

The 2020 Annual Report of
St. James' Episcopal Church
Mount Airy, Maryland

Presented at the Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021



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Saint James' Episcopal Church

in Mount Airy, Maryland

Staff

The Rev. Kristin N. Krantz, Rector
Laura Davis, Parish Administrator
Richard Drehoff, Jr., Music Director
Katelynn Marshall, Sunday Nursery Attendant
Mechelle Cascardo, Bookkeeper
Pat Castle, Director, St. James' Nursery School
Sharon Hansen, Business Manager, St. James' Nursery School
Sandy Baker, Manager, St. James' Thrift Shop

Vestry & Officers

Jeannie Pellicier, Senior Warden
Ty Conlon, Junior Warden

2018—2021

Heather Albertson
Jason Kilmore
Phillip Massay
Lucy Winston

2019—2022

Ty Conlon
Bill Ellis
Andrew Gobien
Steve Stowell

20120—2023

Vivian Carden
Matt Kastel
Dave Rak

Annual Meeting 2021 Agenda

Motion to modify the rules for virtual meeting and voting

Welcome & Call to Order

St. James' Norms

Election of Clerk to Record the Minutes

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting Reviewed for Approval

Report of the Rector: The Reverend Kristin N. Krantz

Presentation of 2020 Recap & 2021 Budget for Acceptance

Election of New Vestry Members

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

Committee Reports by Affirmation & Appreciation

Presentation of St. James' Icons

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Annual Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 26, 2020

Sunday School children led the opening prayer and song at 10:25 am

Served brunch at 10:30 am

Welcome and Call to Order

Kristin+ began the meeting at 10:43 am Welcome and Call to Order.

Review of St James' Parish Norms

Election of Clerk to Record the Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Ellis and seconded by Yvette Allen to elect Susan Straus to record the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual meeting Reviewed for Acceptance

A motion was made by Tom Kaufman and seconded by Susan Riel to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

Presentation of the 2020 Budget & 2019 Recap for Acceptance given by Jane Barger, Treasurer

- Refer to the spreadsheet in the annual meeting booklet. Jane thanked Mechelle Cascardo (St James' bookkeeper); Aline Sauter (Receiving Treasurer); Deb Schaeffer (Registrar); and Sharon Hansen (Business Manager at St James' Nursery).
- Reviewed the 2019 income. This year we had additional income from the Diocese to reimburse St. James' for the time Kristin+ spends as Director of the College of Congregational Development (CCD). The Nursery School gave a \$15,000 contribution to the church, paid \$36,300 as Stewardship and paid half of the building use invoices. The Thrift Shop provided 25% of their sales as Stewardship. The Thrift Shop has made a huge turn around this year; sales picture has improved. Recognized Andrew and Diana Gobien's efforts to start the eBay side of the Thrift Shop. eBay sales contributed more than \$11,000 during 2019. The Church Net Ordinary income was \$391,661.02. This is more than the 2018 Net Ordinary income.
- Reviewed the 2019 expenses. Total Expenses were \$344,536.46, an increase of almost 2% over 2018 expenses. The increases were in the Ministry and Parish Administration Areas. Ty Conlon and Jim Bullington were recognized for their work on building maintenance problems and Jason Kilmore for maintaining the Storm Water Management area. Their efforts have resulted in significant savings for the parish.
- After adjustments for investment interest and loan principal payments, the 2019 yearend Total Income was -\$16,939.55.
- Total Replenish and Establish funds received since Spring 2018 are \$139,360.

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- Review 2020 budget, which the Vestry approved at their January 22, 2020 meeting. Total income projected at \$367,808 and total expenses projected at \$352,830.57. Both amounts are slight increases over 2019 budget projections. The Parish Administration amount includes a 3% pay increase for all church employees and the Thrift Shop Manager. Nursery School covers their own administration cost. Thrift Shop hourly employees will receive a mandated increase to \$11.00 per hour based on state minimum wage law as of January 1, 2020. Projected adjusted total income is budgeted at -\$53,022.57; this includes adjustment for principal payments and is about the same as 2019.

One question was asked by a parishioner: how many pledging families in 2019? Answer: 66 last year compared to 64 this year. 24 families increased their pledge, 31 families kept their pledge the same, and we added 2 new pledges.

A motion was made by Tom Kaufman and seconded by Deb Schaeffer to accept the 2020 budget. Motion was unanimously approved.

Election of New Vestry Members

Two candidates were presented by the nominating committee: Matt Kastel and Dave Rak. In addition, there was a motion made from the floor by Jeannie Pellicier to nominate Vivian Carden.

Motion was made by Jim Bullington and seconded by Lynda Ellis to approve adding Vivian Carden to the slate of Vestry candidates. Motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Carla Kaufman and seconded by Bill Ellis to elect Matt Kastel, Dave Rak and Vivian Carden as the Vestry class of 2020-2023. Motion was unanimously approved.

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

A motion was made by Gabby Markham and seconded by Maureen Suckling to elect Carla Kaufman as the Diocesan Convention Delegate and Blix Winston as the alternate. Motion was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

Kristin+ recognized Chris Richard, Ave Smith, Susan Straus, and Jeannie Pellicier with a gift and the appreciation of the parish for their 3 years of Vestry service.

Committee Reports by Affirmation & Appreciation

Rather than have all reports read in person, Kristin+ asked the parish to review the reports in the Annual Meeting booklet or on St. James' website. The following reports are in the meeting booklet: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, St James' Nursery School Board, St James' Thrift Shop Board, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Boy Scout Troop 829, Chalice Server, Choir, Child Care (Crib Nursery), Daughters of the King, Flower Guild, Fundraising, Lector, Memorial Garden, Outreach Committee, Parish Administrator, 2019 Parish Statistics, Receiving Treasurer, Sunday School, Usher, and Youth Group

There were no questions asked.

Report of the Rector

Blessings and growth are the words that Kristin+ reflected on. Blessings from the gifts of time and heart to the various ministries. Blessings for Replenish & Establish contributions to support the financial health of the church. Blessings for the community to accept change. Kristin+ says Thank

You. Seen lots of growth over 2019. Charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 829. Wide variety of types of formation with an overall increase in participation. Average Sunday attendance was up from 2018.

Kristin+ commented on church attendance across the nation and across all denominations. Over the last 15 years there has been a significant change in the average Sunday attendance. Worship patterns are changing. A new metric was developed to more accurately reflect the Church's affect or impact on the community. It is the "Average Weekly Impact." The Bishop introduced this to St. James'. Last spring we calculated the Average Weekly Impact across the Church, Nursery School, and Thrift Shop at 243. 243 peoples' lives are impacted weekly by St. James'.

Nursery School is expanding, doing more with the community. Thrift Shop has grown, even though our store floor space has decreased. Congregational Development (CCD) was a focus for Kristin+ in the past year. She has continued to serve on the Diocesan Congregational Vitality Cohort.

In May Kristin+ was called to serve as the Director for the College for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Maryland, which is launching June 2020. Kristin+ announced that the 2020 budget that was just accepted included funding to allow two St James' parishioners to attend the CCD this year in June in Maryland. CCD has introduced Kristin+ to models and resources to help plan, and prepare for changes at St James'.

Congregational development will continue to be a focus for us this year. The Vestry will use Core Identity and Strategic Planning to cast a vision for our hopes for who we want to be in the next 3 to 5 years. This will include looking at Thrift Shop and Nursery School.

Last item Kristin+ covered was taking a sabbatical. She is beginning to plan for a 12-week sabbatical in 2021 or 2022. She is hoping to apply for a grant from the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program to cover costs, including parish renewal and supply/interim clergy while she is on sabbatical. Grant application is due April 1 and a team is convening to complete the application.

Kristin+ continued the tradition of giving a print of the St James' icon to people who have been leaders in our community, this year recognizing Marilyn Hancock and Diana and Andrew Gobien. Marilyn is key to outreach and fundraising: Quarteramina and Basket Raffle. Very involved within St James' and beyond in the Mt Airy community, Diana and Andrew Gobien are helping to turn the Thrift Shop around and introducing eBay as a means to sell merchandise. Andrew serves on the Vestry and as Thrift Shop Board liaison.

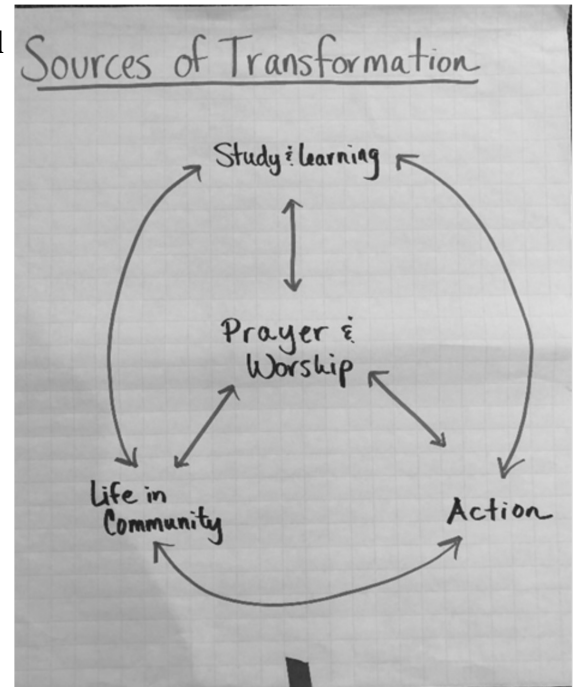
CCD Model: Gather, Transform, and Send

Kristin reviewed the CCD model: "Gather, Transform, and Send." She then focused on the middle part "Transform" and offered another model "Sources of Transformation" to help us understand how and why communities of faith offer transformation.

Kristin+ distributed copies of the Gather, Transform, Send model and taught about the four sources of transformation: Prayer and Worship, Study and Learning, Action, and Community.

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- Prayer and Worship: These are the most important and so they are in the middle. Three sub areas: Holy Eucharist (community); Personal Prayer (personal); and Daily Office (community or personal).
- Study and Learning: Three sub areas: Mind, Practice, and Heart. Mind: learn to reflect theological, bible study, class learning about the Daily Office or types of prayers. Thinking and growing deeper with God and community. Heart: Important that we listen to our emotions and instincts. Huge indicator of the Spirit's involvement in our lives. Experience: is a big piece of this. Practices: The ways in which we live and practice our faith; gaining confidence in worship and prayer. Learning to discern; learning about stewardship and evangelism and service in the wider community.
- Action: Three sub areas: Stewardship, Service; and Evangelism. Stewardship can be transforming because everything comes from God. God is the source for all for us; deep recognition in stewardship. The wholeness of us; including time and money. Big factor for St James' is our fantastic building and the mortgage that comes with the building. Service may also be called outreach. Service in our community. Transforms us as we give of ourselves when we realize that we get more than the people we give to. Evangelism: Who God is for me and us; and then we can share the good news with other people.
- Life in Community: Three sub areas: Conversation: Important to share; casual and deep. Helps us to care about each other. Food: Essential. Grace and Grub – sharing a meal together. God is with us and we're with one another. Silence and Listening: Need to cultivate ways to truly listen to one another. Having some down time for a few seconds; allows us to think.



Kristin+ then invited everyone to do some data gathering through an on-the-spot survey. She asked the parishioners to mark down their views on questions related to the sources of transformation, rating how well they thought St. James' does.

Data will be used by the vestry to set benchmarks and do some visioning. It's acceptable to not be a "6" in every area. The data will show us what we are doing well; and what is a potential growth area; or we're okay where we are at. What does this tell us about our core identity?

Closing Prayers and Adjournment

Kristin+ said a prayer of thanks; Jane thanked Kristin+ for her service to St James' community. Meeting adjourned at 12: 10 pm with prayer.

Hand Outs: 2019 Annual Report of St James' Episcopal Church; Gather, Transform, Send Model; and Acts.

Prepared by: Susan Straus; January 30, 2020

Report of the Rector—The Reverend Kristin N. Krantz

2020 was a year of significant challenges and changes, but also the year we learned we could be faithful and grow in spite of everything.

At the 2020 Annual Meeting I taught the College for Congregational Development model called Sources of Transformation. This continued the work of the Vestry exploring our core identity. After discussion of the model, data was gathered through an on-the-spot survey asking folks to mark down their views on questions related to the sources of transformation, showing us what we do well and where there is a potential for growth. The hope was that the Vestry would use the data to set benchmarks and do visioning work.

Also at the Annual Meeting, I shared about the work of the Renewal Team. The group was convened to plan for me taking a sabbatical in 2021 or 2022. Our task was to imagine what this time could mean for the congregation alongside my time away, with the intention of applying for a National Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Endowment to fund activities for both. As a part of their work they planned to host listening sessions to assist with planning.

As we turned the calendar into February news began to spread of a potential worldwide pandemic. Life continued on however, with our Vestry spending a day and a half together on retreat at the end of the month. Former DOV Intern Tommy Turbyville co-led the retreat with me, where we focused on team building and spiritual reflection.

We kicked off Lent with a festive Shrove Tuesday pancake supper complete with pancake Olympics, hiding the alleluia banner, and burning last year's palms to make ashes. We had two Ash Wednesday services, one for children and a traditional service. We also continued our practice of making and distributing fired clay prayer touchstones, something folks have begun to look forward to every year.

In early March it became clear the COVID-19 pandemic was going to disrupt our lives in a major way. The State of Maryland closed all public schools beginning March 16, with a Stay At Home Order put into effect shortly after that, and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland suspended in person worship effective March 15. Church staff packed up and moved to work from home. What began as closures intended for a few weeks quickly became closures for an extended, and open-ended, period of time. Both our Nursery School and Thrift Shop were affected by these orders, closing from mid-March through May.

Through adept leadership by our staff and Vestry we did the following in short order: set a vision for this time to *stay connected, stay church, and take care of each other*; transitioned to one combined online worship service using Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube; reached out to every household to do an initial pastoral check in; set up a Helper's Team of folks able to assist those most vulnerable in our community; moved meetings and formation online using Zoom; assigned every household to a "Grace Group" with a shepherd to serve as a conduit for fellowship and pastoral care; created a Teach Support Team to reach out and help folks that needed assistance in accessing online worship; applied for and received a Payroll Protection Plan loan to cover payroll for all church, Nursery School, and Thrift Shop employees; pulled together at-home resources for families and individuals, using social media and both emailing and mailing out materials. In this way we travelled through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

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By May when the Stay At Home for Maryland was lifted, we were all familiar with phrases such as social distancing and “mask up.” We also began planning for the next stage of our pandemic life together. The Vestry convened a Re-Gathering Team to create an action plan for re-opening the Thrift Shop and church building, beginning in-person worship following Diocesan guidelines and procedures, and supporting the Nursery School with their plans to re-open in the fall. The Thrift Shop and church building, including offices, re-opened in June. A congregational survey about worship preferences, formation, and for overall feedback was sent out in May. Using data from that survey, we moved back to two worship services beginning in July – an outdoor in-person Eucharist in the Memorial Garden at 8:30 am and an online worship service at 10:30 am. It was also in this time period that, after a pause in their work, the Renewal Team successfully completed and submitted the Clergy Renewal Grant application.

In July we moved our plans for Vacation Bible School online, teaming up with St. Andrew’s, Glenwood to host *Compassion Camp*. For a week we created community on Zoom with 18 preschool-5th grade aged kids for three hours each day, sharing Bible stories, singing together, practicing yoga, and doing arts and crafts. It was a blast!

In August we did another congregational survey to gather updated feedback about worship, both online and in-person, and specifically about outdoor worship and transitioning to indoor worship. The survey showed a continued need for hybrid worship (both online and in-person), and that those who wanted to attend in-person services preferred staying outside. We made the decision to continue outdoor worship through October, with the plan to transition into the building on All Saint’s Day, November 1.

In the fall we welcome Nancy Smith as a DOV Intern. DOV (Discerning Ordained Vocation) is the second year of the discernment process in the Diocese of Maryland for those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry as either a deacon or a priest. Part of that process is leaving your home parish to serve in a different community. This internship looked different than it normally would because of the pandemic, but Nancy jumped in with both feet by preaching monthly, attending ministry meetings, joining our liturgy planning team, and co-leading weekly Compline services online during Advent. Her leadership enriched our community even though she didn’t get to know many members “face to face.”

In October we found out we were one of 14 congregations across the United States to be awarded a Clergy Renewal Grant. We received the full amount requested, \$32,000, to fund our renewal activities. As submitted, the plan was for me to take twelve weeks sabbatical from the end of July through mid-October 2021. The highlight of my time away would be a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago with my children. Alongside that the Renewal Team planned activities to facilitate fellowship and spiritual pilgrimage for members of the parish. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there is a possibility that my sabbatical will be pushed to 2022. A final decision will be made in early 2021.

While we continued outdoor worship into the fall, we also made strides in our online worship. After several months of different types of musical leadership on our Zoom/livestreamed service, we began to feature virtual choir videos. Our choir, under the leadership of our Music Director Richard Drehoff, began recording hymns individually every week that Richard then turned into a beautiful combined choir. While nothing can replace singing together in person, these videos brought joy and comfort. Throughout the fall we also began to see new people attending our online service livestreamed on Facebook, a nice sign of hope in a difficult year.

On November 1 we moved the 8:30 am Eucharist indoors with strict health and safety protocols in place, including a cap on the number of people and system to register to attend. Unfortunately, by that time COVID numbers were on the rise and the Diocese again suspended indoor worship beginning November 15, necessitating a move back to online worship only. Watching case numbers continue to rise, it became apparent we would not be able to gather in person for worship at Christmas. With this in mind we created Advent & Christmas At Home bags with Advent wreath materials and various formation resources. We also knew we'd have to totally re-imagine Christmas worship! Under the leadership of Yvette Allen and Joan Fader we planned a Drive-Thru Pageant. Participants spread out around our front circle so that those who drove through could see the whole Christmas story as told through costumes and signs. It was a wonderful night with a constant flow of cars! For Christmas Eve, instead of our usual Zoom/livestreamed service, we chose to pre-record the Eucharist in the church, all decorated for the holiday, and edit that together with videos of our virtual choir. Additionally, we pre-consecrated wine and wafer communion kits and distributed bags with those, a worship bulletin, and beeswax candles. The finalized video premiered on Facebook and YouTube Christmas Eve. While it was a Christmas like never before, many people shared how much it meant to see the church decorated, to share communion, and to light candles while singing *Silent Night*.

Adult formation opportunities in 2020 included several different kinds of gatherings. We continued Book Discussion Group meetings on Zoom, reading and discussing the following books: *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott, and *Love is the Way* by Michael Curry. During Eastertide a group participated in *The Way of Love 50 Day Bible Challenge*. In May we began a new weekly lectionary Bible study on Zoom that continued through 2020. Our Advent series, *A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art*, was also on Zoom and took advantage of the digital platform to watch short films and look at artwork. Also during Advent we gathered on Zoom for a St. Nicholas Story Time, a special event for families to hear about traditions associated with St. Nicholas and read some storybooks about his life. Formation with our Nursery School changed this year as well. After classes were suspended in the spring I did a special end of year Chapel via video, and then in the fall I met monthly with classes on Zoom to pray, share stories, and sing together.

A difficult part of this year was saying goodbye to two staff members. In September we bid farewell to our Sunday Nursery Attendant Katelynn Marshall. From the initial suspension of worship in March Katelynn became an important part of our pastoral care team, reaching out weekly to check in with families in lieu of her regular Sunday mornings. I am grateful for her care and attention to our community in those first months of the pandemic. In the late fall we said goodbye to our Thrift Shop Manager Sandy Baker. Sandy was hospitalized in August and her condition remained serious through October. In November it became clear she would not be able to return to work for an extended period of time. Sandy served the Thrift Shop well for four and a half years and will be missed. I am grateful to Deb Schaeffer, Cheryl Windsor, and Chris Henyon who stepped in to lead the shop during Sandy's absence. We plan to make decisions about future leadership for the Shop in early 2021.

2020 unfolded in ways none of us could ever have imagined. A lot of it was hard and frustrating, but in looking back what I see is our community's resilience and how our care for one another and trust of God's presence among us was the anchor that centered everything we did. We learned a lot, from technology to just how adaptable we can be. We truly did *stay connected, stay church, and take care of each other*.

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You can read all the other reports from our various ministries to get a fuller picture of our life together in 2020, so I would like to close with giving thanks. To our Vestry who stepped up in an unprecedented year to lead us with courage and heart. To the Nursery School Board and Thrift Shop Board who also demonstrated grace under pressure. To our staff Laura Davis, Parish Administrator, Richard Drehoff, Music Director, and Katelynn Marshall, Nursery Care Attendant, Sandy Baker, Thrift Shop Manager, Pat Castle, Nursery School Director, and Sharon Hansen, Nursery School Business Manager who all went above and beyond in this extraordinary year. And to the whole St. James' community – each of you who demonstrated such faithfulness in countless ways both large and small. I cannot imagine journeying through such a year in any other community. Onward to 2021 and the challenges and opportunities that await us, whatever they may be!

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin+

2020 Financial Report & 2021 Budget

	<u>2019 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2020 BUDGET</u>	<u>2020 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Congregational Pledges	\$215,286.00	\$195,000.00	\$188,887.54	\$195,000.00
Plate Offering	\$21,710.00	\$20,000.00	\$21,706.00	\$17,000.00
Other Income	\$31,127.86	\$30,354.00	\$23,875.69	\$27,204.00
Memorial Gifts	\$1,460.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. James Nursery School	\$82,736.27	\$83,530.00	\$65,463.77	\$84,620.00
St. James Thrift Shop	\$39,340.89	\$38,924.00	\$16,586.73	\$32,763.00
Total Income	\$391,661.02	\$367,808.00	\$316,519.73	\$356,587.00
<u>Expense</u>				
Ministry	\$25,785.33	\$30,832.00	\$27,941.29	\$32,247.35
Operations	\$166,213.42	\$159,899.00	\$135,243.61	\$146,559.25
Parish Administration	\$146,972.99	\$156,771.57	\$151,371.74	\$158,281.25
Worship & Christian Ed	\$5,564.75	\$5,328.00	\$3,044.04	\$4,728.00
Total Expense	\$344,536.49	\$352,830.57	\$317,600.68	\$341,815.85
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$47,124.53		-\$1,080.95	
Investment Interest	\$692.83		\$485.42	
TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT	\$47,817.36	\$14,977.43	-\$595.53	\$14,771.15
Principal Payment on Loans	-\$64,756.91	-\$68,000.00	-\$22,155.12	-\$34,500.00
TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT - Adjusted	-\$16,939.55	-\$53,022.57	-\$22,750.65	-\$19,728.85
Mortgage Debt - 12-31-2019	\$1,622,380.13			
Principal Payment 2020	-\$22,155.12			
Mortgage Debt - 12-31-2020	\$1,600,225.01			
Payment Protection Loan (PPP)	\$81,000.00	Pending "forgiveness" to Grant		
12-31-2020 Balance Reserve	MM \$39,780.56			
12-31-2020 Balance Cap Imp	MM \$110,507.73			
12-31-2020 R&E Funds Rec'd	\$178,539.00			

2020 Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee oversees the financial operations of St. James' and provides financial assistance and guidance to the Rector and the Vestry. In 2020, the Treasurer worked closely with Bookkeeper, Mechelle Cascardo, as well as Receiving Treasurer, Aline Sautter, Registrar, Deb Schaeffer and Nursery Business Manager, Sharon Hansen. Their willingness to take on the extra responsibilities that the COVID 19 pandemic brought to our lives is especially appreciated and we thank them all for their excellent work and support. Financial oversight was provided for all church businesses, the 2020 Budget for St. James' Church and the Thrift Shop were prepared and regular monthly audits of all financial operations and payroll were completed throughout the year. The Nursery Business Manager oversees the financial operations of the Nursery School - preparing budgets, financial reports and payroll. In addition, we thank Deb Schaeffer who has completed the monthly audits of all bank operations.

In 2020, St. James' faced numerous financial challenges as our entire operation was shut down for up to 3 months and our ability to meet payroll and pay invoices was uncertain and is ongoing from month to month. Many significant financial decisions were made by the Vestry and are outlined below:

- In early April, the Vestry made 2 decisions. First, our lender, Frederick County Bank approved our request to waive loan payments for 3 months. Second, St. James' applied for the Small Business Administration's Payment Protection Program (PPP) thru our lender and was approved for an \$81,000 loan. This loan is to be 'forgiven' and becomes a Grant if used for the specified reasons and enabled us to pay all employees at their regular rate for 8 weeks (4 payrolls in April and May). In June, the Thrift Shop re-opened, the Nursery School closed for the summer and the Church expected to re-open in July.
- In June, concerned about meeting our future financial obligations, our lender approved at our request a loan modification for us to pay interest only payments for July, August and September.
- Finally, with our pledge receipts not meeting budget and questioning whether the Stewardship effort could meet our goal, we requested in December a 1-year loan modification to reduce the amount of our P&I loan payments which was approved. This step will ease cash flow and save us \$33,000 in 2021.
- At 2020 year-end, St. James' received \$210,593.54 in Congregation Stewardship (\$26,402.46 less than in 2019). Total income of \$316,519.73 was \$75,141.29 less than 2019 and total expenses of \$317,600.68 were \$26,854.35 less than 2019. Net Income of -\$1,080.95 was adjusted to allow for the addition of Investment Interest of \$485.42 and payment of \$22,155.12 in Loan Principal - resulting in a deficit Net Income of -\$22,750.65 for the year.
- Given the closing of the Thrift Shop and decrease in sales due to COVID 19, the Thrift Shop provided income of \$16,586.73, \$22,754.16 less than 2019. Thanks to Manager, Sandy Baker, as well as Deb Schaeffer and Cheryl Windsor who replaced Sandy due to illness, and to the employees, volunteers and Thrift Shop Board Members whose hard work and time both support and fulfil the mission of the shop.
- St. James' Nursery School provided \$36,300.00 in annual Stewardship and \$20,534.06 in payment of half of our building's yearly operations expense in 2020. The Nursery School opened on schedule in September and we thank Pat Castle, Executive Director, Sharon Hansen, Business Manager, the teachers and teachers' aides, who met the challenges and stress of working during COVID 19 with dedication and success, as well as Nursery Board Members and parent volunteers.

- The Nursery and Thrift Shop together, when including reimbursement for their portion of Property/ Liability Insurance, Workers Comp insurance and Paychex payroll fees, provided **26%** of St. James' Total Income in 2020 as compared to 30% - 35% in prior years.
- The Replenish & Establish Project (R&E), started in March 2018, is a 3-year pledge program to financially support our effort to replenish funds in the Operating Reserve Money Market account and to establish a Capital Improvement Money Market account to begin saving for future capital expenses as our building ages. The total amount pledged in spring 2018 was \$183,365.00. On
- December 31, 2020, the total amount of R&E funds received was \$178,539.00. The program ends in May 2021 when all payments are due.
- From January to March 31, 2020, a net of \$10,000 was transferred from the Operating Reserve Money Market account to the church operating account to cover expenses and payroll. There were no further transfers during the year, leaving a balance on December 31, 2020 of \$39,780.56, including interest.
- All R&E pledges received in 2020, in the amount of \$38,909, were transferred to the Capital Improvement Money Market. The balance in the account as of December 31, 2020 was \$110,507.73, including interest. This MM account is restricted – to be used only to fund necessary capital repairs and improvements of over \$5,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Barger, Treasurer

2021—2024 Vestry Class Candidates

Heather Albertson

Heather has been a member of the St. James community since moving to Mount Airy in late 2011. Her daughters (Emily age 16 and Elizabeth age 11) serve as Acolytes at the 10:30 service and are active with the Youth Group and Episcopal ministries. Heather has served as Acolyte leader since late 2017 when she saw a need to help organize and communicate with the Youth and the parents of the Church. She volunteers at the Basket Raffle and QuarterMania and enjoys pitching in where ever there is a need for extra hands. Many hands make light work!

Heather has worked in the Ophthalmology field for over 20 years managing large multi-specialty ophthalmology practices and teaching Ophthalmic Medical Assisting at CCBC. Heather currently works as a Clinical Development Specialist for Bausch & Lomb Surgical. In her role, she works closely with Eye Surgeons and their staffs to ensure patients are able to enjoy the best vision possible after cataract surgery.

She enjoys cooking and reading in her down time. However, in the warmer months, you can find Heather and her husband of 17 years camping with their daughters and dogs exploring new areas as often as possible.

Heather enjoyed attending the Anti-Racism workshop at St. James recently and looks forward to serving St. James and the community more dynamically as a vestry member.

Jason Kilmore

Born and raised in York, PA, Jason moved to Maryland shortly after graduating from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Landscape Contracting in 2002. Jason resides in Mt Airy with his wife, Molly and two children, Connor (6) and Reagan (5). He started attending St. James in 2013.

Jason works for a Montgomery County landscape contractor and specializes in commercial landscape management. His role includes managing multiple landscape crews, procuring new business and generating, and managing various company budgets and financial objectives. Jason enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors with his family. He is an active Penn State alumni and supporter and he and his family visit Happy Valley a few times a year.

Vic Pellicier

My wife Jeannie and I joined St. James last century. We tried several churches in the area and found that we liked St. James' best. We felt comfortable and have enjoyed our decades with the congregation. All three of our children were baptized at St. James'. Our oldest, Maria, has graduated from college and works in Brooklyn as a social worker. Will is a college senior and graduates this spring. Caroline has just started college.

We have lived in Maryland roughly 25 years. We met in California where I had set up shop after completing a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Prior to living in California, I lived in Massachusetts, where I got a BS degree in mechanical engineering. Over the years I have worked on medical equipment, packaging equipment and military communications gear.

I spent my childhood in Puerto Rico. My parents and brother still live there and I don't visit them often enough. Growing up my parents took my brother, sister (lives in Portland, OR) and me to a Catholic church.

Over the years I have been fortunate to serve the congregation in multiple capacities: as an usher, coordinator of Memorial Day campouts, mover of tables and chairs, photographer, member of a rector search committee, member of the youth group team and even served on the Vestry once before. It was a positive experience and I am looking forward to serving on the Vestry a second time.

Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

Delegate—Carla Kaufman

Alternate—Blix Winston

Report of the Senior Warden

Looking back at the minutes of our Vestry meetings of January and February, it seems long ago and almost quaint that we met in person! With the pandemic hitting us in March, the Vestry quickly had to adapt. We had two areas that needed to be immediately addressed. Our first concern was how to stay connected to each other. To help with this mission, each Vestry member took approximately 10 families and began calling to ask about the needs of the parishioners. This grew into Grace Groups, which several Vestry members led. Our Grace Groups allowed us to check in with each other and ask for prayer. On a personal note, some of the emails and letters I received during that time really brought me joy.

Our second focus was financial. The Vestry voted to authorize our Treasurer, Jane Barger, to submit a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) application. Due to Jane's early action and dedication, we were granted this loan, ensuring our employees would be paid for eight weeks. Our Treasurer also continually worked with our bank to modify our building loan to help make our payments more manageable.

Moving into spring and summer, the Vestry discussed returning to in person services and then later, how to reimagine Stewardship. We welcomed a new Discerning Ordained Vocation intern, Nancy Smith, in September. In October, we rejoiced that St. James' was awarded a grant of \$32,000 to enable Kristin+ to participate in the National Clergy Renewal Program.

One of our last action items of 2020 was to approve a 10% reduction in the Thrift Shop tithe to the church (from 25% to 15%) for 1 year starting January 1, 2021. This reduction in tithe will help allow the Thrift Shop to pay back payroll and tithe owed to St. James'.

This has been a strange year but I have witnessed some truly great things happen within our church. We met every challenge that Covid-19 threw at us and grew stronger. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Senior Warden - it has been a blessing to serve this community!

Jeannie Pellicier
Senior Warden

Report of the Junior Warden

As 2020 comes to a close I am happy to report that for the most part the facilities management part of my role as Junior Warden has been fairly uneventful. With the building sitting empty aside for a few parishioners and staff wear and tear was minimal. Periodic checks of the building including flushing the plumbing system and cycling the elevator became a weekly occurrence.

Several major projects were completed during the past year and included a replacement of all metered faucets with standard quarter turn valves, which was completed prior to the beginning of school in the fall. Outside the building, crosswalks were applied in the rear parking areas and a speed bump was installed to enhance pedestrian safety around the nursery school entrance. Several enhancement projects were completed by our Boy Scout Troop for service hours and the pursuit of Eagle Scout status by members of the troop. The last project of note was the upgrade of all remaining conventional lighting fixtures to LEDs. This upgrade completed the previous work done in the sanctuary and the parking lot. The upgrade was made possible by a program from Potomac Edison, who because of COVID, enhanced the program from covering 70% of costs to 100%.

As we look forward to 2021, I am hopeful that we will, if circumstances allow, be able to meet again in the late Spring or early Summer for a socially distanced outdoor Spring Clean-Up and possibly an indoor Fall Clean-Up.

Ty Conlon,
Junior Warden

St. James' Nursery School Board Report

Mission: To provide an educational environment which nurtures each child's spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social development.

Annual Highlights:

- Board Members – Patricia Castle, Director; Sharon Hansen, Business Manager; Sarah Brown, Chair; The Rev. Kristin Krantz; Vestry Liaison: Vivian Carden; Terri Demosky-Tippett, Mary Hutchins-Danna, Ashley Conlon, Rebecca Sach, Karen Kastel and, Members; Marc Argoud, Parent Representative; Kathryn Janiga; Staff Representative.
- We have a staff of twelve, including a director, business manager, five teachers and six assistant teachers.
- We continue to be published with the Maryland EXCELS rating system online with the highest possible rating of five checkmarks. Additionally, we have achievements as an Asthma Friendly School, Eco-Healthy Child Care, Health and Wellness, Accredited Program, and a Cultural Competent Program. <http://marylandexcels.org//olms2/231925>.
- The school maintains national accreditation with the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and state accreditation through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- The current enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is 117 students and we offer 11 classes for two, three and four-year olds.
- In February of 2020, we received \$8,385 from the Maryland Textbook Grant which was used to purchase books, written materials, writing journals, online subscriptions for Starfall and the Ages and Stages Developmental screening for school and parent access, ABC journals, Weekly Readers for the 2020-21 school year, etc.
- We were awarded a Nonpublic School's Safety Grant through MSDE and used this money to help pay for the installation of an intercom system at the school.
- The school closed due to COVID on March 16, 2020 and remained closed for the remainder of the school year. We were unable to have our annual Book Fair, Week of the Young Child, year end graduations, picnics, to offer summer program, etc.
- The school reopened in the fall of 2020 with a reduced number of children in enrollment while following numerous COVID safety procedures. We received a PPE bonus that was used to clean the carpets and purchase thermometers.
- We are pleased to have been able to have Zoom Parent Nights, monthly virtual Bookmobiles and Chapel Times, Zoom Christmas Events for class and Zoom Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- The staff are pleased to have new platforms on our playground that were completed as part of an Eagle Scout project.
- For next school year's registration this month we will be using Google Registration Forms and Paypal for the first time.
- The Fall Charleston Wrap fund raiser brought in approximately \$4,599 in sales and donations. This money is being used to pay for curriculum enhancements and other necessary items during the 2020-2021 school year.

- A \$1,600 grant was received from Walmart to use for a program this coming spring to support needy families during COVID.

Respectfully submitted: Patricia Castle, Executive Director

St. James' Thrift Shop Board Report

Our mission is to focus upon ministering to the community as Jesus Christ ministered to the multitude, helping return individuals and families to a state of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being as a Christian community outreach program.

The Thrift Shop operates with four part-time staff, and numerous volunteers from the church and community. The Manager, Sandy Baker, worked the first six months of the year and is no longer able to perform her duties due to illness. The board terminated the manager position and has since approved a new management team including a ministry chair, volunteer chair, and board chair. The St. James' Thrift Shop board members include Chris Henyon, Peg Pelch, Tom Kaufman, Cheryl Windsor, Marilyn Hancock, and Denise Warren. The St. James Reverend Kristin Krantz also attends our meetings along with the Treasurer and Financial Advisor, Jane Barger, and Vestry Liaison, Andrew Gobien.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thrift Shop operations were severely affected in 2020. The store was closed for three months, the processing of donations changed, and there is a reduced number of customers allowed in the shop. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP funding), created by the CARES Act, assisted with employee salaries when the Thrift Shop was closed, and the Church aided with other bills. The Mount Airy community has been generous as staff and volunteers work hard to process their donations keeping the racks and shelves full. The Thrift Shop is now self-sufficient in maintaining its operating budget and is working to pay back the church.

High-value donations are sold on eBay with larger and fragile items soon to be sold on Facebook Marketplace. Those items we cannot sell in our store or on eBay are donated to various community partners and outreach missions such as A is for Africa, Chesapeake Wetlands, Tails of Hope, Mt. Airy Net, Frederick Rescue Mission, Red Cross, Mt. Airy Senior Center, St. James' Church and Nursery School, local schools, and other Main Street businesses.

We continue to be an active member of the Mt. Airy Main Street Association; however, all community events in 2020 were cancelled. In order to promote business, the shop handed out candy during a Halloween event, created holiday-themed tables in December, and continued daily sales promotions.

The Thrift Shop board, staff and volunteers are thankful for our generous community and look forward to 2021 and many years ahead!

Submitted by Chris Henyon

Acolyte Report

The Acolyte Group consisted of 6 dedicated Youths willing to serve on a rotational basis in 2020 until we had to cease in person services. However, due to many of our Acolytes taking on more responsibilities with school and work as well as graduating and starting college, we have lost three of our group. Once we are able to once again join together in person, we will send out the call for additional Acolytes and a time to work with new and old Acolytes for training. With only three Acolytes at this time, we need to increase our numbers to have adequate coverage for the 10:30 am service and special services and not be too much on a small group. Many hands make light work! We welcome any youth (*or young at heart*) in our church community grade 3 and up who would like to learn and serve as an Acolyte. We will plan a day to work with the Acolytes once we are able to worship together in person, so this is the perfect time to join us! There is always a need of three Acolytes for the 10:30 a.m. service each Sunday consisting of one Crucifer and two Torches. Please contact Heather Albertson if interested.

Thank you to our Acolytes who graduate for your years of service to our Church community!

Our hope is to replace the old robes with properly fitting ones as soon as possible after we have a full crew, so our Acolytes can be comfortable. With the hope of new Youth joining, we have hesitated until we know the range at least.

I would like to thank all the Youths that have served our Church so faithfully each Sunday! Our in person service runs smoothly with their assistance and it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank the parents of our Youth Acolytes for supporting them and St. James' so they are able to serve. Many hands make light work!

Warmly Submitted by: Heather Albertson

Altar Guild Report

Oh, my goodness! What a year 2020 was! The Altar Guild, like all the other ministries of the church, had adjustments to make as we went through the year. We worked through these changes under the expert guidance of our Chairperson Aline Sautter. She is affectionately called our "Energize Bunny". Other members of the Alter Guild are Abby Markham, Jeannie Pellicier, Karen Phillips, Vivian Carden, James Carden, and Carolyn Etzler.

We worked in teams of two every fourth week to set-up the altar for the Sunday services, and then clean -up after the services. That all that came to a halt in March due to the pandemic. Then Maryland "flattened the curve" and the church was allowed to hold outdoor services in the fall. We began again to set up for the 8:30 service, with many adjustments to follow the Maryland Heath Department and Diocese of Maryland guidelines. When we were allowed to move into the church, we continued to set-up/clean-up for the 8:30 service following the guidelines. After a couple of Sunday services inside, the covid-19 curve went up again, and we had to stop in person worship.

If you think you would like to join us on the Altar Guild, please contact any of us and we will be happy to answer any questions.

One of our members, Jeannie Pellicier, heads up the bread making team that made the bread for Sunday. We thank this ministry for their loving contributions to our Sunday services.

God go with everyone at St. James in 2021!

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Etzler

BSA Troop 829

Troop 829B had an incredible 2020. Prior to COVID-19 lock downs and social distancing rules, we competed in our first Klondike Derby (an event that is like an Olympics for winter scouting skills). The scouts made their own sleds as part of a winter campout.

Soon after shelter in place restrictions went into place, our troop refused to let that impact our activities and we started immediately meeting over zoom. We also were involved in a virtual merit badge academy for Carroll District where a few of our leaders taught and many of the scouts participated. In fact our troop was the 2nd highest participant with 120 merit badges started over a couple of months. Our troop was mentioned twice on televised news this year. Once for participation in the 2020 First Day Hike on January 1 and then one of our scouts was interviewed for participating in a Scouting Virtual 5k in May.

In March we welcomed 3 new scouts into the troop that bridged in from cub scouts and two scouts that had left scouting a few years ago returned and joined our troop. This was 50% growth over our membership from last year.

Over the year our troop had scouts that earned –

9 ranks

52 merit badges

11 awards

Several Leaders and Scouts earned CPR and Wilderness First Aid certifications

We also had our very first Eagle Scout, Evan Gobien, who earned his Eagle rank in July.

As the weather warmed up and state regulations permitted, we started meeting in the church parking lot following social distancing protocols. We also found activities we could do safely like hiking and ziplining.

In early July, our troop family grew as St. James' welcomed a girl troop, Troop 829G (more on their activities this year can be found in their report). While our scheduled summer camp in Pennsylvania was cancelled, the scouts (both 829B and 829G) planned out a hybrid summer camp where they did both virtual and in person activities.

For service this year, we did two drive-thru Scouting for Food Drives that benefitted the Mount Airy Net food bank. Due to the generosity of the St. James' and Mount Airy residents we took in 1,281lbs. of food and delivered over 186.5 service hours over both troops.

We also participated in service at the Mount Airy's Patriot Day ceremony and a new event, the Mount Airy Duck Races (supporting the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Department, Rotary Club scholarships and other community projects). Additionally, one of our senior scouts completed his Eagle Project, with the help of others in the troop, completing two stages for the St. James' Nursery School.

In October, the troop was able to have its first in person campout since February at Catoctin National Park. Many changes were made to help maintain safety (like 1 person to a tent and no troop cooking), but they still had a blast. In November, both troops also participated in the Carroll District Webelos Woods, which teaches older cub scouts, scout skills to prepare them in joining a troop.

While we are back to doing some activities virtual again due to the increased COVID statistics over the holidays, we are looking forward to some great activities in 2021. I think you can see from our 2020 activity that our troop is very resourceful (while incorporating safety) and so no matter what comes our way we will find a way to explore, learn, grow and provide service.

We meet on Fridays (when not out camping) from 7-8:30pm (alternating between in person at St. James' parking lot and Zoom). If you have or are a youth aged 10½ to 17 interested in joining us for fun, fellowship and service and love the smell of a good campfire, please contact the troop's scoutmaster, Bill Cunnane .

Despite COVID, Scouts BSA Troop 829G (girl troop) formed and kicked off their scouting journey in Mt. Airy in July. 829G started off with 8 scouts who had already began their scouting journey, plus 2 additional scouts for a total of 10. Finishing out the month they hiked East/West Park for their first official troop activity.

In August, 829G together with 829B planned a hybrid summer camp where they met during the day, either virtually, or in person depending on the activity/requirement, and then camped out in their own backyards at night for a week. Camp activities included cooking, digital technology, horseback riding, and orienteering among many others. The scouts rounded out their camp week with orienteering at Little Bennet where they successfully oriented their map and hiked their way through the 5 mile trail.

Even though COVID limited many activities in the community, 829G didn't let that stop them from helping and serving the community. In August and again in September the scouts of 829G and 829B collected and weighed food and other donations for Scouting for Food, which benefited Mt. Airy Net. They also provided service to St. James' Episcopal Church when they weeded and mulched the gardens and playground. Continuing with serving the community, the troop also participated in the Patriot Day Ceremony on September 11th and helped conduct the flag ceremony at the Mt. Airy Duck Races on September 26th.

Throughout the remainder of the fall and early winter, the scouts worked on requirements, continued hiking, went on a backpacking trip, and hosted some Webelos Scouts from a local Cub Scout pack.

Most scouts have ranked at least once, and all scouts have learned new and valuable skills since the beginning of the troop in July. One of the scouts is also very close to reaching the highest achievement in the troop of earning the rank of Eagle. We look forward to one of our scouts being our first Eagle Scout in the next month.

In 2021 Troop 829G are planning many more camping nights, hikes, and fun activities. We meet on Fridays from 7-8:30pm, alternating between meeting in the St. James parking lot and virtually on Zoom. If you have, or are, a youth aged 10½ to 17 interested in joining us for fun, fellowship, and service, please contact the troop's scoutmaster, Jennifer Swift .

Chalice Server Report

The Chalice Ministry provides an opportunity to serve our church in a rewarding and humbling manner by assisting our Rector at the altar during communion and offering the cup (the blood of Christ).

We began 2020 with 12 chalice servers who assist at the 8:30 and 10:30 services on a rotating monthly basis. At the 8:30 service, the server assists the rector with setting the table, administering the chalice and reading the lessons, psalm and prayers of the people. Two servers administer the cup at the 10:30 service.

Our servers are: Jane Barger, Jim Bullington, Cory DelRegno, Lynda Ellis, Carolyn Etzler, Caroline Pellicier, Jeannie Pellicier, Aline Sautter, Deb Schaeffer, Steve Stowell, Maureen Suckling, and Blix Winston.

I'm looking forward to this wonderful ministry starting again in 2021!

If you are interested in joining our chalice ministry or have questions, please contact Deb Schaeffer.

Choir Report

Our music ministry, like everything else, has pivoted dramatically since March. From playing hymns and arrangements at our online services, to hosting weekly Virtual Choir sessions to prepare hymns for you to sing along with and enjoy at home, we're actively working to explore new ways of making music together, keeping up with the latest studies on the safety of singing, and discovering how we can repurpose the many wonderful hymns and tunes we know and love.

A huge shoutout of thanks to everyone in choir for all of their hard work and effort each and every week. We've also been very fortunate to have a few guests join us this year: bass-baritone Evan Adair, who joined us for many services this summer over Zoom, and cellist Erin Snedecor, who provided lovely music for our Christmas Eve service.

If you're interested in being a part of the music ministry at St. James' (no experience necessary), please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at music@stjamesmtairy.org. Take care, and stay healthy and safe.

Warmest,
Richard Drehoff, Music Director

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King undertake a Rule of Life incorporating prayer and service reaffirming our Baptism and Confirmation promises. During this past year of changes and uncertainties due to the pandemic, we have continued to pray for our parish families and their weekly requests. In addition, each Daughter is involved in various ministries within St. James' and the community.

Motto of the Order

For His Sake.....
I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?

We welcome prayer requests at any time.

*Karen Dulany, Joan Fader
Margaret Neff, Peg Pelch*

Submitted by Joan Fader

Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild provides plant and floral arrangements each week for the altar. We follow the Liturgical Calendar of the Church and work closely with the Altar Guild.

In January 2020, flowers were placed on the altar for a baptism. As the segway from Lent to Easter fell during the closure of the church, no flowers were used for the services. By July, outdoor services began and flowers were placed weekly at the foot of the concrete altar. One wedding, in August, was held and flowers were placed for the ceremony.

In November, plans to record the Christmas service began. The advent wreath was made and poinsettias arrived in early December. The large plants were then offered for sale to offset the purchase cost.

Forever growing with God,
-The Flower Guild

Fundraising Report

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it has been a very difficult year for our fundraising efforts, but we did well, all things considered.

Unfortunately, it became necessary to cancel our Quartermania events in June and December due to social distancing restrictions, therefore, no funds were raised through those events.

I am pleased to report that our 14th Annual Basket Raffle and Silent Auction was quite successful in spite of limitations imposed upon us this year. This would not have been possible without the generosity, both in materials, time, talent and spirit, of so many of you. We were very grateful for the special monetary and gift certificate donations, as well as, the lovely donated items received toward our baskets from our parishioners. Our Nursery School and Thrift Shop continued their support, as well, for this important fundraising event.

In order to follow COVID restrictions, we held limited sales in the church sanctuary for two weeks at specified times. Our parishioners and community had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for 19 baskets or purchase 15 "Cash 'n Carry" baskets totaling 34 beautiful baskets made by our very own talented "Basket Brigade". In addition, everyone could bid on eleven wonderful Silent Auction items.

Through all of the above efforts we earned \$2,972 to donate to our church for 2020.

Submitted by Marilyn Hancock

Lector Report

The term "Lector" is from the Latin, "to read." This year our pool of roughly 13 volunteer lectors read scripture and prayers during a challenging period that included both ordinary and COVID time. The team adjusted well to Zoom services, and a number of members heightened their performance by saying not only the Daily Office, but by daily saying such phrases as "Unique New York; I need a box of biscuits, a box of mixed biscuits, and a biscuit mixer; He thrusts his fists against the posts and still insists he sees the ghosts; Friday's Five Fresh Fish Specials; Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager imagining managing an imaginary menagerie; Twixt this and six thick thistle sticks; Red leather, yellow leather; She sells seashells by the seashore, and the shells she sells are seashells; and the proverbial, Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers; A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked; If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?"

If you would like to be a lector, please contact Peter Sabonis. Training is provided, and tongue twisting practices are not mandatory.

Submitted by Peter Sabonis

Memorial Garden Report

The Memorial Garden was used more in 2020 than in any other year since its dedication in 2016. Wood planter boxes were reinforced by Dave Oland and stayed full of blooms all summer and fall. The fountain circle had over 100 annuals added throughout the year. Non-stop weeding and pruning kept the garden tidy for the weekly outdoor services that began July 5th. The brick walkway was swept and cleaned on a regular basis. A new hose was purchased to water the garden.

Bulbs and perennials will awake in early spring. We are looking forward to another beautiful growing season. Contact Ashley Conlon if you would like to contribute towards the purchase of annuals or spend time tending to the garden.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ashley Conlon
Memorial Garden Chair

Outreach Committee Report

Month	Initiative/Event	Committee Member
January		
February	Thank you cake to the Congregation for their generosity in 2020	Carla and Gabby
March	Lenten calendars for Mt. Airy Net continue to be a success	
April	\$500 to Mount Airy Net	Outreach Funds
June –September	\$804.88 was donated to A is for Africa including matching funds from Outreach.	Outreach Funds
AUGUST	Blanket collection for local animal shelters Magazines and books taken to Pleasant View.	Lucy Patty
September	Ministry Fair	Karen and Cheryl
October	9 Packages were made up and mailed to our parish college kids	Karen and Gabby
November	Thanksgiving dinners supported 10 families from Mount Airy Net Delivery of food to Mount Airy Net	Jeannie
December	Virtual Angel Tree Foster kids gifts were delivered \$500 donation given to Mount Airy Net	Gabby Marilyn Outreach Funds
Ongoing Needs	Food collection for Mt. Airy Net Delivery of food to Mt. Airy Net. Monetary donation to Mt. Airy Net Reconnect with Pleasant View	

In 2020 committee meetings were held February 2, August 27, September 24, October 20, and November 19. The current members of the Outreach committee are Jim Bullington, Patty Bullington, Marilyn Hancock, Karen Larrimore, Carla Kaufman, Jeannie Pellicier, Beverly Williams, Cheryl Windsor, Peg Pelch and Gabby Markham. Our hope is to connect our parish and our community together if you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know. New members our always welcome!

Stay safe, blessings, Gabby Markham

Parish Administrator Report

I find myself short of words to adequately describe the year that has been 2020!

The potential of technology in the church has never been more apparent. Our increased use of various platforms in recent years brought us to a place of preparedness when faced with meeting the needs of the St. James' community in a virtual world. Worship, formation, outreach, fundraising, etc., continued on in a new but effective way using Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, SignUp Genius and our St. James' website.

When reflecting back on each year I always look at our ability to increase accessibility to worship. On the following page you will see the 2020 Parish Statistics. They clearly reflect our resilience and ability to adapt in a quickly changing, stressful time. St. James' virtual worship has attracted several families and individuals who are now a constant in our community. When people needed a place of peace and comfort **you** were there. Most importantly, I believe it is our love that keeps them returning!

Our directory is perpetually updated so just let me know if you need one emailed to you or if you'd like to pick up a printed copy. Please be sure to let me know if your information changes.

As time allowed, I began sending out updated contracts for our Columbarium. If you have yet to receive yours, please know it is on the way.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Davis, Parish Administrator

2020 Parish Statistics

*The following information has been recorded
in the parish records of St. James' Episcopal Church
since last year's Annual Meeting:*

Baptisms - 3

Nora Lynn Bagnell	January 12, Baptism of Our Lord
Bane Collins Etzler	November 22, Christ the King
Hartley June Etzler	November 22, Christ the King

Confirmations - 0

Marriages - 1

Maureen Cauley Suckling and David James Chismar, August 29

Deaths - 3

Kenneth Robert Grumbach, January 26

Beginning on March 15, 2020, the Diocese of Maryland suspended in-person worship to aid in preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. On March 22, we began livestreaming all services via the Zoom meeting platform, Facebook, and YouTube. On July 5, we were permitted to begin outdoor, in-person worship which continued through October 25 while we simultaneously continued livestreaming. Indoor worship began again on November 1 only to be suspended on November 15 as metrics across the state crossed the safety threshold for the worldwide pandemic. Livestreaming was continued through the end of 2020 as there was no permission granted yet to return to indoor worship.

Upon request, our facilities are available as part of our stewardship requirement and as an outreach for community events. Groups were not permitted to use the building beginning on March 13, 2020. As the State of Maryland eased some restrictions the American Red Cross Blood Drive and BSA 829 have used the building in compliance with State and Diocesan regulations.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Narcotics Anonymous
FGOG Embroidery Group
Quartermania Fundraisers
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Diocese of Maryland
Federated Garden Clubs of MD
BSA Troop 829
Girl Scouts (various)

January 1—March 13

Average Sunday Attendance	90
Key Services	
Ash Wednesday	83

March 14—December 31

Average Sunday Attendance	104
Key Services	
Easter Day	153
Christmas Eve	151

Receiving Treasurer Report

Below are our Pledging figures to date:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
51 Pledging Families (as of January 18, 2021)	63 Pledging Families (as of December 2019)
Amount \$174,560.00	Amount: \$183,515.00

It's been a challenging 2020 and hoping that 2021 will be better. Praying and thanking all who contributed either by pledge or plate in 2020 will consider pledging in 2021. Your pledge assists the Vestry in determining the budget for the year. Please pray about if you can step out in faith and make a pledge -- no amount is too small. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted: Deb Schaeffer, Assistant Receiving Treasurer
on behalf of Aline Sautter, Receiving Treasurer

Sunday Nursery Care Report

Child care (crib nursery) was active with volunteers supporting our Nursery Attendant Katelynn Marshall from January – March 8, 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions required the closure of in-person services, and, simultaneously, in-person child care. In-person child care activities did not resume during the remainder of 2020. When in-person activities were suspended there were seven adults alternating to assist the Nursery Attendant.

From mid-March through August Ms. Marshall continued to support the child care ministry through weekly check-ins with families who participated in child care activities. She facilitated needs and prayer requests to the St. James' community. In September with the uncertainty of knowing what the future of in-person child care held, the Nursery Attendant position was furloughed with gratitude to Ms. Marshall for all of her support during the challenging period and best wishes to her in a new position.

Submitted by Sarah Brown

Sunday School Report

Like every ministry at St. James', our Sunday School had to make a major change in mid-March due to the pandemic. As a result, our class schedules came to an abrupt halt but our amazing teachers took action:

Betsy Davis combined preschool through 5th grade classes and began teaching lessons on Zoom every Sunday morning assisted by Yvette Allen.

- Joan Fader and Natalie DelRegno combined their efforts with outdoor classes for middle-high school students.
- In late May our teachers organized an outdoor closing ceremony for all students to receive their Certificates of Attendance.

- Later in the summer, we presented a check in the amount of \$804.88 to Mary Anne & Rick Smith to benefit A is for Africa representing the Lenten Mite Box outreach donation.
- In December, Yvette Allen and Joan Fader organized a first-ever drive through Christmas pageant. Thirty participants and approximately 160 visitors made it happen. Thank you all!

We will continue to adjust our schedules according to Diocesan guidelines during this pandemic. Hopefully, before long, we will all be together again in our classroom settings. We have missed seeing your children face to face each Sunday.

Sunday School Teaching Team

Yvette Allen, Betsy Davis, Natalie DelRegno, Joan Fader

It is a joy to work with your children!

Usher Report

Well it has been a difficult year. Only a few of us ushered this year. We had outside services for a couple of months and inside services for a month. Thanks to Lynda Ellis, Vic Pellicier, Tom Kaufman and Jim Bullington. Hopefully things will get back to normal in a few months.

Submitted by Jim Bullington

Youth Group Report

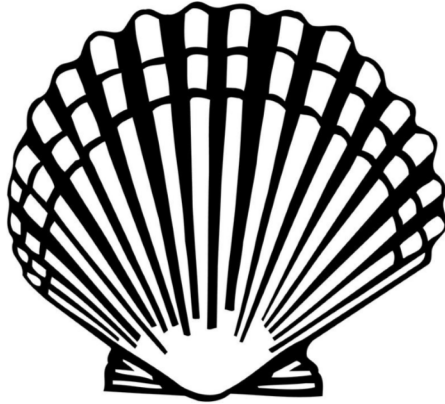
Youth Group continued to grow and began to meet virtually in 2020. We were all able to readily adapt to a new virtual platform, which seems to be the norm these days. While we don't typically meet throughout the summer, Youth Group decided to have monthly meetings to check-in and play virtual games. It was a great way to keep in touch during these interesting times.

The theme of Youth group this year has been a graphic novel book club. Our first pick for our book club was *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix. This graphic novel tells the story of the German pastor and Nazi resistor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. We have spent our second Sunday meetings discussing the assigned chapters and exploring themes such as leadership, faith vs. reason, and individual vs. community. The next graphic novel we will be reading is *March, Book One* by John Lewis. This is part of a novel trilogy that tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement from the perspective of John Lewis.

Despite the requisite masks and social distancing, we have been able to enjoy a few fourth Sunday fellowship outings in 2020. These included mini-golf and bon fires with games and great conversation in the field!

If you know a youth, or are interested yourself, please join us! We continue to grow in community on the second Sunday of every month from 6 - 8:00 pm. Fellowship is every fourth Sunday (activities and times to be determined). If you have any questions, please contact youth@stjamesmtairy.org

NOTES



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**The mission of the churches of the Diocese of Maryland is to
ENCOUNTER Christ everywhere and
ENGAGE in God's mission of reconciliation in the world.**