

Church of the Ascension  
2021 Annual Report  
for the January 30, 2022  
Annual Meeting



**Church of the Ascension, Chicago**  
**2021 Annual Report for the**  
**January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting**

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***Requiescat in pace*** - William L. (Bill) Flodin, 1933-2021; Charlene Gehm MacDougal, 1951-2021; Ethel Martin, 1936-2021; Charles Morgan (Charley) Taylor, 1949-2021.

# The Church of the Ascension 2021 Annual Report

## Voting Member List for the January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting - FINAL

*Please address any related questions to either Warden or the Rector*

Abbott, Andrew D.	Jacot, Jay F.	Riggenbach, Clementine
Alexander, R. Gary	Johnston, N. Patrick	Riggenbach, Noah
Alonzo, August	Jones, David DeWitt	Rivera, Alexia
Avila, Joyce	Jones, Jenna C.	Rivera, Benjamin
Avila, Ricardo Antonio	Keegin, Joseph	Robertson, David Alan
Baran, James J.	Kelling, Kenneth	Robinson, James J.
Barillas-McEntee, Ian	Kimani, Julie	Sakai, Kunitoshi
Bassford, Abraham	Knitter, Scott R.	Saunders, LaVerne Rollé
Berger, James Mark	Kowalski, Mary Jane S.	Saunders, Theodore D.
Bertola, Wayne	Kowalski, Timothy Paul	Schlough, Susan D.
Bridenstine, Rachel	Lawler, (Rev.) Gary	Schrader, David D.
Browning, Robert L.	Lenz, James A.	Scott, Bonnie
Cisek, Scott	Lo Bello, James J.	Sheridan, Robert P. P.
Clark, Michael Paul	Luery, Rodney E.	Simpson, Elizabeth
Cook, Judy	MacDougal, Gary	Simpson, Joshua
Cox, Beverley	Malone, Carnola	Smith, Betty B.
Cox, Diamond	Malone, Michael Maleek	Smith, Michael-Francis
Cox, Lawrence	Martins, Brenda	Smolinski, Elizabeth
Cozette, Kenneth C.	Martins, (Bp.) Daniel	Smolinski, John
Dawson, Roberta	McKee, Christopher	Sommers, Samuel
Derington, Janna	McLaughlin, Elizabeth	Stanley, (Rev.) Gordon J.
Devens, Robert D.	Miller, Heather	Stell, Dan
Donnell, Patrick	Minieka, Edward	Suratt, Robert (Beau)
Drury, James D.	Moret, Guido	Susman, Barbara A.
Edinger, Marlea	Nelson, Burton Edwin	Tracz, Richard Francis
Ehlen, Thomas J.	Norén, (Rev.) Carol M.	Vales, Michael J.
Evans, Marilyn	O'Malley, Jeffrey	Vargas, Claudia Nineth
Famanas, Luz	Opferman, Thomas G.	Vargas, Luis R. Rolando
Farrell, Charles	Parker, Grady	Vilaseco, Enrique
Finlay-Frame, Paula F.H.	Perrizo, Cynthia Z.	Walsh, DiAnne J.
Forsstrom, Joel	Peterson, Cheryl R.	Walsh, James
Frame, Will	Peterson, Jay H.	Weber, Elizabeth A.
Galliher, Jonathan	Peterson, Paloma	Weiner, Susan
Gram, Louise	Peterson, Trevor	Wentz, Dennis
Green, Claire A.	Petite, (Rev.) Robert	Wernecke, Matthew
Hall, Beth	Pineda, George	West, John A.
Hansen, Sean	Poilevey, Henri	Wheat, Jonathan
Hector, Avril	Pounds, William	White, David R.
Hector, Lynette	Rarick, Robert	Whitley, Gabrielle
Hedley, John H.	Raymond, Christopher	Wilson, James T.
Holt, Jana J.	Raymond, E. Brooke	Woods, Ruby
Hwang, Mary Beth	Reeves, David E.	Zelazny, Amber
Illás, Pablo	Reinert, Philip J.	Zhao, Judy

**Church of the Ascension**  
**Annual Meeting of Sunday, January 30, 2022, 12:15 p.m.**

**Agenda Approved by the Vestry, Subject to Voting Member Approval**

*For help with technical matters during the meeting, call (312) 664-1271.*

- I. Welcome – Rector
- II. Opening Prayer – Meeting Chaplain
- III. Motion to allow for annual meeting by in-person and remote participation..

*See the following pages.*

- IV. Appointments: Clerk, Parliamentarian, Tellers
- V. Ascertaining of quorum
- VI. Notice of Approval and Availability of January 31, 2021, Annual Meeting Minutes.
- VII. Financial report – Treasurer
- VIII. Ministry and Leadership Reports – Part I
  - A. Outgoing Senior Warden – Cheryl Peterson
  - B. Hospitality Moment – Sean Hansen
  - C. A Voice from On High – Cassidy Smith, Mezzo Soprano
- IX. Nominations Report
  - A. Introduction of Vestry's Nominees
    - For two-year term as Warden: Laverne Saunders
    - For three-year terms as Vestry members: Ian Barillas-McEntee, Sean Hansen, Joshua Simpson
    - For two-year term as Vestry member: Marlea Edinger
    - For one-year term as Vestry member: Ken Cozette
  - B. Call for additional nominations
  - C. Election

*If for a single slate, as presented, the vote will proceed here. In the event of additional nominations, the election will take place as soon as the tellers prepare for and explain how the vote will proceed.*

- X. Ministry and Leadership Reports – Part II
  - A. Curate's Report/Outreach - Mother Meghan Murphy-Gill
  - B. Greeting from Sara Spoonheim, RefugeeOne
  - C. Seminarian Report/Young Adults - Bonnie Scott
  - D. Greeting from Fr. Tommy Rogers, Bishop Anderson House.

XI. Leadership Recognition: Outgoing Warden and Vestry Members

Cheryl Peterson, Kelly Colomberti, Marilyn Evans, Lynette Hector, David Reeves, Amber Zelazny

XII. Greeting from incoming Senior Warden, Ken Kelling

XIII. Acknowledgement of Ministry, Program & Committee Reports, Leaders, Participants

XIV. Open Mic: Opportunity for Questions, Recognitions

XV. Old and New Business

XVI. Closing Hymn

XVII. Closing Prayer



**RULES OF ORDER FOR ANNUAL MEETING**  
Church of the Ascension, Chicago  
For Adoption at the January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting

1. The Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Chicago, the Bylaws of the Church of the Ascension (hereinafter ‘Ascension’) and Illinois law do not prohibit the holding of an Annual Meeting by remote communication (“a Virtual Annual Meeting”) or, as intended, by way of both in-person and remote participation.
2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state-mandated limits on the size of gatherings, the annual meeting of Ascension will take place using remote communication such as Zoom or equivalent platform, as will any future Annual Meeting during which similar circumstances prevail, as determined by the Rector and Wardens, who may also allow, prepare for and preside at a meeting of both in-person and remote members.
3. These Rules of Order for a Virtual Annual Meeting are adopted pursuant to Canon 22 of the Diocese of Chicago and Section 5 of the Ascension bylaws. These Rules accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese of Chicago (collectively, “the canons”). Except where inconsistent with the canons or these Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, the latest edition, shall govern the business proceedings of the Annual Meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Annual Meeting may, by unanimous consent, take any action not inconsistent with the canons.

**Prior to Annual Meeting**

4. To participate in the Virtual Annual Meeting, Members of the Parish (“Members”) must be present at the location announced *or* have access to the Internet with a device (laptop, tablet, smart phone, or desktop computer) that allows for connection to the Internet platform. Members participating virtually must also have an email address to receive materials about Annual Meeting login information.
  - a) In the event of more than one Voting Member in a household participating remotely, and in the event that a vote or votes are taken, each Voting Member will need to be logged in on separate devices.
  - b) Those participating by phones that are not smartphones will be able to listen, speak and even ‘raise a hand’ (if the means of doing so is known to the user), but, due to Zoom limitations will not be able to participate if a vote is taken.
5. Notice of the meeting, its day and time and the Internet platform by which the Annual Meeting will take place, will be publicized in the weekly electronic newsletter and by email to Members at least 14 days before each meeting.
6. No later than three (3) days before each meeting, the Clerk or designee shall notify Members in the electronic newsletter the URL and codes necessary to connect to the Internet meeting platform, and, as an alternative and backup to the audio connection included within the Internet service, the phone number and access codes that members need to participate aurally by phone.

*Continued ...*

## **Day of Annual Meeting**

7. The Clerk or designee shall schedule Internet meeting service availability to begin at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.
8. Any Member experiencing technical difficulties can access support by using the technology support line – (312) 664-1271 – or email publicized in the Annual Meeting materials provided in advance. However, each Member is responsible for their audio and Internet connections; and no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a Member’s individual connection prevented participation in the Annual Meeting.
9. In order to participate fully in the Annual Meeting, specifically to vote, Members must be present in-person *or* log in on a separate device from other Members in their household.
10. The Rector or meeting chair may cause or direct the muting of a Member’s connection if it is causing undue technical interference with the meeting. All Members are asked to remain muted during the meeting unless they are addressing the meeting or invited to unmute by the Rector or meeting chair.
11. The presence of a quorum shall be established during meeting check-in by recording the names of those listed in the participant screen and those present in person.
12. Questions of order shall be decided without debate by the President or, at the President’s direction, by the Parliamentarian, subject to an appeal of the ruling upon motion.
13. Members participating remotely and seeking recognition by the Rector or meeting chair shall use the raise hand (or analogous) feature to indicate their desire to be recognized. The Rector or meeting chair will ask the Member to unmute so that they may speak to the issue at hand. Members will be recognized in the order they request the floor via the raise hand function. Any Member wishing to post a written amendment or post in-writing something germane to the business of the annual meeting must use the Chat feature or other feature designated by the Rector or meeting chair. The chat feature may also be used for non-business postings.
14. All motions, resolutions, or documents that are before the Annual Meeting for action shall be shared on the screen for all Members to view or be printed *and* distributed to those participating in person *or* shall be projected on a screen and clearly visible to in person participants.
15. Except where otherwise provided by canon or Ascension Bylaws, by these Rules, or by Robert’s Rules, a simple majority of those voting will carry a question. The Annual Meeting shall vote using Zoom online anonymous polling.
16. Elections for warden, vestry members, and diocesan representatives shall take place using Zoom online anonymous polling. Those elected will be those candidates receiving a plurality of votes unless otherwise indicated in parish bylaws and feasible given the conditions of the meeting and available technology.
17. Neither absentee voting nor proxy voting is recognized. Only Members present in person or in the electronic meeting and voting in the affirmative or negative on a particular question shall be counted for that vote, and only such persons shall be included in the denominator used to calculate the percentage of support for the question.
18. Business may also be conducted by unanimous consent.

## **Information on Wardens and Vestry Members**

### **Canons of the Episcopal Church & the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**

#### **FOR WARDEN**

**From Canon 19.** “There shall be two Wardens who shall be Communicants in good standing, and who may be distinguished as Senior and Junior, although all duties belong equally to both, and both shall be held responsible for the performance of such duties. The Wardens shall see that the Church is provided with a Bible ... and Prayer Books and Hymnals.... It shall also be their duty to provide the fair linens and the elements of bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Communion; to procure proper vestments and vessels; and to cause the alms and other offerings of the people to be gathered in decent basins provided for the purpose. The Wardens shall have care that the Church Building be kept from all secular or other uses not authorized ...; that it be kept in good repair and clean, and that the premises around be in proper order. It is the duty of the Wardens to preserve order and decorum in and around the Church Building on all occasions whatever, and especially during the time of Divine Worship, and to admonish persons guilty of any unseemly levity or rudeness. In case there is no Rector, or in case of the Rector's absence or inability to act, the Wardens according to seniority shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry and of the Parish.”

**Leadership.** Standards and expectations for Wardens are included in Ascension bylaws. A Nominee for Warden should have previously served on the Vestry to insure his or her familiarity with the operation of a Parish, and must be faithful in attendance at Mass and in the practice of good stewardship.

#### **FOR VESTRY**

**From Canon 20.** “The Vestry shall consist of the Rector ..., the duly elected Wardens, and the duly elected members of Vestry. The Rector shall preside at all meetings.... In case of the Rector's absence from a meeting of the Vestry, or if there be no Rector, one of the Wardens (in the order of their seniority if both Wardens are present) shall preside at such meeting. The Vestry shall transact all the temporal business of the Parish; shall see that all things needful for the Public Services are provided; shall collect and disburse all moneys due for Church purposes; shall provide that ... officers be suitably appointed and faithfully discharge their duties; shall pay with punctuality ... the stipulated salaries of the Rector and others; shall inform themselves of all collections required by the Canons of the Diocese, and of assessments which may be imposed by the Convention, and take measures for the due and prompt liquidation of these obligations; and before the close of each fiscal year of the Diocese the Vestry shall collect ... a sum sufficient to liquidate all the current expenses of the Parish. The Vestry shall ... cause to be written and delivered to the Rector... a statement of the temporal condition of the Parish.... The said statement shall set forth what money, lands or other property have been received during their time of office, and from what source, what money has been expended, and for what objects, and what property has been purchased, exchanged or mortgaged, and for what purposes.”

*Additional information may be found in the Ascension Bylaws.*

## Nominee Information and Statements

*Following are responses provided by nominees to standard questions on the nomination form.*

### Warden: Two-Year Term

#### LaVerne Rollé Saunders



**Employment/Profession:** Retired Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** 45 years

**Present and past activities at Church of the Ascension:** Served on three Ascension Vestries; Warden; Acolyte; Thurifer; Sub-Deacon; Usher; Coffee Hour; Lay Reader; “Official” dishwasher for the Annual Fall Thanksgiving luncheon for our neighbors; Sunday School Teacher; Delegate to Diocesan Convention; Deanery representative

**Activities in former parishes:** None. Although a cradle Anglican, the things I wanted to do were not available to me and I rebelled as a teenager and young adult. As I matured my jobs required travel, which limited options, and I moved 13 times in 15 years.

**Present and past Diocesan activities or community/ volunteer leadership:** Served on the Altar at St. James Cathedral

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry’s leadership in the coming year:** It has been six years since I last served. I thought it best to give younger and new members an opportunity to serve. I still think the vestry serves the church best with new members serving on it. However, I also feel the vestry needs seasoned representation to assist with its continued development and service to the church and church community. I’ve been involved two times in the selection of a new priest and believe I can assist in this matter. Additionally, some physical impediments may limit my participation in church activities that I have always enjoyed, which gives me more time to get involved with other church matters in which I have an interest and the church has a need.

#### Ian Barillas-McIntee – Vestry: Three-Year Term



**Employment/Profession:** Teacher & Oboist

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** 2

**Present and past activities at Church of the Ascension:**  
Attending Mass and occasionally assisting with Coffee Hour

**Present and past Diocesan activities or community/ volunteer**

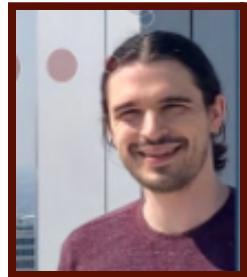
**leadership:** My training and much of my work and leadership has been as a classically-trained professional musician. I’m presently expanding my vocational reach and vision by way of earning a degree in education from De Paul. I don’t have a resume of church or other volunteer commitments but feel well equipped to begin one by way of vestry service and other involvement at Ascension.

*Continued ....*

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year:** I have been coming to Ascension since January of 2020, a few weeks before the pandemic hit. Leading up to coming to Ascension, I had been on my own journey of discovering the importance of faith in my life and to what extent I value my Catholic roots and heritage, and coming to Ascension was a wonderful surprise, to say the least, at a moment in my life where things have come together. Since then, I have tried coming as often as possible, and know that my life wouldn't be the same if a place like the Church of the Ascension did not exist. I have found peace, kindness, gratitude, and a teaching of the bible and the Word of Jesus at Ascension that I did not know previously, and I feel like Ascension truly is a welcoming Church for everyone. Because of its importance to me and the positive impact it can have on anyone who has the chance to walk through its doors, I sincerely want the Church of the Ascension to be viable and strong for the future, without an end in sight.

I want to learn and grow from the experience of being part of the vestry, knowing that it will not always be easy but it will always be important.

### **Seán Hansen – Vestry: Three-Year Term**



**Employment/Profession:** Seminarian

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** < 1

**Present and past activities at Church of the Ascension:**  
Acolyte, Coffee Hour/Hospitality.

**Activities in former parishes:** Choir, pianist, children's ministries, vestry.

**Present and past Diocesan activities or community/ volunteer leadership:** Diocesan Convention 2021, St. Anthony of Padua food pantry.

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year:** Since I began attending the Church of the Ascension last year, I have felt tremendously welcome, and I have grown to consider the parish home. I became a voting member in 2021. Given all the ways in which the Church has served and nourished me, I feel it my duty to give back and to serve the Church in turn. I see service on the Vestry as a part of the way in which I can give back. Moreover, as a postulant seeking holy orders, I would find it educational and enriching to glean a deeper sense of how parish life functions, as I doubtless will be called upon to work with vestries in my future as a priest. I hope that you, the members of this parish, are led in conscience, through prayer and contemplation, to consider me worthy of taking a position on the Vestry. I look forward to the opportunity of serving Ascension in an active role in the years to come.

### **Joshua Simpson – Vestry: Three-Year Term**



**Employment/Profession:** Freelance Administrative Assistant, currently working with an education company in Massachusetts remotely.

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** 3 years

**Present and past activities at Church of the Ascension:**  
Acolyte, Flower Guild, Coffee Hour/Hospitality.

*Continued ....*

**Activities in former parishes:** Family mission work in Honduras.

**Present and past Diocesan activities or community/ volunteer leadership:** Served as an event coordinator on a leadership team at Moody Bible Institute and served as kitchen supervisor at a summer camp in 2015.

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year:** Vestry nomination has opened a door to be able to serve the people and place of Ascension, as they have served me and taken me in. I find a deep calling, but not a light one, to this position and its tasks. That being said, my service and my passion are not dependent on this role, nor should it become. To love others and love well is to serve wherever you can, however you can, to your best ability. Still, the call to Vestry is something that would heighten my connection and my calling not only to Ascension but to the Episcopal Church. My long-term call is to ordination, and this I know with all my heart, and the experience and growth I would gain in the 3 years or more, would intensify my resolution and give me a greater understanding of parish workings. The goal to find the divine is admirable and part of the Anglo-Catholic identity and call, but if we etherealize and gnosticize the lessons and truths we know, we miss the growth and more profound connection to others and to the Lord that come along that path. I know theology, and I know history, and I love both, but I also want to know the material, "worldly" affairs of Christ's church, greater. Vestry gives me an opportunity to know those things, and to serve others in ways I have not been able to before. Ascension is my home, and Vestry is a chance to minister to the people and place that took me in so lovingly and walk with me along the journey of life. I do not take it lightly, but I take it joyfully and solemnly, and that is the best I can pray for.

My vision is to collaborate with others and to hopefully cultivate a richer Anglo-Catholic identity in the parish, and to practically explore what that looks like in the day to day of the people. I would also like to discuss and think about further efforts in evangelism and outreach in the neighborhood and the city. Specifically countering the idea that all evangelism has to be the evangelical tract type, through Zoom or coffee hour discussions (once COVID cases lower). I have a deep passion for outreach and for ministering to those outside of our communities. Still, these are aspirations, and I am more than willing to see what that looks like in a team setting, working with and not against others. These are my main desires in the next year, and what I hope to see the Vestry discuss.

### **Marlea Edinger – Vestry: Two-Year Term**



**Employment:** I am a retired professor of educational psychology. I taught at Loyola University for ten years and at North Central College for three years.

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** 9

**Present and Past Activities at Church of the Ascension:** I have been an Evening Prayer Officiant for nine years and am presently an usher and Lector.

**Activities in former parishes:** I was a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Michael's in Old Town and Immaculate Conception Church for a number of years.

*Continued ....*

**Present and past Diocesan activities or community/ volunteer leadership:** I have attended “Becoming a Beloved Community Workshops”. Volunteering: I was a tutor in the Ignatian Volunteer Corp for three years. I was docent at the Museum of Contemporary Art for three years and at the Loyola Museum of Art for eleven years. I am currently a volunteer at the Chicago Cultural Center, and Treehouse Humane Society

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year:** My Vision of vestry leadership is inspired by our neighborhood. I not only imagine welcoming our neighbors to our church, but partnering with other houses of worship and religious sponsored organizations to discuss how we can best serve the people in our neighborhood.

### **Ken Cozette – Vestry: One-Year Term**



**Employment:** Civil Engineering: Harza International, 1975-1980; Magazine Publishing: West Suburban Living, 1993-present; Student Recruitment: Cornerstone Academy of Chicago 2018-2020

**Number of years at Church of the Ascension:** 45

**Present and Past Activities at Church of the Ascension:** Christmas decorations, Lector, Coffee Hour host, Building and Grounds Committee, Columbarium Restoration Committee

**Activities in former parishes:** LaSalle Street Church: Board member, several 1-year positions, Secretary; New Member Committee Chair.; Worship Committee; Lector; LSC Single Moms ministry, 2 years

**Briefly share why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year:** I confess that since 2017 when I started attending Sunday morning mass consistently, I have been in various dimensions of personal recovery and have taken refuge at Ascension as a safe place to rebuild my life and faith. Up until about a year ago I had not wanted to become involved with the Ascension community; each Sunday morning I would return to the back pew, experience a measure of healing thru the mass, then duck out before having to encounter anyone - except for Jim LoBello and Mike Vales whom I had gotten to know over many years of Sat morning mass, and Marlea Edinger having both lived at Atrium Village for many years. But as I grew stronger and experienced healing hospitality through the ministry and presence of Fr Raymond, I became more ready for community participation - and also because Fr Raymond nudged me towards giving back to Ascension something of all that I had received. When asked to consider nomination to the vestry, I realized I am finally ready to invest myself into the community that has for years hosted and served my recovery.

**Vision:** Apart from the search for a rector and the goals set for restoring the columbarium, I'm not aware of the agenda specifics for the vestry in 2022. But I bring a willingness and openness to work with the other members in the Vestry's charge to serve the best interests of those present and future who rely on Ascension as their church home and community.

## **Wardens' Report - Cheryl Peterson & Ken Kelling**

As we look back at 2021, we are struck by the fact that it has been another extraordinary year for the Church of the Ascension. The year has been our second year of operating to a large extent in “pandemic mode” with ongoing changes and challenges. We have welcomed a return to more normal operations following the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines, but we have also accommodated ourselves to major new adventures as the parish continues to offer fewer on-site activities and explores the livestreaming of our masses and the fellowship of meeting on virtual platforms. Change has occurred rapidly, but our faith and a strong spirit of collaboration has allowed us to adapt and find a hopeful way forward.



### Highlights of the year

1. We have worked consistently to adapt our worship schedule and our operational programming to changes necessitated by the pandemic.
  - Reopened to in-person worship in February with one Sunday mass at 10 a.m. and the return of our choir musicians, vaccinated and masked. Returned to 2 Sunday masses at 9 and 11 in Advent.
  - Gradually lessened restrictions on attendance registration, seating and masking and then reintroduced protective procedures for virus surges in the fall and winter.
  - Hosted many lively coffee hours outside in the garden and a few special receptions in St. Michael Hall.
2. Installed a sophisticated new technology system in the church for live streaming of masses to Facebook and YouTube.
  - Supported and trained staff to maintain and operate the equipment. This effort was spearheaded by our verger who provided leadership for other staff and volunteers.
  - Regularly scheduled live streaming of Sunday and Wednesday evening masses as well as Holy Week services and instituted an electronic ministry scheduling program for clergy, acolytes, and lay leaders. (See the Verger’s report for more detail.)
  - Hired a contractual technical assistant and maintained attendance numbers of remote participants.
3. Committed to an expansion of clergy ministry through the support of two part-time transitional deacons (during the spring and summer) and the hiring of Mother Meghan Murphy-Gill as full-time curate.
  - Fr. George Arceneaux served as deacon and, following his ordination, as assisting priest through May.
  - Mtr. Meghan Murphy-Gill began her duties as deacon in February and transitioned to the position of curate beginning in September.
  - On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Chilton Knudsen presided at the Ordination Mass for Mothers Murphy-Gill, our Curate, and JoAnn Lagman (St. Mark’s Glen Ellyn).

*Continued ....*

4. Expanded our ministry to young adults.

- Recruited young adults to participate in the acolyte corps and to take on the leadership of coffee hour hospitality. Some have also joined the Flower Committee.
- Hired Bonnie Scott as our seminarian to engage with young adults, lead bi-weekly Sunday lunch gatherings and plan for/organize outreach activities.
- Worked with the Nominating committee to engage young adults in serving on Vestry.

5. Conferred with our Rector, Fr. Patrick Raymond, on significant matters of parish leadership and transition.

- Engaged a lawyer to assist with legal matters pertaining to the dissolution of the Episcopal Order of St. Anne, Chicago in March 2021.
- Negotiated the terms of Fr. Raymond's plans to resign his position as Ascension's 17th Rector and retire.
- Prepared information to share with the congregation regarding Father's conclusion of ministry as well as a process for interim clergy leadership.

6. Supported our Ascension staff members through ongoing dialogue, strategic planning and timely financial investment in order to continue our commitment to buildings and grounds improvements, our liturgy and music, our food pantry, and our educational programs for spiritual growth within the parish community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Peterson, *senior warden*  
Ken Kelling, *junior warden*



### **Curate's Report - Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill +**

In addition to regular preaching, celebration of Mass, and pastoral care, I've spent the past five months focused on spiritual formation and outreach.

Beginning on my very first day as the curate, I began hosting the "We Should Talk" series every Wednesday evening preceding Evening Prayer, where we explored topics ranging from antiracism, angels, the rosary, yoga, the refugee crisis, and writing as a spiritual practice, many of which came

from suggestions during the two interest groups we hosted in August. We continued this series throughout the fall up until the first week of Advent, when I led a book study and examination of the Nativity narratives of Luke and Matthew. Likewise for Advent, I led a Quiet Morning in December in which attendees were invited to reflect on how God showed up in their lives in the previous year as well as the prayers they would take into the new year.

After fielding a number of questions from our young adults about Anglo-Catholicism, I asked Fr. Bob Petite to co-lead with me a series of conversations on Anglican identity. This group is currently gathering online Monday evenings to discern how our Anglican history has shaped our particular Anglican-Episcopal corner of Christianity and how we might live more deeply into that identity today.

*Continued ...*

In the fall, I recruited a handful of young adults who expressed interest in expanding Ascension's outreach to be in conversation with me and Deacon Charles Farrell about what kind of outreach would be meaningful to them and to this parish. This conversation is ongoing and I'm looking forward to sharing the fruits of those conversations in the very near future.

For Lent, I will lead conversations on the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and abstinence and invite reflection on how our practices prepare us for Holy Week.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meghan Murphy-Gill +

## **Deacon's Report - Rev. Charles Farrell**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I have been a member of the Ascension community for four years now. While 2021 has been an unusual year, it has also been a year where we have all been able to examine our relationship with God, each other, and the Church.



My work @ Ascension Chicago has included:

- I have continued to share the Diaconal Rota with the Church of the Atonement
- I have continued to coordinate the Pantry @ Ascension

Regarding the Pantry @ Ascension: Through the spring of '21 we continued to distribute Chicago Shares. When this became untenable, we pivoted again and returned to the distribution of food and we have added several toiletries, permanently. This has been an important philosophical change. While the Pantry @ Ascension has traditionally been a food pantry and frequently offered some toiletries, we have shifted to a rough 50/50 split of about 8 items of each kind depending upon what we can source month-to-month. We did this because many people in need have ready access to food through government assistance, other faith-based ministries etc. However, personal care items are not covered by SNAP benefits and are not always available at feeding ministries. Our goal is to use our resources to offer toilet paper, lotion, toothpaste/toothbrush, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, and dish soap as frequently as supplies allow.

Our biggest challenge at the Pantry currently is a dearth of volunteers. I want to encourage us as a community to put **Faith into Action** and we cannot just say we follow the Gospel, but we must act, by supporting the Pantry as our primary Outreach Ministry not just with our treasure, but also with our time! This is our challenge, as a parish we focus on our liturgy and our music, both of which are wonderful and honor God appropriately. However, Jesus is never heard to tell the chief Priests and the scribes that the services in the Temple were well done. No, Jesus was focused on the poor, the forgotten and those in need. We must do the same—it is a key component of our Anglo-Catholic heritage. While we can honor God through our music and our liturgy, we must also honor God through our service. We must as a parish roll-up our sleeves and do the work that the Gospel calls us to do, NOW. As the Deacon it is my duty to remind us of this continually!

*Continued ...*

Outside of my direct work with Ascension & Atonement I continue to serve as a volunteer at Care for Real every Saturday other than the first Saturday, which belongs to the Pantry @ Ascension, and the very occasional other Saturday morning commitments. I probably find more joy doing that work than in any other facet of my life. I also continue in my role at UIC where I serve as the Executive Director for Business Development in Campus Auxiliary Services of the Division of Student Affairs & Director of the UIC Student Centers. Higher education has also been massively impacted by the current pandemic; but we are also hopeful that we are finding ways to manage through the challenges that are changing our society in ways that are creating a new, livable normal.

Thank you all for your support, for the opportunity to serve and to put Faith into Action!

Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon Charles F. Farrell

## **Seminarian's Report - Bonnie Scott**



I have been delighted to begin my 2nd year as seminarian at Church of the Ascension. This year, my focus has been primarily on young adults ministry. In the fall, we began a young adults group series held every other Sunday after mass which focused on different topics of interest, some of which included prayer and time in the Christian tradition. This group allowed for fellowship amidst the difficulties of connection during the pandemic as well as a space for young parishioners to address topics or questions of interest to them. I have also participated actively in the efforts to form an outreach committee with Mother Murphy-Gill as we assess Ascension's capacity for and interest in renewed outreach efforts, especially among young adults. Additionally, I have served regularly in many different roles at the altar, including acolyte, thurifer, and preacher. I hope to continue to work with young adults, especially as we develop our programming for Lent. I am blessed and grateful to continue in my role as seminarian as we look forward to a new chapter at Ascension.

## **Ministry and Program Reports (in alphabetical order)**

**Adult Christian Education & Spiritual Formation** - *See the Curate's report, above.*

### **Archives Report - The Rev. Dr. Carol Norén**

Most of the work on Ascension's archives was done remotely this year. This was due in part to pandemic restrictions, but also wanting to cause minimal disruption with the coach house being occupied. However, since I did make periodic visits to the archives room to borrow materials temporarily, I was able to bring the archival inventory up to date. This is not to say that the archives are complete, but rather that all materials given to me to date have been organized and inventoried. My hope is that a link to this inventory will be made available upon request to the church office.

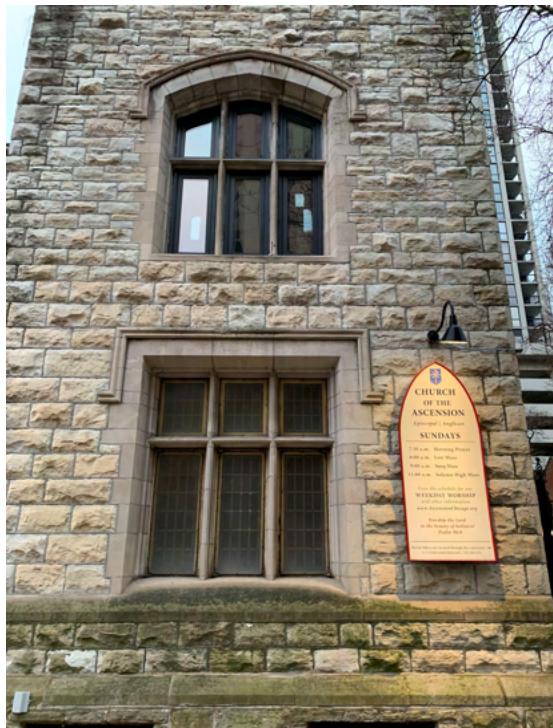


*Continued ...*

I have also continued recording oral history interviews with various members and friends of the congregation, and am eager to expand this aspect of my work. Those who consent to be interviewed are given the proposed questions in advance, and may delete or add to the list. If you are interested in participating in this project, please get in touch with me at [cnoeren@northpark.edu](mailto:cnoeren@northpark.edu).

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol M. Norén, *Archivist*

### **Buildings and Grounds Report - Cheryl Peterson & David Reeves**



The major Buildings and Grounds accomplishments of 2021 involved the replacement of the windows in the rector's office and the windows in the kitchen overlooking the alley. The kitchen windows were in a bad state of repair with much of the wood rotting. The windows in the rector's office were leaking and did little to muffle the street noise coming from La Salle Boulevard. Hopefully this improvement will make the office much more usable. The other major investment was the sound and audio system which allowed enhanced streaming of our worship services.

The B&G committee met only once this year but made several suggestions for upcoming projects to be undertaken. The vestry and finance committee approved those projects for 2022 and appropriated a generous amount of funds to allow for several major projects including: replacing the windows in the nursery, upgrading the furniture in Wheeler

Hall, painting walls in Wheeler Hall and the staircase vestibule going into Wheeler Hall, repainting of the crucifix facing La Salle Boulevard, security cameras throughout the property, repainting and repairing the stairs to the rectory and other projects throughout the property.

Volunteers did some garden planting and flower beautification with numerous bulbs donated by Jim Berger. Many plants and garden arrangements, as well as garden cleanup, were provided by JW Landscapes on a seasonal basis.

A special thanks to Fr. Raymond and Facilities Manager, George Panice, for their diligence in maintaining the property and keeping a watchful eye on repairs that are needed throughout the year.

Our Church of the Ascension properties have many needs. We welcome the energy and interest of those who might join in leadership for a special time-limited project or to take an active role leading the B&G group.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Peterson and David Reeves, *co-chairpersons*

## Report From the Choirmaster - Dr. Benjamin Rivera

2021 was a second year of major adaptations, and it is a bit difficult to summarize! From the continuation of our pandemic recording project, made in isolation, to the gradual and careful return of the full choir, we were fortunate to be able to continue our ministry without interruption. However, the back-and-forth of various pandemic-related guidance has kept us at less than full strength. We continue to sing with masks, which affects the sound and also the singers' ability to hear one another. We are also dealing with (what I hope are short-term) staffing issues, as local singers sort out and rebalance their personal and professional lives. I am optimistic that once we are able to turn the next corner or two we will be able to return to what we would consider "normal." As always, you can expect a mix of old favorites and works that are new to Ascension, from Medieval to Contemporary, offered by our skilled and faithful music team. It is indeed a privilege to serve this congregation!



Choir of the Ascension ... with many quality recordings now at **Soundcloud**. Go to [www.soundcloud.com](https://www.soundcloud.com); in the search bar, type in 'Choir of the Ascension.' Click on a track. Sit back. Savor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Benjamin Rivera, Choirmaster

## Flower Guild Report - Claire Green

The Flower Guild is an important and rewarding ministry. We help to beautify the church for the glory of God by purchasing and arranging flowers on the High Altar and on the three shrines throughout the church. Parishioners donate flowers to be dedicated at a cost of \$50 for the High Altar and \$30 for each shrine. At Easter and the Advent and Christmas season, the Flower Guild creates the beautiful displays to adorn Ascension. We are a team that works well together and has fun as we perform our creative duties.



The Flower Guild is looking for new members. You don't need to be skilled, just be ready to have fun and create the floral arrangements requested. We will train you if necessary, and you can work in teams or alone. If you would like to join our team, just contact me or one of our members.

I would like to thank all who belong to the Flower Guild for their dedication and artistry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Green, *Chairperson*

## Minister of Communications and Technology Report - Gary Alexander

2021 was marked by huge advances in our ability to bring the liturgy and ministry of Church of the Ascension to a wider audience than ever before. Some highlights include:

- **Installation of New AV System in February 2021** We are now able to offer high-quality live-streamed services accessible to people anywhere in the world via home computer, cell phone, tablet, or living-room TV!. All of this is being accomplished without sacrificing the solemnity or beauty of the in-person worship experience.
- **Learning and Training Others** We were fully operational by the middle of Lent. We trained volunteers throughout the spring and summer and hired tech assistant Eric Canales in November. (We are currently down to only one volunteer able to serve—if interested, let me know!).
- **Results: 99 services were streamed live**
- **Attendance: 1500 people viewed and remotely shared in our services as they were happening.** This total only includes those watching in real time and does not account for more than one person viewing one device.
- **Up-to-the-minute Website** Updates to AscensionChicago.org were made several times a week, and during some periods, daily. This is especially important given the impact an up-to-date, information-rich website plays in attracting newcomers and keeping members informed ,and the constant changes to our services and programs brought on by the pandemic.
- **Increased Website Traffic** Unique visits increased by 10 % for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and another 20% percent in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Page views increased 24% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and another 27% for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- **Social Media Highlight** Strategic use of Facebook ads promoted Ascension's many special liturgies resulting in significant increase in traffic to our Facebook page. Example: a nearly 400% increase in the number of people who saw content from our page while the ad for Michaelmas services was running.
- **Collaboration and Communication** I actively participated in staff planning sessions regarding tech, social media, COVID protocols, etc. MB and I collaborated especially closely throughout the year. Of particular note: bringing you 2021's first-ever virtual Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Alexander

**1500 people  
remotely viewed and  
shared in our services  
as they were happening**

## Hospitality Report - Seán Hansen

### Part I: 2021

Over the past year, coffee hours appear to have been successful in serving as a nexus of community during the COVID-19 pandemic without contributing to the spread of SARS-CoV-2. I have valued both taking an active role in serving the coffee hours myself and training and coordinating others. Challenges in 2021 have already carried forward into 2022. With that in mind, I wish to focus my report on recommendations for possible growth and improvement in the year ahead. With coffee hours indefinitely suspended due to the dangers the omicron variant poses, I consider it prudent to consider prayerfully now what changes we may wish to make, as the resumption of coffee hours will serve as a natural new beginning from which to build.



### Part II: Challenges and Recommendations for 2022

- The roster of volunteers who serve at coffee hours is small, and at least two people must serve per week. Consequently, these people volunteer frequently, with some working 2-4 Masses per month. This is neither tenable nor sustainable. I cannot currently speak on 9 AM Masses; however, for 11 AM Masses, I believe we would benefit by an eight-week rotation. This would involve eight pairs of people volunteering once every two months. This will be especially important as the pandemic recedes and attendance increases, as I project that feeding a Mass of 100 people will cost ~\$100-150. That would outstrip the ability of the current roster to continue to provide in-kind donations. I recommend proactive and consistent messaging, both in the weekly newsletter and in the announcements during Mass, that we need eight to ten more volunteers. I recommend that such continue until we have a full roster of sixteen. To that end, I am willing to help write copy for the newsletters.
- There is currently no uniformity in setting up, hosting, and cleaning up from a coffee hour. Though there is a procedure taped to the inside door of a cupboard in the kitchen, it is old, it appears outdated, and it is easy to miss; this has left volunteers confused on how to fulfill their duties. I recommend the creation of a new, updated procedure to be affixed in a prominent location in the kitchen. I also recommend that this procedure be digitally accessible from the Ministry Scheduler software and that it be sent out as a .pdf file to all coffee-hour volunteers at the same time as their reminder emails. To that end, I am willing to author the new procedure document.

*Continued ....*

- Masks remain one of the most effective tools to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. However, people must remove their masks to eat or drink. Chicago ordinances currently address this dilemma for eateries by requiring diners to present proof of vaccination.<sup>1</sup> Though Ascension's policy as of 12/22/21 is to request unvaccinated parishioners to view Masses remotely,<sup>2</sup> we do not (to my awareness) require proof of vaccination to attend. I do not recommend that we begin doing so.<sup>3</sup> Instead, I recommend that no coffee hours be held indoors until Chicago ordinances once again allow unvaccinated diners inside eateries. In particular, if the current ordinance remains through the spring, and if inclement weather would require that a coffee hour be relocated from Our Lady of Victory Garden to either Wheeler Hall or St. Michael's Hall, I instead recommend that that coffee hour be canceled.
- The parish budget adequately funds coffee hour needs -- mainly comestibles (coffee grounds, sugar, pastries, etc.) and disposable tableware (cups, napkins, etc.). However many volunteers in 2021 provided the refreshments as in-kind donations, perhaps not understanding the availability or the process for reimbursement of expenses. We can and should improve communications so that volunteers are aware that they can be reimbursed and that there is an easy process for being reimbursed. Making known that coffee hour hospitality need not involve a financial cost may also increase our volunteer pool!
- In the realm of hospitality, the parish budget separately provides for 'parish functions.' The few we were able to enjoy in 2021 were mainly orchestrated and hosted by others. Assuming a time will come when we are able to enjoy more special occasion receptions, we should anticipate both a need for additional volunteers and more regular coordination.

Respectfully submitted,  
Seán Hansen

#### **Report from the Organist - David White**

2021 was obviously another pandemic-controlled year for all of us in the Parish, but, as was the case in 2020, my job was probably the one which changed the least, in that we can't move the organ to a remote "online" location! During 2021, many new works were offered to the glory of God as voluntaries and in recital, with a special emphasis on works by women composers, as well as African-American composers.

*Continued ...*

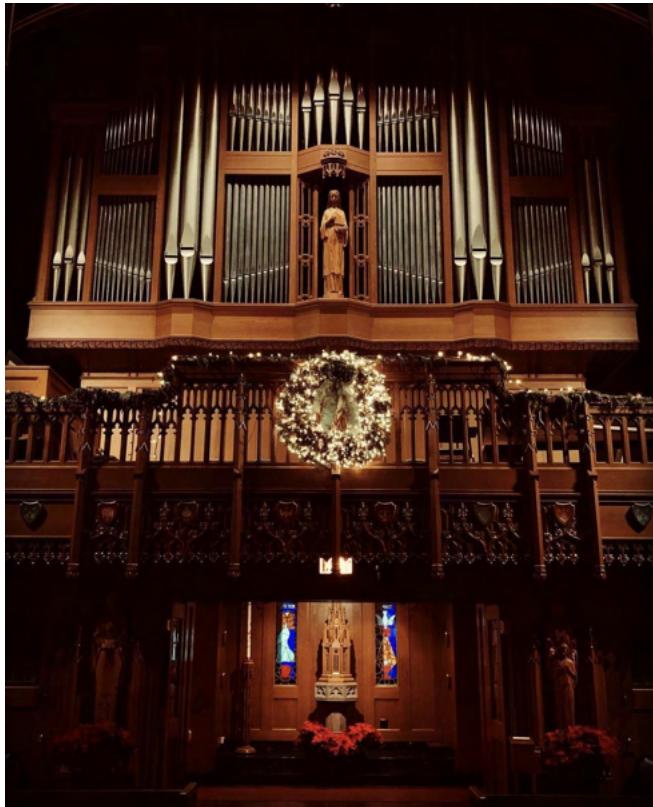
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<sup>1</sup> Cf. <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home/chi-vaccine-requirement.html>

<sup>2</sup> In the 12/22/21 newsletter, per Fr. Raymond: "Please refrain from in-person worship and join others instead by way of our excellent live-streaming options IF

"- you are unvaccinated, or  
"- have known health/immunity risks, or  
"- have any cold, flue [sic] or known COVID symptoms."

<sup>3</sup> I say this as someone who was vaccinated and who received a booster shot.



In 2022, I plan to offer many of what I'm calling "Hidden Gems by Great Masters." Many of the greatest composers for organ from all periods have a short list of works for which they are best known. But there are, in most cases, several (sometimes many) lesser-known works by those composers which are far less often heard. Many of those will be making their appearance in 2022.

Also, tentatively scheduled for the afternoon pre-E&B recital - for Father Patrick's last Evensong with us as Rector on Sunday Feb. 6 - is an offering of the complete Opus 122 Chorale-Preludes of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) which were his final completed works. I will be joined by members of the Ascension Choir, who will sing the (mostly Bach) harmonizations of those hymns, which Brahms would have known.

On the organ-maintenance-beautification front, I can report much-increased (thank God and thank Berghaus!) stability in tuning and voicing thanks to the major refurbishing of 2018-2020. There have been three further expansions to the instrument's tonal compass since then, and three more in the works for 2022. All is well on that front.

I know I speak for the Choir and the Choirmaster when I say that we are indeed fortunate to minister in a parish which so highly values music, and to have had the leadership and support of Fr. Patrick in our offerings.

Respectfully submitted,  
David R. White

### **Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings - Cheryl Peterson**

During 2021, the Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings (SLSB) group was largely inactive due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members did not feel comfortable gathering to share lunch in St. Michael Hall. However, the group did meet successfully on November 2<sup>nd</sup> following a Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day. At that time, special recognition was given to those members of Ascension who died in 2020-21, especially Sr. Barbara, Charley Taylor and Bill Flodin who had regularly attended SLSB meetings.

Plans to resume Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings in 2022 have been temporarily suspended. When there is an opportunity later this year to plan for monthly gatherings, the group will re-evaluate its mission and make plans to reconvene.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Peterson

## **Usher, Greeter, Screener & Rosary Lead Report - George Dante Pineda**

With the return to in-person services in 2020, some of our Usher, Greeter, Screener and Rosary Lead volunteers have returned to volunteering while others have been hesitant to return. Reasons for that range from local government and the Diocese restrictions, general health and safety concerns, or other personal reasons. Because of this, volunteers are needed and the benefits of volunteering have never been so important for both the individuals volunteering and for the Church of the Ascension.

We continue to show parishioners interested in volunteering and we added 4 more volunteers this year. We have a total number of 10 active Usher, Greeter, Screener volunteers and 2 Rosary Leads volunteers. We encourage everyone to be involved.

### **What's New?**

1. We are looking to finalize our comprehensive Church of the Ascension Usher, Greeter and Screener Volunteer Handbook. This will be released in Mid-February and we will conduct a refresher training session for all new and current volunteers.
2. We are likely to experiment in coming months with having Lectors scheduled on MSP by the same person(s) who schedules the Usher/Greeter/Screener Volunteers Group. This is to consolidate scheduling duties. Those who volunteer for Lector will not necessarily be classed as Usher/Greeter/Screener volunteers (and vice versa).

If you are interested in being Usher, Greeter, Screener, Rosary Lead and Lector/Reader, please contact George Pineda / Parish for more details.

## **Verger's Report: Worship Ministries - MB Hwang**

We've come a long way: last January, services were still remote, with a single acolyte and remote lectors. By May, we were scheduling three acolytes on Sundays with in-person lectors. Solemn High Mass returned in August, and we restarted our in-person 9 o'clock service in November.

On most Sundays, you'll see experienced ministers serving in key roles alongside relatively recent additions to our corps. We also welcomed some newer acolytes available to be scheduled seasonally or as substitutes.

- Approximately half of our roughly 15 regularly scheduled acolytes are new as of 2021.
- Many of these have learned one or more new roles this year.
- Several experienced acolytes also started new roles.
- Acolytes have adapted flexibly to a series of pandemic liturgical adjustments.
- Ongoing one-on-one training, rehearsals, and reference materials helped acolytes prepare.

*Continued ....*

Our worship depends on cooperation between many people besides the altar party and lectors. 2021 presented new needs related to online streaming:

- Supported and collaborated with Gary Alexander and tech team, especially during special events such as the October 2021 ordination.
- “Research and Development” towards improving livestream operations on makeshift equipment and, eventually, our newly installed system.

We've made substantial progress in coordinating worship with online features and functionality:

- Daily Office on Zoom is still going strong.
- Widespread adoption of MSP in 2021: Acolytes, lectors, ushers, tech ministers, coffee hour hosts, flower arrangers, Daily Office officiants, and Rosary leaders are now being scheduled through MSP.
- Sub requests are being submitted and filled by fellow ministers online each month.
- Training sessions and one-on-one tutorials continue to be available.

Our worship ministers are accomplishing a lot, but we still welcome your help. Please reach out to me if you're interested, ready to give things a try, or even just curious!

Respectfully Submitted,  
MB Hwang, *Verger*



# Treasurer's Report 2021 - Susan Schlough

## Financial Highlights

- Notable features of our 2021 income and spending:

We assumed the worst for income due to uncertainty about the effects of COVID on parishioner giving and financial markets. Thankfully, this assumption was wrong and our income was much higher than anticipated.

The Vestry approved total expenditures of \$856,158 when the budget was initially developed, in 2020. This was increased to \$911,364 in mid-year to provide for a full-time Curate and other ministry and program priorities.

We spent \$933,006 after additional spending of \$41,000 was approved by the Vestry in December, including \$7,000 for staff bonuses, and \$34,000 for the following charities and missions outside the parish:

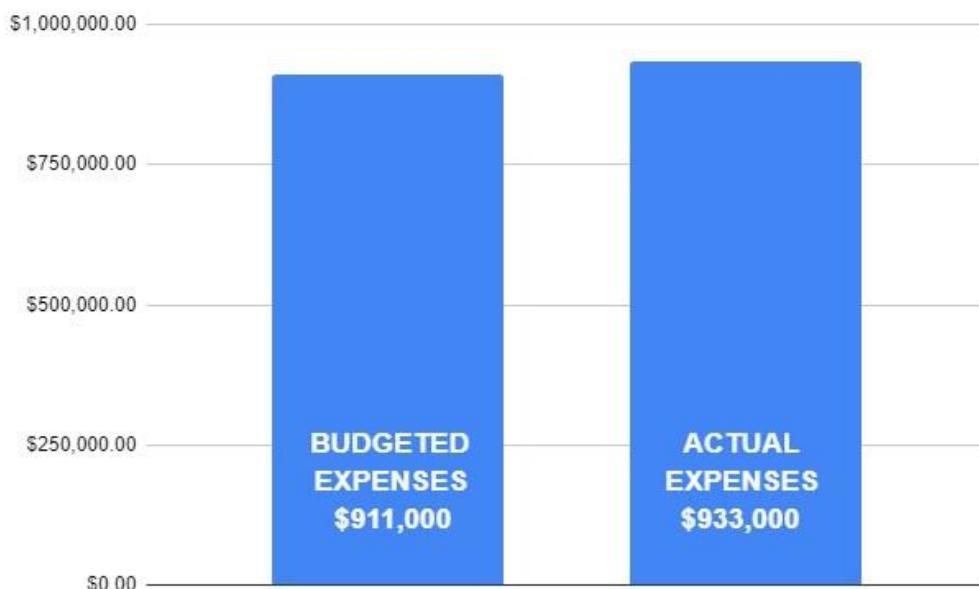
- \$20,000 - \$5,000 each to Bishop Anderson House, Episcopal Charities, RefugeeOne and St. Leonard's House
- \$4,000 - \$2,000 each to General Seminary and Nashotah House. (Both also received \$500 from an already-budgeted line-item).
- \$10,000 additional support to the Diocese of Chicago.

Pledge and plate giving [both parishioners and visitors] was \$60,145 more than anticipated [\$32,000 of this is for special use].

Contributions to the food pantry were \$5367 more than anticipated

Capital work on the church and parish hall was \$48,521.50.

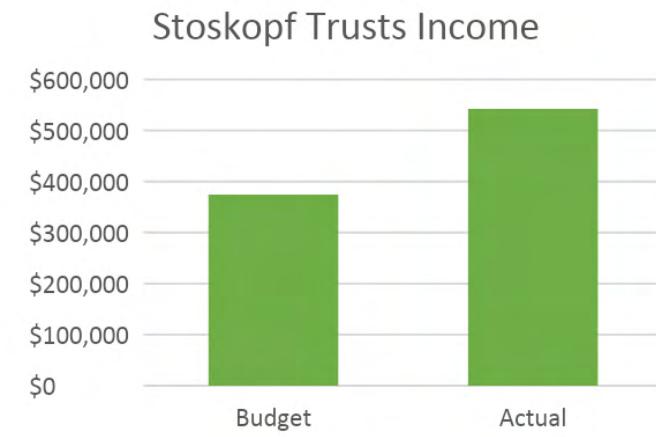
Disbursements from the Stoskopf Trusts were \$167,642 more than anticipated as explained in a later bullet



- Every year we meet our expenses by withdrawing monies from our endowments. We use a 12-quarter average value and the Vestry sets a maximum spending percentage before developing the budget. If there is an emergency that comes up during the year, the Vestry can vote to increase the amount spent. These were the amounts authorized for 2021.

General Endowment, unrestricted: 5.0%  
 Ruhling Heating & AC Fund: 5.0%  
 Baar Music Fund: 5.0%  
 Gaines Altar Linens & Furnishings Fund: 4.0%  
 Ekner Repairs & Maintenance Fund: 4.0%  
 Building Endowment: 5.0%

- We again invested in our physical plant to be good stewards of the property  
 We completed the work on the new A/V system for the church  
 We replaced the windows in the kitchen and the Rector's office
- The William and Alice Stoskopf Trusts provide regular monthly contributions to our income. The fiscal year for the Trusts runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. The amount we receive monthly changes on May 1<sup>st</sup> each year and depends on the value of each trust April 30<sup>th</sup>. We have to guess what the new amount will be when the budget is constructed. We assumed that COVID might cause the markets to fall in 2021 which would lower our payments. This did not happen.



## Financial Process Modifications

- Our normal process requires that people other than myself and our bookkeeper count the cash and checks, and that there be two signers on every physical check we issue. We were able to return to using counting teams this past year.
- We again modified our process for bill-paying due to COVID. Some payments for bills continue to be made directly from Bank of America. Other payments are now made by physical checks. The bill paying process was modified to allow one check signer for checks of \$5000 or less to minimize the number of interpersonal contacts.
- Thank you to the 2021 counting teams and check signers
  - o Claire Green, Jay Jaycot, Mary Jane Kowalski, David Reeves [counters]
  - o Jay Jaycot, Cheryl Peterson [check signers]

## Pledging for 2021

- Pledging is lower than recent years.
- Multi-year overview

By the end of **2020**, we had 65 pledges in the amount of \$153,609

- We collected 74% of the pledged amount

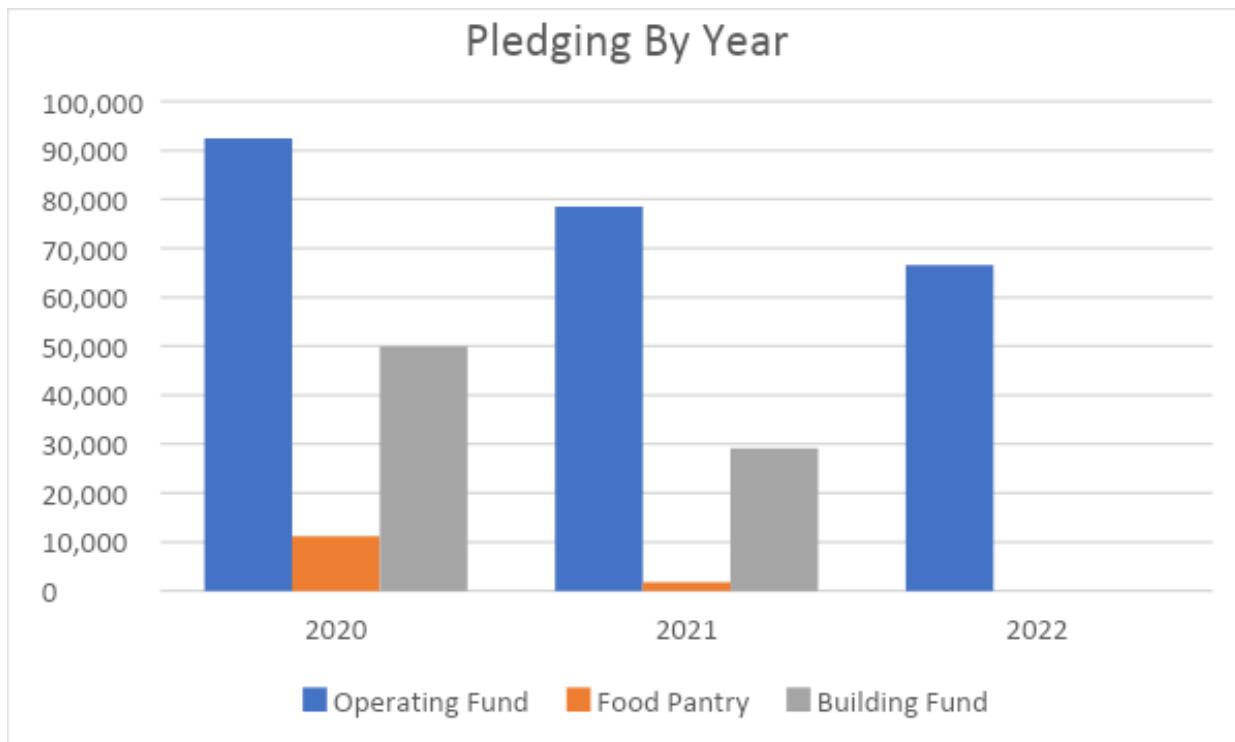
By the end of **2021**, we had 56 pledges in the amount of \$109,461.

Most people pledged to the general Operating Fund. Some people pledged to the Food Pantry. Some people pledged to the Building Fund.

- Operating Fund pledges: \$78,554
- Food Pantry pledges: \$1740
- Building Fund pledges: \$29,167
- We collected 99.8% of the total pledged
- This number is slightly misleading. Some pledging units gave significantly more than the pledged amount while others gave significantly less.

In mid-January of **2022**, we had 41 pledges, all for the operating fund, in the amount of \$66,530.

- Thank you to everyone who has pledged. It makes financial planning much easier.

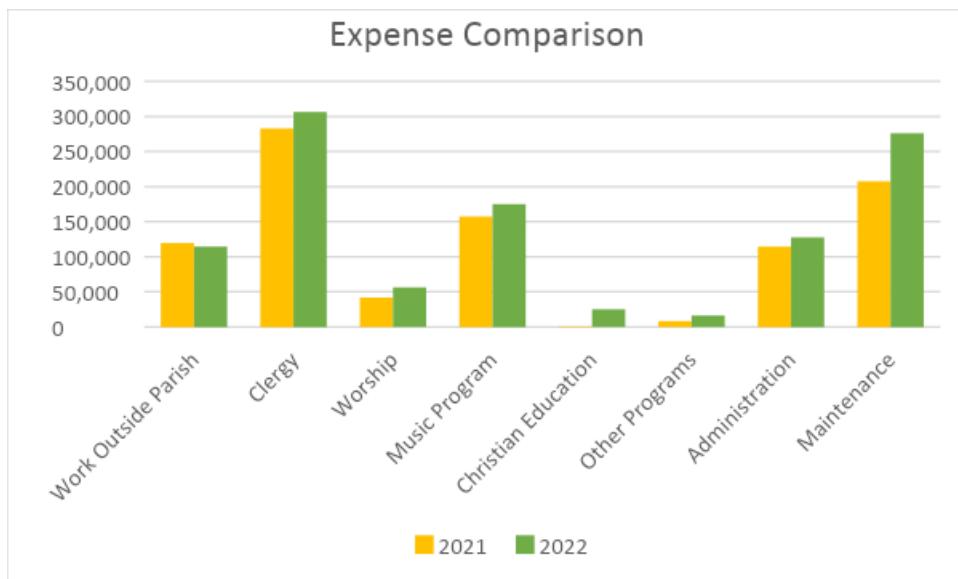
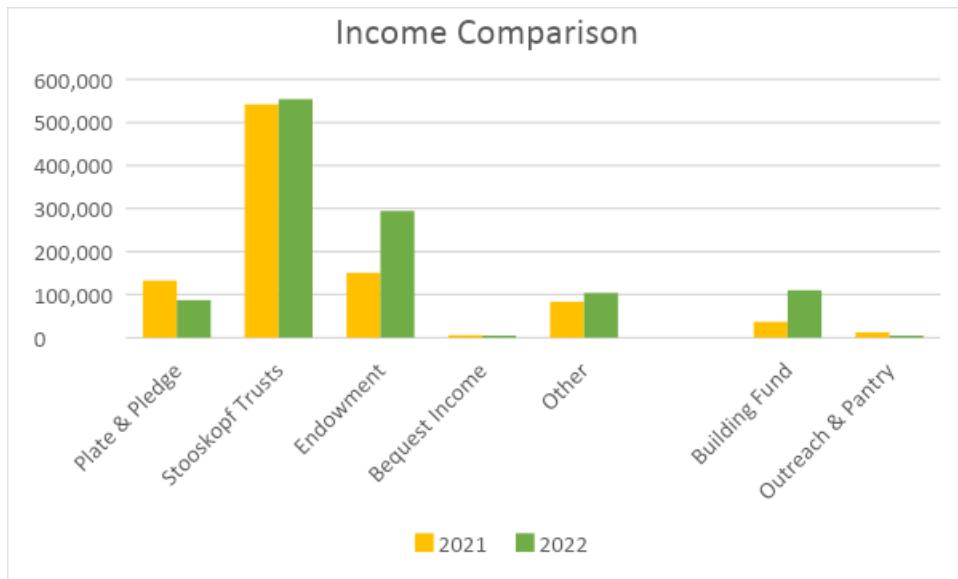


### 3-YEAR FINANCIAL VIEW

	2020 AUDITED	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET
<b>Operating Income</b>			
Plate & Pledge	\$112,876	\$132,619	\$87,230
Stoskopf Trusts	\$489,461	\$542,040	\$554,466
Endowment	\$82,621	\$150,621	\$294,372
Bequest Income	\$3,536	\$5,646	\$4,762
Other	\$124,641	\$83,369	\$103,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$813,136</b>	<b>\$914,294</b>	<b>\$1,044,683</b>
<b>Non-Operating Income</b>			
Building Fund	\$50,360	\$36,633	\$110,020
Outreach + Pantry	\$21,094	\$12,582	\$4,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,454</b>	<b>\$49,215</b>	<b>\$114,716</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$884,590</b>	<b>\$963,510</b>	<b>\$1,159,399</b>
	2020 AUDITED	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET
<b>Expenses</b>			
Work Outside Parish	\$108,877	\$119,564	\$114,730
Clergy Support	\$206,836	\$282,945	\$306,168
Worship	\$28,468	\$41,942	\$56,398
Music Program	\$145,093	\$157,147	\$175,145
Christian Education	\$888	\$1,029	\$25,201
Other Programs	\$5,704	\$8,288	\$16,300
Administration	\$89,406	\$114,764	\$127,798
Maintenance	\$141,583	\$158,805	\$275,982
Capitalized Repairs	\$55,534	\$48,522	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$782,389</b>	<b>\$933,006</b>	<b>\$1,097,722</b>

## 3-YEAR FINANCIAL VIEW

### Graphical Comparison



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS**

**AQAAAQFAS**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

**1010 · Bank of America**

**1011 · Operating Checking**

	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>
<b>1011.1 · Operating Fund</b>	25,827.85	112,646.22
<b>1011.2 · Columbarium Fund</b>	35,011.00	32,011.00
<b>1011.3 · Society of Mary Fund</b>	468.50	0.00
<b>1011.4 · CD Recording Fund</b>	130.00	130.00
<b>1011.6 · Altar Linens &amp; Furnishings Fund</b>	124.58	1,218.98
<b>1011.75 · Sunday Flowers</b>	1,719.72	1,518.40
<b>1011.8 · Other Special Offerings Fund</b>	32,000.00	0.00
<b>1011 · Operating Checking - Other</b>	<u>-12.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total 1011 · Operating Checking</b>	95,269.65	147,524.60
<b>1012 · Operating Payroll</b>	92,603.73	50,785.59
<b>1013 · Savings Account</b>	<u>16,025.72</u>	<u>8,470.30</u>
<b>Total 1010 · Bank of America</b>	203,899.10	206,780.49
<b>1051 · Rector's Discretionary Fund</b>	<u>9,382.32</u>	<u>4,397.84</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	213,281.42	211,178.33

**Other Current Assets**

**1100 · Vanguard General Endowment**

<b>1110 · 500 Index Fund Admiral</b>	5,028,473.03	3,992,631.61
<b>1120 · Long Term Bond Index</b>	1,056,712.47	1,085,576.50
<b>1140 · Wellington (Ruhling)</b>	1,275,545.53	1,090,327.00
<b>1160 · Wellesley (Gaines)</b>	46,312.07	42,684.24
<b>1170 · STAR (Baar)</b>	32,490.07	30,799.57
<b>1180 · Federal MM Fund</b>	<u>12,698.56</u>	<u>46,130.87</u>

**Total 1100 · Vanguard General Endowment**

7,452,231.73

6,288,149.79

**1200 · Building Endowment**

<b>1210 · 500 Index Fund Admiral</b>	352,052.69	273,620.48
<b>1220 · Long Term Bond Index</b>	205,544.91	211,159.36
<b>1240 · Wellesley (Ekner)</b>	111,553.76	106,560.36
<b>1250 · Federal Money Market Fund</b>	<u>49,632.73</u>	<u>20,267.46</u>

**Total 1200 · Building Endowment**

718,784.09

611,607.66

**1300 · Beneficial Int-Stoskopf Trusts**

11,999,385.87

11,082,052.83

**1400 · Interest in Mineral Rights**

13,592.80

16,455.90

**Total Other Current Assets**

20,183,994.49

17,998,266.18

**Total Current Assets**

20,397,275.91

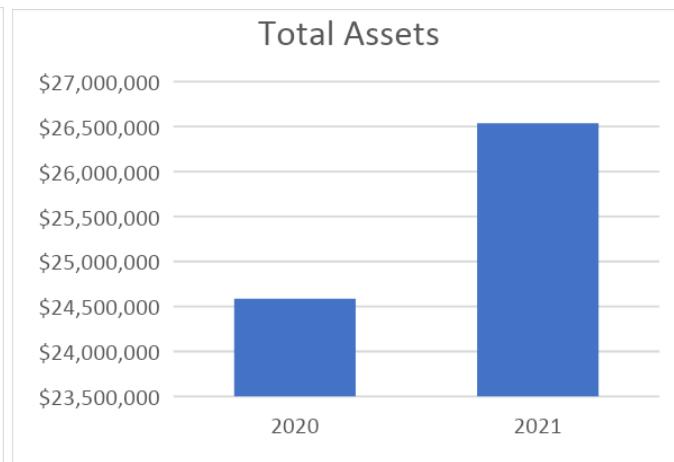
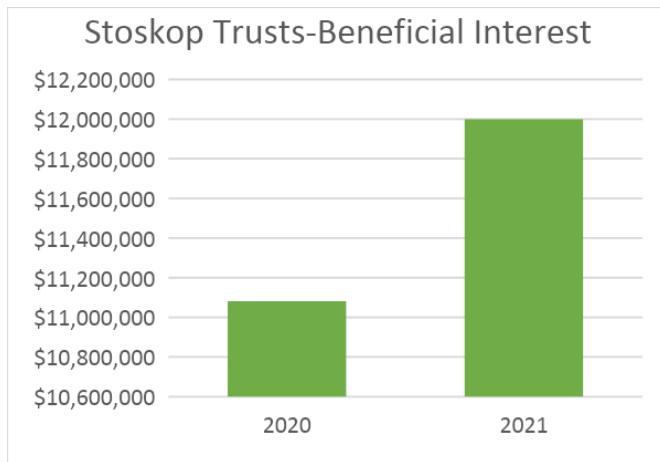
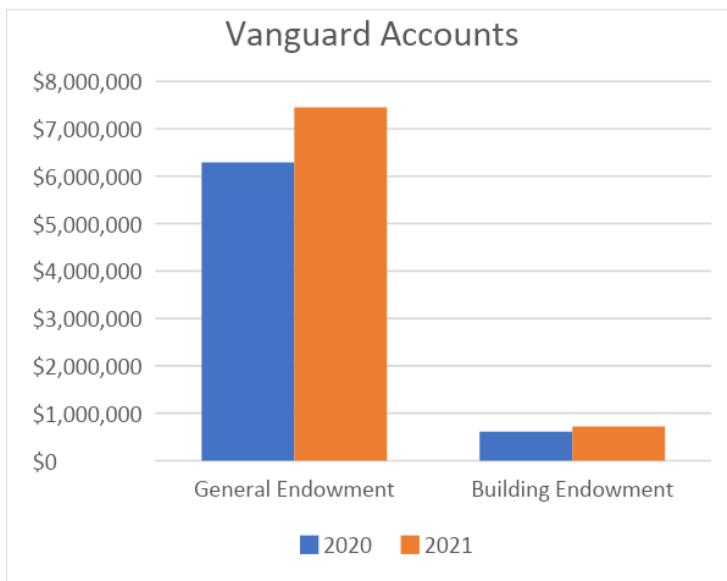
18,209,444.51

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS

	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>1500 · Property and Equipment</b>		
1501 · Church and parish house	5,797,963.00	5,797,963.00
1502 · Furnishings-Church & parish hall	870,439.93	870,439.93
1503 · Church & parish house improvements	840,723.38	792,201.88
1504 · Fine Arts & stained glass	845,000.00	845,000.00
1505 · Columbarium improvements	5,865.00	5,865.00
1506 · 1125 N La Salle front	930,802.00	930,802.00
1508 · Rectory	898,747.00	898,747.00
1509 · Rectory improvements	317,543.00	317,543.00
1510 · Coach house	325,309.00	325,309.00
1512 · Garage	20,563.00	20,563.00
1590 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-4,713,534.92</u>	<u>-4,426,329.43</u>
<b>Total 1500 · Property and Equipment</b>	<u>6,139,420.39</u>	<u>6,378,104.38</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>6,139,420.39</u>	<u>6,378,104.38</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>26,536,696.30</u></b>	<b><u>24,587,548.89</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>		
20100 · Accounts Payable	0.00	-0.60
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-0.60</u>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
24000 · Payroll Liabilities		
24020 · Withholding Liability	0.00	-959.00
<b>Total 24000 · Payroll Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-959.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-959.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-959.60</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-959.60</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>3000 · Opening Balance Equity</b>	21,316,936.12	21,316,936.12
<b>3200 · Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	4,051,452.27	2,194,895.46
<b>3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value</b>		
3310 · Vanguard Earnings	960,294.24	737,224.46
3320 · Market Gain/Loss	3,253,416.65	2,080,140.57
3330 · Withdrawals	-830,217.36	-675,769.19
<b>3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value - Other</b>	<u>-3,601,949.14</u>	<u>-2,330,690.77</u>
<b>Total 3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value</b>	<u>-218,455.61</u>	<u>-189,094.93</u>
<b>3400 · Change in Values Stoskopf</b>	-590,784.97	-590,784.97
<b>Net Income</b>	1,977,548.49	1,856,556.81
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>26,536,696.30</u>	<u>24,588,508.49</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>26,536,696.30</u></b>	<b><u>24,587,548.89</u></b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS

### Graphical Comparison



## The Church of the Ascension

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*“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”*

- Psalm 96:9