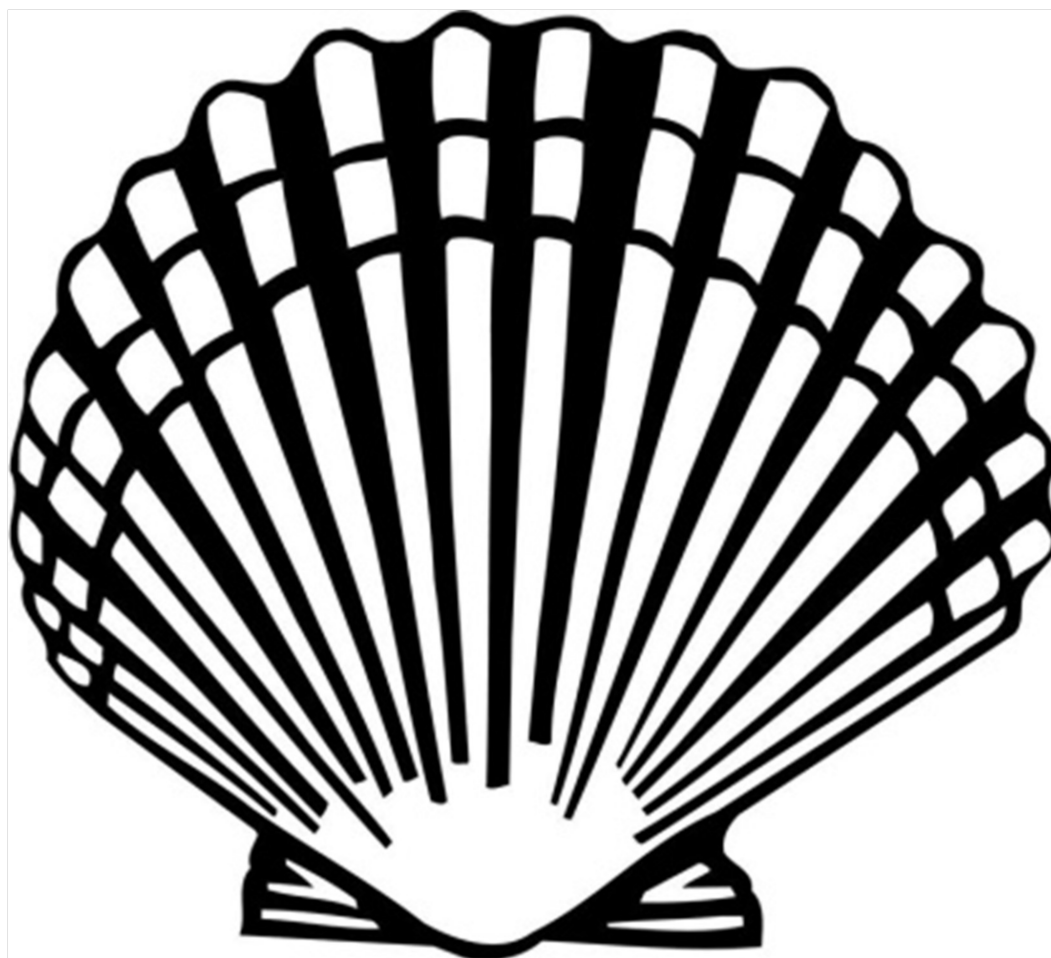


The 2021 Annual Report of  
**St. James' Episcopal Church**  
Mt. Airy, Maryland

Presented at the Annual Meeting  
January 30, 2022



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# **St. James' Episcopal Church**

Mt. Airy, Maryland

## **Staff**

The Rev. Kristin N. Krantz, Rector

Laura Davis, Parish Administrator

Richard Drehoff, Jr., Music Director

Mechelle Cascardo, Business Manager

Michelle Rippeon, Director, St. James' Nursery School

Chris Henyon, Deb Schaeffer, Cheryl Windsor—Management Team, St. James' Thrift Shop

## **Vestry & Officers**

Dave Rak, Senior Warden

Ty Conlon, Junior Warden

### **2019—2022**

Ty Conlon

Bill Ellis

Andrew Gobien

Steve Stowell

### **2020—2023**

Matt Kastel

Dave Rak

Rainey Stafford

### **2021—2024**

Heather Albertson

Jason Kilmore

Vic Pellicier

## **Annual Meeting 2022 Agenda**

Motion to modify the rules for virtual meeting and voting

Welcome & Call to Order

Opening Prayer

St. James' Norms

Election of Clerk to Record the Minutes

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting Reviewed for Approval

Report of the Rector: The Reverend Kristin N. Krantz

Presentation of 2021 Recap & 2022 Budget for Acceptance

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

Election of New Vestry Members

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

Committee Reports by Affirmation & Appreciation

Presentation of St. James' Icons

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

# Annual Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 31, 2021

Hand Out: 2020 Annual Report of St. James' Episcopal Church

The meeting was conducted with Zoom teleconferencing software because a viral pandemic prevented meeting in-person. About 77 people participated.

Kristin+ welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 9:05 am.

***Lynda Ellis moved that we open the 2021 Annual Meeting, Jeannie Pellicier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was called to order.***

**Opening with a review of St. James' norms of behavior**

**Election of clerk to record the minutes**

***A motion was made by Bill Ellis and seconded by Deb Schaeffer to elect David Rak to record the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting. The motion was approved with no abstentions or objections.***

**Review Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting**

***A motion was made by Mary Hutchins-Danna and seconded by Lynda Ellis to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**Kristin+ presented the 2020 Rector's Report**

- This was a year like no other – we faced significant challenges, we encountered many changes, and experienced significant growth. Vestry, staff, and key ministry leaders all worked hard to pull us together after things went south with the pandemic in early March.
- Vestry members called every household. Grace groups were established to keep individuals connected. Worship services were moved to online and technical support was provided where needed to enable our community to continue to meet safely.
- A Regathering Team (Jeannie & Vic Pellicier, Mike Henyon, Jim Bullington, and Dave Rak) met to plan and support re-opening our building and regathering for in-person worship. The church building was opened with multiple precautions in June. In-person worship began in July. The Thrift Shop also opened in June. The Nursery School re-opened in the Fall. The basket raffle worked well as modified for social distancing, and provided fundraising support in a year of financial hardship. We are proud of the way we responded to the challenges of the pandemic.
- New opportunities -
  - We learned a lot about technology.
  - We learned how resilient we are.
  - We began a weekly bible study in the spring.
  - We worked together as one community, instead of two – one at each service.
  - We expanded our social media reach. People joined us faithfully through Facebook, our website, and YouTube.
  - Our community has strengthened and grown.

- The Renewal Team (Jeannie Pellicier, Jane Barger, Joan Fader, Lynda Ellis, and Blix Winston) worked with Kristin+ to submit an application and we were one of only 140 churches across the US to receive a clergy renewal grant from the Lilly Foundation. The \$32,000 grant will support a three-month sabbatical, interim clergy, and congregational renewal. The sabbatical will be postponed until 2022 because of the pandemic.
- Kristin+ serves as the director of the College for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Maryland. We had to delay our intended June 2020 launch of the program and instead hosted two days of online workshops that drew over 60 people from 20 congregations. The team from St. James' who attended those workshops continues to meet, and The College is officially launching in June 2021.
- What's next in 2021?
  - God is with us.
  - We expect the virus to diminish as more people are vaccinated.
  - We expect a return more fully to in-person worship. We will continue a virtual service of some sort throughout the year.
  - We understand that we won't be able to pick up where we left off – the world has changed and so have we.
  - The Nursery School will experience significant transitions with the retirement of both the Director Pat Castle and Business Manager Sharon Hansen.
  - The Thrift Shop is transitioning with the loss of manager Sandy Baker last August. Deb Schaeffer, Cheryl Windsor, and Chris Henyon have assumed leadership at the Thrift Shop as a volunteer management team – they serve as ministry chair, volunteer chair, and board chair, respectively. We thank them for stepping up to serve.

#### **Presentation by Jane Barger, Treasurer, of the 2020 financial results and the 2021 budget**

- 2020 was a tough year financially. We incurred significant pandemic-related losses - the extended closing of the Thrift Shop and Nursery School, and a decline in pledges.
- Jane wins a gold star for leading us through the pandemic. She applied for and received a Federal Payroll Protection Program loan with our bank. She continues to work with our bank to convert the loan to a grant under evolving Small Business Association guidelines.
- Additionally, Jane worked with the bank through three separate periods to reduce our mortgage payments during this year and renegotiated our mortgage payments for one year.
- We requested the bank suspend mortgage principal payments for three months.
- The PPP loan/grant paid our staff for eight weeks in 2020.
- The Nursery School was unable to provide St. James' Church their \$15,000 dividend in 2020.
- St. James' Church had to cover Thrift Shop payroll during some lean months. Additionally, the Thrift Shop tithe was reduced for a period of one year while they recover.
- Congregational pledges were down about \$26,000 from 2019. Church expenses were also lower.
- Our mortgage debt has been paid down to \$1.6 million.
- Our congregation really came through on their Replenish & Establish pledges, especially considering the pandemic.
- Aline Sauter, Deb Schaeffer and Jane Barger met Sundays at 2pm to count the collection.
- Our bookkeeper, Mechelle Cascardo, significantly reduced her stipend because of the pandemic.
- We understand this has been a difficult year for many and extend thanks to our congregation for continuing to give throughout the year. We're grateful for everyone's generosity – it takes all of us together.
- On January 30, 2021, we submitted a request to the diocese asking them for assistance to meet our budget. We expect to hear back within two months.

- Congress approved a new Payroll Protection Program. Jane is working with our bank to determine if the regulations for the revised program allow us to apply.
- We completed all financial requirements, monthly audits, budgeting for each of our three businesses, and financial reporting. Transparency in finances is important since our income comes from every one of you. It's important that you know exactly what's happening. If you have questions, reach out to Jane or Kristin+.
- Refer to the annual report booklet for additional details.
- Bonnie Winkler thanked Jane for all the work she did throughout the year.

***A motion was made by Lynda Ellis and seconded by Deb Schaeffer to accept the 2021 budget. The motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Election of new Vestry members**

- We first recognize and thank our outgoing Vestry members – Heather Albertson, Vivian Carden, Phillip Massey, Jason Kilmore, and Lucy Winston. We thank Jeannie Pellicier for her faithful service as Senior Warden.
- One new candidate was presented by the nominating committee: Vic Pellicier. Two vestry members agreed to extend their service for a second term – Heather Albertson and Jason Kilmore. We have one open vestry position, the remainder of Vivian Carden's term. She had to step back for personal reasons.

***A motion was made by Mary Hutchins-Danna and seconded by Dave Oland to elect Vic, Heather, and Jason as the Vestry class of 2021-2024. The motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Election of Diocesan Convention Delegate and Alternate**

***A motion was made by Dave Oland and seconded by Mary Hutchins-Danna to elect Carla Kaufman as the Diocesan Convention Delegate and Blix Winston as the alternate. The motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Kristin+ recognized and presented the follow people with St. James' icons:**

- Sharon Hansen, a faithful member and Nursery School employee who has served as business manager of the Nursery School for 30+ years.
- Chris Henyon, who joined Deb and Cheryl to lead the Thrift Shop and went above and beyond over the last year.
- Jeannie Pellicier, our outgoing senior warden who came up with great ideas and gets stuff done prayerfully and thoughtfully.

### **Committee Reports**

Rather than reading all reports in person, Kristin+ asked the parish to review the reports in the Annual Report booklet on St. James' website.

### **Closing Prayers and Adjournment**

Kristin+ said a prayer of thanks. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Prepared by: David Rak; January 31, 2021

# Report of the Rector

2021 was a year of continued challenges and changes due to the pandemic, but through it all we found ways to continue to stay church, stay connected, and take care of each other.

We began the year in the thick of COVID with soaring post-holiday case rates. Because of this we continued to worship online and moved our Annual Meeting to Zoom. We found that the meeting ended up working really well online, with a slideshow of the agenda and other relevant information making it engaging and accessible. We linked a pdf of the Annual Report for download and mailed paper copies of it to those who requested it. While hopefully we won't have to do it this way again, we added another tool to our always expanding toolbox.

There are two announcements from the Annual Meeting I would like to highlight. First, the Renewal Team announced that the decision had been made to postpone my sabbatical until 2022 due to the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic and travel. The second is that we shared three upcoming staff and leadership transitions. Our Nursery School Business Manager Sharon Hansen would be retiring in May, our Treasurer Jane Barger would be stepping down in June, and our Nursery School Director Pat Castle would be retiring in July. In light of the Nursery School Business Manager and Treasurer transition, the vestry made the decision to create a new overall Business Manager position overseeing the church, Nursery School, and Thrift Shop.

Much of 2021, then, was managing these transitions. We were fortunate to hire our Bookkeeper Mechelle Cascardo into the new Business Manager role. Natalie DelRegno stepped into leadership as our new Treasurer. Michelle Rippeon accepted the offer to become the new Nursery School Director. After all the leadership transitions of the previous year at the Thrift Shop, Deb Schaeffer, Cheryl Windsor, and Chris Henyon solidified their management roles while that Board undertook an exploration of business models used by other local thrift stores to help plan for the future.

In February we said goodbye to DOV Intern Nancy Smith with appreciation offered for her time with us and prayers for the next part of her journey. At the end of the month the vestry met for an online retreat where we did some appreciative inquiry work reflecting on the last year and charting challenges and opportunities for the year ahead.

Of the many things that continued to shift in 2021, worship is the one that stands out. We worshipped entirely virtually through early March. We then began an in-person worship service at 8:30 am while continuing on Zoom with livestreaming at 10:30 am. For Easter Day we created a pre-recorded video with a virtual choir that everyone could stream Easter morning and distributed at-home communion kits so that everyone could share the sacrament. At the end of May we moved to two in-person services – 8:30 am indoors (and livestreamed) and 10:30 am in the Memorial Garden. In the fall when COVID numbers began to rise again we moved both services outdoors for a time (while continuing to livestream the early service). Once the weather changed in November we moved both in-person services indoors and switched the livestream to the later service in order to enhance virtual worship with music.

We felt confident in these ongoing shifts in large part to data collected from several congregational surveys throughout the year asking about people's comfort levels and worship preferences. While not everybody was happy all the time, I am grateful for people's willingness to share their hopes and disappointments, as well as their commitment to putting the most vulnerable among us first.



Another thing that made these shifts in worship possible was the creation of a new livestream ministry. Utilizing the expertise of Mike Henyon and Richard Drehoff we purchased a camera and other equipment needed to stream from the church. As we formalized this new ministry Zachary Krantz stepped in to lead it and to recruit and train a ministry team. Livestreaming allowed us to keep a digital presence even as we were able to begin to gather in-person fully, and it will be an important ministry going forward. Additionally, to enhance outdoor worship, we also purchased new sound equipment, as well as a keyboard and stand. We anticipate that outdoor worship will become the norm for at least one service part of the year from now on and we're set to make outdoor worship accessible going forward.

In April there was a fire in the downstairs hallway bathroom. We were fortunate that the cleaning crew happened to be there when it started and they were able to use a fire extinguisher. That, along with the sprinkler that was activated, quickly put the fire out. Unfortunately the damage from the water released by the sprinkler was extensive. The Nursery School had to be closed down for two weeks for mitigation and restoration. I am thankful for the fast response of the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company, as well as Service Master and our onsite insurance adjustor to get the ball rolling on all the work that needed to be done. Gratitude also goes out to Jim Bullington who connected us with a contractor to get work done in a timely manner; our Nursery School Director Pat Castle who navigated the disruption compassionately with our families and shepherded us through the inspections needed to reopen; and our Parish Administrator Laura Davis who took charge of all the details related to invoices and the insurance claim. While it was a big disruption, all things considered we were very lucky and came through it well.

One of the things we have missed in this pandemic time are the activities spread throughout the year that bring us together for fellowship and formation. We tried to make up for that by continuing our practice of having seasonal "faith at home" bags. In Lent our bags included pancakes in a jar for Shrove Tuesday, small containers with ashes for Ash Wednesday, a Lenten micropractices devotional, and palm crosses folded from last year's palms by a family in the congregation. Bags for Holy Week and Easter included fresh palms, Easter Day communion, and a 50 days of spiritual practices booklet among other things. Over the summer we offered a booklet and social media campaign focusing on scripture passages for reflection. To kick off the program year we created fall bags that included materials for upcoming holy days, Forward Day by Day devotionals, encouragement cards, mini-sabbath cards, and thanksgiving placemats. Gathering resources for these seasonal offerings was fun and they were one of the things people consistently told us they appreciated.

While "faith at home" bags were intergenerational, they were one of the ways we stayed connected with our families with children. Other things we did to support our families included making "Parenting in a Pandemic" certificates for every parent and then hand delivering them along with goody bags. We timed this around the first anniversary of the original 2020 lockdown as a way to mark the time and also give them a much-needed boost. In the late summer parishioner Kathy Rak undertook a project to reach out and survey all of our families with school age children to gather information about their hopes for Sunday School and what we could do to continue to support them. With that information in hand our amazing Sunday School team, Joan Fader, Betsy Davis, Natalie DelRegno, and Yvette Allen, began the program year with in-person classes.

In the fall we launched a Confirmation program for high school youth. Annie Horrigan and I co-led five youth through a five month series of classes to prepare for the sacramental rite during our bishop's visitation in February 2022.

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Adult formation opportunities in 2021 were varied but mostly still virtual. The online Bible study continued through the spring, took a hiatus over the summer, and then began again in the fall. Our Book Group met twice for discussion and reflection. The winter book selection was *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Michael Curry and our spring read was *The Man Who Met God in a Bar* by Robert Capon. In Lent parishioner Lynne Murdock presented *Truth in 10 – The Climate Reality Project* and led two discussions on our response to climate change. Our fall series was called *The Transforming Power of Labyrinths*. Everyone was invited to view a multi-part online course and then we meet in October to discuss what we learned. In Advent we had a three-part series called *The Women Who Shaped the Story*. Using the book *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*, we explored women's presence in scripture and then specifically looked at Elizabeth and Mary.

In 2021 I continued my diocesan work as the director of The College for Congregational Development in the Diocese of Maryland. We successfully launched the weeklong program in June with participants from sixteen congregations from around our diocese, as well as five other dioceses from Province 3. It was great to have a member of St. James', Kathy Rak, attend. My ongoing work in congregational development includes participating in the director's group for The College, serving as a trainer for The College in other dioceses, serving on our diocesan Congregational Vitality Committee, and teaching and facilitating around the diocese with individual congregations and at events such as Vestry Vitality Day.

You can read all the other reports from our various ministries to get a fuller picture of our life together in 2021, so I would like to close with giving thanks. To our Vestry who continued to step up in these unprecedented times to lead us with courage and heart. To the Nursery School Board and staff and the Thrift Shop Board and staff who were nimble and handled ongoing change adeptly. To Laura Davis, Parish Administrator, and Richard Drehoff, Music Director, who both went above and beyond their duties and responsibilities. And to the whole St. James' community – you truly did continue to stay connected, stay church, and take care of each other. While the road ahead is likely still bumpy, with twists and turns we cannot foresee, I believe we are in a good place to continue our journey and face both the challenges and opportunities with faithfulness.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kristin+*

# 2021 Financial Report & 2022 Budget

	<u>2020 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>	<u>2021 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2022 BUDGET</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Congregational Pledges	\$188,887.54	\$195,000.00	\$193,800.17	\$195,000.00
Plate Offering	\$21,706.00	\$17,000.00	\$15,734.00	\$15,000.00
Other Income	\$23,875.69	\$27,204.00	\$23,221.54	\$25,594.00
Memorial Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$695.00	\$0.00
St. James Nursery School	\$65,463.77	\$84,620.00	\$82,403.54	\$86,320.00
St. James Thrift Shop	<u>\$16,586.73</u>	<u>\$32,763.00</u>	<u>\$40,999.24</u>	<u>\$39,927.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$316,519.73</b>	<b>\$356,587.00</b>	<b>\$356,853.49</b>	<b>\$361,841.00</b>
<b><u>Expense</u></b>				
Ministry	\$27,941.29	\$32,247.35	\$31,287.40	\$31,533.00
Operations	\$135,243.61	\$146,559.25	\$156,864.88	\$155,880.25
Parish Administration	\$151,371.74	\$158,281.25	\$155,777.60	\$175,219.50
Worship & Christian Ed	<u>\$3,044.04</u>	<u>\$4,728.00</u>	<u>\$3,349.81</u>	<u>\$4,658.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$317,600.68</b>	<b>\$341,815.85</b>	<b>\$347,279.69</b>	<b>\$367,290.75</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	-\$1,080.95		\$9,573.80	
Investment Interest	<u>\$485.42</u>		<u>\$164.57</u>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-\$595.53</b>	<b>\$14,771.15</b>	<b>\$9,738.37</b>	<b>-\$5,449.75</b>
Principal Payment on Loans	<u>-\$22,155.12</u>	<u>-\$34,500.00</u>	<u>-\$25,026.54</u>	<u>-\$71,282.71</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME/DEFICIT - Adjusted</b>	<b>-\$22,750.65</b>	<b>-\$19,728.85</b>	<b>-\$15,288.17</b>	<b>-\$76,732.46</b>
<b>Mortgage Debt - 12-31-2020</b>	<b>\$1,599,974.60</b>		<b>12-31-2021 Balance Reserve MM</b>	<b>\$120,824.09</b>
Principal Payment 2021	<u>-\$25,026.54</u>		<b>12-31-2021 Balance Cap Imp MM</b>	<b>\$113,294.63</b>
<b>Mortgage Debt - 12-31-2021</b>	<b>\$1,574,948.06</b>		<b>12-31-2021 R&amp;E Funds Rec'd - Final</b>	<b>\$181,178.00</b>
			<b>12-31-2021 Total PPP Funds Rec'd</b>	<b>\$162,027.00</b>

## 2021 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. During the summer of 2021, St. James' Church and its subsidiaries underwent several transitions. Former Treasurer Jane Barger, Nursery School Director Pat Castle, and Nursery Business Manager Sharon Hansen all retired. A new Nursery School Director, Michelle Rippeon was hired, and Mechelle Cascardo, formerly St. James' Bookkeeper, became the Business Manager for all three organizations: the Church, the Nursery School and the Thrift Shop. Natalie DelRegno, church member of St. James', became the new Treasurer. As Business Manager of all three organizations, Mechelle has been able to streamline operations, and the activities of all entities have become more transparent. The Treasurer worked closely with the Business Manager, as well as Receiving Treasurer, Aline Sautter, and Registrar, Deb Schaeffer. Jane Barger, former Treasurer, continues to act as a consultant and has assisted greatly with the transition. As we continued through the COVID pandemic this year, their insight into the happenings of the church and ability to maintain consistency and support has been greatly appreciated. The 2021 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 Business Manager oversees the financial operations of the Nursery School, and with the assistance of the Nursery Director, has prepared an initial budget, financial reports and payroll. In addition, we thank Dave Rak, our Vestry Senior Warden, who has completed monthly audits of all bank operations for all three organizations.

In 2021, St. James' has continued to face numerous financial challenges as we have tried to come back from the Pandemic and adjust as needed with the Nation's constant fluctuations. The significant financial decisions and situations encountered throughout the year are outlined below:

- Our first PPP loan of \$81,000 obtained in April 2020 was forgiven in March 2021. The 2<sup>nd</sup> PPP loan of \$81,027 obtained in April 2021 was also forgiven in October 2021.
- The 1-year modification of our existing mortgage loans that we negotiated in 2020 to help with COVID related expenses came due in December 2021. The existing mortgage balance was refinanced through our original term of 2026, and the new payments beginning in January 2022 will total \$11,807.33 for principal and interest combined.
- At 2021 year-end, St. James' received \$209,534.17 in Congregation Stewardship (only \$1,059.37 less than in 2020). Total income of \$356,853.49 was \$40,333.76 more than 2020 and total expenses of \$347,279.69 were \$29,679.01 more than 2020. Net Income of \$9,573.80 was adjusted to allow for the addition of Investment Interest of \$164.57 and payment of \$25,026.54 in Loan Principal - resulting in a Net Deficit of -\$15,288.17 for the year.
- The Thrift Shop provided income of \$40,999.24, \$24,412.51 more than 2020. Thanks to Acting Volunteer Managers, Deb Schaeffer, Cheryl Windsor and Chris Henyon who have been running the shop since the passing of former Manager Sandy Baker, and the employees, volunteers and Thrift Shop Board Members whose hard work and time both support and fulfill the mission of the shop. The Thrift Shop has thrived this past year and has been able to pay back their tithe that had lapsed in 2020 due to being shut down during the pandemic.

- St. James' Nursery School provided \$36,300.00 in annual Stewardship, a \$15,000 year-end contribution, and \$22,055.57 in payment of half of our building's yearly operations expense in 2021. The Nursery School has been open and operating in person this past year, following CDC and County guidance regarding COVID. A huge thank you goes out to Michelle Rippeon, the new Executive Director, Mechelle Cascardo, the new Business Manager and all of the teachers and teachers' aides, who continue to meet the challenges and stress of working during COVID 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 35% of St. James' Total Income in 2021 as compared to 26% in 2020.
- The Replenish & Establish Project (R&E), which started in March 2018, was 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 aMt. pledged in spring 2018 was \$183,365.00. At the closing of the project on May 31, 2021, we had received \$180,268. Additional funds of \$910 were received throughout the year and as of December 31, 2021, the total aMt. received was \$181,178.
- In May 2021 there was a fire in the hallway bathroom downstairs in the Nursery School. Total claims from the fire paid out to St. James' from Brotherhood Insurance Company totaled \$73,781.96. An additional \$71.88 of Sales Tax reimbursed by Staples brought our total income received to \$73,853.84. Total expenses incurred for damage cleanup and repair was \$62,799.69. Additional replacement items purchased by the Nursery School was \$3,843.83, totaling \$66,643.52 in expenses related to the fire. As of December 31, 2021, there remains an excess of income totaling \$7,210.32.
- With the receipt of the PPP funds during COVID, we have not had to transfer any money from our Operating Reserve Money Market account to cover operations. The \$81,027 from the second PPP loan received this year was deposited into our Reserve account upon forgiveness, and our balance in that account as of December 31, 2021 is \$120,824.09.
- All R&E pledges received in 2021, in the aMt. of \$2,594, were transferred to the Capital Improvement Money Market account. The balance in the account as of December 31, 2021 was \$113,294.63, including interest. This MM account is restricted, to be used only to fund necessary capital repairs and improvements over \$5,000.
- The additional Money Market account on the Balance Sheet represents funds from a Lily Grant received for Rev. Kristin's Sabbatical originally scheduled for 2021. She now plans to take her Sabbatical in summer and early fall of this year. The amount in this account as of December 31, 2021 is \$32,122.34.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie DelRegno, Treasurer

## 2022—2025 Vestry Class Candidates

### **Jim Bullington**

Jim was born in Takoma Park, Maryland, moved to Twin Brook, and then to Aspen Hill with his family. Jim graduated from Robert E. Peary High School and went on to get an AA degree from Montgomery College. Jim worked at McIntire Hardware in Rockville, Maryland until he was 21 when he started in the construction industry. Jim went into business for himself in 1983 as a Home Improvement Contractor and has built and renovated many homes in Mt. Airy and surrounding areas. He has three daughters and eight grandchildren and married his current wife Patty in 2006. He started coming to St. James' in 2009. Jim has served as an Usher since 2010 and joined the Outreach Committee as well. Jim was selected for the Vestry in 2012 and became Jr. Warden because it was a natural fit, as he has the needed experience and no one else wanted the job. But that was ok. The funny part was when George Winters asked him to join the Vestry, George said the Vestry had a special job for him and Jr. Warden was his destiny. When Portia retired, Jim supported the effort to pick an interim Rector and was there when the Vestry selected Kristin Krantz as the new Rector for St. James'. Jim left the Vestry in 2018 but continues to contribute by helping with many tasks for the Church community.

### **Annie Horrigan**

I have lived in Mt. Airy for 7 years with my husband, Andy and two children (Jack - 4, Nora - 10 months). My husband and I met in graduate school at the University of Georgia and moved back to Maryland shortly after graduation. What attracted us to St. James' was its sense of community and love of family. We immediately felt at home here after our first visit. I have been active in the youth group for the last couple of years and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to work with them on their faith journey. Also, this past year I have worked with Kristin in leading the Confirmation candidates classes which I have enjoyed a great deal. Professionally, I have been employed at Morgan Stanley in Baltimore for the past 8 years where I am the Director of New Accounts Operations. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and I love to be in the kitchen trying out new recipes. In the coming months I am going to be transitioning to a new chapter in my life, and having the opportunity to stay at home with my children, and I cannot wait. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Vestry, and helping others to feel as welcome as my family.

### **Gabby Markham**

My name is Gabrielle Markham but everyone just calls me Gabby. I am 35 years old and I have an amazing daughter named Abby. I love to crochet and draw and listen to Abby play music. I work at an at home daycare; it's a job I find it very rewarding. On Easter in 2019 we attended services at St. James' and never left. I am so proud to be apart of this spiritual community.

### **Cheri McClanahan**

Cheri grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland where she started attending a local Episcopal church, Church of the Ascension in 1991 and volunteered with the Sunday School program. She moved to Mt. Airy in 1997 and attended Grace New Market where she served on the vestry and one term as church auditor. She started attending St. James' church in 2003. She has served on the vestry with St. James', on the Rector search committee, and one year as Senior Warden.

Cheri is a recent graduate from FCC with an Associates, Honors in Business Administration degree and works full time for a National Engineering firm in Ashburn, Virginia as an Administrative Manager.

Cheri and Tim have two children Bryce (22) and Trevor (20) and a furry four-legged daughter Flower (3). In her spare time, she enjoys reading and spending time at her getaway in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

# Diocesan Convention Delegate & Alternate

Delegate—Carla Kaufman  
Alternate—Blix Winston

## Report of the Senior Warden

What a year! Fire. Flood. The second year of a global pandemic. We sampled just about every color phase of the diocesan COVID rainbow. We worshipped virtually with Zoom, we live-streamed, we worshipped outdoors when weather permitted (and once when it didn't), and we finally returned to worshipping in-person indoors while maintaining our live-stream. Parishioners led morning prayer in July when Kristin<sup>†</sup> was on vacation. We changed key staff positions and successfully transitioned responsibilities. We also changed our treasurer. Natalie DelRegno volunteered to assume the responsibilities previously performed by Jane Barger. The vestry, our church staff, and you - our congregation - continued to adapt throughout 2021. We thank you all for your flexibility.

COVID is probably still the main news for 2021. Kristin<sup>†</sup> and I continue to meet twice a month with the diocese to keep current on the pandemic as we try to find the quickest way we can safely return to normal.

After meeting virtually for 16 months straight, in June, 2021 COVID case rates dropped and the vestry used a hybrid meeting with some members in-person and others participating virtually. Case rates rose out of the green zone and we are currently back to virtual meetings.

On the financial front, the vestry authorized our treasurer to apply for a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. She worked with our bank, we were granted the loan, and she worked with them again to have it forgiven. It was forgiven, providing funds that enabled our parish to make it through the year. Our treasurer continued to work with our bank to keep our mortgage and interest manageable in 2021. Both PPP and the special mortgage accommodations are ending so we face leaner months ahead in 2022.

The vestry conducted a book study together - "We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church." Vestry members resumed their pre-COVID role of counting and depositing the Sunday collection. We thank Deb Schaeffer and Jane Barger for doing this during the dark days of the pandemic and for offering their time to train vestry members in the software and processes.

The nursery school is under new leadership this year. They did admirably, facing extensive challenges related to the fire and flood damage downstairs and all the pandemic-related issues. We're grateful and blessed to have excellent staff in our nursery school.

The thrift shop had a great year and paid back all the funds loaned to them by the church to cover their payroll and back-tithe during the early months of the pandemic in 2020. The thrift shop also returned to paying a 25% tithe instead of 15%. We thank the leaders, volunteers, and staff of our thrift shop for their excellent work.

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I feel blessed to be part of this community. This was a hard year - we all long for a return to the connections and fellowship of pre-COVID days. But in some ways we've grown stronger despite the challenges of COVID. We improved our digital presence, we acquired and learned to operate new technology. It wasn't always easy, but we continued our ministry. The vestry thanks all of you for your continued generous support.

Looking ahead, 2022 will also present new opportunities and challenges. Kristin† will finally be able to take the sabbatical she had planned to take in 2021 but had to defer because of the pandemic. The vestry conducted the first of three mutual ministry reflections. Two will be conducted prior to Kristin's† sabbatical, one will be held after she returns. As always, let a vestry member know how we can help.

David Rak

## **Report of the Junior Warden**

The first part of 2021 was dominated by the bathroom fire in the early spring. Fortunately, the fire occurred while people were around to summon help and the fire sprinkler system and Mt Airy Fire Department were able to limit the damage to the building. It took two weeks for the repairs to be completed that would allow the Nursery School to reopen and the hall bathroom was renovated in a timely manner. Some plumbing repairs that required professional attention finished off the spring. Mercifully the remainder of the year was fairly uneventful with minor wear and tear maintenance issues being the order of the day.

This year for the first time since 2019 we were also able to have a fall work day that was well attended and productive. As we look forward to 2022, I am once again hopeful that we will be able to meet again for Spring Clean-Up and possibly an indoor Fall Clean-Up.

As I close out my last Junior Warden report I would like to thank everyone for their assistance over the past few years. My last six years on Vestry have been very rewarding and I wish the new Vestry of 2022 the best of luck in the coming year.

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 – Michelle Rippeon, Director; Karen Kastel, Chair; The Rev. Kristin Krantz; Steve Stowell, Vestry Liaison; and, Members, Sarah Brown, Terri Demosky-Tippett, Adrienne Smith, Mary Hutchins-Danna, Rebecca Sach, Marc Argoud, Parent Representative; Kathryn Janiga; Staff Representative.



- We have a staff of fifteen, including a director, business manager, 7 teachers and 6 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). We are gearing up for a visit from the State anytime for our reaccreditation visit.
- We were awarded a Nonpublic School's Safety Grant through MSDE and used this money to help pay for the installation of a camera security system.
- In February of 2021, we received \$8,060 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 2021-22 school year, etc.
- In April, the Nursery School bathroom had a fire. The fire originated in the light fixture. The damages resulted in purchasing a new bathroom light fixture, mirror, paper towel holder and toilet paper holders. Although the classrooms did not have fire damage, the water from the sprinklers caused damage. The classrooms replaced their rugs, some bookshelves, and some classroom toys. The office replaced the laminate flooring, as well as the desks for the director and office assistant. The resource room had the carpet replaced as well.
- The Nursery School was painted in July. The current enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is 147 students and we offer 11 classes for two, three and four-year olds.
- COVID brought several restrictions last 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 opened in the fall of 2021 with a regular enrollment while following numerous COVID safety procedures. We received the COVID stabilization grant through the State of Maryland for a total of \$50,000. We are currently looking into buying air purifiers for the classrooms and meeting areas. We are also using this money to pay staff for COVID related leave, as well as student reimbursements when class closures occurred.
- We are pleased to have been able to have Parent/Teacher Conferences, monthly virtual Bookmobiles and Chapel Times, and Zoom Christmas Events for the classes.
- The Fall Charleston Wrap fundraiser brought in approximately \$3,670.80 in sales and donations. This money paid for 4 sessions of Soccer Shots this fall and a visit from a Petting Farm. We also used \$150.00 to pay for three Christmas trees from Gaver Farms. The four year old classes enjoyed a field trip to pick out class Christmas trees.
- A \$1,600 grant was received from Walmart last year to use for a program to support needy families during COVID. We put together meals with turkeys and all the fixings for 4 families this Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted: Michelle Rippeon, 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 volunteer management team consists of Deb Schaeffer, ministry chair; Cheryl Windsor, volunteer chair; and Chris Henyon, board chair. Daily staffing of the Thrift Shop during 2021 was a challenge, with multiple staff turnover. The St. James' Thrift Shop board members include Chris Henyon, Peg Pelch, Tom Kaufman, Cheryl Windsor, and Marilyn Hancock. The St. James Reverend Kristin Krantz also attends our meetings along with Deb Schaefer ministry chair, and Andrew Gobien and Matthew Kastel, vestry liaisons. The board needs another member.

The COVID pandemic during 2021 did not affect Thrift Shop operations, the store remained open Tuesday through Saturday with a few weather-related closures. The Mt. 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 has paid back all payroll and tithe loans from the church occurred during the 2020 pandemic closures.

High-value donations are sold on eBay with larger and fragile items 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, St. James' Basket Raffle, local schools, and other Main Street businesses.

We continue to be an active member of the Mt. Airy Main Street Association. In order to promote business, the shop handed out candy during a Halloween event, participated in the Fall Fest showcasing the baskets for the Church's annual basket raffle, 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 2022 and many years ahead!

Submitted by Chris Henyon, Board Chair

## **Acolyte Report**

The Acolyte Group, like most of our ministries during 2020/2021, was on a hiatus to ensure everyone stayed as healthy as possible when they were able to attend live services. However, as we start to return to some of our normal activities, we are looking forward to having our Acolytes serve the 10:30 am service once again. We were able to have some returning and some new Acolytes serve for both

our Christmas Eve services this year and we were so grateful. With only five Acolytes at this time, we would love to increase our numbers. 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. The training is less than an hour and I am happy to come in on a Saturday or Sunday to work with anyone who is interested. We hope to have Acolytes trained and available to serve not only our Holy holiday services but our regular Sunday services soon. There is always a need of up to three Acolytes for the 10:30 a.m. service each Sunday consisting of one Crucifer and two Torches. Please see Heather Albertson or contact her at [eyes2cu@msn.com](mailto:eyes2cu@msn.com) if interested.

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 and the restrictions on our Youth serving during 2020/2021, we have hesitated until we know the range at least.

I would like to thank all the Youths who have served our Church so faithfully in the past and our future! Our services have run smoothly with their assistance and it is much appreciated. I would also like to thank the parents of our Youth Acolytes past and present for supporting them and St. James' so they are able to serve. Many hands make light work!

Our Acolytes for 2022 (and hopefully more to come) are: Connor Nanavaty, Kyle DelRegno, Zachary Krantz, Jasper Krantz, and Caleb Kearns.

Warmly Submitted by: Heather Albertson

## **Altar Guild Report**

The Altar Guild had another interesting year in 2021 - the second act of COVID times. "Have cart, will travel" was our informal motto.

We pivoted from inside, to outside services in the lovely Memorial Garden. The cold and the wind finally brought us back inside for Sunday services. Blessed wafers were offered to the congregation at communion. At the Christmas Eve service, a wine/wafer element was offered at communion. We plan to offer these at communion going forward until our current supply runs out. After that, we will return to wafers.

This year we added a new member to our team - Kathy Grumbach. Other Altar Guild team members are Jeannie Pellicier, Aline Sautter, Karen Phillips, Gabby Markham, and Carolyn Etzler.

The Altar Guild is very appreciative of Kristin+ and the Vestry for all they do and the decisions they have had to make to keep us safe in these trying times

Blessings to all,  
Carolyn Etzler

## BSA Troop 829

In the beginning of the 2021, Troop 829B was still meeting and camping virtually due to an elevation in COVID cases. However, a few of us started the year off with the First Hike on January 1. At the end of the month, we continued working on the Hiking Merit Badge and did our first 10-mile hike as a troop along the Western Maryland Rail Trail. We completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-mile hike on the 10-mile Creek Trail in Boyds, MD in February. The trail had some ice and was muddy - a great challenge.

In March, we got to return to in person meetings and camping although we required 1 person to a tent to keep social distancing compliance. We were able to get a yearly scout camp site at the Walkersville Watershed and continued clearing the site out for our ongoing use (Troop 829G camped there the week prior). We also gained 6 new scouts that transitioned from Packs 1191, 460 and 150.

In the Spring we helped the Mt. Airy Net move to a new location across from St. James' at the Mt. Airy Baptist Church. We also had a Ziplining trip at the Sandy Spring Adventure Park. We also celebrated our own Assistant Scoutmaster Fred Meisenkothen earning one of Carroll District's Scouters of the Year Awards.

Our summer was quite busy as we celebrated our 2<sup>nd</sup> Eagle Scout, had another scout complete his Ordeal and become a member of the Order of the Arrow (Scouting's Honor Society). We also went to Camp Henson for the troop's first in person Summer Camp (in 2020 we created our own hybrid (virtual/In-person) summer camp due to all the BSA camps closing due to COVID). The scouts enjoyed themselves and got to complete a lot of Merit badges, awards and activities. The troop also earned Camp Henson's "Clean Camp Award." In July, one of our scouts, along with a scout and leader from Troop 829G went to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico with a Mt. Airy based scouting crew for 15 days. In addition to doing some sight seeing nearby they backpacked well over 50 miles. After finishing the trip that same scout completed all requirements for a Scouts BSA award called the Triple Crown which was earned by going to three Scouting High Adventure Bases. He did the following over the last few years -

- Northern Tier (paddling over 100 miles in a canoe over 9 days through Quetico Provincial Park in Canada).
- Sea Base - Sailing for little over a week around Key West.
- Philmont

In August, we laid down mulch for the St. James' Nursery School playground and participated in the annual Mt. Airy Town Camp Out. There we ran a station collecting food for the Mt. Airy Net. In September, we participated in the flag ceremony for Patriot Day at Pine Grove Chapel and also conducted the flag ceremony at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Duck Races that benefited the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Department.

In the Fall we provided service to St. James' by assisting them moving, setting up and taking down, the raffle baskets at the Mt. Airy Oktoberfest celebration. We also camped and participated in our local scouting district's Webelos Woods, where we taught Wilderness Survival skills and requirements to Webelos and Arrow of Light Cub Scouts.

In October we also camped for three days at Assateague National Park. For many in the troop it was their first time camping on sand, which has unique challenges keeping tents staked down both in the sand itself and in high winds during that time of year. The troop also got to experience a severe storm

(that also hit Mt. Airy). While it damaged some of our gear, the scouts got through it safely with new lessons and skills. They all had a blast and want to go again next year.

In November we had our very first “Thanksgiving in the Woods” campout, where we went over scouting requirements but also had an incredible traditional Thanksgiving meal cooked fully outdoors. In December we were able to have a Christmas Holiday Party at the Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes and we also marched in the town Christmas Parade.

For 2021 we accomplished/earned the following:

- 16 rank advancements earned
- 64 Merit Badges Earned (Merit Badges focus on a skill)
- 21 Scouting Awards
- Over 141 Service Hours delivered (40 of those were Conservation based)
- 271 camping nights (across 19 scouts and adult leaders)
- 297 miles hiked (across 16 scouts and adult leaders)

As a troop we worked on Citizenship in the Nation, Automotive Maintenance, Personal Management, Hiking, Game Design and Geocaching Merit Badges. We have a lot more planned for 2022. If you have a boy aged 11 – 17 (or 10 ½ and AOL rank) interested in fun in the outdoors, learning new skills and providing service to the community please contact the troop’s Scoutmaster, Bill Cunnane.

Submitted by Bill Cunnane, Scoutmaster

Troop 829G started off 2021 alternating between virtual meetings and in person meetings outside. At our meetings, the girls worked on cooking skills, planning, and citizenship in the community. The girls also hiked 10 miles at the Liberty Reservoir on January 23, 2021. We then finished out the month strong with a virtual campout.

As the winter progressed, we attended Scout Sunday, continued alternating between virtual and in person meetings, teaching basics of first aid, continuing with cooking, learning about citizenship in the nation, as well as camping and hiking. In early March, one of our scouts earned the highest rank in Scouts BSA, the rank of Eagle. This was Troop 829G’s first Eagle Scout, who has since gone on to college and is now one of our Assistant Scoutmasters. We also camped at the Walkersville Watershed for the first time that month.

Spring brought a change to our troop, where we did away with virtual meetings, and continued to meet at the church parking lot when we weren’t camping and hiking. April was also our first big community service project for the year where we, along with Troop 829B, and Troop 460 helped Mt. Airy Net move from the basement of Calvary United Methodist to Mt. Airy Baptist Church, across from St. James’ Episcopal Church. We also provided conservation efforts to the Walkersville Watershed in April and May with clearing out weeds and dead trees. In May we celebrated the end of the school year a bit early with a trip to Sandy Spring Adventure Park for ziplining in the trees. The scouts really enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to making this an annual event.

Come summer, we celebrated our first Eagle Scout with her Eagle Court of Honor in early June. Just a few short weeks later, we left for summer camp at Camp Henson where the girls learned many new skills, strengthened their bond as a unit, and earned the “Clean Camp” award. Shortly after returning from summer camp, one of our scouts, along with a committee member and another scout from Troop 829B

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attended Philmont Scout Ranch where they hiked over 50 miles as a crew, made up of scouts and scouters from Mt. Airy, and a donkey, affectionately named Pablo Escoburro.

Closing out our summer, we attended the town campout in August where we camped, made dessert for the youth, as well as held a reading corner for the younger kids in attendance, and collected food for Scouting for food.

This past fall we welcomed two new scouts in October and November. In October we camped on the beach at Assateague where the scouts learned about camping on the sand and saw some wild horses up close. In November, the scouts had their first Thanksgiving in the Woods as a unit, where they learned and taught new skills, as well as had a delicious meal cooked by several scouts and leaders. Finally, to round out the year, in December we marched in the town Christmas Parade and had our holiday party at the bowling alley shortly before Christmas.

All in all, it was a very eventful and fun filled scouting year for Troop 829G with even more planned for 2022. For 2021 we accomplished/earned 8 Rank Advancements, 50 Merit Badges, and 9 Awards.

If you have any girls aged 11-17 (or 10 ½ and AOL rank) who is interested in the outdoors, hiking, camping, and supporting the community please reach out to Scoutmaster Jennifer Swift.

Submitted by Jennifer Swift, Scoutmaster

## **Chalice Server Report**

The chalice servers assist our Rector at the altar during communion by offering the cup (the blood of Christ). This is a very honorable ministry made available to the laity by our Episcopal Church. This ministry provides an opportunity to serve our church in a rewarding and humbling manner. This ministry has changed during the pandemic and I am praying it will continue as before soon.

Submitted by: Deb Schaeffer

## **Choir Report**

Our music ministry, like everything else, began with virtual sessions to prepare hymns for you to sing along with and enjoy at home. In the summer, we had the opportunity to sing together outside, and this fall, the choir has finally returned in full, singing anthems, hymns, and service music each and every Sunday.

One of the biggest challenges we've seen amidst COVID is a drop in numbers of regularly active choir members. We could really use your help to sustain our music ministry. If you're interested in being a part of the choir at St. James' (no experience necessary), please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [music@stjamesmtairy.org](mailto:music@stjamesmtairy.org). Take care, and stay healthy and safe, and be in touch!

Warmest,  
Richard Drehoff, Music Director

# **Daughters of the King**

*An Order for laywomen of the Episcopal Church*

*Founded in 1885 by Mrs. Margaret Franklin who taught a Bible Class named Daughters of the King in Holy Sepulchre Church (now Church of the Resurrection) New York City.*

The St. James' Chapter has continued to pray for our parish family and their requests throughout the year. Each member is individually involved in a variety of ministries within St. James' and the community.

At this writing, we are registered and looking forward to the Women's Retreat (January 14-16, 2022) at Claggett Center in Buckeystown. It is a weekend of renewal with praise, worship and fellowship.

*We welcome prayer requests at any time:*

*Karen Dulany, Joan Fader*

*Margaret Neff, Peg Pelch*

Submitted 12/27/21

By Joan Fader

## **Flower Guild Report**

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

The main feast days received large floral installations and weekly dedications from parishioners were placed at the altar.

The advent wreath was made by hand and refreshed over the weeks of Advent and Christmas. Cut trees from the nursery school field trips were placed in the sanctuary for added decor.

Forever growing with God,

The Flower Guild

## **Fundraising Report**

In May and September of 2021 we held two Shred Events in our church parking lot for our community to shred their personal documents. After the expenses of renting the shredding truck, we received profits of \$1,430.00 and \$883.75 from donations. Another Shred Event is planned for May 14, 2022, 1-3 p.m.

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I am pleased to report that since COVID restrictions had somewhat relaxed, we were able to resume our Annual Basket Raffle and Silent Auction as in many previous years, with a few new “twists” for our 15th year.

For our event, we held sales in the church sanctuary for two weeks and then in front of our Thrift Shop for one day during the town Oktoberfest event. Our parishioners and community had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for 50 beautiful baskets or purchase 16 “Cash ‘n Carry” baskets, all created by our very own talented “Basket Brigade.” Also, special raffle tickets for two American Girl dolls with accessories were available. Twenty new toys, four special coats and two purses were also sold. In addition, everyone could bid on our 23 wonderful Silent Auction items! Six mini-baskets were also created and donated to our Thrift Shop to help promote our event and for their profit. The Annual Basket Raffle was a very successful event with a total profit of \$5,112.

Our success 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 and businesses in our community. Our Nursery School and Thrift Shop continued their support, as well, for this important fundraising event.

Through all of the above efforts we earned a total of \$7,425.75 to donate to our church for 2021.

Submitted by Marilyn Hancock

## Lector Report

This year our pool of roughly ten volunteer lectors handled a changing and challenging worship schedule that included indoor, outdoor, and on-line services, as well as a lector corps that was depleted by illness and COVID challenges. The group, however, was very flexible, and able to adjust to changing settings, times, and workload. Thanks go to these core lectors, Carolyn Etzler, Jeannie Pellicier, Karen Dulany, Blix Winston, Aline Sautter, Deb Schaeffer, Steve Stowell, Cheryl Windsor, Natalie DelRegno, Mike Henryon, Jane Barger. Special thanks also goes to Lynda Ellis, Vic Pellicier, and Jim Bullington who temporarily stepped into lector roles when our corps was depleted. Please welcome new volunteer lectors, Denise Warren, who is expected to make her debut in March, and Bill Cunnane, debuting when the virus allows.

If you would like to be a lector, please contact Peter Sabonis. He has recently updated the lector instruction manual. If you are interested in succeeding Peter as lector leader/scheduler, who succeeded Mara Snyder, please indicate as much.

Submitted by Peter Sabonis



## Memorial Garden Report

The Memorial Garden fountain circle received hundreds of annuals again in 2021. Several dwarf evergreens were also added for interest. Dave Oland plans to refinish the wooden altar planters. The brick walkways were swept and cleaned on a regular basis. An announcement of a 2022 brick campaign will be announced soon. A limited number of bricks will be made available for installation in the garden. Look for more information to come from the church office.

Bulbs and perennials will awake in early spring. We are looking forward to another beautiful growing season. Contact Ashley Conlon at ashleyconlon345@gmail.com 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

In 2021 the current members of Outreach are Jim and Patty Bullington, Marilyn Hancock, Karen Larrimore, Carla Kaufman, Jeannie Pellicier, Beverly Williams, Cheryl Windsor, Peg Pelch, Gabby Markham and Heather Albertson. Our hope is to connect our parish and our Community. New members are always welcome!

Blessings  
Gabby Markham

Month	Initiative/Event
January	Annual Meeting
February	Zoom Meeting 2/13
March	Easter Baskets for Lorien
May	Shred Event 5/1 \$1,430.00
July	Mite Box \$545.00 Mt. Airy NET \$800.00 Outreach Meeting 6/24
September	Shred Event 9/18
October	16 Packages were made up and mailed to our parish college kids
November	Mt. Airy NET Thanksgiving boxes Outreach Meeting 11/11
December	Angel Tree gifts for foster kids in Carroll County

## Parish Administrator Report

If you've ever seen the movie *Ground Hog Day* you can probably relate to how I'm feeling about 2021!

Once again, flexibility was the theme. We all hung on for the wild ride and, I believe, came out a stronger community.

Throughout 2021 we continued to harness the potential of technology through Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, SignUp Genius and our St. James' website. We were able to qualify for assistance through TechSoup which is an organization that procures free or low-cost software for non-profit groups. This enabled us to obtain up-to-date Microsoft Office for the Church, Nursery School, and Thrift Shop for free.

Sharing our space with the community was a challenge during 2021. We lost several groups who either made other arrangements during the time our building was closed, or are still meeting virtually. We are happy to have added Sertified, a CPR training company, as a community partner.

Our membership numbers increased last year as we embraced our virtual and in person visitors. St. James' continues as a welcoming presence making newcomers eager to join our community.

During the last quarter of the year I asked everyone to submit any changes needed to the church directory. There was a wonderful response and the new church directory is ready. Copies can be picked up in the narthex or an electronic version can be sent to you by email.

Great progress was made in purging the records room. All that is left is to label what remains. Having the shred event organized by Marilyn Hancock made this task much easier. Thank you to Joan Fader for accommodating my mess in the teen room.

On a more personal note, there cannot be a reflection of 2021 without recognizing the support given to me by Jane Barger in her role as Treasurer during my first five years at St. James'. I have great respect and admiration for her ability to gently coach to success. Jane is someone who I will always think of as a mentor and dear friend.

As my next five years begin, I look forward to an exciting journey of growth with you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Davis, Parish Administrator

## 2021 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**

Gweneth Rosenker, August 15

Colin Sach, August 15

Lane Mitchell, August 15

**Confirmations - 0**

**Marriages - 0**

**Deaths - 3**

Mary Ellen Thompson, August 25

Evelyn Unger, November 21

Beginning on March 15, 2020, the Diocese of Maryland suspended in-person worship to aid in preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID. Unfortunately, 2021 was met with more of the same. Through March 6, 2021, we were livestreaming all services via the Zoom meeting platform, Facebook, and YouTube at 10:30 am. On March 15, we began in-person worship at 8:30 am while continuing virtually at 10:30 am. We went back to two in-person services on May 30, and began livestreaming the 8:30 service to Facebook eliminating the need for a Zoom version of worship. Whenever weather permitted we worshipped in the Memorial Garden which allowed for congregational singing. On November 28 we switched to livestreaming the 10:30 am worship service in order to enhance virtual worship with music.

*Upon request, our facilities are available as part of our stewardship requirement and as an outreach for community events.*

Narcotics Anonymous

American Red Cross Blood Drive

BSA Troop 829

CPR Classes provided by Certified

**Average Sunday Attendance**

In Person, logins on Zoom, Views on 58

In Person (42 of 52 Sundays) 39

**Key Services**

Ash Wednesday (In Person & Virtual) 88

Easter Day 105

Christmas Eve 122

## Receiving Treasurer Report

Below are our Pledging figures to date:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
53 Pledging Families (as of January 17, 2022)	61 Pledging Families (as of January 18, 2021)
AMt. \$189,546	AMt.: \$174,560

Thank you for your commitment. Your pledge assists The Vestry in determining the budget for the year. Praying and thanking all who contributed either by pledge or plate in 2021 will consider pledging in 2022. Please pray about if you can step out in faith and make a pledge -- no aMt. is too small. Thank you.

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

## Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School teaching team continued to make adjustments to the program while following Diocesan guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing and disinfecting. We began our fall program with classes both indoors and outdoors using the familiar Living the Good News curriculum.

Some highlights:

- Certificates of Participation and treat bags were presented to all students in our program during an outdoor ceremony in May. In addition, two long-time Sunday School graduating senior students were recognized: Tyler DelRegno and Whitney Winkler.
- During an outdoor service in June, a check to A is for Africa was presented to Mary Anne and Rick Smith by our students and teachers, which represented our Lenten mite box outreach in support of the Matim School children in Tanzania. Coins collected aMt.ed to \$545.00 which the Outreach Committee matched for a total gift of \$1,090.00. Thank you all!
- In September, Sunday School classes resumed with preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meeting indoors and middle-high meeting outdoors in the Memorial Garden. At this time, all classes are meeting indoors as the teachers continue to make adjustments according to attendance.
- On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we held our second Journey to Bethlehem drive-thru Christmas Pageant with both students and adults participating. It was a cold night and hot chocolate was served and enjoyed. Many thanks to all the participants.

### **Sunday School Teaching Team**

Yvette Allen, Betsy Davis, Natalie DelRegno, Joan Fader, Peter Sabonis

*It is a joy to know and work with your children!*

Submitted by Joan Fader

## Usher Report

Doesn't it feel good when you visit another church, perhaps on vacation, and you get a warm welcome by several people, making you feel at home? That's how we want everyone to feel when they come through our doors at St. James' as this is hospitality at God's house!

In normal times, serving the 8:30 and 10:30 am services the ushers pass out bulletins, assist with seating, take up the collection and direct traffic to communion. However, this year the St. James' Ushers, having served **81 services**, several pulling extra duty without being asked, had to quickly learn to be comfortable with sudden change, embrace flexibility and continue to wrap people in their arms through social distancing. Masks aside, their smiles showed through their half-covered faces, their warm cyber embraces and hearts proved that even during COVID masking and social distancing, His Spirit continues to permeate our community.

Along with the other ministries, the ushers were tasked with a variety of new, often changing duties; ensuring that parishioners are masked, socially distance, do contact tracing, open before, and then close after the service, the windows, and doors (*bit of a challenge for short people*) employing sanitization procedures, all the while ensuring everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

Without hesitation the ushers have pivoted to what was needed even when the service they thought they were to usher, was on Zoom. Our deep thanks to everyone who has participated as an usher this past year. And to Laura whose patience and support is deeply appreciated and acknowledged. You each are truly a blessing to St. James'.

***Jim Bullington***

***Carla & Tom Kaufman***

***Vic Pellicier***

***Cory DelRegno***

***Cheri McClanahan***

***Blix Winston***

***Tyler DelRegno***

***Dave Oland***

New volunteers are needed, please call the office if you would like to join us in serving.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted, Lynda Ellis

## Youth Group Report

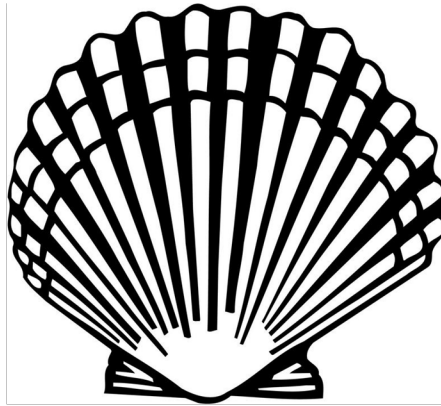
Youth Group continued to meet virtually in 2021. The theme of Youth Group for Spring of 2021 was a graphic novel book club. At the start of 2021, we finished our first pick, *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* by John Hendrix. This graphic novel tells the story of the German pastor and Nazi resistor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his fight against the oppression of the German people during World War II. Our discussion of this graphic novel explored themes such as leadership, faith vs. reason, and individual vs. community. The next graphic novel we dove into was *March, Book One* by John Lewis. *March, Book One*, is part of a novel trilogy and is a first hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. The third and final graphic novel that we tackled was *Marked*, a retelling of the Gospel According to Mark. Set in a futuristic society, *Marked* explored the story, context, culture, and characters in a very fresh and interesting way with evocative artwork.

For fellowship activities, we were able to have some outdoor gatherings - which included the always popular ice cream at Jimmy Cone! We also gathered virtually for some 4th Sunday fellowships. One virtual Sunday fellowship we even had Kate Riley, Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Missioner, join us. Kate led the group in a scavenger hunt on Zoom where the competition was fierce as we all raced around our homes to find the items.

With the start of the program year in the fall we decided to put the Youth Group on hiatus. This decision was made for several reasons including wanting to concentrate youth formation to one program (Sunday School) in the hope of increasing engagement, several of our leaders needing to step back from ministry, and to make space for several of our high school youth to enter into a Confirmation program. We anticipate re-launching Youth Group in the fall of 2022.

Submitted by Kara Rosenker

# NOTES



**St. James' Episcopal Church  
in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland**

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Website: [www.stjamesmtairy.org](http://www.stjamesmtairy.org)

The Rev. Kristin Krantz, Rector

Richard Drehoff Jr., Music Director

Laura Davis, Parish Administrator

Mechelle Cascardo, Business Manager

Michelle Rippeon, Director of St. James' Nursery School

St. James' Thrift Shop

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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.**