



The Episcopal Church of  
St. James the Less

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# A YEAR AT ST. JAMES THE LESS

## 2021 Annual Reports



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# REPORT OF THE INTERIM RECTOR

Rev. Daphne Cody

After the Rev. Lisa Senuta's departure in July 2021, the wardens Dane Cleven and Hope Martin served as ecclesiastical authority for St. James the Less. They employed several supply clergy, including Tommy Rogers, Suzy Holding, and Clayton Thomason during the months of August, September, and October to provide Sunday morning worship outdoors. Much credit goes to the church staff Josh Langhoff, Cindy Lund, and Caryl Medsker for carrying on the regular operations of the church with aplomb during the time between full-time priests.



I entered into conversation with the wardens in August 2021 and began as Interim Rector on October 16. My main focus during October and November was meeting staff, wardens, and vestry, program leaders, and, where appropriate, their families. Many of these meetings were masked and socially distanced in people's homes. Other meetings were on Zoom. My main goal was to hear people's stories of their own coming into the congregation, and to hear about what challenges and opportunities they recognize during this rector transition.

Besides meeting 1-1 with parishioners, I've also made it a point to connect with various groups such as the Confirmation Class, the Sunday School children, and the Madagascar ministry, and taken a tour of the Community Garden, enjoyed the Trunk or Treat event, and participated in some masked and physically distanced social gatherings. Two of those were organized specially for me to get to know people! Since I arrived at St. James the Less, I've met weekly with Staff, and weekly with Wardens, written rector messages at least weekly for electronic communications, and taken on the God First Friday Bible Study program.

During the fall season, there were a lot of reconnecting events for the deanery and diocese at this point in the pandemic. I am regularly attending Diocesan Fresh Start meetings, Evanston Deanery Clergy gatherings, and Northfield ecumenical meetings. For our diocese in particular, these connections are quite important: our Bishop-elect continues her recovery from a brain bleed, and uncertainty at that level of leadership tries us all.

Unfortunately, some other uncertainty still revolves around the changing safety protocols during the public health crisis worldwide. I continue to do my best to make decisions and to communicate them well to the congregation about the measures we are taking in the parish.

It's been my great pleasure to assume the responsibility of overseeing Cindy Lund's seminary fieldwork, which involves weekly meetings with her for reflection, goal-setting, evaluation, and coaching. Meanwhile, after a period of discernment at the parish level, she is continuing in the diocesan process of discernment for a call to the priesthood, for which I will now be her sponsoring (interim) rector.

In my role as interim minister, I meet monthly with the Rev. Andrea Mysen, Transition Coordinator on the bishop's staff, in order to maximize my usefulness to the parish. In the month of December, I began working with the wardens and vestry regarding the formation of a Rector Search Committee.

I feel blessed to have been called to serve among you in this capacity, and I look forward to learning and growing with you during the coming year 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daphne +".

The Rev. Daphne C. Cody, Interim Rector

# REPORT OF THE WARDENS

Dane Cleven & Hope Martin

2021 was a year that kept us busy as Wardens. We served a second consecutive year in our roles as Sr. Warden (Dane Cleven) and Jr. Warden (Hope Martin). Serving a second year in these positions was in accordance with recommendations from the Chicago Diocese. In addition, pursuant to Diocesan recommendations, St. James the Less “froze” its Vestry in early 2021, and all Vestry members extended their terms for one year. Instead of holding its customary annual meeting last winter, the church held an annual gathering to go over reports and finances. The 2022 annual meeting will be the first such meeting held since 2020.



The COVID 19 pandemic continued to have an impact on most everything that the Vestry and church did during the year. The Vestry’s goal was to provide church members with as normal of a church experience as possible, but in a way that would keep people safe and that would keep St. James the Less from being a venue where the virus was spread. As we dealt with the Delta and Omicron variants, as well as with the COVID original virus, the Vestry mostly met via Zoom, though several in person meetings were held. Sunday services were held outdoors as much as the weather would permit, and when held indoors social distancing and masking were required. The outdoor services required a lot of work from volunteers and from Josh and the music department to the courtyard for worship. All church services were streamed over the internet so they could be viewed from home or wherever. The streamed services could be viewed live or at a later time or date. Many last minute decisions about services had to be made from time to time, and the staff, volunteers and Parishioners adjusted very well to changes in plans. The patience and cooperation of all of our members, staff and volunteers was most appreciated and helpful.



Detailed elsewhere in this annual report are summaries of the activities of members of St. James the Less. Though the pandemic often affected how outreach activities were held, church staff and volunteers followed through in helping meet the needs of the community at large through their outreach ministries. In addition, the church properties were maintained and kept open as was possible from time to time. Many improvements were made to our grounds and to the memorial garden. One particular item of note that was completed in 2021 was the construction of the storage shed near the community garden. This project involved our attention and the efforts of many people, and it took literally years to complete. There were permit issues, lot consolidation issues, notice to neighbors, drainage issues, gravel road grading issues and a few other issues. It is now finished and available for use by our gardeners, including those who grow the vegetables that St. James the Less donates to the Northfield Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone who was a part of this project.

The largest issue we faced as Wardens and as a Vestry in 2021 was the resignation of our former Rector, Rev. Lisa Senuta. After nearly 10 years as Rector of St. James the Less, Lisa decided to pursue her ministry in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Kansas City. Both Lisa and her husband Chad accepted positions in the Diocese there. Her last Sunday at St. James the Less was July 18. We are most appreciative of Lisa's leadership during our terms as Sr. and Jr. Wardens and for helping set the tone for church life during the pandemic. This tone was to keep the church functioning as normal as possible, and to try new ways to accomplish our goals as we adapted to current circumstances. Once Lisa left, St. James the Less was served by a number of "supply clergy," a somewhat bland term for clergy who lead Sunday worship services on an as needed basis. Though we had a number of supply clergy whose help was most appreciated, Rev. Tommy Rogers of Bishop Anderson House did most of the supply clergy work. His service was very helpful to us as Wardens and helped keep the church functioning when we were without a Rector.

It took a while- everything in this interim period has seemed to take a while and take longer than anticipated or planned, but in the fall the Vestry hired Rev. Daphne Cody to serve as Interim Rector at St. James the Less. She will serve until a new permanent Rector is identified. Daphne has much experience in the Diocese of Chicago. Among other things she has served as a Rector of a nearby church, and she has been trained to serve as an Interim Rector and has served in that capacity in the past. She has fit in very well with our congregation and it seems she has been here for a long time. We are very pleased to have her on board during this interim period, and we are confident her time at St. James the Less will serve us well.

As of this writing the Vestry is in the process of forming a Search Committee to conduct a search for our new Permanent Rector. The search process is expected to take most of this year. The Diocese has specific steps it recommends churches and search committees follow in the search process. We appreciate everyone's input and patience as we have gone about the task of forming the committee. Daphne has been very helpful in this process, though going forward her role will be as Rector of the church. She will not actively participate in the search activities. The committee will be advised by Rev. Andrea Mysen who is in charge of transition ministries at the Diocese.

2021 was quite a year in many respects, and the last two years as we have served as Sr. and Jr. Wardens generally have not gone as we had expected. Life was much more uncertain than any of us are accustomed to. Serving as Wardens of St. James the Less during these unusual times, however, has been a privilege for us. We are very thankful for the confidence you put in us, and we are very thankful for all of the support we and the Vestry have received from the Parish. We also are very appreciative of all of the efforts of the staff and members of St. James the Less who kept things going during these unusual times. Helping St. James the Less pursue its mission in 2021 was a group effort that involved the dedication of many individuals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dane H. Cleven  
Sr. Warden

Hope M. Martin  
Jr. Warden

*A personal note:*

*I have worked with your Wardens for 2022, Hope Martin and Colleen Schipfer, in a number of capacities through the years. Both are very capable individuals and both have helped me out on many, many occasions. They bring a lot of enthusiasm and many skills to their positions. With Hope and Colleen as Wardens, and with Daphne Cody as Interim Rector and with our new Vestry and our dedicated staff, St. James the Less will be in very good hands in 2022. We are blessed to have them as our leaders.*

Sincerely,

Dane H. Cleven

# REPORT OF THE SEMINARIAN

Cindy Rigali Lund

It has been a gift to be a Seminarian at St. James the Less and look forward to continuing the journey together! 2021 brought with it challenges (the pandemic) and gifts (amazing Rectors & Vestry to work with). In addition to creating and delivering sermons from home (for recorded or livestream) and in person, I had the opportunity to provide pastoral care; facilitate God First Fridays and Lenten Spirituality groups; and engage with many parishioners on a variety of topics for my research. Over the year I connected with different parishioners to ask questions such as, “Who is the historical Jesus?” or, “Have you ever been part of a call process?” The answers to these questions were directly applicable to my coursework at Garrett which is all part of the bigger ordination process—hands-on experience as well as pursuing a Masters of Divinity.



In 2021, I also had the pleasure of working with a vibrant committee of parishioners that provided ongoing feedback about my capabilities as Director of Children & Youth. Their honest critiques and feedback gifted me with an incubator of ideas—ways to improve and provide optimal spiritual programming for our families and kids at St. James the Less. Special thanks to Denny Scully, Christi Rose, Meg Hayes and Marilee McGowan for taking time to attend our evening meetings.

Finally, 2021 ushered in a whole new experience of letting go of one Rector and bearing witness to the Episcopal process of calling an Interim Rector. It has been a treasure to study under both Reverends Lisa Senuta and Daphne Cody. With both Rectors, we were able to meet a few times each month to wrestle with theological concepts and how they related to my roles as Seminarian and Director of Children and Youth. I was also grateful for the opportunity to shadow both of them in the areas of funeral planning, worship preparation and running Deanery meetings—all (God willing) part of my own future one day. Truly an Amen!



# Worshiping Together



# REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joshua Langhoff

If 2020 was a year of learning how to worship in a pandemic, 2021 was a year for refining that knowledge and learning how to stay flexible. Our worship ran the gamut from Sundays that almost seemed “normal” to weeks when the looming worldwide presence of COVID-19 was impossible to forget. Through it all, God’s presence loomed even larger and equipped us to offer our praise and thanksgiving, no matter what COVID was doing.

As I mentioned last year, St. James the Less is blessed with a stockpile of audio/visual equipment that proved useful when we started livestreaming. As 2021 began, we continued streaming worship from the sanctuary. Video assistant Zach Langhoff and I have refined our methods over time – although we still have room for improvement! – and learned how to incorporate singers, guitars, and the sanctuary piano into the mix.



As Lent began, I discovered some video editing software on an old personal computer. Using the church’s camcorder, I recorded a [five-part series](#) on African-American hymnody for the parish YouTube channel. Area musicians Andre Pipes and Darryl Purvis enlivened these videos with their talent and wisdom, and I learned a great deal about songs like “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and the vibrant world of Chicago gospel music.

Members of the choir continued to step outside their comfort zones by recording virtual choir anthems. These painstakingly produced pieces had two (and only two) advantages over live choral singing. For one thing, we could sing complicated, multi-part works that would otherwise have demanded more singers than we usually have available.

Modern choral standards like Arvo Pärt’s “Magnificat” and Ola Gjeilo’s “The Ground” would have been hard for our small choir to sing live. But with singers recording multiple parts, the recordings turned out beautifully. Thanks also to Betsy Kivetz and Danny Malan for recording “The Ground”’s string parts.

The second advantage is now that we have these recordings, we can play them whenever we need them. This past January 16 the choir was on a COVID-related hiatus, but the parish was still able to worship with their recording of “Every Time I Feel the Spirit.”

I was pleased that so many of the local musicians we've befriended were able to return. For Lent, cellist Patrycja Likos and her sister, violinist Agnieszka, led worship with beautiful playing and descants they often invented on the spot. Trumpeter Sharon Stine and her brass-playing associates came back for Easter and other services throughout the year. Several singers, including former choral scholar Carson Koy, returned to help lead funerals and Advent/Christmas services.

Our building has resumed hosting outside musical events. Judy Maritato's ukulele group began using the parish hall for rehearsals and graced our annual cookie exchange with some wonderful Hawaiian Christmas music. And local music teachers Christopher Laughlin and Scott Emerick, who teaches the Smith brothers, were able to hold recitals in our sanctuary.

One especially exciting group of guest musicians was the St. James the Less Fab Four, who led an outdoor Beatles Mass on May 16 after a year's hiatus. Besides their excellent musicianship, they were extremely helpful with setting up the sound equipment, and they developed a good rapport with Zach as he balanced three different sound mixes for the in-person audience, the livestream audience, and the musicians themselves.

As COVID numbers plunged and temperatures rose, we were able to worship outside more and resume singing. I admit that on June 27, when we finally included the hymn "Praise To the Lord, the Almighty" along with the bulletin instruction "All may sing," I became too emotional to follow the directions. To paraphrase Psalm 133, how good and pleasant it is to sing together in unity!

For the most part, we've continued with in-person singing and choir rehearsals. We now use roomier masks specially designed for singing, and we require that all choir members be vaccinated against the coronavirus. When necessary, singers can attend Thursday night rehearsals by Zoom. Choral scholar Laura Marshall, a senior at North Shore Country Day, has been a welcome presence in the soprano section.

Our music program is blessed with willing and talented volunteers, and we could always use more! We practice Thursday nights at 7 in the sanctuary or on Zoom. I hope that if you've considered singing with the choir, the safeguards we've put in place and the sheer joy of communal singing will make the prospect irresistible to you.

As audio/visual equipment becomes even more essential to our parish worship life, I hope to convene a team of "digital acolytes." Several parish members have already run the Sunday morning livestream in Zach's place, and I'm pretty sure they enjoyed it. If you'd like to receive training on that and other digital tasks – how to broadcast a camera feed in the parish hall, for instance, or how to balance the sound in the sanctuary – please let me know. I hope to schedule a group meeting in the coming weeks.

Last year contained plenty of uncertainty, and I never felt like we could just settle into a comfortable worship routine. But I'm guessing that's for the best. After all, the world never settles, and therefore *the truth of God revealed in the world* never settles. God is always doing new things in our lives. On some (hopelessly optimistic?) level it makes sense that we should continually worship God in new ways. Amid all the pain of the pandemic, worshiping with you this year gave me many glimpses of God's beauty and joy. I hope you felt the same.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Cindy Rigali Lund

In a twisty, turvy year of COVID, our children and youth of St. James the Less, rallied together for the sake of one another, the greater community and most importantly, God. From Zoom Youth groups, to launching a new, socially distanced Sunday school curriculum, 2021 was chock-full of getting creative when it comes to connecting with God.

This year we implemented programs that were outdoors as much as possible to ensure a safer way to gather. Some of these activities included Mini-golf for our youth; Rise Up Lenten stations around the SJTL campus; fire pit youth meetings resplendent with s'mores; our beloved Beatles mass; Confirmation classes that congregated in the courtyard; the children's Easter egg hunt; our second annual Trunk or Treat; and Sermon Story time under Peter's Tree. When the weather was too cold to be outside, we delivered Holy Week-in-a-Bag during Easter season and our Confirmation teens dropped off Revive Baskets as their Advent service project.

In 2021, our Mother-Daughter Tea was reimagined so that guests could sip their refreshments through their masks! Instead of our traditional, hot tea service that would not be very mask-friendly, we introduced Bubble Tea—a sweetened, creamy, cold tea that has tapioca pearls at the bottom and is sipped through an extra-wide straw. Our guest speaker,



Dr. Marla Thompson-Kendall, “Spilled the Tea” on being girls and women of faith as it relates to diversity and loving one another.

The pandemic did not deter our specialized programming for our different age groups: Our youngest ones enjoyed Sermon Story Time, Stations of the Cross, Drop-In Sunday School and our beloved, in-person Christmas pageant! Our “middles” (ages 8-12) engaged in age-specific Bible study and crafts with the assistance of our ace-in-the-hole-volunteer, Maureen Burke! Our teens were busy with activities that included a hands-on Easter puzzle, a sweet farewell party for Mabel & Bethany Senuta, and pitching in at the Lobster sale! New this year, the teens also implemented an online cookie & gift-wrap fundraiser for our Madagascar friends. Both groups of middles and teens also engaged in an Acolyte training this summer where we enjoyed donuts and walked through duties with our top teachers, Phil Montross and Chip Herndon.

Although Confirmation was delayed due to COVID and the Bishop transition, we continued to move forward and forge on. Our six 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> graders have been gathering outdoors and indoors each month since April. Our very special mentors have been patient, consistent and exemplary men and women of faith as we learned about our Episcopal tradition and wrestled with questions about God. We will be wrapping up our time together in 2022 and look forward to a Confirmation celebration in April/May of this year! (New class for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin as well!)

Implicit in all of our programming, was a consistent message that the children and youth of St. James the Less were supported by a loving God through thick and thin—perhaps the most important message for a pandemic! In 2021, we worked tirelessly to ensure that in addition to having fun, the kids knew deep down that they were and are God’s beloved. Our hope was that St. James the Less provided the safe place to explore faith and feel deeply loved by God.

# BEING A LITURGICAL CHURCH

## The Sacraments in Action

### **Baptism**

Amelia Marie Gallagher

Brian Royston Donnelly

Arden Joan Donnelly

Eloise Katherine Donnelly

Royston Russell Donnelly

### **Funerals**

Nancy Mary Brown Armstrong

Wesley Lamar Betsill

Elizabeth Dilling

Robert John Edwards

Molly Leachman Green

Taylor Jameson Hills

Gail Diane Kotin

Margaret Krasberg Mason

Caren Leigh Reed



# Life in Our Community



# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Chip Herndon

2021 proved to be a challenging year. We had a tough winter that produced ice dams on the church roof that resulted in considerable damage to the interior of the building. Repairs were required to the kitchen, men's room, and Sacristy, as well as the Parish Hall. With the help of Mary Saunders, Nancy Morr and Hope Martin, these were all completed. They included but are not limited to:

- New light fixtures and fresh paint in the kitchen,
- New light fixtures and fresh paint in the men's room,
- Fresh paint in the ladies' room.
- New cabinets, countertop, sink, and floors in the Sacristy.
- New light fixtures and fresh paint in the Parish Hall.

Annual maintenance work such as flushing the sprinkler system and back flow check, carpet cleaning, gutter cleaning etc. were all completed. Annual furnace checks and AC checks were also completed.

Regarding the grounds, we had to take down several trees we had been trying to save from the emerald ash borer, and there are likely several more that will need to come down next year. The cost of trying to save them out weighed the cost of replacing them.

We installed a new runner down the center aisle of the sanctuary, and replaced the carpet going up to the loft. We cleaned and polished the Narthex floor. After all the work was completed in the parish hall we had the carpets cleaned. The carpets in the parish hall and the offices are on their last legs and I was told they can't handle many more cleanings.

## **The Rectory**

The Rectory needs a lot of work before we call a new Rector. We have some minor electric issues that are out of code and need to be addressed. We have lighting issues in the kitchen, living room and all the bedrooms, and the bathrooms need a major update.

This is the time to do this work while no one is living in the house. This is a house on the North Shore and should present itself as such.

# LOBSTER SALE

Cory & Colleen Schipfer

Cory and I volunteered to head the Lobster Sale this year, and we hit the ground running in early August, as the sale date was September 25. Our committee members included: Tim Clark, Allen Smith, Jeff Kivetz, Christoph Ritterson, Tom Lund, Cindy Lund and John White. We were lucky to have great advice from last year's committee members. This year with the help of Bob Rizzo and Mary Saunders we went to all credit card ordering via Realm. Caryl Medsker was a vital part of our committee, she helped us order supplies, updated our website, changed the on line order forms to include credit card payments and was with us throughout the day of the sale. All orders went through the website. A total of 570 Lobsters were ordered, we increased our order by 30 % more for a total of 648 Lobsters, were able to sell them all. We were challenged by covid and storms along the east coast that sent lobster prices soaring at the end.

The day of the sale we did not lack for volunteers. Cindy Lund dressed up as "lobster lady" and organized the youth to put together thank you bags, as well as handing out lobsters at the sale. Many volunteers came in shifts throughout the day to help cook, wrap and deliver lobsters to cars.

Revenue	\$17,100.00	(648 Lobsters sold)
Expenses	<u>\$11,890.13</u>	(cost of lobsters and supplies/ credit card costs)
	\$ 5,219.87	Net profit used for outreach

# MEMORIAL GARDEN

Chip Herndon

It has been an exciting year in the Memorial Garden. Phase 2 is now complete. All the buckthorn on the west side has been removed, 16 loads of wood chips were dropped and spread along with 10 loads of reclaimed top soil. Additional plants were placed, and then it was top dressed with a hydro-seed wild flower mix. We have put together a program for

the donation of additional plantings that can be donated with plaques, as well as donating benches that can also be marked with plaques. The far north side of the garden (behind the wall) is designated for scattered cremains of beloved pets, with no marking or plaque.

We also installed a walking path, and with the installation of benches, will give a great spot to sit and reflect.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

**Maureen Burke**

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. Across this year, twenty-five rounds of cards which included a note as well as a reading from scripture, a prayer or the words of a hymn, were mailed, totaling approximately 675 cards. Additionally, about 240 birthday cards were sent.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**John Stevens**

In this difficult year, our parishioners have responded generously to the financial needs of our church community. Our thanks and gratitude go out to everyone. On the basis of active pledges and additional donations, we exceeded our budget goal for the year by 6% with \$401,000 committed to the campaign from 86 parishioners. The average pledge donation of \$4670 was an increase of 15% from 2020. As we finished the year, there remained approximately 5% of the pledges outstanding, which we hope will be retired early in 2022.

This outstanding support of the pledge campaign has provided our community with the means to survive a difficult year while the other forms of giving, such as grants and special offerings, were relatively stable. Our pledge income amounts to nearly 82% of our total revenue for 2021. This strong pledge support has allowed our parish to support the 2021 operating budget with a slight surplus.

Our stewardship theme for 2022 is “Caring and Sharing”. The Pledge Brochure and Card were mailed to the parish in mid January. Our Ingathering Sunday is February 13. We encourage pledges at that time to assist the Vestry as it makes plans for this new year. We also welcome supplemental pledges and donations throughout the year.

There is every reason to raise our hopes for the future of this world and our parish community. As may be seen in the 2022 Budget Plan, our pledge goal for the new year is \$385,000 and the other sources of income are projected to be slightly higher than 2021. It is our hope that pledging will again exceed this goal. We anticipate an increase in operating expenses, particularly with the search for a new rector. As a result, a small but manageable deficit is being projected. But, in the event we can exceed our pledge goal again by 6%, we can bring the annual budget into balance.

In the event you have any questions about your pledge, please contact a member of either the Vestry or the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you all for your financial support of St James the Less.





# Being the Hands and Feet of Christ



**JUST HARVEST** 18th Annual Awards Benefit & Concert - Community as Healer: We Keep Us Safe Watch later Share

Presenting the 2021  
*Winston Garnett & Mary Byrd Award*  
**FOR SERVICE**

**Episcopal Church of St. James the Less**  
Northfield, IL

**A JUST HARVEST**  
BREAKING BREAD, RESTORING COMMUNITY

Marilyn Pagán-Banks **SHINE ON**

**MORE VIDEOS**

# A JUST HARVEST

Karie Smith

SJTL 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, SJTL 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. Throughout 2021, SJTL has provided financial support for the take-out lunch on the first Tuesday of each month.

In October 2021, A Just Harvest awarded SJTL with its Service Award which was given at its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Concert Benefit. SJTL was recognized for its service to the community during the online event and Hope Martin, our Junior Warden, delivered an acceptance speech on behalf of our congregation.

Looking forward to 2022, 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

This year Susie White stepped down as Chair after many years of serving alongside Jane Deuble. We thank her for all the time and effort she put into making the Christmas Basket program here at St James the Less such a success year after year.

St James the Less was assigned 25 seniors and families to sponsor for December 2021. We again used the Sign-up Genius platform to communicate and share information, and for parishioners to sign-up for adopting a Revive senior or family. Caryl Medsker was kind enough to input family and senior codes and basic information and wish list requests on church account of Signup Genius.

Betsy was able to assign all 25 seniors and families. Two parishioners who were unable to shop donated money which allowed Betsy to shop for two of the seniors. A big thank you to Cindy Lund and the Confirmation class for taking on three ReVive families.

Our pick-up day was Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Lund, Susie White, Glen and Betsy Tracy loaded 39 boxes on to the Revive truck. Thank you again to all the St James the Less Christmas Basket elves.

## COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN

Tim Clark & Sandy Ritterson

The St James the Less Community Garden continued to prosper and grow literally and figuratively during 2021. Highlights include:

- The Northfield Community Food Bank was supported with weekly or bi-weekly produce contributions from the garden. Examples of produce included a variety of onions, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, lettuces, cabbages, peppers, both hot and mild, tomatillos, pears, apples, and herbs, including basil, Thai basil, oregano, garlic, and chives.
- Produce contributions to the food bank also came from individual plot holders.
- There were 19 individual plot holders, 3 of whom were new to the garden
- Several highlights underscore the “community” aspect of the garden. About 25% of the plot holders were non-St James the Less members. Additionally, a New Trier student chose to do her senior project in the garden under the tutelage of plot holder, Cathy Thomas. Boy Scouts from Northfield Troop 17 and a volunteer student group from Glenbrook North High School, led by parishioner and plot holder Christi Rose, contributed to our success in the garden.
- The automatic irrigation system was expanded to the raised beds at the entrance to the garden.
- The big news for 2021 was the construction of the garden shed! Many thanks to those individuals who worked so hard, navigating the local government regulations, decrees, etc. and to those responsible for the actual construction. This will make storing and separating garden-related equipment and supplies more convenient and an improvement compared to storage in the garage.

- In addition to the tangible highlights, the garden provided a real sense of community following a year of the pandemic's uncertainty, isolation, and potential threats. This took place throughout the year when fellow gardeners safely worked together to focus on others by supporting the Food Bank, when they planted or harvested their gardening endeavors, established new friendships, re-connected or just talked with one another. This was an unexpected, but welcome outcome.

Thanks to all the gardeners, St James the Less, and many others who supported the Community Garden. Without it, the land would be just a pile of dirt.

## MADAGASCAR

Simon & Sue Babbs

Early in 2020, it was agreed to link St James the Less with the Parish of Amboasary, in the Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar. The agreement was drawn up by our Vestry and the Parish Committee in Amboasary, but the pandemic delayed the signing of it here in Illinois until July 18, 2021 - Rev. Lisa Senuta's last Sunday as Rector of St James the Less.

Throughout the year, St James the Less has been very thoughtful and intentional in sending funds to help the people of southern Madagascar. \$4,000 of Outreach Funds were sent in support of the routine running expenses of the Diocese of Toliara (including paying clergy and staff salaries); a further \$1,000 was sent from Outreach Funds to the Days for Girls Enterprise in Toliara; a very successful fundraiser was held after the Beatles Mass in the spring raising a further \$12,184; other donations were also sent from individuals for famine relief and other purposes.

In March, Assistant Bishop Samitiana was elected the next Bishop of the Diocese of Toliara (succeeding Bishop Todd McGregor who has returned to the USA). Bishop Samy was consecrated Bishop on 18 April, and has led his Diocese well, seeing it grow in many ways despite the pandemic and climate-change induced famine.

Our link clergy person, Rev. Gaston, was ordained priest on November 7, 2021. St James the Less sent a further \$1,000 to enable 10 representatives from our Link Parish to attend his ordination ceremony and to have an in-parish celebration on his return. During the year the Parish of Amboasary saw over 1100 people baptized, more than 700 confirmed, and 13 new Churches established - giving Rev. Gaston 40 Churches in his care, spread over 95 miles of appalling road conditions. Clearly this was too much for one clergy

person, even with the help of Evangelists, Catechists and Student Catechists.

Thankfully, two new Deacons were ordained the same day as Rev. Gaston was ordained priest. This enabled the Diocese to make changes to its structure. The Parish of Amboasary was split into five parishes - Amboasary, Ambovombe, Avaratra, Beloha and Tsihombe. Rev. Gaston became sub-Dean of the new District of Ambovombe (encompassing four of the new parishes). Deacon Antsa is now in charge of the Parish of Amboasary (with its 9 individual Church congregations) which will remain in the District of Fort Dauphin.

After much thought, prayer and conversation, it was decided that St James the Less should remain linked with the Parish of Amboasary, even though this meant a change of our linked clergy person. The St James the Less connection with Rev. Antsa goes back to the Babbs' family visit in 2014, so it will be easy to develop this relationship.

Simon and Sue Babbs continue to be deeply involved with the [Friends of Toliara](#), which assists the Diocese in its work of international partnerships. We encourage you to [sign up for newsletters](#) for news of the Diocese in general, and also our Link Parish.





# Annual Meeting Minutes & Financial Statements



# PARISH LEADERSHIP

## Clergy, Wardens, Vestry & Staff

We decided to freeze our Vestry for the duration of the pandemic. With gratitude for the 2020 Wardens and Vestry who continued their service in 2021.

### 2021 Vestry Officers

The Rev. Lisa Senuta, Rector  
The Rev. Daphne Cody,  
Interim Rector  
Dane Cleven, Senior Warden  
Hope Martin, Junior Warden  
Mary Saunders, Treasurer  
Tom Frey, Assistant Treasurer  
Maureen Burke, Clerk

### 2021 Vestry Members

Brian Guintier  
Janice Herndon  
Judy Lefferdink  
Heather Mages  
Oksanna Malan  
Anita Ruesch  
Christoph Ritterson

### 2021 Diocesan Convention Delegates

Maureen Burke  
Chip Herndon  
Cindy Lund

### 2021 Parish Staff

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

# SUMMARY OF ANNUAL GATHERING

January 31, 2021 – Maureen Burke, Clerk of Vestry

The Reverend Lisa Senuta led an opening liturgy.

## **Toast**

Dane Cleven, Senior Warden, welcomed the attendees and offered thanks to the staff of St. James the Less. He offered a toast to all.

## **Celebration**

Vestry members offered thanks for a variety of the accomplishments for our church from the past year:

Needlepoint bi-polar polarization system	Continued Outreach donations
Live stream equipment	Christmas baskets to ReVive families
Cindy Lund, youth minister & seminarian	Youth events
Outdoor services and indoor services	Notes and cards to parishioners
Choir and singing	Lisa Senuta
Josh Langhoff	Chip Herndon
Partnership with Ambossary, Madagascar	Caryl Medsker
Success of Lobster Fest	Zach Langhoff
Halloween Trunk or Treat	Sue and Simon Babbs
New Bishop elected	Phil Montross
Christmas Eve videos	Glen Tracy

## **Preview of Meeting**

Hope Martin, Junior Warden, welcomed all to the gathering. The meeting will highlight the financial reports for the year, applaud accomplishments and review next year's goals and budget. All staff members and vestry members were acknowledged.

Dane acknowledged our sister parish of Amboasary, Madagascar, preceding the showing of a video. The video was made last Sunday during the Offertory of their service. Lisa explained that her hope is for this partnership to continue to help each of our parishes. Their parish meeting will be held on February 13 and a link will be coming for our members to be able to join them.

## **Endowment Report – Mary Saunders, Treasurer**

At the end of 2020, the amount in each endowment fund was as follows:

Churchyard Endowment	\$85,278
General Endowment	\$634,331
Outreach Endowment	\$75,389
Music Endowment	\$21,846

The endowment funds did well across 2020 mostly because the stock market has done well. The General and Music Endowments added \$12,187 to the Operating income. The overall value increased 9.8%. The Outreach Endowment increased Outreach income by \$2,173 with an 8.4% elevation in value. The Churchyard Endowment did not receive any quarterly earnings or dividends while \$15,000 was moved in the second quarter of 2020 to pay for Churchyard improvements made during the summer. The account was valued at \$6250 less than the 2019 year end value.

## **Parish Finances – Mary Saunders, Treasurer**

The Statement of Financial Position displays the overall picture for the end of the year. The Total Assets and the Total Liabilities and Net Assets have decreased \$40,591 compared to the end of 2019. This reflects spending \$31,915 from the funds of the Capital Campaign for the projects on the 500 Sunset Ridge property. Moneys were spent on the Community Food Garden that had been anticipated for several years. Outreach donations to other organizations increased which resulted in a net reduction of \$20,530 from Other Dedicated Accounts. (Please see the Outreach section in the Annual Report for further information.) A substantial increase in the dedicated investments from the previous year was noted due to the increases in the Endowment Accounts and the Investment Accounts invested at the Diocesan Foundation. The values of the land, buildings and equipment were not adjusted for the purposes of this report. In 2020, our liabilities were exclusively to ourselves in prepaid pledges for 2021, the Capital Campaign funds as well as Other Dedicated Accounts.

St. James the Less remains in a strong financial position. Pledge income remained strong and steady. Some income sources were altered due to the pandemic, such as open plate, rent and donations for use of the building and parking lot. Customary expenses including repairs continued while in-person services fluctuated. The new Church School Director position was not filled until late June. The Program Director position has been sidelined as well the replacement of the Parish Administrator. Plant Replacement expenses for repair and replacement of failed items in the church and in the rectory ran higher than budgeted. Response to the pandemic brought added expenses for video-streaming equipment and the bi-polar ionization system to improve air purification. At the end of 2020, St. James the Less arrived at 93% of the budgeted income as well as at 93% of the

budgeted expenses. There was a deficit of \$1488 in expenses with \$49,547 in reserves to carry into 2021.

### **Budget for 2021 – John Stevens, Stewardship Chair**

John thanked the parishioners who contributed to the 2020 fiscal year. The 2021 pledge campaign is in process with a new brochure and pledge card.

The Budget was established by the finance committee and approved by the Vestry. Supporting of our staff is important throughout this time. The Outreach Funds are separate from the Stewardship campaign. Buildings and Grounds and Maintenance need to continue to sustain the health of the buildings. Youth and Music programs need to continue. It is hoped that all will continue in the financial support of the church.

For 2021, \$437,500 income is anticipated. Expenses will rise slightly. Hopefully additional pledges will be received for ensuring full funding for 2021 and beyond. Increases in pledges from individuals will be welcomed.

### **Vestry Goals – 2021**

Dane and Hope shared some of the goals for 2021:

- Thank Lisa and staff for creativity and boldness

- Thank Vestry members to continue for another year to see through the rest of the pandemic

- Learned a lot through social distancing and adopt some practices into a normal period

- New youth director to develop youth programs

- Further Outreach programs and goals and hire a new Outreach Director

- The Commons continues to be a project to obtain a building permit from the village.

- The shed is the last piece for finalization of the project.

- Assist the staff in helping our parish volunteers

- Provide a sounding board for the staff

- Working with all members of St James the Less to continue on.

Lisa added that she has felt a parish in-sync experience with the congregation and being united in one spirit with St. James the Less.

### **Affirmations**

Christmas Pageant video effects and acting were acknowledged.

Henry Siebers was born this week.

Markers for the year have changed yet we continue to do well as a congregation.

# PARISH ENDOWMENTS

Mary Saunders

	<u>2021 Total</u>	<u>2020 Total</u>
Churchyard Endowment	\$86,108	\$85,278
General Endowment	\$807,296	\$634,331
Outreach Endowment	\$83,050	\$75,389
Music Endowment	\$24,268	\$21,846

Results reported are as of 12/31/2021 and 12/31/2020, 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 2020, its net asset value topped \$36 million. Unit value increased from 2020 year-end to 2021 year-end from 68.00 to 74.91. The all-in total expense ratio in 2021 (including Vanguard, accounting, audit, and management fees) remained at less than 9 basis points.

During calendar year 2021, St James the Less received dividends in the amount of \$19,746.92 from the Endowment investments. (\$16,712.60 from the General Endowment, \$561.20 from the Music Endowment, and \$2,473.12 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**

In the second quarter we added \$99,579.90 to the General Endowment which funds we had received from the estate of Bill and Ann Hall after Bill passed away in December of 2020. As we had no immediate plans for the money, we decided to invest the funds for the present time.

## **Redemptions**

In the second quarter of 2020, we redeemed \$10,000 from the Churchyard Endowment to partially cover improvements made to the Churchyard.

# VESTRY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## 2021 Budget & Actual – 2022 Budget

	2021 Budget	12/31/21 2021 Actual (Not Final) YTD	2022 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,192	\$ 12,000
Pledge Income	375,000	387,808	385,000
Thank Offerings	20,000	18,800	20,000
Special Grants	8,000	2,000	8,000
Church School Grant	4,000	4,000	4,000
Open Plate	5,000	3,290	5,000
Easter & Christmas Fund	5,000	4,120	5,000
Investment Income	13,000	14,427	13,000
Rent and Misc. Income	2,500	2,479	2,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 437,500</b>	<b>\$ 446,116</b>	<b>\$ 454,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Clergy	\$ 140,150	\$ 114,217	\$ 126,400
Church Office	70,650	75,218	92,950
Buildings & Grounds	93,450	106,184	93,950
Music & Worship	61,800	61,692	63,475
Benevolence	42,500	42,500	45,500
Children & Youth Ministry	29,300	32,059	30,125
Parish Life	14,800	4,633	26,800
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 452,650</b>	<b>\$ 436,503</b>	<b>\$ 479,200</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ (15,150)</b>	<b>\$ 9,613</b>	<b>\$ (24,700)</b>
Reserves brought forward	\$ 49,547	\$ 49,547	\$ 59,160
<b>RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>\$ 34,397</b>	<b>\$ 59,160</b>	<b>\$ 34,460</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

2021 and 2020

	End-2021 (Final)			End-2020 (Final)		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and Cash Equivalents						
Operating	61,518		61,518	53,179		53,179
Plant Replacement		3,017	3,017		3,016	3,016
Churchyard		30,455	30,455		17,132	17,132
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>\$ 61,518</b>	<b>33,472</b>	<b>94,990</b>	<b>53,179</b>	<b>20,148</b>	<b>73,327</b>
Investments						
Operating	113,044		113,044	147,964		147,964
General Investment*		45,523	45,523		36,688	36,688
Plant Replacement		47,747	47,747		42,188	42,188
Outreach Endowment		83,050	83,050		75,389	75,389
Music Endowment		24,268	24,268		21,846	21,846
General Endowment		807,296	807,296		634,331	634,331
Churchyard Endowment		86,108	86,108		85,278	85,278
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>113,044</b>	<b>1,093,991</b>	<b>1,207,035</b>	<b>147,964</b>	<b>895,720</b>	<b>1,043,684</b>
2016 Capital Campaign		15,472	15,472		42,427	42,427
Other Dedicated Accounts		59,680	59,680		81,282	81,282
<b>Land, Buildings, Equipment</b>	<b>3,229,591</b>		<b>3,229,591</b>	<b>3,229,591</b>		<b>3,229,591</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,404,153</b>	<b>\$1,202,614</b>	<b>\$4,606,768</b>	<b>\$3,430,734</b>	<b>\$1,039,577</b>	<b>\$4,470,311</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Prepaid Pledge Balance	39,841		39,841	33,622		33,622
Due to Dedicated Accounts		75,152	75,152		123,709	123,709
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>39,841</b>	<b>75,152</b>	<b>114,993</b>	<b>33,622</b>	<b>123,709</b>	<b>157,331</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,364,312</b>	<b>1,127,463</b>	<b>4,491,775</b>	<b>3,397,112</b>	<b>915,868</b>	<b>4,312,980</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,404,153</b>	<b>\$1,202,614</b>	<b>\$4,606,768</b>	<b>\$3,430,734</b>	<b>\$1,039,577</b>	<b>\$4,470,311</b>

\* Funds accrued for Rector Sabbatical





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