

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Annual Congregational Meeting & Vestry Election

Vestry Liaison Reports 2021

Senior Warden's Report

Dawn Edquist

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission

- Having a smooth transition between parish administrators.
- Having a successful pledge campaign.
- Success in reaching the needy through different venues and means.
- Continuing worship even using technology and now offering that as an option for those who are unable to attend in person.

Biggest Challenge in this liaison area

- Maintaining a normalized and growing parish while helping the clergy to balance all the extra tasks needed.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- That we are able to fellowship more, that our parish increases in participation, and that we are able to make a difference in our community by serving others.

Junior Warden's Report

Steve Howell

Main Accomplishments in 2021:

- I would like to thank Mathew Williamson for all his dedication and hard work as our Sexton. Mathew will be leaving us in January and will be dearly missed. He was critical in identifying projects, obtaining estimates and overseeing all contractor work.
- The most significant improvements include: Replacement of the large main street windows in the library and second floor classrooms. Pressure wash and paint the Bell Tower, Main Street and river road sides of the Church. Replacement of the plexiglass covering the stained glass and repair of rotted wood at the peak of the River Roads entrance. Pressure wash Ferguson Road playground. Additionally, replaced the large HVAC unit for the Outreach building and smaller breezeway unit. Completed major repairs of HVAC for the Church. The elevator was overhauled.
- I would like to make a special thank you to Amine Morgan for her monetary contribution, landscape design, installation and care of the memorial garden.
- These improvements are critical in maintaining a welcoming, safe and clean Church and Outreach building in providing an environment for future growth and development of St Andrews.

Biggest Challenge(s) in this liaison area:

- Finding a replacement for our Sexton is our first priority.
- Continued maintenance of this very mature facility

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- My greatest hope for 2022 is that we continue to have funding for maintaining the Church.

Facilities

Joel Duregger

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission:

- This year I was elected Health and Safety officer. I was humbled by the experience of giving important pandemic related information to our church. As we still maintain safety measures during this time we can give thanks for the health of our church. In addition I assisted the Junior Warden with maintaining the church building and surrounding areas.

Biggest Challenge(s) in this liaison area:

- Our biggest challenge moving forward is how to maintain such a large building with limited staff and use. Even the few areas that are not being used still need to be maintained.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- We are able to maintain the building and find useful ways to use what we have and give back to those in need.

Christian Formation / Youth Ministry

The Rev Marc Vance and David Lilley

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission:

- Both the Children's Chapel and the Adult Forum have experienced robust participation over the past several months. Adult leaders of the Children's Chapel have met with the children outside. The attendance has grown and has often included children from the neighborhood. More adults have volunteered to assist, and the future for this ministry looks bright. The Adult Forum has had a regular attendance of 15 or more participants, and the Forum now has 5 facilitators involved in planning and conducting the classes.
- Centering Prayer has resumed with the addition of a Wednesday afternoon session for participants who have been unable to attend the Thursday morning sessions.
- Women of the Word and The Thursday Morning Bible Study resumed after pandemic restrictions were lifted and have been meeting regularly each week.
- With such a significant culture shift in the past generation with regard to church membership and involvement, the old model of EYC that many of us grew up in simply

no longer is viable. An approach that seems to work, however, is a more collaborative (i.e. with other churches) and project-based ministry, much like what our youth participated in this past summer with Serve the City. More such efforts are being sought.

Biggest Challenge(s) in this liaison area:

- The biggest challenges in our area continue to be focused on youth involvement at all levels. While we plan to build on the recent success of Children's Chapel, we also want to generate growth in the participation of middle and high school aged youth, perhaps through multi-church projects such as the Serve the City project this past summer.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- In addition to our hopes for increased youth involvement, we hope to see the nursery once again come into use. We would also like to explore adding an evening Bible study to our adult programs.

Our commitment to the spiritual development of children and adults helps us to build God's kingdom.

Communications

Lindsey Nicolai

Main Accomplishment(s) in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission:

- Utilized the Facebook Live streaming platform to facilitate virtual services as well as daily Facebook/Instagram posts featuring prayers and meaningful church photographs that sparked parishioner and non-parishioner interest/conversation
- The "Love Your Neighbor" podcast (by our own Susan Sale (who used artwork by Susan Burgoyne and the musical stylings of Brad Norris)) debuted and remains available for free listening at a time of the listener's convenience
- The "Response to Racism" team now has its own page on the church website where parishioners and other interested viewers can learn more about the group and its activities
- The Parish Administrator role transitioned successfully and smoothly from Rachel Roby's retirement to Ann Turner's hiring
- The AV/IT role was filled by Kurt Manos who has worked extensively to improve streaming capabilities in the sanctuary as well as internal internet/email and security of all online systems for staff and clergy
- Developed a dedicated (though small) team of parishioners to operate the camera and oversee the streaming functions during Sunday services
- *It is difficult to imagine how we could maintain our connections with each other and those outside our walls without each of the accomplishments noted above. Building God's Kingdom depends on our ability to spread God's word far and wide.*

Biggest Challenge(s) in this liaison area

- This liaison area grapples with finding the proper balance between inundating parishioners (and others who might be interested) with information and not doing enough to reach out to those within and beyond our walls. We continue to find ways to involve as many people as possible in the tasks that make our communications possible – sound techs, camera operators, and more. These functions cannot occur without parishioner support and involvement.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- Similar to my greatest hope for 2021, I hope that 2022 finds us improving and strengthening our ability to share the Good News and show anyone who is interested how powerful that can be – as it binds our community together – whether virtually or in person. God’s love knows no barriers, and the Communications liaison area remains dedicated to spreading that message and building God’s kingdom -- one newsletter at a time, one podcast episode at a time, one Facebook post at a time, one streamed service at a time.

Congregational Development

Helen Mitchell

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission:

- We have continued to welcome newcomers to St. Andrew’s each Sunday by providing a team of 9 greeters for the 8:00 am service and 24 for the 10:30 am service. Our greeters are not only aware of those who are newcomers but introduce them to others after the service. We provide a welcome bag to those who are new to introduce them to our various ministries. We continue to pack bags for children that coordinate the lessons taught each Sunday but on a more appropriate level. After we receive information about our newcomers, we follow up with contacts through phone calls, cards or emails. We support the mission of the church by making connections among those who first enter St. Andrew’s and making sure we can support them as they get to know us.

Biggest Challenge in this liaison area:

- Introducing newcomers to other newcomers and church members because we have not had receptions that we used to have to encourage the mingling.

Greatest hopes for this liaison area in 2022:

- We look forward to having more families enter our doors and become aware of what we offer in terms of Christian spirituality, education, service and fellowship. We hope to help grow our membership to increase God’s kingdom.

Finance

Allie Wittkamp

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission:

- The Cheerful Givers of St. Andrew's continued to support our mission and the work of our church throughout 2021. In the finance area, we worked with the outreach team to make contributions that supported local non-profits, global disaster relief and Afghan refugee resettlement. We also contributed to the Diocese to support the Peninsula Ministry Partnership and the calling of the Reverend Phillip Shearin as a shared minister for St. Augustine's and St. George's.

Biggest Challenge in this liaison area

- Pledges have not increased sufficiently to offset rising costs. Currently, we are behind in pledges for 2022 versus what was pledged in 2021. Health care is a growing cost with no plateau in sight. We are moving to a different plan offered by the Diocese in 2022 that may represent a cost savings, but it depends on the care needed.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- We gathered past and present financial volunteers over Zoom this summer for a very educational meeting. We look forward to energizing the Finance Committee in 2022 and sharing more details of St. Andrew's cashflow needs with the congregation at our annual meetings.

Outreach

Matt Deller and Betsy Jones

The Outreach Committee looks for ways to serve community and world needs, using parish resources. The committee coordinates parish support of varied and numerous local, national and international schools, charities, and relief programs, as well as mission trips.

Main Accomplishments in 2021—and how these accomplishments tie into our mission

- Two PORT evenings, in March and December: Working with our partner churches, St Andrew's cook teams and onsite volunteers helped provide meals and shelter to hundreds of men, women and children this and last winter. We fielded teams for the shelter's final evening of the 2020-2021 season and the upcoming night of 13-14 December. St Andrew's volunteers assisted Temple Baptist Church, New Beech Grove Baptist Church and Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in providing dinners, desserts, sleeping accommodations and bagged breakfasts for the homeless members of our community.
- The Outreach Committee determined the distribution of the first half (\$6,000) of this year's outreach budget during its 27 April 2021 meeting. For this round of funding, we gave special consideration to programs that help those members of our community who

have been particularly vulnerable during the pandemic—the homeless, folk with mental health or addiction issues, at-risk young people, the hungry, etc. It was decided to split the disbursement evenly (\$600/each) between ten nominated organizations:

- **LINK** : <http://www.linkhr.org/about>
- **Thrive**: <https://www.thrivepeninsula.org/>
- **Menchville House**: <https://menchvillehouse.com/about/>
- **Families In Transition**: <https://www.fitnn.org/about>
- **Newsome Bailey Project**: <https://newsomebailey.org/>
- **GraceInside**: www.graceinside.org
- **Commonwealth Catholic Charities**: <https://www.cccofva.org/about>
- **Virginia Peninsula Foodbank**: <https://hrfoodbank.org/>
- **Youth Sailing Virginia of Hampton Roads** (expanding opportunities for disadvantaged youth in our communities; funding is going to diversity and equity inclusion): <https://youthsailingva.org/>
- **Center for Child and Family Services** in Hampton, provide family counseling peninsula-wide: <https://kidsandfamilies.com>
- The Outreach Committee determined the distribution of the second half of this year's outreach budget during its 14 September meeting. From memorial gifts made to St. Andrew's, the committee was able to disburse an additional \$2,400 to the \$6,000 remaining from our 2021 budget, for a total of \$8,400. The committee gave special consideration to programs that provide immediate relief from current global and national crises:
 - **\$4000 to resettlement resources for Afghan refugee families:**
 - International Neighbors Charlottesville Afghan Allies Response Initiative: offering support and resources, helping file and fund the paperwork it takes to unify families safely from Afghanistan. <https://internationalneighbors.org/about/> <https://www.pbs.org/video/international-neighbors-nsxh00/>
 - Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC): Newport News office focuses on the areas of Refugee Resettlement, Immigration, and other services to help settle Afghanistan refugees on the peninsula. <https://www.cccofva.org/>
 - **\$2000 to medical debt forgiveness nonprofit RIP Medical Debt.** The charity negotiates the purchase of medical debt from collection agencies and hospitals for pennies on the dollar, and forgives the debt with no strings attached. <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/> <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/07/21/dozens-of-episcopal-churches-give-to-nonprofit-helping-to-eliminate-millions-of-patients-medical-debt/>
 - **\$2000 to Episcopal Relief & Development for disaster relief.** Donations to both their Hurricane Ida and Haiti earthquake funds: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give/donate-now/individual-donation>
 - **\$400 to Kairos Outside:** <https://kairosva.org/kairos-outside> Organizing a fall weekend retreat at Cross Roads Camp, Lowesville, VA for female

relatives/friends of incarcerated individuals. There is no charge to attend and they arrange transportation and even babysitter services when necessary.

- Sponsorship of St. Andrew's parishioners who visited a newly arrived Afghan family in November: In addition to donation of funds for refugee resettlement, we also looked for opportunities to assist families resettling within our own community. During a wonderful first meeting, Outreach committee funds allowed for St Andrew's parishioners to welcome our new neighbors with gift cards and a small gift of cash to help them get settled in. The hospitality of the family included traditional hot tea and sweets, and they all welcomed the idea of a gathering hosted at St Andrew's in the future where our congregation could get to know them better.

Biggest Challenge in your liaison area

- Helping meet Response to Racism team objectives: Exploring training and outreach opportunities to help meet the needs of and build lasting relationships with our neighbors and better understand the link between racism and poverty. In order to better achieve this goal in 2022, the Outreach committee plans to engage local expertise in Asset-Based Community Development (<https://weareonechurch.com/>) during the spring to discuss how we can be more productive in our community organizing/outreach.

Greatest hope(s) for this liaison area in 2022

- St. Andrew's recommitment to be a Partner Church the 2022-23 PORT calendar year
- St. Andrew's Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers being able to return to Nottoway Correctional Center for mission weekends in spring of 2022.

Parish Life

Betsy Jones and Isabel Hatchett

Building God's kingdom through fellowship is part of our church's mission, and this is the goal of all that Parish Life does.

Main Accomplishments in 2021:

- Nora Ann Lambiotte, our Parish Life leader, has brought the summer lemonade service outside back into our routine. She has begun coffee hour. The Robys' retirement reception, which involved Parish Life, was a highlight this year. Efficient and dedicated and energetic, Nora Ann is full of ideas and prepared to take on more hospitality activities as soon as we are able safely to do so.

Biggest challenge:

- We need always to find new ways to bring the congregation members together for fun and fellowship. We need more volunteer involvement from the congregation. It has been a quiet year.

Greatest hope:

- We will continue to adapt to changing norms and be able to celebrate being together at every possible opportunity.

Pastoral Care

Margaret Bivins

Main accomplishments in 2021 and how these tie into our mission:

- I had a close working relationship with Ann Lee and the Pastoral Team. This area is important for both fellowship and as an outreach to those who are in need of comfort or aid.

Biggest challenge in my liaison area:

- Keeping lines of communication open, so that all who need the team's support are reached.

Greatest hope for this liaison area in 2022:

- That the bonds made between the team members and the people they served stay strong and grow. This is a true example of God's love and what He expects from the church.

Worship

Tonia Graves

Main accomplishments in 2021 and how they tie into St. Andrew's mission:

- There were many accomplishments in the Worship liaison area in 2021 when you consider Worship is made up of seven volunteer-driven ministries (Acolytes, Altar/Flower Guilds, Chalcers/Lectors, Choir, Liturgical Dancers, Sound/Video Techs, Ushers). Each of these, as able, stepped up with every protocol change to make sure worship services met the needs of the congregation whether in person or online. We were able to continue Building God's kingdom through consistent Worship.

Biggest Challenge in Worship liaison area:

- Because the Worship ministries are all volunteer-dependent, our biggest challenge is getting enough parishioners in order to successfully carry out the work in each area weekly for worship at St. Andrew's.

Greatest hopes for Worship liaison area in 2022:

- With constant communication between church leadership, staff, and Worship ministry leaders/volunteers, and with more volunteers in all areas of worship, we are hopeful the new year will bring us back to more of the Episcopal church rituals we long for while keeping the congregation safe and while welcoming all to St. Andrew's worship services.