



The
Church of
Bethesda-by-the-Sea

Love and Serve

Annual REPORT

*Bethesda's Mission is to experience
the clear and strong presence of God
and to understand and spread Christ's
teachings through collective worship,
learning, and service.*

2021

Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022

Dear People of Bethesda-by-the-Sea,

As we live well through this interim and transitional year, and as we stand on the threshold of another year of shared life and ministry, I am amazed and gratified by the many ways God has blessed this congregation and how so many of our parishioners have taken hold of the present and the future of this church, with faith, resolve and hope.

In this booklet you will be pleased to find the heart and soul of our varied ministries. In lieu of long and protracted annual meetings, we have asked each of our ministry areas to highlight their mission and ministries in the past year, plus. I hope each of you will read of these personal and ministerial reflections and discover again the many opportunities we have to worship, study, grow, give and serve in this place.

As you read of these opportunities, I hope that you will want to be more deeply involved in the activities of parish life at Bethesda and of our many outreach endeavors. We will all be strengthened by the offering of your gifts and resources. Our community has such extraordinary talent, and we have so much potential to do great things for God and God's people, both here in Palm Beach and beyond.

It's a privilege to serve as your Interim Rector. May God continue to bless and guide us as we seek a new rector and together embody Christ's loving presence in all we do.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. Dannals". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Robert S. Dannals
Interim Rector

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From the Interim Rector

In the same way that a widescreen helps bring to life a home movie, I've discovered that the congregation of Bethesda-by-the-Sea is a full-length widescreen motion picture of epic proportions with many scenes, depths, expressions and characters. We cannot contain all of it in one sitting, or in one annual meeting. One view or angle doesn't cut it. One worship service or one set of people doesn't capture its full essence. And as we encourage each of us to widen and lengthen our screen, it is important that you begin to cast some new visions, aspirations, expectations and dreams — as you ready yourself for a new rector and new chapters of mission and ministry.

As I move into the second half of my year as your Interim Rector, I am honored and grateful to serve among such a dedicated, faithful and hard-working Vestry, clergy team, lay staff, and congregation. The reports in this booklet give you a glimpse, a word picture of our full-length movie — of the many ways God continues to bless and direct this church toward the vitality of shared ministries. Month by month I'm struck by the paradox of our parish's life. We are a big and busy parish and many people look after the daily management of details, especially as we continue to negotiate the COVID-19 protocols. We continue to make great strides in planning and executing meaningful worship experiences and programs, keeping our beautiful buildings and grounds in very good shape, including the recent facelift of the Rectory, calling and retaining creative clergy and staff, and upholding a quality of community life. If you think the "maintenance" issues get in the way of mission and ministry and make us look and feel too institutional, consider the alternative. We would struggle and sap our God-given energy if we weren't taking care of the business of the place, in order to exercise the creative ministries we're called to share.

The paradox is this: We are more and more an inviting, open-hearted community of welcome and belonging in the deepest sense of those descriptions. I don't mean that we are always intact like a Norman Rockwell painting, nor do I mean that we always agree on issues of faith and society. I mean that we are more and more a community of the love of God, a big-tent, benevolent and diverse family.

How have we been doing that over the past six months?

It may surprise you to know that I think one of our most significant areas of ministry during the first period of the interim has been in pastoral care. I know that our worship, preaching and music continue to be glorious and set a standard for beauty and inspiration. I know that our outreach, especially the granting capacity provided by the Mouse is growing again after the set-backs of the early COVID shut-downs. Our formation and new member ministries continue to be vital aspects of our parish's weekly touch. I know that we teach many children, teens and adults every week in large and small gatherings. I know that we are re-establishing a spirit of generosity, inspiring robust giving for both our annual effort and re-engaging our endowment and legacy work.

But hearts stop, and it seems that the world stands still, when I hear that one person has cared for another person, when healing prayers are said, when the lonely and sick are visited, when the bereaved have companionship and when those who are angry and frustrated have a safe place to share those hurts. I know of no greater hearts than our clergy and lay pastoral care givers.

A second major area of our work during the past six months is stewardship. I'm not very patient with those who think that money and buildings, and actions and people are not spiritual just because they are tangible. When I look ahead with you to the calling of a new rector and the next, say, five years, I see a renewed emphasis on the need for us to increase by the person our financial giving to the annual budget. The wildly successful "Match" effort in the fall, 2021, to realize a balanced budget and

to establish resources and levels of giving for the upcoming year is a perfect example of what needs to be established on a regular basis. I want to encourage each of you to the great spiritual discipline of sacrificial and proportional giving, and remind all of us that we are built by God to be givers.

Re-establishing community esprit de corp has been a third major area of concentration during the past several months. Bethesda is a positive and inspiring community, and we've been inviting people into settings where once again — nearly post-COVID — we can enjoy in-person fellowship and community gatherings. Many people have felt side-lined and isolated during the past years, and we have seen a great up-tick in the joyful celebration of being back together, and welcoming people back to our church. Several women's groups, including the St. Mary's Guild, are meeting again, and we've re-established the Men of Bethesda with a spirit of inclusion and greater participation. And, while sadly we've had to cancel several large events and postpone a few others, including the difficult decision to cancel the Boar's Head Festival this year, we are hopeful that Bethesda can regain its footing and offer many and varied community events.

A fourth major area during the interim is to tweak and refine our overall management and operations. With the good work of our staff and the wisdom and insights of our Finance Committee and Building and Grounds Committee, we have improved our financial reporting, accountability and transparency. More people are involved in decision-making and more people have access to important information to make those decisions.

Another major initiative during these transitional months has been to re-gain our focus in outreach, especially with allocation resources. The Mouse's outstanding staff pivoted nicely following shut-downs and protocols, to have a wonderful year-end balance sheet, providing needed resources for important outreach ministries. Certainly, renewed aspirations in outreach, especially hands-on projects, will be front and center for the new rector.

And the final large area of life at Bethesda has been, of course, the process and people called to oversee the search for a new rector. The Vestry and the Search Committee of Bethesda are second to none. They have all said their prayers, pulled on the oars, and, at this writing, anticipate a good cadre of fine candidates to be the next rector. While my direct involvement has been limited, and quite frankly, discouraged by the diocese, I have participated in a secondary fashion. From all reports and sentiments, this process is going very well, guided and directed by faithful, wise and hard-working leaders of the parish. We look forward to the good fruit of their work in the spring and summer of this year.

I offer my thanks to each of you for your generosity and support during this interim period. I am particularly thankful for a wonderful clergy team and staff. I am equally grateful for the Wardens, John Sory and Richard Crone, and for the entire Vestry. I am grateful for Bishop Eaton and his staff at the diocesan level, and for the esprit de corp of the regional clergy associations. I am grateful also for my wife, Valerie, my best friend and companion on the journey, and for our three adult daughters and their families.

In all kinds of large and small ways, we maintain and build our common life, with gratitude for those who have gone before us. In an increasingly fractured world, to have a common life such as we enjoy at Bethesda, is a rare and wonderful gift. It is in profound gratitude that I stand before you week by week and say "God bless you."



The Rev. Dr. Robert S. Dannels, *Interim Rector*



From the Senior Warden

Leadership and Governance Sub-Committee, Chair

To the Members of Bethesda by the Sea,

Such an extraordinary year has passed, and through it all, our church appears to have emerged stronger and more vibrant than before. We pause to reflect on these times of clergy transition and the addition of our interim team; the rise, fall and return of COVID; the congregation's tremendous generosity supporting Bethesda; and the return of so many to worship and participate in-person and online.

We know from nearly two years of learning and addressing this pandemic that we can maintain a close relationship with our church regardless of external circumstances. As the pandemic has tested us, we have emerged with a proven competence for nimble adjustment to our programming, to more robust streaming ZOOM services, and to greater levels of member engagement. In 2021, we resumed our in-person worship, including our in-church Christmas services. Although no one enjoys worshipping behind a mask, we assumed our sense of collective responsibility. We are grateful for the high level of compliance with this tiresome part of our worship process. May the masks soon return to their drawers, and the pandemic come to end once and for all. Fortunately, we can enjoy our services and, quite notably, Stuart Forster's beautifully orchestrated music from anywhere.

COVID forced us to cancel so many activities, such as the Boar's Head Festival, Lenten Retreat, Spring Carnival/Easter Egg Hunt, and Youth Pilgrimage to Spain, but we hope and expect that these will return over the next twelve months. Postponed but not forgotten, their absence should help us appreciate them that much more.

While COVID's story ran the full year, so too has our transition through a change in the full complement of clergy. It was only May of 2021 when Father James announced his decision to leave Bethesda. For those here when he left in June, we had the opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for ten years of ministry and care for this congregation. His announcement was followed immediately by Burl's who was called to lead his own parish. Both transitioned to Virginia for roles clearly befitting each of their interests and talents. Margaret too was promoted to lead her first church, becoming Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Manhattan, Kansas. Clergy promotions are signs of a healthy church and will undoubtedly add to the attractiveness of new clergy joining in the months ahead.

We moved quite seamlessly to the experienced leadership of Interim Rector Bob Dannals as we welcomed Bob and Valerie to Bethesda. I believe all would agree that our parish is truly blessed that Bob answered the call to lead us. He provides leadership, wisdom, and inspiration. Bob quickly formed a stellar team of clergy for the interim. Revs. Elizabeth Geitz, Carrol Barron, and Susan and Jeff Beebe have and will continue to carry us into the summer as our Search Committee diligently pursues our next Rector.

Formed in August, our Search Committee has worked diligently under the leadership of Committee Chair, John Brim and Co-Chair, Katie Wandoff. The group of nine parishioners has collaborated closely with the Diocese to complete an excellent Parish Profile which captures our compelling opportunity for an outstanding minister to be called as our next Rector. The search process continues as presented last summer:



We expect to start meeting candidates beginning in March. If we find the right individual, we will know it. If it takes longer than currently planned, so be it. We will not settle.

The search for a new Rector presented us with opportunities to engage our church community for input and discussion. Your feedback through the survey administered last summer, through comments in the Sunday open forums, and in ongoing discussions with members of the Vestry and the Search Committee, have directly influenced how we present ourselves to the Episcopal community. Your input will continue to make certain our search process and that our long-term plans reflect us all.

Please know that the Vestry, clergy, and staff have taken steps in direct response to those forums and your feedback. Regarding communications, we now share messages both on paper and online. We have shortened the Thursday messages, inserted Happenings into the Sunday leaflet to list the wealth of programs being offered, and embraced our online community, realizing that programs need a hybrid approach – in-person and via ZOOM.

We heard the request for opportunities to volunteer which is strongly encouraged. Every Sunday in the Parish Hall you will find sign-up sheets for upcoming events. Soon, online sign-ups will be available. We are looking for all who want to be involved to step up, participate, and lead.

Another priority you emphasized is to encourage and embrace families to be active members. Nearly 80 children and youths are now involved in our activities. Greg Knight, assuming the role for Formation and Education, has been expanding confirmation and evening programs, bringing in more families while helping adults to participate more actively. You may have seen a number of young people ushering on Sundays as we involve them in more parts of our services. Adult and evening programs have also seen increased participation. The 2021 online classes are now also available in-person, with the exception of Tom O'Brien's *Previewing the Lectionary* and Greg's *Theology in Film* class, which are exclusively in-person.

In step with your feedback, staff and parishioners have been fostering small group fellowship. Many have asked for opportunities to build relationships with others in the congregation. After all, it's the sense of community which makes our church strong. Consider joining some new activities taking place throughout the year. Note the events in Happenings and take the insert with you for reminders throughout the week. Join the forums between the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. Attend some of the small group programs which occur throughout the year and in many places. The momentum is building, with so much inviting us back to our parish. Come and be involved.

And when you are on church property, you will likely see a number of aesthetic improvements. We extend our sincere appreciation to Richard Crone, our Junior Warden, who devoted countless hours and his extensive expertise to upgrade the church grounds and quite notably, the Rectory. Our church provides a residence befitting the Rector of our great church. The grounds inspire and draw more every week.

Overall, we have seen a return to Bethesda with online participation nearly exceeding in-person. We have been pleased to welcome over 90 new members in 2021, an increase over previous years. More than 200 people sign in to watch the sermons online during the week and then many more in subsequent weeks. We have learned from COVID to embrace our online presence. A hybrid model of in-person and online connections has increased engagement as it meets people where they are. Convenience and accessibility truly expand the reach of our church.

There are many reasons that people choose to join Bethesda. One comment that we hear consistently is that Bethesda is one of the friendliest churches they have encountered. Much of the credit belongs to our dedicated team of 76 ambassadors who resumed their duties this summer. Each Sunday, they greet parishioners before the service, offer newcomers floral arrangements created by our Flower Guild, answer questions, and in general try to make all who pass through our doors feel welcome.

Increased engagement and participation have also strengthened our financial position. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment and generosity of our loyal church membership, we were able to exceed our budget in 2021. Support of our first Match initiative contributed handsomely to our numbers. We are grateful to the Stewardship Committee led by Paul Coombs, for organizing our fundraising efforts and to the outreach of Bob Dannals and members of the congregation. Your generosity and the strong performance of the Church Mouse funded increased outreach support. Soon, you will see more of the outreach reflected on the website so you can see more of the impact our church is making in the community.

Through all the twists and turns in planning, personnel, and expenses, we thank Fred Staley who has overseen our operations with a deft hand and close eye to optimize our resources. When you have an opportunity, you must also thank the office staff and sextons for their devotion to us all and to our church mission.

Financial strength, increased participation, responsive programming, renewed activities, and – let us pray – an end to COVID, all position Bethesda for an extraordinary 2022. The year ahead is filled with some large decisions as we may well be choosing the next Rector to lead our parish for years to come.

So, I encourage us to pray for the future of our church, for the right minister to be called as our Rector, for wisdom to make the God-directed choices in the year ahead, to step up to take on the roles each feel called to assume, to engage in the many opportunities presented, to strengthen your faith, and to reach out to others with the love and compassion that is at the very heart of our Christian faith.

Peace to all,



John Sory, Senior Warden



From the Junior Warden

Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, Chair

What an exciting and challenging year this has been for me and the B&G committee. With little warning of all the issues related to COVID-19 and other unforeseen disruptions to our norm, opportunities would soon present themselves to make some significant and long needed changes to our Church grounds, gardens, parking and to the Rectory. The unfortunate loss of in-church worshipping became the opportunity to focus on renovating Via Bethesda. With the initial emphasis on added parking, within a few months significant work was completed. This included additional landscaping, towing signage removal, followed by regrading, repaving and new curbs. The re-striping has provided additional safe parking with clearly marked handicap spaces. A new entry sign is in progress.

Repairs and improvements to the gardens and walks followed. After tenting the Church the previous year for termite abatement, our front walk suffered heavy damage from truck lifts breaking many of the pavers. After months of delay to secure the proper paver texture & color, the work was finally completed this past month and the walks have been pressure washed to unify the coloration. The rear courtyard of the Rectory was redesigned, much concrete removed, new planting bays constructed to balance the existing plantings. New landscape lighting is now in the process of being approved for the Rectory garden area as well as the interior courtyard in front of the Columbarium with additional lighting for the steps near the office along with path lighting to Barton from the interior courtyard to assure safety for evening events. New signage for various areas should be implemented soon, including a new sign panel at our entry walk to include less a list of the BBTS staff but rather to say “All Are Welcome”, the times of our worship services and that day care is provided for children.

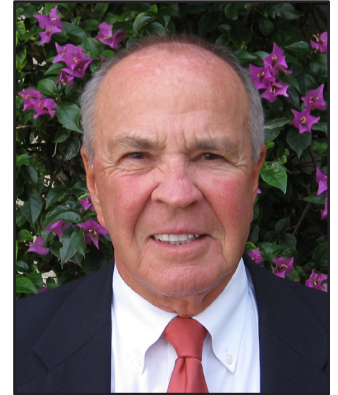
The next major project surfaced in July. Until the former Rector’s departure, little was known of the Rectory condition after 9 years of continuous occupancy, and many more years since any significant renovation. With great effort and assistance from all our sextons, staff, the vestry and finance committee, the situation was quickly assessed, and a major renovation project was approved and underway. It was essential to provide an acceptable renovated residence for the new interim Rector arriving within 3 months. The interior rooms were repainted, many of the plumbing and electrical fixtures were replaced with new and lighting appropriate to both the interior and exterior installed. There was little in the way of furniture, carpets, window treatments deemed salvageable thus requiring all of these items to be selected, ordered and installed quickly. After the budget and work scope was approved for these changes, work began in earnest. In mid-July new carpeting, window treatments, blinds, draperies, furniture, tables, chairs, new mattresses, headboards, bed linens, bath linens, table lamps and accessories were ordered and installed. The renovation included outfitting the four upstairs bedrooms to provide guest rooms for family or parish guests. Most all of the furniture and new art pieces were donated from the Church Mouse. Without their most generous help and support, this project could not have been completed on time nor on budget. The Rectory is now ready for a multitude of events, dinners, meetings and guests. For sure, it is a most fitting residence we can be proud of for the next new Rector and family.

It has been my privilege to undertake through completion this work in my one year as your Junior Warden. I welcome the opportunity to stay on this committee after the new Junior Warden takes over when my term ends this month. I appreciate the faith and trust given me by the vestry and finance committee to secure the future and enhance our buildings and grounds this past year for this most iconic edifice. I join with all who worship here with gratitude — how fortunate and blessed we are to call Bethesda by the Sea our spiritual home.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Crone". The script is cursive and fluid.

Richard Crone, *Junior Warden*



Rector, Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

The Rev. Dr. Bob Dannals, *Interim Rector*

Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

John Sory, *Senior Warden* (2023)

Richard Crone, *Junior Warden* (2022)

Katie Wandoff, *Clerk* (2023)

Robert (Bob) Diffenderfer, *Chancellor* #

Matt Lorentzen, *Treasurer* #

John Brim (2023)

Gene Carter (2024)

Edythe Gordon (2024)

Sara Griffen (2023)

Sebastian Kent (2024)

Becky Myers (2022)

Zach Shipley (2022)

Maury Wolfe (2022)

Chuck Zettler (2024)

Not on Vestry

Vestry Nominations

Nominating Task Force—Sara Griffen, *Chair*

Vestry Nominees

Serving the Vestry Term 2022—2025

The Vestry presents all four nominees for Parish consideration to fill the four expiring Vestry positions.



BARBARA CALLAHAN was born in New York City and is a cradle Episcopalian. She has been attending Bethesda for over twenty-five years, and is a Eucharistic minister, a Lay Reader, and currently a member of the Rector Search Committee. She has served on the Vestry in the past and has been a member of the Faith-in-Action, Stewardship, and Vestry Nominating Committees.

Barbara graduated from George Washington University with a degree in Mathematical Statistics and served on its Board of Trustees for a number of years. She also has an M.B.A. from New York University, and is retired from Citibank where she was a Vice President of Human Resources.

Barbara is married to Edward Callahan. They live in Palm Beach and spend the summers in Quogue, Long Island.



SUZANNE CRAWFORD grew up in Palm Beach and has attended BBTS for 50 years. Suzanne is a cradle Episcopalian. During the last fifty years, she has volunteered in many ministries. In the 70's she led the middle school youth group and also taught Sunday School. Presently, Suzanne serves as a board member at St. George's. Following retirement, she became a Lay Reader, and a Shepherd. In 2018, Suzanne joined the Altar Guild and DOK. Suzanne continues to participate in Empty Bowls, Homebound Luncheons, and Women at the Well. More recently, she occasionally serves as an Acolyte when called. This year, Suzanne has been trained as a Eucharistic Minister and is a first year EfM student. Serving on the Search Committee this year has been a humbling, spiritual, and prayerful experience.

Suzanne attended Stratford College, Danville, VA and graduated from Rollins College with a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M.Ed. in Special Education from Florida Atlantic University. She taught school for 40+ years in elementary education, preschool, special education, and ESOL, and was also nominated for Teacher of the Year.

Suzanne has two adult children, Hadley and Tegan. Both girls live in South Florida. Eucharistic Minister, and Verger. The Church has been a continuing source of inspiration and fulfillment.



RANDALL GLUSS has lived in Atlantis for four years, settling here after 26 years in Miami. Originally from the Chicago area, he moved to Miami while working for The Northern Trust Company. He retired in 2017 as a Senior Vice President and Managing Director in the Personal Financial Services Division.

Rand received a BA from Northwestern University and studied Law at DePaul University College of Law and the University of Exeter, Exeter, England, receiving a JD from DePaul.

He was confirmed in the Episcopal Church at St. Chrysostom's Church, Chicago. While in the Miami area, Rand was a member of Trinity Cathedral and served on the Cathedral Chapter (Vestry) 2016-2017. Rand has been a member of Bethesda since 2019. He completed the four year Education for Ministry program in 2020, and is currently a Eucharistic Visitor, a Diocesan Delegate, and is participating in the Grants Committee.

He enjoys travel, reading, culture and current events, swimming, and walking.



LISA HASTEY has been a member of Bethesda for five years, having moved to West Palm Beach in 2016 to become a middle school principal in the School District of Palm Beach County. She held similar positions in the Fulton County (Georgia) school system. At Bethesda, Lisa is a Lector, a co-teacher of the eighth grade Confirmation Class, a participant in the Education for Ministry program, a member of the Scholarship Committee, and has participated in spiritual retreats. She was attracted to Bethesda by its inclusiveness and high quality of preaching and sacred music. Along with her parents, Lisa was confirmed as an Episcopalian in December 2018. A graduate of the College of William and Mary (B.A.) and George Washington University (M.Ed.), as well as a six-year stint as a staffer on Capitol Hill, she brings demonstrated leadership skills to the service of the church she loves.

** Vestry Nominees were selected by the Nominating Committee after an exhaustive review process that at times included the consideration of more than thirty-five church members. The slate of four is presented to the members at the Annual Meeting for consideration to fill the open positions. Vestry members are elected by members in good standing. Persons eligible to vote must be sixteen years of age or older, regular in attendance, and contributors of record. One-third of the vestry is elected each year for a period of no more than three years. A person is eligible for re-election after one year has elapsed. A vestry member appointed to fill an unexpired term may be elected at the end of that term to serve a full term.*

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Jacquie Bernard

Diane Gravitt

Michael L. Smyser IV

Randall Gluss(Alternate)

From the Associate for Administration

OUTREACH, Fred Staley, April Lawrence, Tierra Harper
Shelley Parker, Grants and TRUE Fund
Pat and Dietmar Reichenbacher, Tutor/Mentoring
Scholarships, Greg Knight
Empty Bowls, Rick and Cordella Miessau
Share What You Can, Phyllis Goodner
Port Ministry, Clay Waddell
St. Georges Center, Suzanne Crawford and Basil Burke

Like most things, Outreach ministries were affected by COVID 19. We were not able to return to some of our hands-on programs like cooking meals and making sandwiches for St. George's Center. Instead, Bethesda purchased prepackaged items every week and sent them to the Center. We also continued to send monthly stipends to them as well as the Palanca Pantry at Holy Redeemer in Lake Worth. Adding that grants were given to nine other organizations, over \$130,000 was distributed to our partners in the community. That does not include the \$120,000 raised for the Palm Beach County Food Bank by Empty Bowls using a COVID friendly drive-through structure. We will be using that same structure for the 2022 Empty Bowls on February 18th. Bethesda collected hundreds of pounds of food through our other 'Feeding in February' initiative, Share What You Can. Bethesda's benevolence ministry, the TRUE Fund, started an overhaul of its procedures in 2021. Bethesda's Vestry set in place new controls for the distribution of those funds and those new processes are being put in place now. The result will be a renewed emphasis and more funding available in 2022 to help those most in need.

Deacon Clay continues to minister to those in need at the Port of Palm Beach. We emphasize that ministry as we prepare for Advent and Christmas by assembling gift bags for the mariners with our Save Our Samples (SOS) project. While we see and hear more about it at this time, the Seafarers Ministry that Clay leads, is an every week, year-round endeavor.

Our outreach efforts also continue to emphasize Education. The Bethesda Memorial Scholarship Program received a boost this past year. A bequest set up the Kathryn Hall and Ann Hall Scholarship Fund. This allowed an increase in the funding of college scholarships so that \$68,000 was awarded in 2021 and the endowment will allow that to continue and grow into the future.

Tutor/Mentoring, our core educational outreach program, reached a milestone in 2021 with the first student graduating from college. Bethesda volunteers began mentoring this at-risk student early in his high school career and have been with him, supporting him, all along the way. Now a graduate of Vanderbilt University, he has a career in his chosen field of Engineering. The program currently has 19 other students working on college degrees and is working with current high school students to add them to that group. Bethesda provides not only the mentoring, but also tutoring, proper equipment, and the funds to prepare for and then complete a university degree. As we start into 2022, we do so with the hope that we can open some more of our hands-on opportunities for the parish to participate. Whatever comes, though, we will continue to reach out to those in need around us and around the world.

PARISH LIFE, Fred Staley, April Lawrence
St Mary's Guild, Lee Childs
Men of Bethesda, John Archer

As we look back on 2021, it seems we spent too many fellowship events saying goodbye to beloved clergy. After more that a year of not being able to meet together in fellowship, our first two events were to send off to their new calls, first Fr. Burl and then Fr. James. As was the case when we said farewell to Mother Margaret later in the year, our enthusiasm for being back together was tempered by the melancholy of saying goodbye. This was not the case when we hosted our 'Welcome Back' event in September. This kickoff to our new season, which would include in-person education and fellowship offerings, also served as an introduction to our Interim Rector, Bob Dannals. This celebration marked a new time where we could return to many of the things we had missed during the pandemic shutdown. Many Groups began to meet again. St. Mary's Guild met for the first time in over a year in November. The Valentine Bridge Luncheon which could not be held in 2021 is back on for 2022, albeit for one year as the April Fools Bridge Luncheon. The Men of Bethesda (MOB) which had continued to meet during the pandemic via Zoom, began to meet in person once again. Additionally, they hosted a Christmas gathering at the Rectory which had over 70 men in attendance. They look forward to hosting a similar gathering this spring. We look forward to 2022 being a year in which small groups and the whole parish can gather together for fellowship as often as we like.

RETAIL, Fred Staley, Daisy Alvarez, Coy Riestra

The Church Mouse had to limit the number of customers inside the store for the first three months of this year. The retail sales plan during the pandemic was approved by the Bishop to limit only six customers on the salesfloor at any given time. In addition, we had to limit the donation drop-offs. The Mouse took appointments for the donation drop-offs to be able to manage the workload. During that time, limited volunteers were available to help run the salesfloor. Therefore, staff were retrained to perform new tasks to run the business. In April a part-time staff member was hired. Volunteer help increased as the pandemic infection rates declined. In June, the Mouse closed for the season with record gains compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. Then, to regain lost revenue due to the pandemic shut down, the store opened in September, one month earlier than usual. Local media outlets were kind enough to run two articles about the early opening. This resulted in record turnout and generous support from donors and clientele. December showed an 8% increase in the total sales for the month compared to the last pre-pandemic December (in 2019). The year ended above the \$1.1 million in sales despite the challenges and constraints. This represents the largest annual sales for the Church Mouse in its history.

Fred E. Staley, Jr.

Fred E. Staley, Jr., *Associate for Administration*



From the Associate for Music and Liturgy

The work and creativity of many people developed pandemic-safe ways for us to worship in the early months of 2021. Multiple recording sessions were required to produce a streamed video for each Sunday service, and we arranged multiple outdoor liturgies each week. We are enormously grateful to our brilliant team of Bill Metzger and Jim Goodner, who manage the Production Room to provide an online ministry to the world. A major upgrade to our audio/video system and Doug Kwoka's attention to editing and scheduling full service videos, sermons, and musical extracts each week, has resulted in an online presence that attracts hundreds—sometimes thousands—of people to each post.

Infection rates from COVID-19 dropped sufficiently in the spring to allow us to move services inside, kept safer with distancing and masks. Choir rehearsals were likewise distanced and masked, changing well-ventilated rooms every 30 minutes. We slowly introduced larger numbers of our cherished singers until we resumed the full ensemble in September. Rehearsals in the Choir Room now seem so easy and productive by comparison, with ease of hearing and seeing, and with all of our supplies at the ready. Strong recruitment and some out-of-town moves resulted in some 40% of the choir being new this year, and the growing sense of ensemble and community is noticeable by everyone. New systems are constantly being developed to maximize efficiency and safety of rehearsals.

In the fall, we resumed training sessions for Vergers, Ushers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Lay Readers, and Altar Guild, with tutoring from members of each of those liturgical ministries. Each member of these ministries works hard to ensure that our liturgical focus stays on God, through the Word and the Table, and not on the movement or the players. Our full schedule of services resumed in the fall, and COVID protocols were carefully monitored each week, with adjustments taking full advantage of our indoor and outdoor spaces. A highlight was Choral Evensong in October, with a newly-commissioned anthem to celebrate Hal Pysher's 33 years of ministry at Bethesda.

A generous grant from the Wyncote Foundation is funding 90% of our current organ project. The electronic control system, struck by lightning on multiple occasions, is being replaced by fiber optics that are almost impervious to lightning. The Chancel console was shipped to Hartford in March for a complete refurbishment after its many moving parts excelled through 21 years of hard work. The Gallery console took its place in the Chancel and will enjoy a minor facelift when its partner returns. Worldwide shipping delays have taken their toll on this project, now running six months behind schedule with no delivery date yet available. Other electrical and mechanical updates will soon follow in the organ chambers; all 6000 pipes will be regulated; and some upgrades and expansion of the digital components will have our beloved Austin organ sounding majestically and reliably for decades to come.

The Flower Guild, led by Maury Wolfe, never cease to take our breath away with the loving care that creates world-class adornment for our beautiful church. All of us are served by many who work in the background to prepare our worship; and special thanks go to the Altar Guild, led by Holly Breeden, who prepare the church meticulously; the marvelous office staff, who are a joy to work with; and the Sextons who care so perfectly for our physical plant.

As we explore the transition to a new Rector, we are excited to continue growing our Bethesda family as we seek to become the people God is calling us to be.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Stuart Forster
Associate for Music & Liturgy



Ayana Piñeiro
Worship & Pastoral Care Coordinator



From Associate for Christian Formation

At no other point in my nine years of ministry at Bethesda have I ever seen such a spirit of optimism, hope, and anticipation for the future of our work together. 2021 saw a seismic shift to the leadership of our parish, however, we have met the challenges of this past year with the strong, foundational resolve our church building has faced in various storms over the past century.

One of those changes from 2021 saw my work expand from Director of Children and Youth Ministry to Associate for Christian Formation. This means that, in addition to education programming for infants to eighteen-year-olds, I now oversee classes for adults as well. Building from the wonderful work of The Rev. Burl Salmon, I am pleased to say that we have not had to sacrifice any of our offerings during this transition and have actually been able to expand with new bible studies and fellowship groups.

You may have seen some new faces in our Sunday School Hall if you have had a chance to stop by lately. Our long-time nursery staff moved on to new careers during the pre-vaccine era of COVID and we are grateful for Patricia Ramos who stepped into that work earlier this year. Parishioners, Bobbie Martin, Johanna Reyers, and Nathanael Schlett have faithfully worked with our youngest Sunday School classes each week as children learn about stories of faith, the sacraments of the Church, and even participate in monthly outreach projects baking cookies for our Port Ministry at the Port of Palm Beach.

Youth programs for teenagers look a little more familiar. Beth Cole and Lisa Hastey have taken over teaching the 8th Grade Confirmation Class so that I can work full time with the 9th-12th Grade Pilgrimage Group as they plan their spiritual journey to hike the Camino Ingles, a 110-kilometer trail from Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Coming out of our adult programs being solely online in 2020, this year has featured a more hybrid approach to formation programs. Tom O'Brien's class, *Previewing the Lectionary*, and my class, *Theology in Film*, continue to be offered over Zoom. However, *Education for Ministry* led by Chuck Zettler and *Ladies' Bible Study* led by The Rev. Susan Beebe have returned to meeting in-person at Bethesda. Of course, our main formation offerings *Sunday Adult Forums* and *Wednesday Night Middle Way* resumed in-person this past year, both programs featuring a variety of topics meant to lead people to a deeper understanding of the intersection between faith and life.

I am grateful that God has blessed us with the opportunity to experience formation at Bethesda once again, and I look forward to all our wonderful new offerings coming up in 2022. It is a joy to work even more closely with the creative and thoughtful members of our parish family as we seek to learn more about God's Word and work in and for our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Knight, Associate for Christian Formation



Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral Care at Bethesda is vibrant, strong, and evolving. With the reality of the pandemic ever before us, much of our pastoral care in 2021 was done via telephone, Zoom, and frequent emails. While not ideal, new bonds were forged, and existing ones strengthened. With the lifting of some Covid restrictions, your priests and deacons have made numerous hospital calls, ministered to the sick and dying, and reached out to those in need.

Supporting your clergy's efforts is the **Shepherd Ministry** co-chaired by Michael Smyser and Suzanne Crawford. Regularly contacting their flock, Bethesda's Shepherds serve as a conduit between parishioners and clergy, reaching out as well as responding to calls and needs. We currently have twelve dedicated parishioners who serve as Shepherds at Bethesda, but as people have moved and ministries have changed, we are in need of a number of new Shepherds.

Bethesda's **Eucharistic Visitors**, under the leadership of the Rev. Clay Waddell, Deacon, regularly take communion directly from our service to those who are presently homebound. Eleven parishioners have answered this call to ministry which is life-giving as our EV's share the body of Christ with fellow parishioners, as well as those outside our congregation.

Our **Daughters of the King Chapter**, guided by the Rev. Dr. Cecie Titcomb, Deacon, engages in the pastoral ministry of confidential intercessory prayer. The DOK aids in the pastoral and spiritual upbuilding of the church through prayer, crisis needs/services, spiritual retreats, and prayer boxes in the Garth and Narthex accessible to parishioners as well as to members of our community. Ten women have taken vows to join Bethesda's Chapter and five more women will be taking their vows in February. DOK membership is open to all baptized women in the church.

Spiritual Direction is offered at Bethesda by the Rev. Dr. Cecie Titcomb, Deacon. Parishioners are accompanied on their spiritual journey in regular meetings as they learn how to live in peace with compassion and love, promoting justice in the world around them. In Spiritual Direction, you begin to reflect deeply on the experiences of your life. Gradually, as you contemplate awareness of God's presence and grace in the daily, you begin to discern where God might be leading and transforming you. For additional information, contact Deacon Cecie at titcomb@bbts.org.

Bethesda's **Port Ministry**, chaired by Deacon Clay Waddell, is a component of Bethesda's pastoral care ministry to the community around us. Deacon Clay is always on call for pastoral emergencies as they may arise on one of the many ships that visit the Port of Palm Beach.

Our deep appreciation goes to all those who have committed their time and heart to the ministry of Pastoral Care, to those in need both inside and outside of Bethesda.



The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, *Associate Priest*



Evangelism Report

Our mission has not been easy over the past two years due to the pandemic, but now that we can worship in person our Ambassador program is back in full swing. We are deeply grateful to the 76 parishioners who have answered this call to ministry. Newcomers have been delighted with the welcome they receive and with the presentation of lovely floral arrangements from the Flower Guild. The dedication of our staff and clergy in providing accessible worship and purposeful Christian formation opportunities has been instrumental in encouraging newcomers to become part of our worshipping community. The proof of Bethesda's success is that 91 new members joined our congregation in 2021, a sizable increase over previous years.

The Evangelism Committee recently changed its name to better reflect our mission of welcoming all people to the Episcopal Church. We are now called the Invite/Welcome/Connect Committee. Invite, Welcome, Connect, is a nationwide Episcopal program to help grow our church, which we have already been using as our framework. So far, our activities have been focused primarily on the welcome part of the process. Some progress has been made on the connect part of the process, including reinstating and expanding the Newcomers' Lunch at the rectory and updating the Newcomers' Class to focus more on how members can get involved with our church.

Going forward, we plan to work on developing ways to invite others into our community of faith, and to helping all parishioners deepen their faith through involvement in the various ministries offered at Bethesda. We pray each one of you will join us in reaching out to the many guests God sends our way.

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, *Associate Priest*

Beth Cole and Becky Myers, *Co-Chairs*

From the Stewardship Coordinator

We began 2021 with Mthr. Margaret leading stewardship at Bethesda but, as with many other changes at Bethesda last year, Mthr. Margaret is now Rector of St. Paul's Church, Manhattan, Kansas. I moved last Fall from Bethesda's Vestry to be the new the Stewardship Coordinator for Bethesda and work alongside our Interim Rector Rev. Dr. Bob Dannals (Bob, as he is already so well known) and the Stewardship Committee.

My initial focus was to finish the project that Mthr. Margaret started - making sure our giving data is both accurate and easily accessible (the latter still needs some work).

The many uncertainties associated with all three of Bethesda's full-time clergy moving on to new positions left many members uncertain of the future and their financial commitments. Thankfully, a family approached Rev. Dannals suggesting a MATCH campaign that might raise \$500,000; \$250,00 from them and a matching \$250,000 from pledging members who increased their pledges by at least ten percent. This worked wonderfully with 160 households joining the campaign and delivering \$359,000, reaching a total of \$609,000 for the campaign. In addition, a few families made additional large contributions, so the annual budget target for the 2021 Annual Campaign was exceeded.

We start 2022 with an enlarged Stewardship Committee and a new plan more reminiscent of our successful approaches in the past prior to COVID.



Laura Schlett, *Stewardship Coordinator*



2021 Necrology

Lowry Mack Bell
 Michael John Blackman
 Gordon Kenneth Brown II
 Peggy Offutt Dillard
 James Trester Dyke
 Blakeslee Ecclestone Erdmann
 Donald Farry
 Neal Stanley Frederiksen
 Sarah Helen Dempwolf Goodhue
 Dorothy May Gronlund
 Robert Hobart Hull
 Beverly Jo Kemp
 Jerome Edmund Lord

Francine Virginia McGinnis
 Richard R Miessau
 Linda Bartlett Miller
 Martha Beck Moore
 Sharon Noel Stewart Neri
 Walter Milne Ross
 Donald Bruce Scott, Sr.
 J. Rodman Steele, Jr.
 Lillian Joan Blanton Tucker
 Paul Van der Grift
 Adelaide McCracken Wean
 George Thomas Williamson

2021 Bequests

*We give thanks to God for the generosity of these beloved members of our parish family
 who this year provided for Bethesda's future life and ministry with a legacy gift:*

Ann Hall
 Michael Sullivan

Services for 2021

Baptisms 4
 Confirmations, Receptions 8
 Marriages 12
 Burials 21

Holy Eucharists 252
 Holy Eucharists (Private) 23
 Morning Prayers 0
 Complines..... 25
 Stations of the Cross, Good Friday..... 1
 Evensongs 2

Transitions

Baptism 30
 Confirmation 4
 Transferred In 91
 Transferred Out..... 24
 Lost by Death..... 25

Finance Report

Finance Sub-Committee: John Brim, *Chair*, and Matt Lorentzen, *Treasurer*

Audit Sub-Committee: Zach Shipley, *Chair*

2021 Year-End Total Revenue of \$4,195k was \$720k or 17% more than budgeted for the year. This was due to accounting for \$337k forgiveness of the PPP loan received in 2020 and the \$539k from the matching campaign. 2018 Year-End Total Expenses of \$3,545k were \$140k or 4% favorably less than budget. BBTS had a year-end 2021 net SURPLUS of \$650k. It is important to note that this is all thanks to those special revenues which were one-time events.

Annual campaign contributions in 2021 were \$2,706k, a significant increase over previous years thanks again to the match campaign.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating Fund
Period Ending December 31
(\$ thousands)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
REVENUE									
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 2,063	\$ 2,001	\$ 1,865	\$ 2,070	\$ 2,228	\$ 2,225	\$ 2317	2370	2916
General Endowment Draw	193	231	259	266	269	278	290	301	316
Building Endowment Draw	38	76	136	118	127	146	143	148	155
Other Revenue	205	571	595	581	687	613	730	524	808
TOTAL REVENUE	2,499	2,879	2,855	3,035	3,311	3,262	3480	3343	4195
EXPENSES									
Payroll & Benefits	1,330	1,425	1,381	1,496	1,587	1,591	1711	1764	1645
Diocesan Assessment	284	288	312	315	273	319	347	336	397
Other Expenses	779	1,003	1,152	1,156	1,417	1,398	1,395	1,251	1,503
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,393	2,716	2,845	2,967	3,277	3,308	3453	3351	3545
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	106	163	10	68	34	-46	27	-8	650

Balance Sheet

Total assets increased by 4 Million during 2021 due to favorable investment outcomes and a over a half a million in new endowments from bequests. Liabilities remain low.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating & Non-Operating Funds
Period Ending December 31
(\$ thousands)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ASSETS								
Cash	\$ 406	328	374	922	726	791	497	1,620
Other Current Assests	511	439	455	433	448	345	663	687
Restricted/Consolidated Fund	1,927	1,593	1,530	1,760	1,660	1,978	2,172	2,574
Common Endowment	6,791	6,498	6,659	7,636	6,921	8,010	8,654	9,684
Restoration & Preservation	4,380	4,094	4,118	4,168	3,838	3,944	4,183	4,484
Other Designated/Restricted Funds	2,922	2,934	2,987	3,688	3,682	4,354	4,595	5,508
Pledges Receivable - R&P	1,740	1,640	789	695				
Fixed Assets	5144	6,134	7,368	7,746	7,422	6,932	6,640	6,777
TOTAL ASSETS	23,821	23,660	24,280	27,048	24,697	26,354	27,404	31,333
LIABILITIES								
Payables	441	393	425	393	442	372	305	492
TOTAL LIABILITIES	441	393	425	393	442	372	305	492
CAPITAL	23,380	23,267	23,855	26,655	24,255	26,063	27,099	30,841
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	23,821	23,660	24,280	27,048	24,697	26,435	27,404	31,333

Agenda for 2022 Annual Meeting

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer Bob Dannals
- II. Vestry and Delegate Election Sara Griffen
- III. Finance Committee Report.....Matt Lorentzen
- IV. Stewardship Update Paul Coombs
- V. Search Process Update John Brim
- VI. Sr. Warden's Report.....John Sory
- VII. Interim Rector's ReportBob Danna
- VIII. Closing Prayer Bob Dannals

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

I. Prayer

Call to Order of the 132nd Annual Meeting by Father James at 9:15a.m. noting that there was a quorum present. Fr. Burl led those in attendance in an opening prayer and the Necrology.

II. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting included in the packet for the 2021 Annual Meeting by Rand Gluss second by Cindy Fellabom. The Motion passed unanimously.

III. Vestry Update

Father James thanked outgoing Vestry members Raphael Clemente, Charles Hagy, Jr., Connie Purcell, and Tanner Rose. Connie Purcell is bringing her fifth term as Junior Warden to a close because her term on Vestry is ending. Zach Shipley is continuing on the Vestry, but his term as Senior Warden is ending. Chuck Hagy is stepping down as Clerk because his term on Vestry is ending. Tanner Rose is rolling off as Chair of the Finance Committee because his term on

Vestry is ending. Richard Crone is remaining on the Vestry but will be stepping down as Audit Committee Chair and going to Buildings and Grounds. Ongoing Vestry members are Richard Crone, Becky Myers, Zach Shipley, Maury Wolfe, John Brim, Sara Griffen, John Sory, and Katie Wandoff.

Fr. James presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations for new members of the Vestry.

Motion to elect new Vestry members Edythe Gordon, Sebastian Kent, Laura Schlett, and Chuck Zettler by Mike Victor and second by Sara Griffen. The Motion was unanimously approved by the meeting attendees.

Motion to elect new Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, Rand Gluss, Lisa Hastey, Michael Smyser, and Jacquie Bernard (alternate) as Alternate, by Maury Wolfe and Seconded by Bob Henkel. The Motion was unanimously approved by the meeting attendees.

IV. Finance Report – Matt Lorentzen

Finance Report given by Matt Lorentzen, Treasurer. Church Operations ended up with a generous surplus of \$200,000, the first surplus we have had in our operating finances in recent years.

Operating Revenue grew 5%, while Expenses were reduced by 1%. For 2021, we are budgeted to break even, with expenses held at the 2020 levels.

Matt thanked and congratulated the congregation for contributing to the Annual Fund, particularly those who increased their contributions. The Annual Fund came in at just over 2.1 million dollars, which is consistent with the last few years of Annual Fund Revenue. Other contributions were \$650,000, a large part being the PPE Loan of \$337,000 the government provided in the summer. We expect the PPE Loan to be completely forgiven. Also in 2020, our endowment draw was increased 3%, according to our formula based on a 3-year average.

The 2021 Budget is consistent with the 2020 Budget. One area where we have seen a significant increase is Christian Education, where we have budgeted an additional \$35,000 to support the Youth Pilgrimage and Mission Trip. This is something that is normally completely supported by special fund raising that is not possible this year.

Most budgets are seeing a flat or slight reduction when compared to the original 2020 Budget. Outreach is expected to be reduced 22% this year, although this budget will be reviewed closer to the grant development period later in the spring. In 2020, a number of Capital Projects were completed. The termite tenting project was a significant cost, in addition to AC replacement at \$22,000 and the lightning suppression system at \$24,000.

The Church's Endowment and Investment Funds grew at 8.5% during 2020. Endowment and Restricted Funds total 16.8 million with an additional \$1,000,000 of unrestricted funds invested.

V. Stewardship - Paul Coombs

Paul Coombs stated that contributions in 2020 were at 2.1 million dollars, almost the highest number in the last six years. Plate Offerings were down by \$50,000 and pledges were down by \$100. However, we beat the total numbers for last year, and the last five years. In 2019, a Generosity Statement was developed, to be used in 2020 to work on relationships and an approach more based on generosity rather than fulfilling a budgeted requirement. However, with Covid, the Generosity Team has been focused on remaining in contact with members and identifying needs. As the end of the year approached, the Team sent out a notice asking what areas are you demonstrating gratitude for, resulting in an additional \$180,000. Mthr. Margaret is now an Associate for Stewardship and Digital Ministry.

In 2021, the Annual Campaign will be run differently, focusing on generosity, building relationships, and funding for major projects. The organ is one of these projects.

VI. Buildings and Grounds Report - Connie Purcell

Connie Purcell stated that the termite tenting project was completed and the Rectory front door was recreated with the addition of a security system. The lightning suppression system is still waiting for permits from the Town of Palm Beach. The organ is being modernized with a grant of \$400,000. The AC replacements have been addressed, made for difficult by the closing of the buildings. Connie acknowledged the sextons and staff for their fine work.

Questions were asked and answered.

VII. Rector's Address – Father James

Father James began by asking us to remember back to last Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020. This is when we adjusted some of our Sunday morning practices to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Since then, we have been innovating ways to bring our beautiful worship online so people can stay connected with their spiritual home. During this time, we have seen our online worship evolve and improve. More music has been added, we have observed the Seasons, and Holy Days, and even offered a glorious Christmas Service, complete with brass quintet and stunning flowers. No one could have seen or experienced any of this without the one essential constant to our success to worshipping online: Bill Metzger. Bill has been here every week to operate our video system and put together a worship service that is truly worshipful. Bill understands that this is more than just a video production. He understands that this communicates the presence of God and has a beautiful and gentle way of helping us worship online. Because we could not have been Church without him, Fr. James was deeply pleased to award the Rector's Cross to Bill Metzger.

In his Address, Fr. James referenced the Letter to the Ephesians, which focused on the goal and purpose of the Church. In the Fourth Chapter, it emphasizes the unity and maturity for followers of Jesus, stating that we all work to reach the full stature of Christ. The work of the Church is to avoid deceit and speak the truth in order to become the Beloved Community God calls us to be. This is an important reminder as we examine the essential identity of the Church. Alongside our important parish ministry, we Christians have important work to do in our world, work we cannot avoid or deny.

After years of praying that God should break our hearts at the things that break God's heart. Leading us all toward a more broken heart. Too often, our world view shapes the way we read the Bible rather than the Bible shaping the ways we see the world. A mere tolerance of diverse persons shows a disrespect for basic human dignity, antithetical the Way of Love.

Fr. James went on to say that the tremendous gift of living in Palm Beach is seeing the dissonance between the Way of Love and his privileged life. Through the powerful, transforming, and liberating truth of the Gospel, Fr. James was able to see that privilege is neither a blessing nor a cause for shame or guilt. It is a responsibility and a burden. Privilege lays on us a responsibility to be uncomfortable, discontent, and angry at injustice. Injustice that many of us have never personally experienced

The way we are called to live involves on-going growth and transformation. The Way of Love promises to turn us and our world upside down and, more importantly, right side up. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry quotes Archbishop Desmond Tutu in saying, "Love, forgiving, being reconciled to our enemies and or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back and turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the hurt, the truth." Fr. James stated that this could even make things worse for a while, but in the end this is worth it. Only honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings about superficial healing.

Fr. James believes that we are at a point of deep reckoning. This reckoning has been amplified by the pandemic, racial injustice, and the cultivation of rhetoric grounded in white supremacy and lies. For this reason, Fr. James urges us to decide to be on the Way of Love and become a Beloved Community. We have to be people of truth and people who reconcile in order to grow into the full stature of Christ and be a beacon of light for our community.

Mother Margaret gave the closing prayer and blessing.

Meeting was adjourned by Father James at 12.59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Hagy, Clerk



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BETHESDA-BY-THE-SEA PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

Bethesda's Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ's teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

2021 Annual Campaign Participants

The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry would like to thank the households that have made a pledge to our annual campaign. These pledges enable sound financial planning for Bethesda's mission and ministry.

Mr. Matthew R. Ailey and Mr. Gregory C. Zaffiro
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Albury
Mrs. T.A. Aliapoulos
Mr. Mark Aliapoulos
Mrs. William Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Alvarez
Mrs. Elaine Webb Alvarez
Mrs. Nadya Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson, Jr.
Mr. Thomas B. Anderson and Mr. Marc P. Schappell
Ms. Susan Andreasen
Mr. and Mrs. John Andrica
Mrs. Nathan Appleman
Mr. John Archer
Ms. Donna J. Arietta
Mr. Harris Ashton
Mrs. Ellen Asplundh
Mrs. William Bowen Astrop
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Athmer
Mr. William W. Atterbury III
Mr. Jeffrey Aurilio and Ms. Tamara Anderson
Mr. Mark Baccash
Mr. Harry Bader
Mrs. Barbara Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Baity
Mr. Bernard Baker III
Mr. Richard Barkalow
Mr. and Mrs. F. Gregory Barnhart
The Rev. Carol Barron
Mrs. Melinda Bass
Ms. Mary K. Bates
E Baughan
Mrs. Kenneth Beall
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Beare
Mr. Michael Beautyman

The Rev. Susan and The Rev. Jeffrey Beebe
Ms. Charlotte Beers
Mr. and Mrs. Foster Beeuwkes
Mrs. Lowry Bell
Mr. John Benisch
Kenieve Berrick
Ms. Helen Starr Bertles
Mr. and Mrs. James Bertles
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Besson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Vince Bianco
Ms. Vicky Bidwell
Mrs. Barbara K. Bielenberg
Mr. James Birdsall
Mr. George Capen Bitting
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bitting III
Mrs. Michael Blackman
Ms. Jayne Blankenship
Mr. William C. Blind
Drs. Maria Elisa and Arthur Block
Mr. William Blundin
Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Boardman
Mr. Berry D. Boland
Mr. Tom Bonfield
Ms. Jennifer Borg and Mr. Garth Wakeford
Mr. Andrew Krebs Boszhardt
Mrs. Edwin Bowen
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brackett
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brand
Ms. Stephanie and Mrs. Regine Branscomb
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Brauer
Mr. and Mrs. John Brim
Mr. and Mrs. James Brinkley
Mrs. Graham Russell
Mr. James Sharp Brodsky
Mr. T. Kimball Brooker

The Rev. and Mrs. Voris G. Brookshire
Mrs. Gordon Brown
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown
Mr. Alfred Browne, Jr.
Ms. Margaret Broz
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buckley
Ms. Pamela Budzinsky
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Burdett
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Blaine Burdette
Mr. Basil Burke and Ms. Jacquie Bernard
Mr. and Mrs. J. Gary Burkhead
Ms. Candida Burnap
Mrs. Karen S. Butler
Mr. John Buxton
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Cain
Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Barbara Callahan
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Carolla
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Carter
Ms. Nancy Carter
Mrs. William B. Cary
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cay III
Mr. and Mrs. John Cecil
Ms. Lindsay CF Du Gan
Ms. Helena M. Champion
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chan
Mr. Aamir Chanan Khan
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Chapman
Ms. Karen Chapman
Ms. Jennifer Charlston
Mr. and Mrs. Walton Childs
Mrs. John Christlieb
Mr. and Mrs. William Cini
Ms. April Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Clemente
Mr. and Mrs. James Clifford
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart B. Clifford
Mrs. Edward H. Cochrane
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Loren Cole, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Cole
Mrs. Cristina Condon
Ms. Mariela Conway
Ms. Frances Cook
Nark Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coombs
Mr. Peter Cooper
Mrs. Ann B. Copeland
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Corcoran
Mr. and Mrs. J. Barry Coughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Crampton
Mr. Gary Cravens
Mrs. Sandra Kay Crawford
Mrs. Suzanne Crawford
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Croes
Mr. Richard Crone
Mrs. Stacy Cunningham
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Daft
Ms. Jill Daley
Mr. Forrest L. Daniels III
The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Bob Dannels
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Darlington, Jr.
Mr. Nat Day
Mr. Richard Day
Miss Diane De La Begassier
Ms. Anne De Lisle
Mrs. Suzette Smith
Mrs. J. Simpson Dean, Jr.
Mr. Joseph H. Deary
Ms. Florence DeBakey
Ms. Michelle DeBakey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Debbs
Miss Erin Destito
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Devens, Jr.
Ms. Rosemary Diehl
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Diffenderfer
Mrs. Peggy Dillard
Mrs. F. Eugene Dixon

Ms. Kim Do
Mr. Michael Dobies and Mr. Rob Crook
Mrs. Jane Dommerich
Ms. Victoria Donaldson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Donnelley
Mr. Thorne Donnelley, Jr.
Mr. Robert Douglass, Jr.
Mr. Willard H. Dow II
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Dowell
Mrs. Gardiner Drake
Mr. and Mrs. William Dunphy
Ms. Jamie Durney
Mr. and Mrs. William Eckberg
Ms. Edith B. Eglin
Mr. Thomas W. Eglin
Mr. and Mrs. David Ekstrom
Mrs. Richard Englander
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Erdmann
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