

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less, Northfield, Illinois



A YEAR AT ST. JAMES THE LESS

2022 Annual Report

Leadership Reports

Interim Rector	3
Wardens	6
Rector Search Committee	8
Seminarian	9

Being the Hands of Christ

A Just Harvest	26
Christmas Baskets for ReVive	26
Community Food Garden	27
Madagascar Ministry	28

Worshipping Together

Altar Guild	12
Children and Youth	12
God First Friday	14
Music	15
Technology	17

Meeting & Finances

Parish Leadership	30
Annual Gathering Notes	31
Parish Financial Reports	33

Life in Our Community

Buildings & Grounds	20
Calendar of Special Events	21
Memorial Garden	22
Pastoral Care	22
Stewardship	23

REPORT OF THE INTERIM RECTOR

Rev. Daphne Cody

My time at St. James the Less during its interim period between rectors has been rich and full. In specific transition work, my role has been primarily to coach and to equip lay leaders to carry on the ministry through an interim period. This involves not only “keeping things humming” but also stretching and trying new things when possible. In addition, there are some particular tasks of an interim period such as getting in touch with history and renewing connections with the diocese. The tail end of a pandemic is not highly conducive for trying a lot of new things: people are tired and bewildered, not just in this congregation, but everywhere. On top of that, our diocese itself has also been in transition between bishops, and diocesan leadership is worn thin. Considering all this, this plucky parish has done well, making decisions wisely both to manage expectations and to pace the energy of the leadership.



As 2022 opened, we were in the midst of an omicron wave of covid-19, and right after Christmas, I orchestrated a return to remote meetings (Zoom). We stripped back Sunday services to essential participants with masks and distancing. People stayed engaged online, with weekly numbers of more than 30 synchronous log-ins for Sunday services. Although hunkered down at home, our staff, vestry, and other leadership worked hard. The Rector Search Committee was formed and their names were announced at a stripped back, in-person, and socially distanced Annual Meeting on January 30. I spent the winter connecting with the parish’s elderly, homebound population and opening Zoom “office hours” for people to come and talk with me.

By March we were fully back in person, and on Ash Wednesday, we cooperated with Ascension Lutheran to offer two Eucharists, 12 noon at SJTL and in the evening at Ascension. In addition, we offered Ashes to Go at the doors of SJTL with 30 coming by in the morning, and 60 in the afternoon. Cindy Rigali Lund and I invited others to join us in reading a book for Lent called *Resurrection Hope* by Kelly Brown Douglas. Parishioners logged on to Zoom to listen in on a priest and a seminarian talking about the theology in this profound book about race.

Also in March, the newly-configured vestry met for its annual retreat. Hope Martin cooked dinner, and we studied William Bridges' model for transitions, the Life Cycle of a Congregation, and did a Scavenger hunt around the building. Bishop Chilton Knudsen strongly recommended that clergy and lay leadership plan a Respite Week after two grueling covid years, so SJTL clergy and staff planned and did such a week in March. Our staff met with a Spiritual Director at Holy Apostles in Wauconda for spiritual refreshment and healing work during Respite Week. On the Sunday of Respite Week, parishioners were encouraged to worship with our coordinating parishes St. David's or St. Augustine's as the service at SJTL was suspended. Throughout Lent, the Sacrament of Healing was offered each Sunday morning in the narthex of the church during communion, with dozens of participants each week.

Holy Week and Eastertide Season brought many other sacraments. We tried for the first time starting Palm Sunday in the Parish Hall, and making an outdoor palm procession through the courtyard and into the church with much fanfare! And on Maundy Thursday we tasted wine at communion for the first time in two years: in little individual cups at the communion rail. In Eastertide, we had five funerals, four baptisms, and took six youths to the Cathedral for confirmation. At the beginning of April, Cindy Rigali Lund was made a Postulant for Holy Orders. She continued on staff through the rest of the year but completed her field education element in the spring 2022.

While it was difficult to do all the typical tasks of the interim period, we did touch on history of SJTL a little bit by having three confirmands from three different eras offer a panel conversation during the sermon time. Cory Schipfer (1970's), Matt Berry (1990's), and Nylah Madden (2020's), who were all confirmed from SJTL, compared and contrasted their experiences.

May and June brought special events and celebrations. The religious liaison from Arise Chicago, Luke Sullivan, helped arrange with me for the Rev. Joy Rogers to be our guest preacher on May 1 (International Workers Day). Then on May 8, we blessed the new needlepoint kneelers, and we all enjoyed Madagascar Sunday on May 15, which also was the kick-off for the Education for Toliara program. The Beatles Mass on June 26 was uplifting!

I had minimal responsibility with the Rector Search Committee (RSC), although I did urge them to make their presentation to the congregation (June 19) and I participated in two mid-course checks with our Transition Consultant the Rev. Andrea Mysen: one with the vestry in June, and one with the wardens and RSC co-chairs in September. I also enjoyed being the guinea pig for the RSC to do a practice Zoom interview.

My administrative contributions during the interim period included but weren't limited to: helping the junior warden to develop a new short-term building use agreement and working with Caryl Medsker in the office in a significant update of the paper membership directory. I also helped Caryl revamp the email blast lists. Throughout the year, I assisted with Stewardship, Finance, and Budget work, and organized a group to go to Bishop Paula Clark's ordination and consecration on September 17. I coordinated the SJTL delegation to diocesan convention (on Zoom) in November.

In the fall, I organized and taught an Episcopal Church basics class for adults. I also led a group on a parish field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in November. Phil Montross and I orchestrated an acolyte training workshop for five 10-12-year-olds; since then we have been bringing them in to serve in Sunday liturgies in December.

While there was not a lot of appetite for crazy adventures in 2022, I did introduce, with the help of Josh Langhoff, a sung form of the eucharistic prayer from *For Everyone Born*, that we have called the "Punjabi Eucharist" because of its origins in the Punjab region of India. We used it in November and in December, with a great response from all ages.

To conclude, I am sincerely grateful to the three wardens with whom I served over the last fifteen months, Dane Cleven, Hope Martin, and Colleen Schipfer. And I have been deeply touched by the care and diligence of the staff of SJTL: Caryl Medsker in the office, Josh Langhoff at the piano and on the organ bench and corralling the live streamers, Cindy Rigali Lund with our children and youth, Bob Rizzo keeping the books on track, and our unpaid honorary staff buildings and grounds guy, Chip Herndon. Blessings upon you all.

Respectfully submitted,



Daphne Cody+
Interim Rector

REPORT OF THE WARDENS

Hope Martin & Colleen Schipfer

In February 2022 our warden duties began after Hope served an additional year as junior warden, as recommended by the Chicago diocese, All vestry and warden positions were frozen in 2021.

Our 2022 annual meeting was conducted in person by Daphne Cody, our interim rector, in the nave of our church. The vestry started meeting in person again as well after holding all our 2021 meetings on Zoom.



We continued to foster a good relationship with our fellow churches in Northfield. On Ash Wednesday JoAnn Post, the pastor at The Lutheran Church of the Ascension, assisted passing out “ashes to go” at St. James and later she opened her doors to those of our parishioners wishing to attend an Ash Wednesday evening service. Several St. James parishioners were in attendance.

Our search committee was commissioned in March. The church took the Holy Cow CAT survey. Then the committee began the hard work of interviewing small groups and putting together the parish profile. There were some challenges to the group as member Tim Clark moved to Colorado during the summer. He stayed committed to the search and assisted in all the zoom interviews of the candidates in December. Our website was updated per recommendation from our search committee. We are forever grateful for Caryl for her work on that.

The vestry began tackling many issues including: the rectory renovation which was coordinated by Hope and Karie Smith, and Tom Lund serving as the general contractor, approval of additional hearing loop placed in the altar area, and approval of a sponsor program for school age children in Madagascar. Colleen and Oksana Malan worked tirelessly to develop a new building and grounds agreement which now is being implemented. We are pursuing sharing some of our resources with St. David’s Glenview that can benefit both of our parishes.

We had most of our Sunday summer services in the Krogman Courtyard outside and it was live streamed for those who wished to stay home. In October we moved our services inside and continued to follow CDC guidelines. In June Cindy assisted with six confirmands who were blessed and confirmed at St. James Cathedral.

Several of St. James the Less parishioners were chosen by lottery to witness Bishop Paula Clark's joyful consecration on September 17 at the Westin Hotel in Lombard. The Diocesan convention was attended on Zoom by Daphne, Hope, Colleen, and Chip Herndon. We had a Beatles Mass led by the Fab 4 that was well attended with a brunch following coordinated by Kathleen Cleven. Lobster Fest took a hiatus but will be back next fall under the leadership of Allen Smith. In October we brought back the much loved Soul Mass, followed by a brunch that was coordinated by Colleen and Heather Mages.

2023 proves to be off to a great start as the new vestry will be attending vestry school led by Kat Banakis, the head of the Evanston Deanery. This will be about goal setting and organizational skills. Colleen Schipfer as Senior Warden working with Chip Herndon as Junior Warden will help to welcome in our new rector (7th) at St. James. They will need your prayers and support through the next few months.

Serving as wardens during this interim year has been very challenging but a privilege. We are thankful for the confidence you put in us and grateful for all the support we and the vestry have received from you. We also are very appreciative of all the efforts of the remarkable staff to keep things going during this time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hope M Martin	Colleen Schipfer
Senior Warden	Junior Warden

REPORT OF THE RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Nancy Morr

The 2022 Rector Search Committee (RSC) officially launched the search for our 6th SJTL Rector in February, 2022. The first significant step, April, was to conduct a Parish-wide survey (CAT – Congregational Assessment Tool), electronically processed and submitted to Holy Cow Consulting. 83 surveys were received, 109% of our average weekly attendance these past 3 years. In May, 56 Parishioners attended small group discussions to further share ideas. One of the groups made up of our youth members.

In June, results of the CAT and small group discussions were evaluated, combined and presented to the Parish, via PowerPoint. The purpose of these exercises was to create an image of SJTL at the present time, and learn what rector qualities parish members expect as we move forward.

The next step on our journey was to develop the Parish Profile and Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) essays, describing SJTL and spelling out our priorities. All required documents were submitted to the Chicago diocese in September for approval, at which time our open position was posted for two months. Response was very good, and every interested applicant was interviewed by the RSC, via Zoom, in November and December. At this time, mid-January, all finalists have been invited to visit SJTL to interview in person. Soon the RSC will evaluate and discern, hoping to call our next Rector in early 2023.

We are “on track”, as visually charted on the bulletin in the Parish Hall. Thank you, our Parish members, for your trust in us, and your ongoing prayer, as we complete this important mission.

Nancy Morr, Chair

Tim Clark

Sandra Dold

Jeff Kivetz

Marty Lauber

Anita Ruesch

Katie Synek

REPORT OF THE SEMINARIAN

Cindy Rigali Lund

It continues to be a gift to be a Seminarian-in-Residence at St. James the Less! In 2022, in addition to creating and delivering sermons, I had the opportunity to work on liturgy planning, baptism preparation, funeral preparation, provide pastoral care, facilitate God First Fridays, and engage in theological reflection with Reverend Daphne.

In April, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Bishop Chilton Knudsen and members of the Chicago Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Over the course of the weekend, I had several interviews and at the end of the retreat, was officially welcomed as a Postulant readying herself for Ordained Ministry! I was overjoyed!

The whole experience was sacred and a true gift. The team could not have been more gracious and hospitable. When I returned home to my family they were all waiting for me and shouted, “Congratulations!!!” when I walked in the door!

As a Seminarian, I also had the opportunity to begin my CPE unit at Condell Hospital in Libertyville. For five intensive months, I was training and providing pastoral care to patients. This is a requirement for both ordination as well as my Masters of Divinity. As I write this report, I will be wrapping up my final week at the hospital to complete the session.

Another year down of seminary and classes—it has been interesting and busy! This year included classes on Anglican History, Ethics and Theology—all helpful for the General Ordination Exams in January of 2023. Called the “GOE’s,” they are also a requirement for ordination. After the GOE’s take place in January, I will have another six months of classes for seminary and my degree will be complete (Hallelujah!)

One of the ordination requirements from the Bishop is that I serve at another parish in addition to St. James the Less before I am to be ordained. This was met with joy and sadness on my part because it would mean that I would have to leave my position as the Director of Children and Youth. Boo! I wish I could be two places at once on Sundays, but that super power has not been granted to me. While all of us in the Lund family will continue to call St. James the Less our “home,” and I will continue on as your Seminarian, my role as Director of Children and Youth will come to a close. That said, I



am excited to be serving as the Confirmation Coordinator at St. James the Less, to complete the programming and usher in our new Confirmands next Spring! This means, once a month you may see me floating around the church as well as on my days off when I can come and say hello and provide some updates! Also, the Lund family will continue to worship here while I complete this nine-month field education at St. Lawrence in Libertyville.

I am so blessed to have the support, care and prayers from the St. James the Less community. This parish has been instrumental in shaping my faith on this sacred journey of ordination. I am looking forward to the year ahead to discover how God is calling me into this sacred ministry!

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Rigali Lund



Worshiping Together



ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Morr

The St. James the Less Altar Guild is fortunate to operate smoothly with a team of seven very dedicated members. With their commitment, every Sunday 10 am Altar has been capably set, along with the extra services occurring during Lent and the Christmas Season. In addition, the Altar Guild serviced four baptisms and eleven funerals. The only 2022 wedding ceremony was officiated by our Interim Rector, and conducted at The Chicago Botanic Garden.

The 2022 Altar Team includes Amy Alcorn, Beth Ingram, Phil Montross, Nancy Morr, Anita Ruesch, Jeannie Scully and Alixe Small.

Responsibilities of the Altar Guild include managing all details relative to the altar, sacraments, and linens for every service scheduled.

With gratitude for every member of this faithful, effective group!

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Cindy Rigali Lund

Hooray! 2022 has been a gradual return to our new “normal,” as we emerged from pandemic programming to some of our beloved children and youth programming from years before. This year we were fortunate to be able to enjoy some indoor programming that included Drop In Sunday School, Godly Play, Wiggle worship, Confirmation Classes (including two off site retreats in Des Plaines and Michigan!), and finally, some singing! Outdoor programming included our beloved Beatles Mass; Confirmation classes in the courtyard; the children’s Easter egg hunt; our third annual Trunk or Treat; and Sermon Story time under Peter’s Tree, to name a few.

Our 2022 Outdoor Backpack Blessing was also a gift to our kids of all ages! It was a beautiful day and a delight to kick off the year and be together to bring God into our daily lives. This year, we also had a sacred class for children who wanted to learn about the Eucharist: Yes, our 9-10 year olds celebrated First Communion outdoors with Reverend Daphne and their families. Speaking of families, we were blessed to celebrate baptisms for

families old and new to St. James the Less! Finally, in June, we celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation with six of our teens at St. James Cathedral. Shortly after our celebration, we began a new Confirmation class of five teens who will prepare for the sacrament in June of 2023.

St. James the Less has always valued children and youth: Our specialized programming for different age groups speaks to that importance. Our youngest ones enjoyed Drop In Sunday School, Sermon Story Time, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, and our in-person Christmas pageant. Our “Middles” (ages 8-12) enjoyed crafts and Bible study with Maureen Burke once a month throughout the school year. Some of these Middles enjoyed Acolyte training with Reverend Daphne and Phil Montross: This year, we welcomed four new acolytes to our Rota! Our teens were busy with activities that included Easter Palm Cross Making; Digital Acolyting; Fundraising; and Teen Sunday Skip Days. Our teens also pitched in with the Nursery and Drop In Sunday School as needed.

We are lucky to have children and youth who also give back to the community through learning and service. This year, our Confirmation teens painted the full basement to create a brand new look and feel to the whole space! Lead by Tom Lund, the group learned how to tape and sand as well as paint! The ReVive Baskets were another delight for our teens who helped out families in need during the holiday season. This year, the Confirmands also helped load up the trucks with the numerous boxes that St. James the Less contributed. Finally, children and youth also had a special Sunday school lesson during the Juneteenth worship—led by Ms. Cindy, “Tell the Truth About Racism” was an inspired, Godly-Play-like lesson that emphasized God’s everlasting and steadfast love for all of God’s people.

Our Nursery began full-time Sundays once again and we were thrilled to welcome both Mary Hehr and Samantha Worobey! Although Mary had to tend to family matters, she will be back every once in a while to sub in for Samantha, our medical student from out east. Both are beloved by the children and have creative, caring natures for our youngest ones at St. James the Less.

Our hope with all of our programming for 2022, was that our children and youth found time to grow closer to God. Our families of St. James the Less are special and exemplify to their own children the importance of living a life where we “love God and love one another.” Here’s to a joyous 2023 and another wonderful year ahead full of opportunities to seek out the love of God. May we inspire our children and youth to live a life of integrity, love and justice—the life of Jesus Christ. Amen!



GOD FIRST FRIDAY

Allen Smith

God First Friday is a gathering of a group of St. James The Less parishioners on the first Friday of the month for about 45 minutes (7:30 – 8:15 am, via Zoom) to discuss a passage from the Bible. The group was started by Lisa Senuta during the early days of the pandemic as a way for parishioners to maintain their relationships with God and fellow parishioners during a troubling time when services were not being held. It has continued to the present time because of its popularity. The group leader, usually a priest and usually the SJTL rector, selects the Bible passage, leads the discussion, and presents questions to the attendees for discussion.

It is a light and friendly discussion about the reading and how it may impact each one personally, how it may relate to one's own faith journey, or how it may say something about the St. James the Less community.

The ease of participation, or not, makes for a most comfortable environment for all: no one dominates, including the leader, no one is excluded, all can feel comfortable to voice their questions, their assumptions, their feelings. Everyone gets educated about the Bible passage, can share their feelings about the passage and its ramifications, and gets an opportunity to know her or his fellow participants better.

MUSIC

Joshua Langhoff

After two years of COVID-related disruptions, 2022 started to feel a bit more stable, in terms of both music and life. Yes, the COVID-19 variants still threaten. (My whole family caught one in August; not recommended.) And so it still makes sense to take simple precautions against the virus. But consider: We were able to sing together all year long! The choir resumed its normal leadership role! Praise God that the gift of community music making has returned.

Consider also: During a year spent searching for our new permanent rector, we were blessed with the leadership of one interim rector all year long. And what a rector! Rev. Daphne was a joy to plan liturgy with. She was also musically astute and a fine singer, and her introduction of the Punjabi Eucharist to our worship was a gift I hope we can revisit in the future. Singing together helped many of us feel more engaged with the Eucharistic prayer than ever before.

As we narrow our search for a new rector, I'm grateful that our parish has such a rich and varied musical life. We sing our traditional Episcopal hymns with gusto, *and* we're happy to learn contemporary praise hymns and music from other cultures, like the Punjabi Eucharist. We sing along with the organ *and* with guitars. We cherish traditional liturgies *and* Beatles Masses.

Choir rehearsals continue to be in-person, although attending over Zoom is always an option. I love our Thursday night choir rehearsals because they give us the chance to learn new music, but also to experiment with different methods and tempos for familiar hymns. Rehearsals take place in the church sanctuary on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. They're warm and positive experiences, and we're graced with the presence of two talented Choral Scholars, Sky De la Cruz and Zach Langhoff.

Our worship also benefits from the presence of many skilled instrumentalists. Betsy Kivetz, Lea and Zach Langhoff, Danny Malan, Judy Maritato, Colleen Schipfer, and Everett Smith all graced our worship with their instruments last year. If you would like to volunteer yourself or someone else to sing or play music in church, please let me know!

In 2022, we were blessed that so many of the local musicians we've befriended were able to return. Cellist Patrycja Likos once again beautified our Maundy Thursday liturgy. Trumpeter Sharon Stine and her brass-playing associates came back for Easter and Christmas. Several professional singers, including former choral scholar Liam Ryan, sang with us at various services, notably Advent Lessons & Carols. And I was pleased to connect with two new keyboard subs, Dennis Costanzo and Helen Raymaker.

Our building has resumed hosting outside musical events. Judy Maritato's ukulele group continued using the Parish Hall for rehearsals. And we added two more local music teachers to our roster of semi-annual recitals. Every six months, we now look forward to visits from the talented studios of Inga Cedrina, Scott Emerick, Christopher Laughlin, and Lavinia Lee.

Our outdoor Beatles Mass returned on June 26, a bit later in the year than usual, supplemented by a half-hour "bonus Beatles brunch" out on the lawn. (i.e., three of the Fab Four stuck around and played more tunes.) Also exciting was the return of the Soul Mass on October 23. Led by Lake County's hardest working R&B band, Peter and the Versatiles, this event celebrated God's love and faithfulness through the music of soul artists like the O'Jays, Stevie Wonder, and Jackie Wilson. Lead singer Andre Pipes was magnetic, and he and his band were delighted to resume this service for the first time since 2019. (They even let Zach and me play with them.)

We close every choir rehearsal with these words from *The Book of Common Prayer*: "grant to [your servants] even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore." Looking back "at length" over the year, our musical life does seem like preparation for God's eternal kingdom. Our songs of praise and consolation help to continually re-form us into the body of Christ. We might even find them running through our heads as private meditations throughout the week, pointing us where we need to go. Music remains vital to our worship life, and I'm fortunate to share in this worship with all of you.

TECHNOLOGY

Joshua Langhoff

As I keep marveling, St. James the Less is blessed with a stockpile of audio/visual equipment that proved useful when we started live-streaming. In 2022, we continued streaming in-person worship from the sanctuary every Sunday. In September, video assistant Zach Langhoff resigned his post to become a Choral Scholar. Tobias Dold, Dan Griggs, Tom Lund, and Christi Rose have each filled in as live-streamer at some point, and we're establishing a new livestream rota with Sophia Lund, Nylah Madden, and Eve Shaver.

In the fall, a visit from our audio technician brought some unwelcome news. The amplifiers that provide sound to the Parish Hall are getting old and will need to be replaced in the next few years. Right now the sound is distorted, but we can use our portable outdoor amps as a workaround.

The same is true of our wireless microphones, at least one of which we use weekly in church. Their decade-old receivers are confined to certain radio frequencies, most of which have been encroached upon by other local signals. When the microphones are turned on, this isn't a problem, but when we turn them off, we face the threat of loud, ugly static blaring over the sanctuary speakers. (Some of you have been startled by this sound.) Newer receivers would use a wider frequency range, making such encroachment less likely. As with the Parish Hall amps, we've discovered a workaround to prevent the loud, ugly static; but since the problem will only get worse, we should prepare to update this equipment in the next few years.

BEING A LITURGICAL CHURCH

The Sacraments in Action

Baptism

Evan Wyatt Thompson

Loyal James Elipas

Corinne Barry Hamm

Josie Fiona Van Duzer

Confirmations

Charles Kirkpartrick Hayes

Benjamin Richard Keefer

Sophia Rose Lund

Nylah Jane Madden

Sophie Alice Malan

Claire Isabelle Shaver

Marriage

Cameron Liljestrand & Margaret Dewey

Burials

Dale Russell Ruesch

William Gordon Fox

Janet Wollaeger Powell

Diana Rickard Anderson

Elisabeth Bruce Swift

Diane Jonas Zweifel Sawyer

James William Trotter

David Edmund Mason

Phillip "Pete" Boynton Bowman

William Pudney Hall



Life in Our Community



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Chip Herndon

Rectory

This past year was the year of the Rectory as we look forward to calling a new Rector. Much has been accomplished and improvements made to the Rectory.

Many of you have had the opportunity to see the before and after and all the work that has been done. The Rectory is now a warm and inviting place for our new Rector.

In the first week of 2023, we discovered a broken pipe in a bathroom on the second floor of the Rectory. Water had been running throughout the house for multiple days, ruining much of the work that had been accomplished in 2022. As of this writing, work has begun to dry out the house. After the demolition is complete and the insurance company has assessed the damage, we will begin the work of rebuilding. We hope to have it ready for our new Rector when they arrive in the spring.

Church Building

The Church overall is in pretty good shape. A new hand rail was installed from the parish hall into the Krogman Garden for summer services, the parking lot was patched and seal coated and parking stripes redone. All the regular maintenance items were completed including regular maintenance on all the power plants. We do have an on going issue with a crack in the gas line to the rectory. Nicor is going to replace it and put the Rectory on its own meter.

We are investigating the cleaning and repair of the ceiling in the Church which would include the repainting of the ceiling. This would likely happen in the summer of 2023 as the pews will likely have to be removed... more news on that to come.

Grounds

We continue to have issues with diseased trees which has resulted in additional removals. Other than that the grounds are in good shape. The sprinkler system was expanded to cover the plantings around the sign at the corner of Willow and Sunset Ridge roads. If you should care to make a donation to replanting any of the lost trees please contact a vestry member or Glen Tracy.

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Caryl Medsker

January

Wednesday Refresh
Wiggle Zoom
Commissioning of the Rector Search
Committee
Annual Parish Meeting

February

Confirmation Service Project –
Painting the Basement

March

Ashes to Go
Joint Ash Wednesday Worship with
Ascension Lutheran
Confirmation Retreat
Respite Week

April

Palm Cross Making
Stations for Kids
Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

May

Dedication of Needlepoint Kneelers
Madagascar Sunday and Kick-off of
Education for Toliara

June

Confirmation at St. James Cathedral
Beatles Mass

July

Communion Instruction &
Celebration for Children

August

Blessing of the Shed and Parish Picnic
Backpack Blessing

September

Sealcoating the Parking Lot
Ordination & Consecration of Paula
Clark
Confirmation Retreat

October

Soul Mass
Trunk or Treat

November

Blessing of the Quilts
Diocesan Convention

December

ReVive Christmas Baskets
Lessons and Carols
Christmas Pageant

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chip Herndon

We have reached the end of the three year transformation project. The garden is just now starting to show its true colors. In another year or two it will be a wonder to behold, as it takes several years for the wild flowers to seed and bloom. All of the buckthorn on the Garden property has been removed, and with regular maintenance should not return.

We still have areas to add Memorial Planting for anyone who has interest. Please contact one of the Churchyard Trustees who are Glen Tracy, Katie Synek, Hope Martin, and Chip Herndon.

PASTORAL CARE

Colleen Schipfer

Pastoral Care provides spiritual nourishment to members of the congregation who are in need, especially those who are not able to attend church due to physical issues. During the pandemic, pastoral care has been able to pivot to other methods of delivery such as phone calls and cards. When the pandemic eases, pastoral care givers have been able to see some parishioners, bringing the eucharist or visiting. In late 2022, we restarted our Good Samaritans ministry, providing, meals, rides, grocery shopping and emergency babysitting to parishioners in need of help.

STEWARDSHIP

John Stevens

In this year of change, parishioners have again responded generously to the financial needs of our church community. Our thanks and gratitude go out to everyone who participated. Based on active pledges and additional donations, we exceeded our budget for the year by 4% with \$402,000 contributed to the General Fund campaign from 84 parishioners out of a total of 110 households currently in our membership files. The average pledge donation of \$4,785 was an increase of 2% from the prior year. The average rate of participation was 76%.

This support of the General Fund pledge campaign, which accounts for 90% of our total revenue, provided our parish with the means to continue its vibrant mission. Other forms of giving, such as grants and special offerings, were below the budget plan. Despite the favorable pledge results, we ended 2022 with a deficit as total expenses and commitments exceeded our income by \$19,300.

Our stewardship theme for 2023 is “Ready – Set - Go”. We want to prepare the way for a new Rector with a full parish campaign. The Pledge Brochure and Card were mailed to 110 households in January. Our Ingathering Sunday is February 19. We encourage pledges at that time to assist the Vestry as it plans for this new year. We also welcome supplemental pledges and donations throughout the year.

As may be seen in the 2023 Budget Plan, our forecast for pledge income is \$400,000. Other sources of income are projected to be at the same levels as 2022. However, operating expenses are continuing to increase in 2023, and we are projecting a larger deficit. As a result, we are setting our 2023 General Fund campaign goal at \$425,000. This will be a year of challenge as there is the need to both increase the average pledge from recurring donors and attain 100% participation from all parishioners.

In the event you have any questions about the parish financial position or the General Fund pledge campaign, please contact a Warden, a member of the Stewardship Committee (John Stevens and Nancy Whiteman) or a member of the Finance Committee (Hope Martin, Colleen Schipfer, Chip Herndon, Mary Saunders, Karie Smith, Don Whiteman, Dan Griggs, and John Stevens.)



Being the Hands and Feet of Christ



A JUST HARVEST

Karie Smith

St. James the Less has been providing meals for those in need for 30 years, originally at The Good News Kitchen and ultimately A Just Harvest. In the 1990s, SJTL provided about 4-5 dinners per year. Around 2000, we began providing twelve meals each year, on the first Tuesday of each month. In order to provide meals in a safe manner during the pandemic, A Just Harvest has moved to providing daily take-and-go lunch meals for those neighbors in need. Mid-year 2022 A Just Harvest attempted to move back to its historical practice of hosting dinners in its kitchen but a surge in Covid infection rates caused A Just Harvest to return to providing take-out lunches. Throughout 2022, SJTL has provided financial support for the take-out lunch on the first Tuesday of each month.

Looking forward to 2023, we are hopeful that there will be opportunities for more hands-on involvement and service at A Just Harvest. In the meantime, we remain steadfast in our support of A Just Harvest's mission of feeding those in need.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Betsy Tracy

St James the Less was assigned 24 seniors and families to sponsor for December 2022. We again used the Sign-up Genius platform to communicate and share information, and for the parishioners to sign-up for adopting a ReVive senior or family. Caryl Medsker was most helpful in putting family and senior codes and basic information and wish list requests on church account of Sign-up Genius.

Saturday December 3rd was pick up day by ReVive Center. Cindy Lund and three kids from the Confirmation class, Charlotte Berry, Liam Madden, and Maddy Chapman, enthusiastically loaded 41 boxes onto the truck headed for the ReVive Center in Chicago. 2022 was a successful year bringing joy and warm wishes to 24 ReVive families and seniors.

COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN

Selima Hargadon, Sandy Ritterson & Cathy Thomas

The St. James the Less Community Garden started off the season by wishing a fond farewell to the voice of lead Garden cheerleader and parish member Tim Clark, who moved out of state to be closer to family. Tim passed the Garden communication duties baton to Selima Hargadon, a SJTL Community gardener since the 2019 season. The Garden continued to flourish despite Tim's absence. Highlights include:

- The SJTL gardeners provided Northfield Community Food Bank with fresh produce 1-2 times a week harvested from the designated "Pantry" plots and individual plot holder donations of their excess produce. Donations included tomatoes of various sizes and colors, cucumbers, three varieties of eggplants, lettuces and herbs, sweet and always popular hot peppers, a variety of large and bulb onions, as well as garlic. The blueberry bushes produced a respectable yield, as well as the apple and pear trees.
- The Garden hosted 18 gardeners, one of whom was new to the community.
- Other outside volunteers contributed to the success of the Garden including students from Glenbrook North led by parishioner and gardener, Christi Rose.
- The Garden Shed was blessed mid-year, and provided shelter to not only the shared Garden tools and supplies throughout the year, but also provided space to cure the Garden's garlic before sending it along to the Northfield pantry.
- Gardeners continued to enjoy each other's company by sharing growing tips, recipes for abundant yields (tomatoes and zucchini anyone?), as well as family celebrations and milestones: a continued welcome relief to another long pandemic winter.

Many thanks to the gardeners, St. James the Less leadership and parishioners who have supported and visited the Community Garden throughout 2022.

MADAGASCAR

Simon & Sue Babbs

An agreement was prepared in 2020 to link St James the Less with the Parish of Amboasary in the Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar. Finalization of the agreement was delayed by the pandemic until shortly before Rev Senuta left in 2022. A splendid video about this agreement is on our website and on the Diocese of Toliara's webpage for Amboasary.

Our link parish prays for us in their (very) early morning prayers. We pray for them regularly in Sunday services, and distributed a card to assist individual members of St James the Less to pray for our link parish each evening.

2022 was an eventful year for our link parish. Deacon Antsa was ordained Priest, and she and her husband Liva and their son Joy celebrated the birth of Nathan. Evangelist Alfredino was ordained Deacon. In December, Antsa founded a new church in the village of Sampona, after villagers walked over 8 hours roundtrip to request this.

In spring of 2022, we launched an Education for Toliara program. Over 60 of us are involved, sponsoring children in our link parish to attend private schools (\$300 per child for the whole year), or funding a pilot program to assist children attending a public school. Initially, the pilot program aimed to provide school supplies and uniforms for children of church families (\$30 per child). Because of a government monopoly on the uniforms, the pilot was amended, and school supplies, a backpack, and a t-shirt, were given to every one of the 296 children attending that school, with some textbooks for the teachers. This makes a wonderful contribution to help an area which had been hard-hit by drought and famine.

In 2022, \$5,000 of Outreach funds were sent to support the Diocese of Toliara and Days for Girls.

A number of parishioners intend to travel to Madagascar in 2023, visiting our link parish, and meeting the children whose education we are supporting. Some of those traveling will need help with the costs of this trip, and all will need support in prayer.

Annual Meeting Minutes & Financial Statements



PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy, Wardens, Vestry & Staff

2022 Vestry Officers

The Rev. Daphne Cody,
Interim Rector
Hope Martin, Senior Warden
Colleen Schipfer, Junior Warden
Mary Saunders, Treasurer
Tom Frey, Assistant Treasurer
Maureen Burke, Clerk

2022 Vestry Members

Dan Deuble
Dorothy Generes
Brian Guinte
Janice Herndon
Judy Lefferdink
Heather Mages
Oksanna Malan

2022 Diocesan Convention Delegates

Chip Herndon
Hope Martin
Colleen Schipfer

2022 Parish Staff

The Rev. Daphne Cody,
Interim Rector
Josh Langhoff, Director of Music
Ministries
Cindy Lund, Director of Children
and Youth Ministries
Maddie Shearer & Samantha
Worobey, Nursery
Coordinators
Caryl Medsker, Parish Administrator
& Communications
Coordinator
Bob Rizzo, Bookkeeper

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL GATHERING

January 30, 2022 – Judy Lefferdink

Interim Reverend Daphne Cody called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM in the church and the parish hall with physical distancing and livestreamed but not recorded. She led with an opening prayer and appointed Judy Lefferdink as the Clerk.

The minutes of the Annual “Gathering” on Zoom, January 31, 2021 were approved with a move by Mike Mills and seconded by Chip Herndon and the Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020 were ratified with a move from Jan Herndon and seconded by David Mason.

Daphne listed the Vestry’s nominations to be voted on later: Hope Martin, Senior Warden, Colleen Schipfer, Junior Warden, and members Brian Guintier, Janice Herndon, Judy Lefferdink, Heather Mages, Oksanna Malan, Dorothy Generes, and Dan Deuble. There were no nominations from the floor.

Senior Warden, Dane Cleven reviewed the challenges of his past two years with the pandemic in 2020 and the rector Lisa Senuta moving to Kansas to continue her mission in 2021 that presented added challenges. The vestry and the wardens found supply clergy with Tommy Rogers and others, looked and hired an interim rector, and created a search committee to find a new rector. He thanked Lisa for her leadership during the pandemic, the teamwork with Hope Martin, Junior Warden, the Vestry, the Staff, and all the volunteers that helped in so many ways to keep the Church going. He announced the Search Committee for a new rector : Tim Clark, Sandra Dold, Jeff Kivetz, Marty Lauber, Nancy Morr, Anita Ruesch, and Katie Synek. Daphne presented Dane with a gift thanking him for his leadership and his care for the people of St. James the Less.

Mary Saunders, Treasurer, reviewed the Vestry Financial Summary in the 2021 Annual Report noting that pledge income was over budget and summarizing that the 2021 YTD income is \$446,116 while the expenses were \$436,506 leaving an overage of \$9,613 to be added to the 2022 year to help provide funds for the Rector search. This year the church office will undergo a financial review to show the financial strength of St. James the Less to our incoming Rector. She reviewed the Statement of Financial Position that reveals an increase in assets with a total of \$4,606,760 assets with liabilities of \$114, 993 for a net assets total of \$4,491,775 for 2021. Parish Endowments also increased in 2021. In the second quarter of the year, a gift in the amount of \$99,579.90 was received from the estate of Bill and Ann Hall and these funds are currently invested as there are no immediate plans for their use.

John Stevens “kicked off” the 2022 Stewardship campaign by reviewing the brochure and pledge card mailed out to all parishioners with the message of this year’s campaign – ‘Sharing and Caring’ and urged all parishioners to consider increasing their pledge as increased expenses are expected as we search for a new rector.

Elections of Wardens and Vestry were done by voice authorization. The entire slate was elected unanimously and congratulated. Daphne thanked retiring Vestry members Christoph Ritterson and Anita Ruesch. Christoph was thanked for his contributions on the Vestry and presented him with a gift of thanks. Anita was not able to attend the meeting so will be thanked with her gift and recognition at a future time.

Daphne urged the parishioners to “Be of Good Courage” and focus on finding a new rector stating that St. James the Less is strong, with talented resources, and good strong relationships and financials.

Daphne led a prayer for the Faithful Departed in 2021 including Nancy Mary Brown Armstrong, Wesley Lamar Betsill, Elizabeth T. Dilling, Robert John Edwards, Molly Leachman Green, William Hall, Taylor Jameson Hills, Gail Diane Kotin, Margaret Krasberg Mason, Caren Leigh Reed, and James Trotter.

Mike Mills moved and Jeanne Scully seconded, and all were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 11:42 AM.

PARISH ENDOWMENTS

Mary Saunders

	<u>2022 Total</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>
Churchyard Endowment	\$74,469	\$86,108
General Endowment	\$647,958	\$807,296
Outreach Endowment	\$69,169	\$83,050
Music Endowment	\$20,536	\$24,268

Results reported are as of 12/31/2022 and 12/31/2021, respectively.

Since March 2010, all of the above endowments have been invested in the Diocesan Foundation. The Diocesan Foundation, also referred to as the Common Fund, is a collective investment vehicle currently serving diocesan investors. It is administered by the office of the Diocesan Treasurer according to the Foundation's By-Laws. At the end of 2021, its net asset value topped \$36 million. Although the final quarter of 2022 showed a hopeful increase in Unit Value, over the period from 2021 year-end to 2022 year-end, Unit Value decreased from \$74.91 to \$62.39. The all-in total expense ratio in 2022 (including Vanguard, accounting, audit, and management fees) remained at less than 9 basis points.

During calendar year 2022, St. James the Less received dividends in the amount of \$17,419.17 from the Endowment investments. (\$14,440.54 from the General Endowment, \$439.63 from the Music Endowment, and \$2,539.00 from the Outreach Endowment.) Dividends from the General and Music Endowments are applied to Investment Income in the Operating Budget; dividends from the Outreach Endowment are applied to Outreach Income.

Additions:

No additions to the Endowments were made in 2022.

Redemptions:

In the second quarter we redeemed \$35,000.00 in order to undertake a Rectory Update Project in anticipation of calling a new rector in 2023. These funds were part of the bequest which we had received from the estate of Bill and Ann Hall after Bill passed away in December of 2020.

VESTRY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022 Budget & Actual – 2023 Budget

	2022 Budget	12/31/22 2021 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
INCOME			
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,215	\$ 10,000
Pledge Income	385,000	395,996	400,000
Thank Offerings	20,000	5,480	10,000
Special Grants	8,000	100	2,000
Church School Grant	4,000	4,000	1,836
Open Plate	5,000	4,150	5,000
Easter & Christmas Fund	5,000	3,558	4,000
Investment Income	13,000	14,021	14,500
Rent and Misc. Income	2,500	3,114	2,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 454,500	\$ 445,634	\$ 449,836
EXPENSES			
Clergy	\$ 126,400	\$ 124,766	\$ 116,688
Church Office	90,025	75,262	92,400
Buildings & Grounds	93,950	117,439	111,900
Music & Worship	66,400	66,469	70,950
Benevolence	45,500	45,300	41,500
Children & Youth Ministry	30,125	31,164	20,800
Parish Life	26,800	4,581	22,436
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 479,200	\$ 464,980	\$ 476,674
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ (24,700)	\$ (19,346)	\$ (26,838)
Reserves brought forward	\$ 59,160	\$ 59,160	\$ 39,814
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD	\$ 34,460	\$ 39,814	\$ 12,976

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

2022 and 2021

	End-2022 (Final)			End-2021 (Final)		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and Cash Equivalents						
Operating	\$ 21,161		\$ 21,161	\$ 58,061		\$ 58,061
Plant Replacement		3,018	3,018		3,017	3,017
Churchyard		7,378	7,378		30,455	30,455
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 21,161	\$ 10,395	\$ 31,556	\$ 58,061	\$ 33,472	\$ 91,532
Investments						
Operating Savings	\$ 48,917		\$ 48,917	\$ 37,532		\$ 37,532
General Investment*		39,369	39,369		45,523	45,523
Plant Replacement		41,293	41,293		47,747	47,747
Outreach Endowment		69,169	69,169		83,050	83,050
Music Endowment		20,536	20,536		24,268	24,268
General Endowment		647,958	647,958		807,296	807,296
Churchyard Endowment		74,469	74,469		86,108	86,108
Total Investments	\$ 48,917	\$ 892,795	\$ 941,712	\$ 37,532	\$ 1,093,991	\$ 1,131,523
2016 Capital Campaign		14,678	14,678		15,472	15,472
Other Dedicated Accounts		38,024	38,024		60,040	60,040
Land, Buildings, Equipment	3,229,591		3,229,591	3,229,591		3,229,591
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,299,669	\$ 955,892	\$ 4,255,561	\$ 3,325,184	\$ 1,202,974	\$ 4,528,159
LIABILITIES						
Prepaid Pledge Balance	33,669		33,669	39,841		39,841
Due to Dedicated Accounts		52,702	52,702		75,512	75,512
TOTAL LIABILITIES	33,669	52,702	86,371	39,841	75,512	115,353
NET ASSETS	3,266,000	903,190	4,169,190	3,285,343	1,127,463	4,412,806
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,299,669	\$ 955,892	\$ 4,255,561	\$ 3,325,184	\$ 1,202,974	\$ 4,528,159

* Funds accrued for Rector Sabbatical



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