



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.

2022

Annual Parish Meeting
January 29, 2023



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Agenda for 2022 Annual Meeting

I. Call to Order	John Sory
II. Opening Prayer	The Rev. Tim Schenck
III. Approval of Minutes	John Sory
IV. Finance Report & Presentation of 2023 Budget	John Brim
V. Report of the Nominating Committee	Sara Griffen
VI. Vestry & Delegate Election	John Sory
VII. Conversation with the Rector	The Rev. Tim Schenck
VIII. Other Business	John Sory
IX. Motion to Adjourn	John Sory



From the Rector

One of the things I love about the Annual Meeting is that it allows us to take stock of the year that is past, celebrate all the many and varied ministries that take place here, and look towards the future. Of course, since I was only here for 12% of 2022, I can't exactly reflect on the past 12 months at Bethesda. But I do recognize that it has been a year of transition, one that culminated in the calling of a new rector. And that is a significant moment in the life of a congregation, one that points to new beginnings and is full of hope and anticipation.

As I continue to settle in and get to know you, I am convinced that the future at Bethesda is bright, it's exciting, and I am so glad to be a part of it.

I have spent much of my first few months among you asking questions and listening and learning and building relationships. You can't chart a course for the future without first getting to know ministries and people, without experiencing the traditions of a place, and discovering what draws people here and what keeps them here.

And let me first say and openly declare that I love Bethesda. This is a place teeming with faithful and passionate parishioners, a place with a talented and dedicated staff, a place where worship stands at the very heart of what we do, a place where Jesus is praised and followed, a place where apparently the rector skips.

So much of a rector's role is simply setting a tone and helping to create a culture. What I hope to do in the coming years is to be part of a joyful community, one where people care about one another — even when they disagree, where people are committed to growing in their relationship with Jesus, where people want to both serve the church and serve those in need, a place where generosity is cultivated, a place where people are welcomed and loved. And I want to do this together, with each one of you.

But, since I've only been here for a short time, let me offer a few initial observations about life at this very special place, along with a few hopes.

The first is that this is a place where Jesus is encountered. Through liturgy and music, through prayer and Bible study, through sacred space and holy grounds, through service to others, Jesus' presence is revealed in so many ways around here. And my hope is that collectively we will go even deeper in the coming years. That our faith will broaden and deepen, that we will see and know and serve Jesus in new and creative ways.

This is also a place where people are welcomed. I've been so impressed by the Ambassador program and by the intentionality of making all who enter these doors feel and know that they are loved by God, not for what they do or who they are or what they're worth, but simply because they are children of God. That is a rare thing indeed. But the warm welcome can't be the end goal. We must all continually strive to draw people deeper into their faith. And so connecting people to ministries that create even more committed disciples is a major part of our work together.

Related to this, I would love to see some areas of church life that incorporate more lay involvement and leadership. From communications to outreach to finance to education, there are so many gifted parishioners around here and more people should be drawn into the creative and life-giving ministries of this parish. This not only allows people to share their gifts in meaningful ways, it also deepens our connections to God and one another. So my hope is that we will find a healthy balance between staff and volunteer leadership, one that lifts up and empowers lay ministry and recognizes that all ministry is rooted in our baptismal covenant.

This is a place with deeply held and beloved traditions. I love the traditions at Bethesda. Take Boar's Head. Yes, the spectacle of it all was amazing to behold — the music, the costumes, the plum pudding. But what really inspired me was the sheer number of people who participated in the show over what was a very full weekend. I loved the intergenerational community building and the sheer joy in pulling this all off.

One of my mantras is "Never let the clergy get in the way of ministry." And what I mean by that is I don't have to be, nor should I be, nor could I possibly be, in the middle of everything that takes place here. I love it when people take up the mantle of ministry and simply make things happen. And that's something else I loved about Boar's Head — it could have been done without any clergy involvement at all. In reality, my only role was to not trip.

So, my hope is that we will lean into the strong traditions at Bethesda, while being open to creating new ones. Traditions that point firmly to God are worth holding onto and cherishing. The key is not allowing traditions to become idols in and of themselves, and that takes continued attention and discernment.

People are generous with both their financial and spiritual gifts. And that is because they care deeply about this community. When people feel connected, they contribute. Our overall giving goal for 2023 is \$2.5 million. In order to fully fund the ministry that takes place here and the staffing we need to add to support it, this should really be at \$3 or 3.5 million. We'll talk more about this next month, but as you discern your 2023 pledge, I encourage your continued generosity and commitment to Bethesda.

This is a place with an incredible asset in The Church Mouse. Beyond the over \$500,000 it raises for our outreach ministries, it stands as an outpost of Bethesda in the community and offers meaningful volunteer opportunities for our parishioners. I would like to see this bond between parish and Mouse strengthened even more, so that everyone beyond our walls will know that it is a ministry of this church. To this end, we are pulling together an advisory committee to support staff and improve communications to the wider community.

This is a place that takes seriously its commitment to those in need. Through our outreach grants and several hands-on ministries, we are following the way of Jesus in serving the least of us. My hope is to put together a robust outreach committee to help lead us towards a more focused approach to serving others, and to provide even more opportunities to roll up our sleeves and do good works. As a parish we have a huge opportunity to make a significant difference in our wider community — the needs are great. And I wonder if we might channel some of our resources into a signature outreach effort, one that people will identify with Bethesda. But that will take some true discernment.

My whole approach to ministry has always been about keeping one foot within the four walls of the church, and one foot beyond its walls. And so we have programs and educational opportunities that will deepen our faith as disciples of Jesus; we look to worship as the primary way that we gather; we maintain our buildings and grounds as sacred spaces that offer solace and inspiration.

And then we move outward to live out our faith in the world. We serve others through outreach programs, we invite people to come and see and experience the ways we meet Jesus at Bethesda, and we hold up Bethesda's mission of love, inclusion, and grace as a beacon of hope that our broken and divided world so desperately needs. Through technology, Bethesda has an opportunity and, I'd say, a responsibility, to make a significant impact upon our local community, but also the wider church and the nation, bringing the message of God's love well beyond our walls. And that excites me.

When I was in middle school, my family moved from Baltimore to New York. We left a beautiful church which we loved and, although it was hard to say goodbye, we looked forward to trying out some new parishes and finding a church home. We went to some of the biggest, most famous churches in the city — including the massive Cathedral of St. John the Divine. One Sunday we decided to at least try the tiny, nondescript Episcopal church in our neighborhood. It was hardly a grand place, with its red linoleum floors and electronic organ.

But there was something about the young, new rector that brought us back the following week. And then we got to know the people. And suddenly my parents made up 2/6 of the choir and I started acolyting every week. What I learned through this experience is that a church, is not the building. No matter how grand or how humble, a church is not the physical brick and mortar, but the living, breathing, flawed, forgiven people who consider it their spiritual home.

And ultimately, that's what makes Bethesda so special. You make Bethesda so special. And it is a privilege to join each and every one of you on this journey of life and faith. I'm energized and inspired by what God is doing in this place, and I can't wait to see what the Spirit has in store for us in the years ahead.

A few thank yous are in order. First, I am incredibly grateful to our retiring Senior Warden, John Sory. No Senior Warden signs up to lead a parish through a rector search process. But John did this with great skill, along with a calm demeanor and faithful presence. In these early days, he has been for me a source of wisdom and counsel, and I will always be grateful.

Thank you as well to our other retiring Vestry members, John Brim, Sara Griffen, and Katie Wandoff. Their ministry has had a major impact on this place and I can't wait to see what new ministries they'll engage with in the days ahead.

I have so enjoyed getting to know the dedicated and talented staff here at Bethesda. Every one of them loves this church and is willing to go above and beyond to help make ministry happen. There are a lot of moving parts around here, made even more challenging by the departure of our Associate for Administration, just before I began. Everyone has admirably and unflinchingly taken on duties beyond their specific roles in order to keep things running as smoothly as possible. And they deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Thank you to every one of you for welcoming me into this community with such love and grace. It has meant everything during this time of personal transition. Keep wearing those name tags!

Finally, thank you to my wife Bryna. Her love and support never ceases to amaze me and I couldn't imagine being on this new adventure without her. We both love it here!

Many blessings to us all in the year ahead.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Schenck', with a small cross symbol at the end.

The Rev. Tim Schenck, *Rector*



From the Senior Warden

The dust has settled, and Bethesda has landed in a wonderful place. We start 2023 with a gifted Rector who joined us at the height of the season. He has hit the ground in full stride picking up directly from the strong interim leadership of Bob Dannals. We continue with an outstanding, dedicated team of associates, staff and parishioners. All have bonded together to maintain and strengthen our church. COVID fades behind us as our programs return in full force. We rise to greet our future with high expectations and energy. The future is bright.

To reach this new day under Father Tim Schenck's guidance, we must recognize and express our gratitude to our Rector Search Committee who worked tirelessly for more than a full year. The team - John Brim, Katie Wandoff, Chuck Hagy, Beth Cole, Tanner Rose, Barbara Callahan, Suzanne Crawford and Johanna Reyers – pored through at least one hundred candidates in a year-long process of prayer, discernment, and diligence to identify the perfect fit for Bethesda. Thankfully, Tim and Bryna answered our call to move from the church Tim grew over 14 years to join us and lead our parish.

Our prayers were heard and answered. Tim and Bryna officially joined November 13th, and they have immediately warmed hearts. Tim brings to Bethesda his gifts as a preacher, writer, and digital communicator. He has begun to share his experience and expertise growing vibrant, and joyful worship communities. He has inspired us all to return in full force.

In full force indeed, for at last we all can participate and worship through the full complement of Bethesda activities. At this writing we find ourselves marveling at the return of the Boar's Head Festival. Participation and attendance both revealed how clearly missed this event has been. Add to it the growing attendance across our formation, ministry and music programs, such as the Middle Way, St. Mary's Guild, organ recitals, VOCES 8, the youth pilgrimage to Spain, Flower Guild, Girls of Grace, Men of Bethesda, the Bethesda Movie Club, and many more. In addition, the Outreach granting capacity provided by the Church Mouse reached record levels in 2022 as our church reaches so many in our community.

The truth is that Bethesda has become quite adept at transition. Bob Dannals led us for over a year, supported actively by Susan Beebe and Elizabeth Geitz. Bob handed the Rector role to Tim with Susan and Elizabeth continuing to serve us all. Stuart Forster finally had an opportunity to create a full year's music program. Greg Knight was able to host all the formation programs that had been held in check by the pandemic.

One of the final transitions is the replacement of our Parish Administrator, Fred Staley, who after nearly ten years at Bethesda, has assumed a new position in Virginia. Having worked closely with Fred throughout 2022, including planning his sabbatical, the Rector and Vestry have clearly delineated the position's administrative and financial responsibilities. The team is in place to manage smoothly until we have the full-time staff, which we expect in early 2023.

Through these transitions, we have learned about ourselves and our church. A few observations and calls to action shared in the various adult forums and feedback sessions come to mind -

- Build upon our strong spiritual vitality to engage one another.
- Contemporize while also maintaining our traditions and being appropriately progressive.
- Participation both online and in-person is now forever part of our church DNA and will keep us engaged throughout the year, regardless of location.
- Serve together for it binds us together.
- A few do a lot. We must spread the responsibilities over more individuals. There are many ways to participate and considerable talent in our parish. Let's put it to use for the church's mission.
- Continuing the forums to share perspectives and offer feedback are critical.
- Attract families and invite friends to join. It's notable that over 125 children participated in Christmas Eve events, and at least that number participated in the Boar's Head Festival.
- Continue to build our financial support base in order to sustain our church and serve one another and our community.

Bethesda remains on stable financial footing with improved financial reporting and accountability. We have been blessed with an active Finance Committee and Building and Grounds Committee who advise on priorities and the wise allocation of our assets. We are grateful for the Stewardship Committee led by Paul Coombs and for the congregation's wonderful generosity. More members pledged in 2022 than ever before, so thank you. Once again, we exceeded our stewardship goals and accomplished a balanced operating budget.

Soon the 2023 stewardship campaign will begin. We all know that it is our collective generosity that sustains our church and allows us to accomplish our goals. It is important to recognize that financial demands only increase with a full-time clergy and lay staff as well as the inescapable maintenance of our beautiful but aging edifice. Your continuing (and ideally increasing) financial support will be requested quite soon.

While we are in a strong position, we have the opportunity to pull more people into Bethesda and expand this community. Sixty-four new members joined in 2022. We have so much to offer, but we also must spread the word. Families are moving into Palm Beach County in record numbers, and many are searching for a church home. Let us be that home. Among our recognized strengths is to be a welcoming community thanks in no small part to our dedicated team of over 100 Ambassadors. Invite the new arrivals to Bethesda to experience what we all know and love about our church family.

As I write this and prepare to end my three-year term on the Vestry, I am truly grateful to have been a part of these transitions which position us for the next decade. My time in this role has increased my affection for our church, deepened my faith and increased my optimism for our future. I look forward to continuing to walk alongside all in the Bethesda family to support the mission of our beloved Bethesda.

Peace to you all,



John Sory, Senior Warden



From the Junior Warden

To my fellow Bethesda parishioners,

Despite the complexities of our time, a foundation of prayer, hope, spiritual growth and resilience continues to propel Bethesda forward in a joy-filled direction.

Thankfully, we escaped the fury of several major hurricanes including the devastating damages they caused throughout our state. Nevertheless, we remained in a state of readiness to implement our Hurricane and Other Inclement Weather Planning Guidelines which are revised/updated annually. Similarly, in response to the recommendations of the Church's "Hospitality, Safety, and Security Task Force Report, Recommendations and Action Steps/Results," the B & G Committee will develop a fire and flood plan.

The annual buildings waterproofing schedule, which had been deferred during the last several years, was resumed in 2022. This resulted in the approval of spending up to \$100,000 to waterproof and restore the Church Bell Tower. Despite supply chain delays and poor weather interruptions the project was successfully completed.

Improvements to the Church Chancel and High Altar lighting were completed. New signs (5) have been added on campus – two signs for employee parking and one each at the entrance to Via Bethesda, the loading area on the north side of the Cloister and at the driveway to the Rectory. AC repairs and replacements are ongoing. To enhance safety on Via Bethesda, moderate speed bumps were added along the Church's property line.

Improvements in the Children's Playground area (i.e., replacement of mulch, shrubs treatment for white fly disease and trim work) are underway. Piping in the fish pond will be cleaned and/or replaced to address the algae problem. The Church front entry door rails will be sanded and refinished.

During this past year many projects were achieved while others are yet undone, especially the Church Choir Room. Our Church Choir Room is basically unchanged since 1979. Consequently, it requires significant renovations and updates. As a preliminary response to this problem, approved spending of \$5,000 was allocated to contract with an architectural firm to cover design fees for the Church Choir Room's construction drawings. Pending the future availability of funding, this work will provide a jump start to complete the project.

The vibrancy of Bethesda could not be sustained without all of you who serve and support our Church and its ministries. Thank you all. It is an honor and privilege to worship and serve with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Carter

Dr. Gene Carter, *Junior Warden*



Rector, Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

The Rev. Tim Schenck, *Rector*

Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

John Sory, *Senior Warden* (2023)

Gene Carter, *Junior Warden* (2024)

Katie Wandoff, *Clerk* (2023)

Bob Diffenderfer, *Chancellor* #

Matt Lorentzen, *Treasurer* #

John Brim (2023)

Barbara Callahan (2025)

Suzanne Crawford (2025)

Randall Gluss (2025)

Edythe Gordon (2024)

Sara Griffen (2023)

Lisa Hastey (2025)

Sebastian Kent (2024)

Chuck Zettler (2024)

Not on Vestry

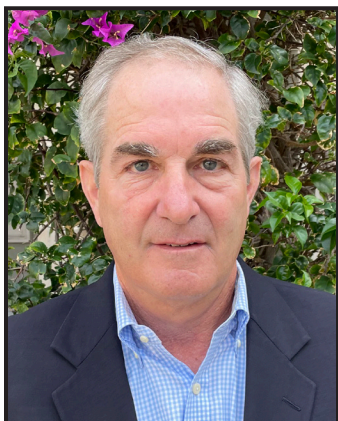
Vestry Nominations

Nominating Task Force—Edythe Gordon, *Chair*

Vestry Nominees

Serving the Vestry Term 2023—2026

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



JAMES (JIM) BERTLES, a member of Bethesda since 1986, grew up in Greenwich, CT and moved to Palm Beach with his wife, Lisa, as a young practicing lawyer on New Year's Day 1986. Both Jim and Lisa have been actively involved with Bethesda in many ways throughout the years, with Jim having previously served on the Vestry for nearly 20 years and as Senior Warden for three Rectors (Hap Warren, Perry Fuller and James Harlan), Junior Warden for one year, and Chancellor for many of his terms. Jim is a graduate of the Choate School, Amherst College and Fordham University Law School. He became an Episcopalian when he and Lisa were married in 1981, and they very proudly have three grown, married children, Kate (39), Preston (35) and Alex (32), all of whom grew up in Palm Beach and actively attended Bethesda before moving north and west.



BETH COLE received her degree in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University and her MBA from University of Chicago, and had a career in engineering, marketing, sales and account management in the semiconductor manufacturing equipment industry in Texas and Silicon Valley, California. She became an Episcopalian when she married her husband Peyton 36 years ago and joined Bethesda 26 years ago when they moved back to Palm Beach (Peyton's home town) to raise their children Laura and Peyton, Jr. here and be closer to Peyton's parents. Beth has been active at Bethesda ever since, in both hands-on and leadership roles, including Sunday School teacher, usher, Boar's Head committee member, co-chair of Invite/Welcome/Connect committee and Vestry member. She is deeply grateful for the foundation Bethesda has been for the Cole family for several generations, and is committed to working for the preservation, growth and vitality of our treasured faith community.



MATT LORENTZEN is a graduate of Wesleyan University (BA) and Harvard Business School (MBA). Matt has served as a BBTS Vestry member from 2009-2012 (also Chair of the Investment Committee) and 2014-2017 (also Chair of the Finance Committee) and Treasurer from 2019 to present. Matt has also served as an Usher at the 9:00 a.m. service since at least 2007.

Matt and his wife Helene were married at Bethesda in 1996 and have been full-time members of the Bethesda congregation since they moved here from Boston in 2003. Helene has served on the Flower Guild for many years and served on the 2011 Rector Search Committee. Matt and Helene's three sons, Nicholas (21), Charlie (19) and Finn (16) have all been baptized and confirmed at Bethesda. The entire family have participated in many Christmas Pageants and Boar's Head celebrations, where Matt has most recently been a Beefeater. He is honored to serve the Church in a leadership capacity.



PAMELA (PAM) MILLER originally from St. Louis, MO. moved to Palm Beach in 1996. She earned her degree in Interior Design from Iowa State and held numerous leadership positions including President of a leading design firm.

Pam joined Bethesda in 2005. Her husband's family were members since 1980. Pam's previous involvement with the church has been as a Vestry member, Usher, an Ambassador, Empty Bowls Founding Committee and Cajun Grace Dinner Event, Women at the Well and Stewardship Committee. Pam's personal community involvement extends to past Chairman for the Center for Creative Education and leadership in the 2022 launching of The Foundations School.

Pam has a passion for her church involvement and looks forward to bringing her professional and personal skills to the church.

** Vestry Nominees were selected by the Nominating Committee after the review process. 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

Donna Arietta Jacquie Bernard Diane Gravitt Bill Scarlett (Alternate)

From the Associate for Music and Liturgy

The year began with the dreaded news that the annual Boar's Head Festival was canceled due to the Omicron surge during Christmas week. After missing two consecutive years, though, what incredible joy and community spirit heralded preparations for the 2023 return! The 150+ volunteers, led by Jim Goodner and Beth Cole, represented the best of community life and celebration of the Nativity.

We were thrilled to welcome new members to our Acolytes, Crucifers, Ushers, Vergers, Lay Readers, Altar Guild, and Flower Guild this year. Special thanks are due to those who helped to train our newest recruits: Donna Arietta, Berry Boland, Jim Goodner, Denny Lanier, and Gary Sullivan. Maury Wolfe and the Flower Guild Steering Committee inspired their 100+ volunteers to adorn our worship space—indoors and outdoors—with beautiful creations that bring incredible life, wonder, and beauty to our worship. The dedicated Altar Guild has unfailingly executed much of the behind-the-scenes work that has everything ready, and everything cleaned and put away, for each service. Thank you to Suzanne Crawford and Sebastian Kent for picking up the reins and taking care of so many details as co-chairs.

In-person attendance at services has continued to grow as we emerge from the pandemic. Our online presence, however, has multiplied many times, thanks to the artistic, yet thoroughly technical, audio/video/streaming work of Bill Metzger, Jim Goodner, Lynn Hanke, and Doug Kwoka. Most weeks see hundreds of online viewers during our 11:00 a.m. service, followed by hundreds more after editing is completed on Sunday afternoon. Sermons and anthems (and occasionally special hymns or organ pieces) are “released as singles” on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, and have been observed to attract thousands of views.

The renovation project on the Austin organ made significant progress this year, but still has numerous steps remaining. Shipping delays are the main culprit. The Chancel console returned to us in August, one year behind schedule, sporting a completely new interior but retaining the exquisitely carved shell. Minor tweaks to various gremlins continue. Some new pipes have been installed, and new fiber-optic connections will protect against future lightning strikes. We await work on the Gallery console, regulation of the 6000 pipes, and a repair/upgrade to the digital components. We are very grateful to the Wyncote Foundation for funding 90% of this project.

We were able to resume full rehearsals in the Choir Room by mid-spring, where the focused acoustic allowed us to work with more refined detail than the distanced rehearsals in the Nave and Parish Hall had allowed during the worst of the pandemic. The Bethesda Choir goes from strength to strength. Its 26 members have expanded repertoire markedly, incorporating more timeless masterpieces from the vast western cathedral tradition. From gems of the Tudor and Renaissance eras to Romantic and living composers, our aim is to highlight many dimensions of the great liturgical texts that complement the season and

readings each week. The Mozart Requiem, with orchestra, on All Saints' Sunday provided an opportunity to collaborate with Palm Beach Opera, who provided soloists and cross-advertising. The annual Christmas Concert and Community Carol Sing was another highlight with orchestra. But the weekly offering of anthems and leading the congregation is the essence of our ministry, and we revel in every opportunity to share the Anglican legacy. Monthly Evensong continues to draw a wider crowd, and the pre-Evensong recitals have included organists from around the region. Sunday services at 9:00 a.m. have included a quartet from the Bethesda Choir to lead the sung and spoken portions of the liturgy, as well as the movement. This practice provided a model for how most funerals and weddings are now conducted at Bethesda, with regular leadership from the choir.

We also began a new concert series in October, thanks to the Greenfield Fund. A champagne reception thanks those offering extra financial support to the music program. Our opening concert was the international sensation, VOCES8, who sang a superb concert that filled the church with elated people, reaching parishioners and the wider community. The next concert is planned for February, and will feature the renovated Austin organ and the brilliant organist from the Mormon Tabernacle, Richard Elliott.

We are excited to be working on the design phase for renovating the Choir Room, whose storage limit was outgrown some years ago. With emphasis on safety, security, and functionality, this renovation will be its first in nearly 70 years. We are also pleased to have completed the update of vestments for the Bethesda Choir, Acolytes, Crucifers, and Vergers; Altar Guild robes are awaiting some final customization.

Finally, thanks are due to many people who have helped in our music ministry. In particular, I would like to mention Ayana Piñeiro-Ilnicki, who coordinates all of our liturgical participants each week (among many other things); Clare Shore and Nancy Carter, who have worked this year as Choir Librarians; the Sextons, who take such good care of our facilities; and staff, clergy, and Vestry who make such a productive and joyful team.

And now, with Father Tim leading us, we are eager to see where God is calling our growing Bethesda family.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Stuart Forster, *Associate for Music & Liturgy*



From Associate for Christian Formation

I've been feeling pretty nostalgic these days as I hit a decade of ministry at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Over these last ten years, I have seen a generation of children and youth ascend to meet the passions of their lives, fall to the challenges of heartache, and rise again through the bonds of communal life together. I have had to say goodbye to faithful parishioners who have left us in this world but will meet us in the world to come. I have shared this time with parents, grandparents, Christmas Pageants, Boar's Heads, confirmations, graduations, new arrivals, and faithfully departed. I have experienced the lost and wandering nature of a church building closed for over a year and the life-giving liberation of a Church community resurrected in a spirit of faithfulness. It's been quite the decade of learning and discovery and I am grateful for the glorious companions at Bethesda that I've been able to share it with.

A good place to start with our progress update is our young people. We have a wonderful and dedicated Nursery staff for our youngest members overseen by Patricia Ramos and Gloria Cifuentes. Our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Johanna Reyers, does a fabulous job working with all ages on our Sunday School Hall each week. In addition to her, our regular volunteers including Becky Kelly, Carolyn Ryan, Alexandra Garrison, and Stephanie Peoples keep our elementary-aged children engaged in the stories of our faith every Sunday and Wednesday.

Our youth programs continue to offer exciting and engaging opportunities for teenagers. Our Middle School class is led by the extremely talented crew of Kirsten Plymel, Corina Homschek, Chuck Hagy, and Ejola Cook. Our Confirmation Class continues to be taught by the wonderful Beth Cole and Lisa Hastey. And our 9th-12th Grade Mission Group will soon have its permanent volunteer in place with the exceptional Madie Anderson. Speaking of that high school group, Madie, myself, and long-time youth volunteer Cody Fogwell chaperoned the first pilgrimage trip for our older teens since the pandemic when we walked a seven-day hike on the Camino Ingles from Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela in 2022. We had about a dozen teenagers walking over 70 miles learning about the history of Christianity firsthand and realizing their ability to lean on each other when the going gets hard.

Our adult offerings are incredibly robust areas for learning, offering a diverse menu of spiritual formation opportunities almost every day of the week. There are online offerings like Tom O'Brien's class, Previewing the Lectionary and Bethesda Movie Club which continue to meet over Zoom. Education for Ministry led by Chuck Zettler, Breakfast and Bible Study led by myself, and the Girls of Grace Bible Study led by The Rev. Susan Beebe meet in person on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday respectively. We've even added a monthly group called Faith in Action which meets at local bars and restaurants in West Palm Beach on the first Monday of each month. That is a group designed for young adults and young-at-heart who aren't content to just let spiritual learning come to them, but pursue the calling of God in the world through service, pilgrimage, and more. And, of course, our main formation offerings continued this past year featuring programs on a variety of topics meant to lead people to a deeper understanding of the intersection between faith and life.

It's been great looking back at my time here at Bethesda-by-the-Sea, but I have to admit that the majority of my thoughts these days are curious about what God has in store for all of us over the next ten years. I can't wait to move into that new future together as we do the work that God has given us to do.



Greg Knight, Associate for Christian Formation



Parish Life in 2022 – An Overview

Some things at Bethesda never change. The joy of life in Christ remains the heart of all we do, no matter what else is happening. God's love continually shapes our relationships, worship, study and outreach to this community and beyond.

Yet our parish also experienced many transitions and new beginnings in 2022. Interim Rector Bob Dannals guided us wisely through much of the year with the support and input of our able vestry. When the Rector Search Committee extended their timeline in the spring, Father Dannals rearranged his schedule to remain with us until their work was complete. At that point I began as full-time as Interim Vicar to assist overseeing many aspects parish life until our new rector was called. With Bob's oversight and the support of our talented clergy team, Bethesda continued to grow and thrive through the summer and early fall.

In October we said goodbye to The Rev. Dr. Dannals; shortly thereafter the entire parish welcomed our new rector, The Rev. Timothy Schenck, with a glorious "Celebration of New Ministry" liturgy on November 13. The Rt. Rev. Peter Eaton presided at that service, and it was attended by many folks from our congregation and community, as well as fellow clergy from throughout the Diocese of Southeast Florida.

Once our rector arrived, we were off and running once again. Advent and Christmas were upon us before we knew it!

Looking back, another transition occurred in late October when we bid farewell to Fred Staley, our Parish Administrator of many years, and his lovely wife Debbie. Fred accepted an administrative position at St Stephen's, a thriving parish in Virginia; our loss was their gain. But after Fred's departure, our staff and clergy team has pressed forward, fueled by love for Bethesda and God's grace.

Thankfully, COVID-19 concerns continued to recede during 2022. A relatively brief Omicron variant surge led us to cancel our Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival in January -- but the year was also marked by numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals, many of which had been postponed due to health and safety concerns. We remained engaged with many online worshippers who couldn't be with us in Palm Beach, but church attendance continued to rise as the season progressed.

We continued to focus on building the esprit de corps at Bethesda with many ministry gatherings – no agendas, just opportunities to build relationships and enjoy one other's company. To this end, we also introduced a new, recurring parish-wide event: Bethesda Summer Soirees. Once a month in June, July and August, the entire congregation was invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship. These events were a huge hit! St. Mary's Guild, Daughters of the King, and Men of Bethesda continued to facilitate warm relationships at their meetings and special events; our Ladies' Bible Study continued to grow and thrive; our Church Mouse not only raised fantastic dollar amounts for outreach but continued to build relationships among volunteers and staff alike. Our numerous ministries connected people to one another, and to God.

The year 2022 brought refreshment, rejoicing and hope. It was a year of goodbyes and remembrances, but also of new beginnings and new ministry. And through it all, Christ's life and joy remain firmly at the center.



The Rev. Susan R. Beebe, *Associate Priest*



Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral Care at Bethesda is up and running with our new rector in place. Your clergy team works in concert with Ayana Pineiro-Ilnicki planning visits, calls, and more as word comes to us of a need in our parish. Supporting your clergy, are capable and caring staff as well as dedicated laity who have discerned a call to participate in pastoral care outreach.

The **Shepherd Ministry**, under the leadership of The Rev. Canon Rankin, continues to grow and evolve. Michael Smyser, Chair; Tom Chan; Suzanne Crawford; Jim and Phyllis Goodner; Stan Hastey; Gloria McAllister; and Church Zettler have been joined by six new Shepherds this year – Donna Arietta; Barbara Chapman; Dianne Gravitt; June Sory; Cate Winseck; and Maury Wolfe. Monthly Zoom meetings provide a sharing and learning experience for this ministry team.

Do you know who your Shepherd is? Every household in our database at Bethesda is assigned to a Shepherd alphabetically. Look for monthly emails from your Shepherd and let them hear from you! They're ready. In addition, check out the bulletin board by the Library to see a picture of your Shepherd along with their assigned flock by alphabet.

For additional information, please email shepherds@bbts.org.

Bethesda's **Eucharistic Visitors**, under the leadership of the Rev. Clay Waddell, Deacon, take communion directly from our Sunday morning service to those who are homebound, in the hospital, or in rehabilitation facilities. Eight parishioners have answered this call to ministry which is life-giving, as our EVs share the body of Christ with fellow parishioners and with those outside our congregation. Thank you to John Archer, Tom Chan, Suzanne Crawford, Rand Gluss, Dianne Gravitt, Gloria McAllister, Jan Shoobridge, and Michael Smyser who have answered this call. They share Holy Communion, the Gospel, prayers, and the love of Christ with those who cannot come to Bethesda for a variety of reasons.

Daughters of the King, guided by the Rev. Dr. Cecie Titcomb, Deacon, are women who enjoy spiritual companionship and gather monthly to pray for the needs of our church, parishioners, community, and the world with a focus on service in each of these areas. The Daughters have a Prayer Box in the Cloisters outside the Parish Hall for parishioners and visitors to leave prayer requests.

All women of Bethesda are encouraged to attend a DoK discernment class to see if they are called to become a Daughter of the King and to adopt a Rule of Life. To learn more about the Daughters, 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 each and every person who has committed their time and heart to the ministry of Pastoral Care at Bethesda to those in need, both inside and outside our church. We are truly blessed by your dedication!

Elizabeth ✱

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Rankin, *Associate Priest*



Invite/Welcome/Connect Report

Chaired by Beth Cole and Becky Myers, the Invite/Welcome/Connect Committee is delighted to share that we have expanded our offerings at Bethesda in 2022. The Ambassador Program remains key to our success as 75 blue-ribboned members warmly welcome newcomers each Sunday in the entrance to the church. Guests are greeted, encouraged to fill out a pew card, and presented with flowers after the service. April Lawrence carefully records each person's information and invites them to attend regular luncheons at the Rectory, the newly-named Bethesda 101 class, and our Inquirer's Class.

A "Connect" component has been added with a parishioner following up with each household several months after the initial visit. To further connect new members with the parish, a Spiritual Gifts Assessment has been added to the Bethesda 101 class for participants to discern which small group or ministry at Bethesda is right for them. This Assessment is on our website and open to all members of the parish. Questions? Contact April Lawrence at April@bbts.org.

With 61 new members joining Bethesda during our Interim period, we are poised and ready to welcome and incorporate even more during 2023. Look for them! They're here, just waiting to meet you.

Elizabeth ✝

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Rankin, *Associate Priest*



From the Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator

Outreach, Laura Manley
Shelley Parker, Grants and TRUEfund
Pat and Dietmar Reichenbacher, Tutoring/ Mentoring
Scholarships, Chuck Zettler
Empty Bowls, Rick and Cordella Miessau
Share What You Can, Phyllis Goodner
Port Ministry, Clay Waddell
St. George's Center, Suzanne Crawford and Basil Burke

Outreach ministries ramped back up towards pre-COVID activity in 2022. I was hired in April to serve as Bethesda's new Outreach Coordinator – just as the Grants Committee began reviewing Bethesda Impact Grant applications. Bethesda awarded over \$200,000.00 in grants to 19 organizations in the areas of food, shelter, and education. Those organizations were recognized at Bethesda's first-ever Grant Recipient Sunday on August 21.

In recent years, Bethesda's Outreach Program has consisted of independently functioning ministries. While these ministries are all doing amazing work and making great impacts in the community, steps began in 2022 to reestablish an Outreach Committee to unite these ministries, ensure a cohesiveness of mission, and keep an eye on changing needs in the greater community so that we can adapt to meet them. The TRUEfund also continued its procedural overhaul this year and new controls and procedures have been put in place to allow funds to be available in 2023 to help those most in need.

Our "Feeding In February" initiatives Share What You Can and Palm Beach Empty Bowls resulted in hundreds of pounds of food and over \$100,000.00 collected for the Palm Beach County Food Bank. 2023 Empty Bowls on February 17 will return the event to its pre-COVID format of an on-site, sit-down event with delivery available for larger orders. Monthly stipends continued to both Palanca Pantry at Holy Redeemer in Lake Worth and St. George's Center in Riviera Beach. Preparations of hot meals for St. George's (whose feeding program has been renamed "St. George's Table") twice a month and sandwich preparations every Friday also resumed in the Bethesda kitchen this fall. These financial and hands-on initiatives translated to tens of thousands of meals provided to the food insecure in Palm Beach County. As the costs of food and rent rise, 2023 will be a time to review what more we can do to help our neighbors in need.

Deacon Clay continued his weekly Seafarers Ministry at the Port of Palm Beach, and the Bethesda community joined together Thanksgiving Sunday for our annual Save Our Samples (SOS) project - assembling 300 Christmas bags to be distributed to sailors throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Girls of Grace did an amazing job again this year spearheading Angel Tree and collected enough Christmas gifts for Palm Beach Public School to distribute to 50 deserving children. This year's Homebound Luncheons and Eucharist Services served 200 homebound Bethesda members and residents of local retirement and assisted living facilities for Easter and Thanksgiving meals and services.

Bethesda's Outreach Program has always emphasized education, and the Tutor/ Mentoring program celebrated the acceptance of three of its mentees from Lake Worth and Forest Hill High Schools into top-tier universities – Emory, Northwestern, and Stanford. Another mentee was selected as a finalist for Take Stock in Children's Leaders for Life Fellowship Program. On Scholarship Sunday, six new Bethesda Scholars were awarded college scholarships. This gives us a total of 15 Bethesda Scholars receiving more than \$55,000.00 in scholarships.

Thank you to the volunteers, staff, clergy, and Church Mouse donors and shoppers who make all these ministries possible.

Stewardship, Laura Manley, Paul Coombs
Susan Erichsen, Rand Gluss, Sara Griffen, Joe Thompson, Chuck Zettler

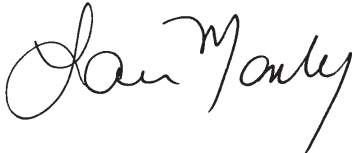
In a change from previous years, the 2022 Annual Campaign began in February rather than January to provide a time to focus on gratitude for all the contributions and increased pledges that led to the successful 2021 Annual and Match Campaigns. During this brief hiatus, I focused on continuing to improve the accuracy and accessibility of our giving data.

Pledging is an extremely important part of the stewardship process as it allows Bethesda to have a foundation of commitment upon which to plan expenses and build a budget. In 2022, 50 more household pledged than in 2021 for a total number of 307 pledging households. We are extremely grateful for these pledges and the 99.9% pledge fulfilment rate. We are well on our way to returning to our pre-COVID pledging numbers.

The Stewardship Committee and I worked to make the Annual Campaign process more transparent through monthly updates in the parish's newsletter. Through these reports and graphs the Bethesda community was able to see that pledges and giving exceeded every monthly campaign target from February through December leading to us ultimately exceeding our 2022 Annual Campaign target of \$2.39 million. Total giving for 2022 was \$2.47 million, 104% of our target.

Thank you all for your generosity and commitment throughout 2022. We enter 2023 grateful for a church family that has prioritized giving as part of its spiritual practice.

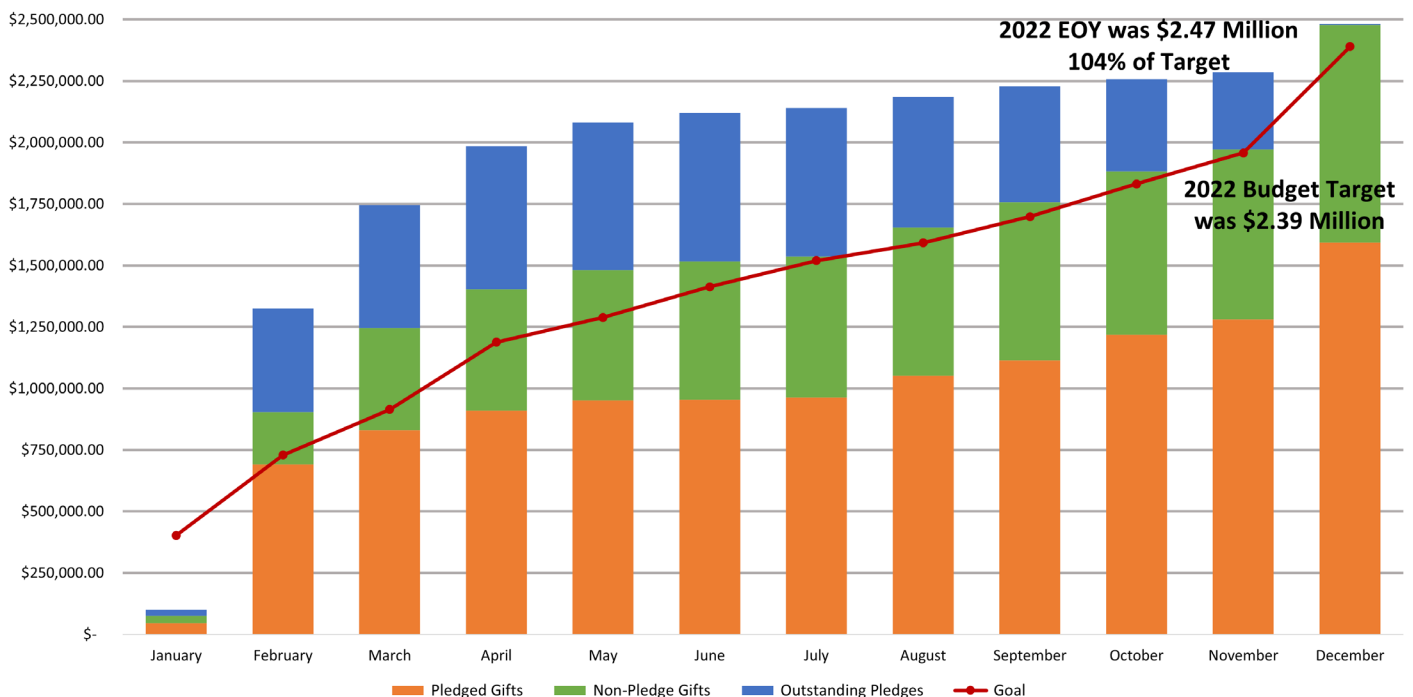
Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Manley, *Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator*



End-of-Year 2022 Annual Campaign Summary



The Church Mouse Report

I am so pleased with our results this year. Our success is due to our efforts to build a cohesive team between the Church and Church Mouse staff. Every time, the church staff informs a parishioner about the mission of the Mouse we connect with them and they with us. During the past year the Church Mouse received a great deal of promotion from interim Rector Bob Dannals. He felt very strongly about Bethesda's Outreach efforts. Additionally, I reach out to the Palm Beach Daily News twice a year to feature our opening day and closing week. I also placed an ad in the paper before we closed for the summer asking for donations.

These efforts inform the public about the Mission and how it impacts our community. It seemed to me that this year Bethesda's Outreach efforts became very popular within the community.

This year our donors have been enthusiastic about supporting the mission. We received brand new product from Krupa Designs, Kemble Interiors, Margrit Beauty Salon and Justina's Fashions wedding gown designer.

Our continued support from our clientele, merchants on the island, antique row (purchase our product for resale), realtors (bring us estates), interior designers, hotels in the area (send their guests) brought forward an enormous amount of support in purchases and high-end donated goods. Social media influencers promoted our mission. This support is reflected in our strong sales results throughout the year. We will continue to build and cultivate these relationships in the years to come.

More importantly, the product donated would be worthless if it were not for the staff and dedicated volunteers' efforts to pick up, transport, process, clean, organize, research, strategically price and merchandise the product onto the sales floor in a timely manner. We are fortunate and proud to perform this type of work.

I am grateful for our staff and volunteers. I will continue to train, support and develop our staff and volunteer base to build a strong team. This new year with new additional support, I will try to expand and promote our mission to other markets.

Daisy Alvarez, *General Manager for Retail Operations*



2022 Necrology

Stephanie Blackhurst
 Ernest C. Bourne
 Forrest Leonard Daniels III
 Maria Figueiras Ford
 Robert Eugene Jackson
 Caroline Peet Johnston
 Pitt Tyler Maner III
 Ralph Olson
 Jean Hamilton Pearman
 Douglas Cooper Petty III
 Arlo Prior

Shannon Alice Sadler-Hull
 William Scarlett III
 Elizabeth Ann Locke Schuler
 John Hamilton Schuler
 Andrew Lyon Smith, Jr.
 Charles Michael Staehle
 Brenda Neubauer Straus
 Victoria Van Pelt
 James S. Wilson
 Kimberly Shrivan Winters

Services for 2022

Baptisms 7
 Confirmations, Receptions 2
 Marriages 12
 Burials 22

Holy Eucharists 142
 Holy Eucharists (Private) 142
 Complines..... 23
 Evensongs 6

Average Sunday Attendance: 374

Transitions

Baptism 25
 Confirmation/Reception 29
 Transferred In 64
 Transferred Out..... 33
 Lost by Death 20

Finance Report

2022 Total Revenue of \$3,690k was \$23k more than budgeted for the year. 2022 Total Expenses were \$183k less than budget. BBTS had a year-end 2022 net surplus of \$159k.

Annual campaign contributions in 2022 were \$2,478k.

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

REVENUE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 1,865	2,070	2,228	2,225	2317	2370	2916	2661
General Endowment Draw	259	266	269	278	290	301	316	336
Building Endowment Draw	136	118	127	146	143	148	155	167
Other Revenue	595	581	687	613	730	524	808	526
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>2,855</u>	<u>3,035</u>	<u>3,311</u>	<u>3,262</u>	<u>3480</u>	<u>3343</u>	<u>4195</u>	<u>3690</u>
EXPENSES								
Payroll & Benefits	1,381	1,496	1,587	1,591	1711	1764	1645	1632
Diocesan Assessment	312	315	273	319	347	336	397	340
Other Expenses	1,152	1,156	1,417	1,398	1,395	1,251	1,503	1,559
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,845</u>	<u>2,967</u>	<u>3,277</u>	<u>3,308</u>	<u>3453</u>	<u>3351</u>	<u>3545</u>	<u>3531</u>
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>10</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>-46</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-8</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>159</u>

* Operating Funds do not include certain designated funds, the Church Mouse, depreciation, or investment gains/losses.

Balance Sheet

Total assets declined by 3.1 Million during 2022 due to a 15% decline in the value of our investment assets.

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASSETS								
Cash	328	374	922	726	791	497	1,620	1,880
Other Current Assets	439	455	433	448	345	663	687	619
Restricted/Consolidated Fund	1,593	1,530	1,760	1,660	1,978	2,172	2,574	2,235
Common Endowment	6,498	6,659	7,636	6,921	8,010	8,654	9,684	7,940
Restoration & Preservation	4,094	4,118	4,168	3,838	3,944	4,183	4,484	3,309
Other Designated/Restricted Fun	2,934	2,987	3,688	3,682	4,354	4,595	5,508	5,902
Pledges Receivable - R&P	1,640	789	695					
Fixed Assets	6,134	7,368	7,746	7,422	6,932	6,640	6,777	6,290
TOTAL ASSETS	23,660	24,280	27,048	24,697	26,354	27,404	31,333	28,175
LIABILITIES								
Payables	393	425	393	442	372	305	492	276
TOTAL LIABILITIES	393	425	393	442	372	305	492	276
CAPITAL	23,267	23,855	26,655	24,255	26,063	27,099	30,841	27,899
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	23,660	24,280	27,048	24,697	26,435	27,404	31,333	28,175

Vestry Approved Budget 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Contributions	2,639,500	2,539,628
Other Revenue	126,700	150,819
Draws from Endowments & Reserves	868,000	486,000
Transfers from Church Mouse	600,000	537,500
Total Revenue, Draws, Transfers	4,234,200	3,713,947
Operating Expenses		
Personnel	2,133,877	1,784,132
Diocesan Assessment	410,956	340,464
Outreach	500,000	500,000
Parish Life	432,320	384,100
Facilities/Support Services	666,167	605,182
Capital Projects	100,000	100,000
Total Operating Expenses	4,243,320	3,713,878
Operating Deficit	-9,120	69
Excluding Non-Cash Depreciation	480,000	420,000



Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

Call to Order

Call to Order of the 133rd Annual Meeting led by Father Bob Dannals at 9:00 a.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting that were included in the packet for the 2022 Annual Meeting. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Vestry Update

Sara Griffen presented the slate of Vestry nominations as follows: Barbara Callahan, Suzanne Crawford, Rand Gluss and Lisa Hastey. Bob addressed the Rules of Order and informed the congregation that the Rector must nominate one of the four candidates. Bob nominated Lisa Hastey. The motion to close nominations was presented by Tom O'Brien and second by Beth Cole. The nominations were closed. Motion to Elect New Vestry Members by Mike Victor and second by Zach Shipley. The motion was approved unanimously. Sara Griffen introduced all four new Vestry members and then announced the meeting time to elect officers.

Diocese Convention

The candidates for the Diocese Convention were announced as follows: Jacquie Bernard, Diane Gravitt, Michael Smyser, and Rand Gluss as alternate. Motion to approve by Tom O'Brien and second by Gary Sullivan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Special Election

Laura Schlett retired from the Vestry in 2021 to accept a staff position. Dr. Gene Carter was elected by the Vestry to serve out the remaining two years left on Laura Schlett's term.

Finance Report

Finance Report given by Matt Lorentzen, Treasurer. Revenue in the operating funds totaled \$4.2 million and expenses totaled \$3.6 million. There was a surplus of \$650,000. For 2021, Capital Expenditures totaled \$588,947 and total Endowments were \$15 million. Endowments and restricted funds combined totaled \$20.4 million for 2021. The match challenge produced \$540,000. A break even operation is budgeted for 2022, with a revenue of \$3.7 million budgeted. The Endowment Draw was increased by 3% from the previous year. The savings in 2022 will come from savings in the staff budget until we hire new clergy. The Diocesan Assessment is reduced by \$56,000 this year from last year.

Stewardship Report

Paul Coombs reviewed attributable contributions and pledges. Paul stated that 153 households gave to the match. Pledges went down in 2021 due to COVID-19. In addition to the match, there were many families that increased their contributions. Plate offerings and event revenue declined. Paul addressed the 2021 environment and what is Bethesda doing with money to address the needs of the future. Paul identified the partnership with St. George, the Retail Store, Empty Bowls, the Church Gardens, and Community Scholarships and Grants. Paul stated there was a perfect storm that Bethesda endured in 2021 which included Covid restrictions, the departure of all full-time clergy, an interim period, and stewardship staff turnover. All of these have led to significant financial changes. At present, there is a new Stewardship Director, Laura Schlett, and the formulation of a new Stewardship Approach Committee. Personalized pledge cards will be sent out on February 6 and February 13, 2022. An ingathering will be held on February 20, 2022. There will be communication with all available households during this period. In addition, Easter service leaflets will include all names of those who pledged in 2021 rather than just the promise to pledge. From June 2022 onwards, the focus will be to work on “planned giving” and a renewed focus on “generosity”. The maintenance fund now has \$200,000 of new money in it. The fund was previously depleted. These funds will now help with the maintenance and repairs on the church property and uphold the beauty of our church campus.

Search Process Update

Beth Cole reported on the current status of the Rector Search Process. Beth identified all members of the Rector Search Committee as follows: Chair, John Brim, Vice Chair, Katie Wandoff, and members, Chuck Hagy, Beth Cole, Barbara Callahan, Suzanne Crawford, Tanner Rose, Frances Fisher, and Johanna Reyes. Beth expressed thanks and appreciation for the Diocesan support. Beth reviewed the timeline of the search from Self Study to the Parish Profile and now currently in the reviewing applications stage. Beth informed the congregation where updates on the search could be found on the website. The window for applications closes on Monday, January 31, 2022. Bishop Eaton will meet face to face with the committee next Sunday and review all of the applicant packets. There are currently 20 applications that have been received. The Diocese vets all candidates to ensure each is without blemish then forwards the applicants to the committee. The committee will then conduct research and background checks and virtual interviews. The expectation is to interview 15 by Zoom. Tom O’Brien commended the committee on the Parish Profile. Beginning February 6, 2022, the committee will begin mutual discernment with individuals who have answered the call for the Rector of Bethesda. Beth emphasized that it is unknown how long this process may take and requested prayers for patience and not to rush the process. Bob Dannals explained all avenues of how candidates were contacted to apply. Bob commended the search committee for seeking candidates throughout the country. Much appreciation for Bob Dannals was expressed from the entire congregation and the Search Committee.

Senior Warden's Report

John Sory conducted a year in review from 3/2020-1/2022. John reviewed the following five key factors: Continuous Covid Adjustments, Smooth Clergy Transitions, High Performing Search Committee, Helpful Congregation Feedback, and Increased Engagement and Support. John announced the previous Rector, Hap Warren, will be giving the sermon for Evensong. In addition, John announced the return of Father James and Eli for the unveiling of the portrait on March 20, 2020, in the Guild Room. There will be a short liturgy and a reception following to give thanks to the 10 years of work Father James did at Bethesda. The congregation was informed that Bishop Easton was instrumental in finding our Interim Bob Dannals and the Bishop continues to provide ongoing support through the search process. John emphasized that we will NOT compromise on a candidate just to put someone in place. We have learned from Bob's example of what a Rector for Bethesda looks like and what is right for our congregation. John concluded the report by encouraging focus on our momentum, better communication, participation and engagement. John stressed that our focus is to bring families in and to have less reliance on staff. There has been more participation since pre-pandemic. There are now double the numbers of participation in the online service. In looking ahead, John reviewed the church mission statement as follows: The 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.

Interim Rector's Report

Bob Dannals focused on the Theme of Gratitude. He expressed gratitude for our heritage and legacy of Bethesda, the footprint beyond Palm Beach and throughout the country, gratitude for the current Vestry, Staff, Clergy and Interim Vestry Team, and gratitude for the Congregation. Bob presented plaques for the 4 Vestry members retiring off the Vestry. Plaques were available for Junior Warden, Richard Crone, Becky Meyers, Zach Shipley and Maury Wolf.

Bob Dannals gave the closing prayer and blessing. The Annual Meeting was adjourned by Father Bob at 10:30 a.m.



2022 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.

Mrs. Hampton Adams, Jr.

Mr. Matthew R. Ailey and Mr. Gregory C. Zaffiro

Mrs. T.A. Aliapoulos

Mr. Mark Aliapoulos

Ms. Nadine Allen

Mrs. William Allen

Daisy Alvarez

Mrs. Bjorn Alvern

Michael & Joe Anand-Obleton

Mrs. Nadya Anderson

Ms. Pamela Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson, Jr.

Mr. Thomas B. Anderson & Mr. Marc P. Schappell

Susan Andreasen

John Andrica

Mr. and Mrs. John Andrica

Mr. Peter Angelone

Mrs. William G. Anlyan

John Archer

Ms. Donna J. Arietta

Mr. Harris Ashton

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Asir

Ellen Asplundh

Mrs. William Bowen Astrop

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Athmer

Mr. William W. Atterbury III

Mrs. Warren Avis, Jr.

Mr. Mark Baccash

Mr. Harry Bader

Mrs. Barbara Bailey

Anne Baird

Mr. Bernard Baker III

Mrs. Jane Baker

Mrs. Walter Ballinger

Lynn Banister

Mr. Eugene Barbato

Mr. Richard Barkalow

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Barker

Mr. and Mrs. F. Gregory Barnhart

The Rev. Carol Barron

Melinda Bass

Ms. Mary K. Bates

Ms. Elizabeth Baughan

Mrs. Kenneth Beall

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Beare

Mrs. Margaret Bearn

Mr. Michael Beautyman

Jeff & Susan Beebe

Ms. Charlotte Beers

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Beeuwkes

Mrs. Lowry Bell

Carina Bendeck

Laura Bennett

Mr. and Mrs. James Bertles

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Besson, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Vince Bianco

Ms. Vicky Bidwell

Mrs. Barbara K. Bielenberg

Ms. Susan Bigsby

James Birdsall

Mr. George Capen Bitting

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bitting III

Mr. & Mrs. W. Robin Blackhurst

Jayne Blankenship

Mr. William C. Blind

Art & Elisa Block

Mr. William Blundin

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Boardman

Betsy Boggs

Mr. Berry D. Boland

Mr. Tom Bonfield
Kim Bonomo
Mr. Andrew Krebs Boszhardt
Mrs. Edwin Bowen
Didi & Ros Bowers
Ms. Linda Ann Boyle
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Brackett
Christian Bradeen
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Brady
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brand
Stephanie & Regine Branscomb
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Brauer
Mr. and Mrs. M.V. Breckenridge, Jr.
Mrs. Holly Breeden
Mr. Christopher Brehm
Mrs. Gay Bridges
Mr. and Mrs. John Brim
Mrs. Graham Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Broda
Mr. James Sharp Brodsky
Mr. T. Kimball Brooker
Mr. and Mrs. William Brooks
The Rev. and Mrs. Voris G. Brookshire
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown
Mrs. Angie Brown
Jane Brown
Ms. Grace Brown
Ms. Kendra Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brown
Mr. Alfred Browne, Jr.
Ms. Margaret Broz
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buckley
Ms. Pamela Budzinsky
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Buesing
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Burdett
Mr. Christopher Burdett
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Blaine Burdette
Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Burgess
Saira Burgess
Basil Burke & Jacquie Bernard

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gary Burkhead
Ms. Candida Burnap
Peter Burrow
Mrs. Karen S. Butler
John Buxton
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Cain
Ed & Barbara Callahan
Wilda Carballo
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Carolla
Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Carroll
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Carter
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. Thomas Chan
Mr. Aamir Chanan Khan
Duncan & Barbara Chapman
Karen Chapman
Ms. Jennifer Charlston
Mr. Vincent Ruisi and Mr. Shawn Cherry
Mr. and Mrs. Walton Childs
Mrs. John Christlieb
Bill & Marcia Cini
Mr. and Mrs. William Claggett
Ms. April Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Clemente
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart B. Clifford
Charles Cocharn
Mrs. Edward H. Cochrane
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cohan
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cohen
Larry & Sally Cole
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