,750)

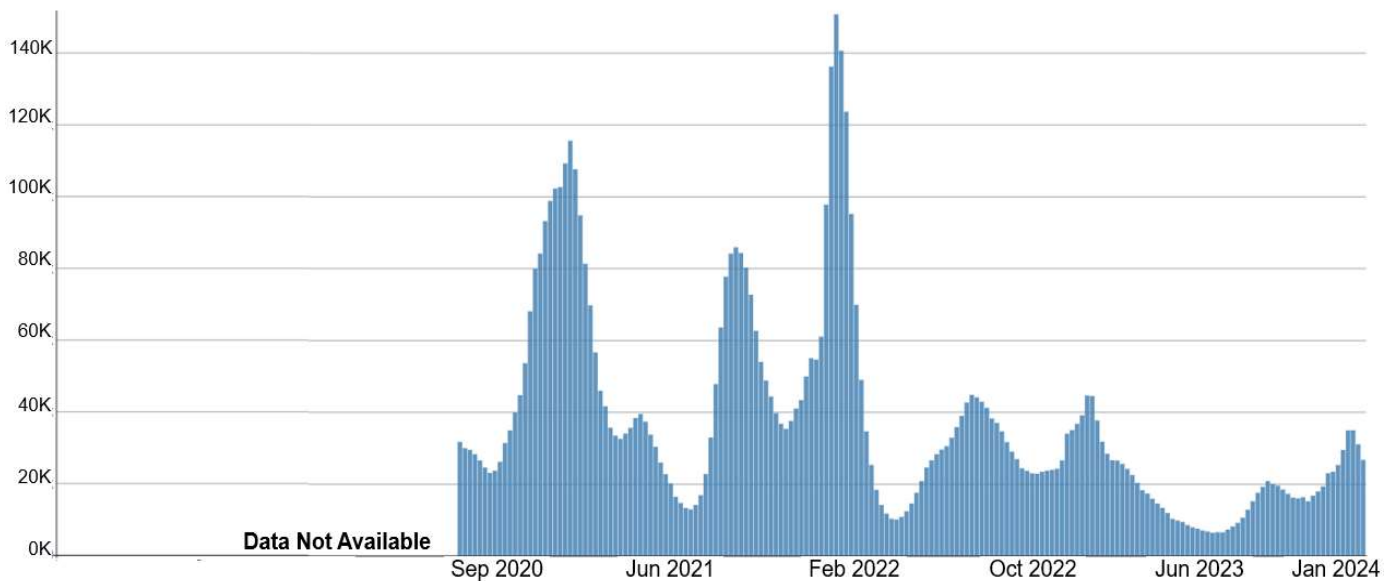
FINANCE COMMISSION	600	0	350	(250)
MISSION SHARE FUND - DIOCESE	71,710	71,712	67,640	(4,070)
MISSION COMMISSION				
MISSION COMMISSION	600	(599)	150	(450)
CANTERBURY IRVINE	500	500	500	0
COMPASS ROSE SOCIETY	500	500	500	0
EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN EUROPE		500	500	0
RECTORS SEMINARY DONATION	500		0	(500)
Total MISSION COMMISSION	2,100	901	1,650	(950)
STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION	1,000	395	360	(640)
WORSHIP COMMISSION				
WORSHIP COMMISSION	2,000	789	750	(1,250)
GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS/SINGERS	2,000	3,471	0	(2,000)
ORGAN REPAIR	1,400		0	(1,400)
MUSIC	1,300	345	300	(1,000)
ALTAR GUILD			2,075	2,075
ALTAR GUILD - FLOWERS	3,600	4,048	1,500	(2,100)
Total WORSHIP COMMISSION	10,300	8,653	4,625	(5,675)
OFFICE				
BANK CHARGES	275	147		(275)
COMPUTERS/PRINTERS/CONSULTANT	2,000	4,174	3,500	1,500
COPY MACHINE	6,500	5,940	5,700	(800)
COPY OVERAGES		2,400	1,200	1,200
CREDIT CARD CHARGES	1,500	1,719	1,500	0
OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,000	3,512	748	(2,252)
OUTSIDE PAYROLL FEES	3,000	11,272	3,500	500
POSTAGE	750	9	500	(250)
Total OFFICE	17,025	29,175	16,648	(377)
AUDIT	1,000	1,167	1,100	100
INSURANCE	14,500	11,282	12,000	(2,500)
PAYROLL TAX EXPENSE	10,000	12,214	10,000	0
PROPERTY TAXES	1,650	3,789	3,800	2,150
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	3,600	3,528	3,500	(100)
UTILITIES				
ELECTRICITY	13,000	15,852	15,500	2,500
GAS	2,000	3,476	3,500	1,500
WATER	7,000	6,048	5,000	(2,000)
TRASH	4,500	5,980	6,000	1,500
Total UTILITIES	26,500	31,356	30,000	3,500
RECTOR EXPENSES	10,700	8,515	5,000	(5,700)
RECTOR SABBATICAL	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
Total Expense	634,153	627,916	567,749	(66,904)
Proposed Budget Income	(149,373)	(53,285)	(102,813)	47,060

2023 Attendance

Year-Over-Year Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)



COVID Hospitalizations by Week in the United States



2023 Average Sunday Attendance

Sunday	9:00	Zoom	Sunday School	Other Svcs	Total	Notes
January 1, 2023	39	13			52	Zoom/In Person
January 8, 2023	87	3			90	Zoom/In Person
January 15, 2023	97	12	7		109	Zoom/In Person
January 22, 2023	81	11	10		92	Zoom/In Person
January 29, 2023	78	8	11		86	Zoom/In Person
February 5, 2023	93	10	16		103	Zoom/In Person
February 12, 2023	87	14	14		101	Zoom/In Person
February 19, 2023	95	10	12		105	Zoom/In Person
February 26, 2023	78	8	9		86	Zoom/In Person
March 5, 2023	81	10	14		91	Zoom/In Person
March 12, 2023	70	11	6		81	Zoom/In Person
March 19, 2023	68	10			78	Zoom/In Person
March 26, 2023	77	9	11		86	Zoom/In Person
April 2, 2023	85	13	12		98	Zoom/In Person
April 9, 2023	195	10	16		205	Easter
April 16, 2023	58	10	10		68	Zoom/In Person
April 23, 2023	67	9	8		76	Zoom/In Person
April 30, 2023	73	9	13		82	Zoom/In Person
May 7, 2023	60	11	9		71	Zoom/In Person
May 14, 2023	68	10	7		78	Zoom/In Person
May 21, 2023	62	9	7		71	Zoom/In Person
May 28, 2023	64	10			74	Zoom/In Person
June 4, 2023	70	12	9		82	Zoom/In Person
June 11, 2023	73	9	8		82	Zoom/In Person
June 18, 2023	60	10	7		70	Zoom/In Person
June 25, 2023	70	9			79	Zoom/In Person
July 2, 2023	67	12	2		79	Zoom/In Person
July 9, 2023	60	8	5		68	Zoom/In Person
July 16, 2023	72	6	5		78	Zoom/In Person
July 23, 2023	73	8	6		81	Zoom/In Person
July 30, 2023	67	8			75	Zoom/In Person
August 6, 2023	54	9			63	Zoom/In Person
August 13, 2023	52	9	6		61	Zoom/In Person
August 20, 2023	54	15	7		69	Zoom/In Person
August 27, 2023	73	7	3		80	Zoom/In Person
September 3, 2023	67	7	6		74	Zoom/In Person
September 10, 2023	62	8			70	Zoom/In Person
September 17, 2023	86	9	13		95	Zoom/In Person
September 24, 2023	93	9	17		102	Zoom/In Person
October 1, 2023	95	8	8		103	Zoom/In Person
October 8, 2023	69	7			76	Zoom/In Person
October 15, 2023	75	7	7		82	Zoom/In Person
October 22, 2023	67	3	9		70	Zoom/In Person
October 29, 2023	80	11	20		91	Zoom/In Person
November 5, 2023	93	11	17		104	Zoom/In Person
November 12, 2023	73	9	6		82	Zoom/In Person
November 19, 2023	68	9	8		77	Zoom/In Person
November 26, 2023	64	12	7		76	Zoom/In Person
December 3, 2023	70	13	7		83	Zoom/In Person
December 10, 2023	72	17	4		89	Zoom/In Person
December 17, 2023	58	8	5		66	Zoom/In Person
December 24, 2023	60	5			65	Zoom/In Person
December 31, 2023	64	10	4		74	Zoom/In Person
	3,924	505	388	-	4,429	
Average Sunday Attendance					84	
2023 Christmas Services						
Christmas Eve	163	8				163
Christmas Day	23	1				23

Old Business

1. Easter Triduum & Open Baptism, April 2023.
2. Strategic Planning Committee.
3. Safety & Security Task Force 2023 grant application.
4. Action plans for Sharing Spaces and Safety & Security.

New Business

1. Easter Triduum & Open Baptism, March 2024.
2. Strategic Planning Committee.
3. Action plan for music program and girls' choir.
4. Action plan for Sharing Spaces initiative.
5. Pursue leasing options with Kidder Mathews.
6. Pursue cost-saving initiatives for parish campus & office operations.

Nominations

Vestry

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Cathy Dunlap - 2-year term | 5. Mark Peterson - 2-year term |
| 2. Jamie Mead - 3-year term | 6. Sue Ahearn - 2-year term |
| 3. Jill Draffin - 3-year term | 7. Susan Brown - 3-year term |
| 4. Jim Headley - 3-year term | |

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Nominations from the floor needed for two delegates and one alternate.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Beth Bianchi | 4. Kim Montgomery |
| 2. Gail Haghjoo | 5. Louise Stover |
| 3. Keith Lumpkin | 6. Steve Morris |