



ST. MARTIN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2023

Opening Prayer/Necrology

Welcome

Approval of the Minutes from January 30, 2022

Treasurer's Report

Warden's Report

Thank you to Departing Vestry Members

Presentation and Election of Vestry

Closing Remarks

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
50 Orchard Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

Date: January 30, 2022

Vestry Officers Present: David Brookhart, Senior Warden
Cathy Bodner, Junior Warden
David Whitman, Treasurer
Amy Stewart, Clerk
Mark Sutherland, Rector
Linda Griggs, Assisting Priest

Staff Present: Susan Esposito
Christian Tulungen

This meet was held virtually on Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A Quorum was achieved. At least 59 members of the Parish were in attendance. (A quorum is 25. There were 59 participants in the zoom meeting, with at least 12 participants representing couples).

The meeting was called to order at 11:50am by David Brookhart

Opening Prayer led by Reverend Linda

Reverend Linda began by remembering the members of our community who have died in the last year.

Necrology 2021

Thomas Dimeo

David Philips

Pearl Holm

Douglas Rhodes

Lilia "Mimi" Nash

Alexander "Sandy" Bodell

Benjamin "Terry" White

Laura Durand

Virginia "Po" Adams

Martin Flaherty

Preston Atwood

Evon Burge

Then Reverend Linda led us in a prayer for a church meeting.

Welcome from Father Mark

Father Mark thanked everyone for attending. He reminded us that although our numbers are small, we have an astonishing impact as a community in each other's lives and the wider world around us. He said that we are an every member parish, relying on everyone's time, talent and treasure. He thanked all of the members for everything that they did for the thriving of our life in 2021.

David reviewed the Zoom meeting protocols and we practiced voting using the poll feature. He also explained how to ask a question through the Chat feature or the Raise Your Hand feature in Zoom. (Note that anyone designated as a host or co-host of the Zoom meeting cannot vote in the polls.)

Approval of Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting held on January 31, 2021 - (Poll)

Upon motion made by Susan Esposito and seconded by Melinda DelCioppio, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Poll # 1 - Minutes

Poll | 1 question | 43 of 49 (87%) participated

1. Do you approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting? (Single Choice) *

43/43 (100%) answered

Yes (43/43) 100%

No (0/43) 0%

Treasurer's Report from David Whitman

David W. first thanked Melinda DelCioppio for her excellent work on the financials. He summarized the 2021 Financials and said that we are in excellent shape. He reviewed the income for 2021, noting that miscellaneous income was up as well as offerings. He commended the Thrift Shop and Estate Sales for exceeding their budget once again, notwithstanding moving from the great hall back to the basement. He stated that the building use fees were only slightly below budget, which is very good considering some of our kitchen tenants were not working because of Covid. He reported that our endowment draw was only \$6,300, much lower than the budgeted draw of \$75,000.

David W. reviewed the 2021 Annual Expenses. He stated that outreach decreased slightly from budget mostly due to the Diocese reducing our required contribution. He reported that office expenses and music expenses were both a little below budget. But he reported that property and maintenance expenses exceeded the budget. He said that we also have a dedicated building maintenance fund, from which we can draw funds for some of these expenses. He noted that we now have a specified Outreach Fund in the endowment to be able to increase our work.

David W. said that we shifted our endowment in 2021 to Charles Schwab. Investment decisions are made by the Investment Committee, led by Fla Lewis and Sam Hallowell. Thanks to everyone on the Finance and Investment Committees. The endowment is valued at \$3.2 million.

David Ames asked about the percentage draw from the Endowment. David Brookhart reported that we took less than 1% in 2021, but the general target each year is a draw of less than 5%. But he noted that it is a moving target.

Warden's Report - David Brookhart and Cathy Bodner

David said that this year started like most with optimism, hope and a bit of anxiety. Cathy said that this new team of Vestry was eager to dive in. After consulting with our Reopening Committee, we returned to indoor worship in the Spring 2021 starting with Holy Week. We moved outside for the summer and Church on the Street was very successful. Debby Boedecker led the stewardship committee with a series of new messages in the e-news about the impact of our pledges. We have balanced the budget for 2022 thanks to everyone's generosity. Cathy noted that the Thrifty Goose had a very successful year and she thanked the staff and volunteers. She also noted that we refurbished the Goose in the basement with the help of many volunteers. We also installed a new fan to keep the air clean and cool.

David noted that we need to think about continued maintenance on the Church. The lower sacristy has leaky windows, the offices need to be remodeled (the Vestry has approved funds for that project), the organ needs maintenance and repairs, and the stairs to the basement need to be replaced. The building committee will prepare projected costs for the Vestry's review of these projects.

In 2021, we celebrated our success in the Capital Campaign. We continued our celebrations into Advent and Christmas. Our DCYF campaign resulted in more than 200 gifts for children. The Christmas services were successful and well attended between livestreaming and in person attendance.

Cathy thanked the outgoing Vestry members - Jennifer Kiddie, Natasha Lofgren, Marty Flaherty.

David Brookhart said the theme that emerged during his Vestry service is the theme of respect for each other at St. Martin's and for the past and future of the church and its members. He said that everything we have done takes that broad scope of respect into consideration. He said that this was the most satisfying and hardest job that he has ever attempted. He is pleased to leave the Church in the great hands of Cathy Bodner. He thanked the staff in the office and all of the members of the parish.

Election of New Vestry Officers and Members

Officers:

Cathy Bodner (2 year term): Senior Warden

Amy Stewart (2 year term): Junior Warden

Treasurer (1 year term): David Whitman

Clerk (1 year term): Debby Boedeker

Class of 2024 (2 years remaining on 3 year term)

David Barrall

Beth Toolan

Upon motion made Fla Lewis and duly seconded Ann Pellegrino, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the above candidates for election to the Vestry.

 Polls

— □ ×

Poll # 2 - Vestry

Poll | 1 question | 50 of 53 (94%) participated

1. Do you approve the proposed slate of candidates for the Vestry?
(Single Choice) *

50/50 (100%) answered

Yes (50/50) 100%

No (0/50) 0%

Closing Remarks from Father Mark

Father Mark thanked David Brookhart for his wise and steady advice during his 4 years on the Vestry. He noted the quality of lay leadership that emerges year on year with the right people, with the right skills at the right time. He noted that David B. took on the challenge of church during Covid and rose to the task of building live streaming capacity. He recognized David B.'s

lifelong commitment and love for the Episcopal Church. He thanked David B. for all has done during his time in leadership. He noted that on of David B.'s roles has been the oversight of building management. Mark+ announced the David B. will be continuing the role of building management oversight.

Mark+ said that he is looking forward to working with Cathy and Amy. He has every confidence that they are the right people as we move into the unknown challenges and opportunities of 2022 and beyond. He thanked outgoing and incoming vestry members, and all members of the Church's various committees.

Mark+ made a special mention of our staff. He stated that we represent a change from a church operating on a volunteer base to a church that is dependent on a professional staff. We depend on the skills and commitment of our staff members. He thanked Susan Esposito, Melinda DelCioppio, Lisa Ashe, Kathryn Barr in the office. He thanked David Ely, our sexton. He thanked Reverend Linda. He thanked our tech team that produced our livestreams. He said we could not have done any of our virtual outreach in the pandemic without the brilliance of Ian Tulungen. He also thanked Emma Marion and Erin Welshman for their work on livestream production. He hopes that we can continue to draw younger members to the tech team. He thanked Gabe Alfieri for his tremendous leadership of the musical program, as we adapted to the changing circumstances of the pandemic. He thanked the consort singers Lori Istok, Amanda Neves, Jacob Chipppo and Glenn Zienowicz. Mark welcomed our new organist, John Brooks, to our musical team.

Mark+ said we have come to the end of a successful year, beyond all of our expectations. He echoed David's thanks to every member of our community who has helped us thrive. Going forward, he said that finances are going to become increasingly a challenge, partly due to a larger process of demographic change. He noted that the generation that has formed the background of our financial stability are leaving us. While we are growing as a community and welcoming new people all the time, the capacity of new members to pledge will be less than what we are losing with the deaths of the older generation.

Mark+ said that we are people whose lives are pressured by the way the modern world impinges on all of us. Our lives are busy. There are continually more requests for our time and our energies than we feel we are reasonably able to respond to. In the midst of the busyness of our lives, we need to continually work at prioritizing our relationship with God through our commitment to this community.

Closing Prayer led by Father Mark

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Stewart
Clerk

Rector's Introduction to the Annual Report 2022

2022 was a quieter year considering the hectic years that preceded it. The decision to embark on the 1.2-million-dollar restoration of the church in 2019, and the active phase of a capital campaign in 2020-21 both took place set against the background of pandemic disruption. Being the custodians of an historic church building however reminds me of John Donne's words in his *Hymn to God the Father*: When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for [there is] more! And indeed in 2022, there was more work to be done, some of it foreseen and greatly welcomed, and some an unpleasant surprise.

In this year's Annual Report, I would direct you to the various ministry reports giving you a sense that although a quieter year in some respects, 2022 was a year of solid achievements. I particularly draw your attention to the property committee's report for an overview of the extent and scale of the work over the last year in improvements and upgrades in existing facilities and ongoing major building maintenance and repair. I also point you towards finance committee's report which shows that despite the volatility of the stock market, and the sharp rise of inflationary pressures on the cost of living, we ended the year in a welcome, and for many of us, surprisingly strong financial state. 2022, was a year that saw new people arriving and staying – a much needed consolation and encouragement as we also have continued to say farewell to old and much loved members.

In 2022, we enjoyed a return to a normal Holy Week and Easter – with our live streaming capacity increasing the range of our reach. One of the gifts the summer program brings is an opportunity to be more experimental and informal in our Sunday worship. Although we were sorry to abandon our previous two summers of Church on the Street, because of the installation of air-conditioning we were able for the first-time, to worship in the Great Hall throughout the sticky months of July and August. Christmas signaled a full return to our Christmas program with Community Carol Sing, Blue Christmas, and two Christmas Eve services. Please note the music report.

2022 represents a year in which we've never more valued and relied upon the hard work of the staff. I know many of you share a sense of deep appreciation for the caliber and passionate commitment of the members of our staff team. A time when church volunteers ran most aspects of parish life is now a thing of the past - the result of an older generation phasing out as well as the mounting pressures of modern life on younger generations. Now, it is to the professional staff we look to keep the ship of church running smoothly.

2022 once more confirmed for me an encounter with the well springs of gratitude to God for the blessings of community. I am filled with thankfulness for the experience of God's providence, i.e., the experience of God's tender loving care towards us. Sometimes it feels like touch and go - yet someone always steps forward to save the day. The most concise nature of God's providence is expressed when the experience of need and the call to service coincide to produce a gratifying outcome. The divine synchronicity in God's providence has ensured that those meeting the challenges of the past year have been the right people, possessing the right skills, stepping forward at the right time.

*O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; **let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.** (Pg. 540 BCP)*

Mark+, January 2023

Pastoral Care Report 2022

The Pastoral Care Ministry is responsible for two functions: Eucharistic Visitors, who take Communion to people who are not able to attend church; and healing liturgies, which include a monthly Healing Eucharist and the annual Blue Christmas Service.

Our number of Eucharistic Visitors has not rebounded from pre-COVID days, but we do have a regular need for visits, which have usually been covered by clergy in the past year. We would like to increase the number of Visitors in order to offer this ministry more widely. Potential Visitors, after discussion with clergy, would apply for licensing with the Diocese and need to receive Safe Church certification. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Linda+ or Mark+.

Our Healing Eucharist takes place on the third Tuesday of each month during the program year at 5:30 p.m. A combination of flyers, word-of-mouth and parish-wide communication, and presence on social media is a valuable factor in building steady attendance as we re-establish this service as a regular feature of the church calendar. This short liturgy, which includes intercessory prayer and laying-on-of-hands and anointing, is a time to bring concerns for the self, loved ones, or the world, and lay those burdens at God's feet, resting in God's presence. Attendance has ranged from 6 to 16 people--a combination of regulars and new folks each time.

An offshoot of the Healing Service is the annual Blue Christmas service on the 21st of December, now in its 8th year. This service, "for the sorrowful in a time of joy" takes place on the shortest day and the longest night of the year; a time when those who struggle during the holiday season may find solace and hope in the fact that, after the darkest night, the light begins to return as the earth turns toward spring. Blue Christmas is a service of prayer and candle-lighting accompanied by quiet music, this year provided by Tom Barr on piano and the combined voices of the Providence Threshold Singers and the Grace Notes Singers. This year for the first time Blue Christmas was available both in person and on livestream, and we had our highest attendance ever, with 75 in person and 13 online.

A few weeks after the service I received an email from one of the singers, who wrote of a friend who had participated in candle lighting at the High Altar as the choir sang on either side of her: "A couple of times since, when things have felt hard for me, I have tried to visualize myself back in that moment, to hear the voices, and feel that sense of being held."

Many thanks to everyone who has assisted with Blue Christmas, Healing Eucharist, and pastoral visiting in the past year. As shown in the comment above, we may never know how what we do can bring healing and comfort to another.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Linda Griggs

Warden's Report 2022

January found us still streaming services, while we eased back into in-person worship, albeit it sans singing. We welcomed the bishop, who confirmed seven and received four. Our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom, where Amy Stewart was elected to the position of Junior Warden; Debby Boedeker as Clerk; and David Whitman reelected as treasurer. Also elected to the Vestry were David Barrall and Beth Toolan, with Mary Jane Pagan and Steve McAleer as Diocesan Convention delegates. Members of the St. Martin's community began their partnership with Temple Beth El and Dorcas International to prepare emergency living accommodations for Afghan refugees. Our gratitude goes to Sheila Hoozeboom and Amy Geddes (Temple Beth El) for leading this.

February brought snow, a Vestry Retreat on Zoom, and some tuning of the organ. Chris Dennis, Ann Pellegrino, and Beth Toolan began their task to formulate a policy for using the moneys designated for outreach.

In **March**, ushers received Active Threat Training by the RI State Police. The "re-opening committee" moved toward **voluntary** masking, and we resumed coffee in the Great Hall. The *Tool Team* had many projects to address! Watching *Casablanca* through Lent with Rick and Ilsa brought thoughtful discussion. We hope that this is the beginning of a beautiful tradition.

A new group of ushers were trained in **April**. Our Lenten program continued in preparation for Easter. Some exciting things: air conditioning, termites, the west wall started to crumble!

By **May**, we were air-conditioned throughout the Great Hall, the Stearns Room, and the offices. Bob Goff exclaimed: "I never thought I would live long enough to experience air conditioning in the Parish House!!! WOW" Masking was optional; and then was required. We waged war against the termites. The saga of the West Wall continued into **June** and **July**, but new security cameras were installed in the Parish House. David and his trusty team attacked the office. The Hospitality Committee, led by Linda Brookhart, rose from the ashes of the pandemic.

In the heat of **August**, the office rehab progressed. Removal of the old flooring revealed the beautiful original wood, and the spaghetti style wiring was removed! New wiring was hidden from view! Thank you David Brookhart and the *Tool Team*! Guidelines and application for Outreach were presented and adopted. Thank you, Chris Dennis, Ann Pellegrino, and Beth Toolan for a job well done!

The ice cream truck came to Homecoming in **September**! The following week, Ministry Sunday saw many in attendance, and many sign-ups for Knitting, Outreach, and Tool Team, among others.

We began **October** with Rev. Linda's blessing of the animals. At long last, we were able to host a Newcomer's Brunch! Covid had prevented this for too long. An Estate Sale proved to be profitable! The Feast of St. Martin in **November** brought us all together again for food and fellowship. Thank you to Paul Bergeron for the wonderful roast, and to all who provided side dishes and desserts. A successful fund-raiser was held for Open Doors. And the west wall is done!

Our hearts were opened again in **December**, thanks to the hard work of Karen Ng. The children under the care of DCYF receive tangible gifts, while we received the gifts that are, while ethereal, perhaps more precious. The Rhode Island Secretary of State commended us on the anniversary of our 125 years as a community. We returned to our Community Carol Sing after a pandemic hiatus! A full house included many parish members, along with many from the larger community – and a good time was had by all! Finally, after a long time as an on-line event only, our Christmas Pageant went live!! A prophetic end to the year that was.

In the end, it proved to be an eventful year, as we continue our journey together.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Bodner, Senior Warden

2022 Annual Music Report

We've spent 2022 recovering and renewing in many ways. We "broke in" our new organist, John, and began to come to terms with the dire condition of our organ. Under John's guidance, we hired the firm of Foley-Baker, Inc. as our new organ service provider. Sadly, decades of substandard service and neglect have left the instrument in need of major repair and renovation.

Though we spent the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 still battling COVID—first the Omicron variant, then those that followed—it's fair to say that we were back up to speed by Holy Week of 2022, with a full slate of services including an added evensong on Holy Tuesday. In general, we have sought to expand the sounds and styles of our music, including the more frequent use of guest instrumentalists, most notably our own Cheryl Bishkoff on oboe. This is an ongoing process that we intend to carry forward and expand in the new year. Speaking of evensong, we continued our commitment to evensong in 2022, with the St. Martin's Chapel Consort, on the second Sunday of the month through June; we also continued our usual two full choral evensongs, one in June and one in November.

The numbers in both our Adult Choir and our Young Person's Choir (formerly the Kids Choir) have fluctuated drastically throughout the year, for many reasons including illness, work- and school-related commitments, and personal issues. We ended the year with an average of about ten adult singers, including our stalwart soloists/section leaders, Lori, Amanda, and Glenn; and an average of about six kids aging in range from four to eleven. The Young Person's Choir made a fine showing at the Christmas Carol Sing-Along in December. Sadly, we lost our tenor soloist and section leader of eight years, Jacob Chipppo, last June and, so far, have not found his replacement. His loss is keenly felt.

During the summer, services were moved to the newly-air-conditioned Great Hall, where John and I provided low-key music for the relaxed atmosphere of the summer worship. Throughout the year, we have continued to live-stream most services and post recordings of them to YouTube. The process of engineering the best possible sound quality for our music with these new technologies is ongoing, in collaboration with our wonderful tech team!

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of January, 2023,
Gabe Alfieri
Director of Music

Christian Formation 2022

KidZone/Children's Formation

KidZone Church School continued in 2022 with lectionary-based lessons and with attendance averaging 5 children per Sunday. One of the highlights was celebrating Candlemas in February both in the classroom and as the children led the congregation in the song, "This Little Light of Mine." After a summer break, the children celebrated Homecoming Sunday with the theme of "I am a piece of God's puzzle." A routine was established whereby each class included learning a lectionary-based word or saying, prayer requests and prayers, the Lord's Prayer and the Twenty-third Psalm, music and movement, and a hands-on activity.

While our in-person KidZone attendance is smaller than we would like, we are delighted to share the Good News with each child who joins us on Sundays and are hopeful that others will want to join as word gets out about the great fun and learning happening each week. To keep people aware of what is happening, all families with children receive KidZone updates from Linda via email, and Kathryn includes an update on social media and in the weekly enews.

We are thankful to all of the families who prioritize Sunday morning worship and learning, and we are also grateful to those who have assisted in KidZone including Cathy Bodner, Tim Edgar, Joe Hoffmann, Morgan Hubbard, and Meg LoPresti.

The Christmas Pageant returned this year with adults, children, and two dogs taking on roles. For the first since 2019, a full service was included with the pageant. Many folks with and without children worshiped at St. Martin's in person at this 4pm service. Additionally, the service was online.

We are excited about 2023, and we are thankful for the adults and children who make KidZone a special time.

Adult Formation

During Lent, several learning opportunities were offered, both in person and online. One group met weekly to discuss the movie *Casablanca* and the book *A Beautiful Friendship*. Mark Sutherland+ led this group. Another group met weekly online to discuss the book, *Wintering* by Katherine May. Linda Griggs+ led this discussion group. In addition to these Lenten offerings, the church was open at scheduled times in order for people to take a self-guided audio journey with the Stations of the Cross.

During the fall, a different group of readers began what they have jokingly called, "The Slowest Book Club." Reading and discussing one chapter a week of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer has given these folks an opportunity to immerse themselves in the teachings of the book and has given them space to get to know each other and support one another through the inevitable ups and downs of life. An offshoot of this group was the first of what we hope to be a series of "Coffee and Create" gatherings, in which folks gather for creative activity and fellowship. Thanks to Donna Huntley for leading a session of holiday card-making.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Barr
The Rev. Linda Griggs

Altar Guild Annual Report 2022

The role of the Altar Guild member is to assist the clergy in preparation for the Holy Eucharist - whose purpose is to prepare the altar and sanctuary for the liturgy before and after each service. A vital and rewarding worship ministry at St. Martin's.

With a handful of Guild members, St. Martin's is fortunate to have devoted members who faithfully serve. Arline Walker & Bernadine Cunnigen take care of the Sunday preparation for the 8 AM service, Frank & Ann Pelligrino and I alternate weeks for the 10 AM service, and Margaret Noel is responsible for the Wednesday morning Eucharist. Carol Morton assisted with the Christmas Eve service. One of our guild members, Tim Powers, moved out of state this year. Thank you, Tim, for all your services to St. Martin's during the past year. To all the Guild members, thank you for ensuring the weekly service runs smoothly.

Some of our linens are aging, and with the generosity of Jane Taylor, we purchased several linen purificators and lavabo towels from CM Almy. Thank you, Jane, for your financial support.

Becoming an Altar Guild member is a small commitment of time - approximately 45 mins once a month. We welcome all who are interested in giving it a try.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Bergeron, Sacristan

Memorial Garden Annual Report 2022

The Memorial Garden is a lovely and sacred place where the ashes of loved ones have been scattered. If you would like a quiet sanctuary for rest and contemplation, the Memorial Garden is an excellent space for you to come and sit a while. The children from the daycare walk through the garden daily to access their playground, and it is a pleasure to watch them appreciate the garden's beauty. Every year there is a spring and fall clean-up, and for these two days we could use some assistance from the parish with raking, bagging leaves, and sweeping. From May to September volunteers weed, water, and prune the garden to keep the plantings healthy and well-maintained. Please come and sit a while!

Submitted,

Meg LoPresti

2022 Property Report

2022 was an active year of continuing and newly initiated projects. The West wall reconstruction outside is complete. We replaced damaged stones. Repointed the wall where needed. Added new "slate" roofing below the stained-glass window. Two additional projects were completed as closer inspection revealed a need to repair our stone entry steps and an area over the red entry doors.

The interior of the West wall will be repaired after Easter.

The outside iron entry stairs into the basement were replaced, after more than 100 years of service. Those of us carrying heavy materials up and down the stairs were impressed with the stability of the latest materials and construction standards.

The church administrative offices were completely refurbished. Removal of old carpet revealed beautiful wood floors. We added new storage cabinets, replaced old baseboard heaters, removed old wiring, added "technology" closets, and upgraded our phone systems. New office furniture has helped us complete a safe and organized space.

As part of the office project, we also painted, carpeted, and refurbished the hallway between the office and the rector's office. Heating was also upgraded. We also painted the hallway outside the Stearn's room.

Additionally, we added new carpet and flooring to the Atrium entry, and the upper and lower sacristy.

Pending:

We initiated replacement of the leaded-glass windows in the lower Sacristy. These windows have been leaking for years and causing damage to the floors and walls that will need additional attention. We hope to have this project completed during the summer.

Maintenance:

No immediate problems beyond the needs of an aging facility. Will need to refurbish the outside of the Parish House in the near future. Paint is peeling and wood siding is failing.

Organization:

Created a "Paint Log" to record paint colors and vendors for recent work. We will be able to duplicate accurately in the future.

Working on a Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Annual maintenance schedule. We will make this information available to future property teams to keep the maintenance schedule intact over the years.

A 5-year facility maintenance plan is in development and will be shared early in 2023 with the Vestry.

Submitted by,
Peter Lofgren
David Brookhart
Brian Robert

Women's Spirituality Group (WSG) Annual Report 2022

The Women's Spirituality Group is a lay-led gateway ministry of St. Martin's Church which completed its seventh year in 2022. We welcome women of all ages and faiths and those who identify as female. We encourage members to bring friends, and include members from outside the parish. Within WSG, women form intergenerational and lasting relationships in a welcoming and warm social atmosphere with spiritual nourishment in an inclusive, cohesive, caring and supportive whole. At each meeting, after meet and greet rich with potluck food and drink, we have a circle of introduction, and then member-presented spiritually nourishing programs. All gatherings are free of charge. Come and see!

Backstory: Before the pandemic, WSG met monthly at Susan Allen's house near the church for meet and greet by the fire, circle of sharing, potluck dinner, and a program of spiritually-based content, followed by the reading of Compline. We have also enjoyed the generous hospitality of Jane Taylor who welcomed us to her beach house in Junes for spirited encounters with the ocean. Following the March 2020 lockdown due to COVID19, the group met virtually with the help of Amy Stewart and the church's Zoom account. In 2021 we met virtually in February, April, and May and, after vaccinations, gratefully masked and in person on site at St. Martin's in the Stearns Room, sanctuary, and Great Hall in the fall of 2021. Our attendance dropped during COVID in 2020 and 2021, unsurprising due to the pandemic.

Happily in 2022 we have met regularly, mostly in the Great Hall, once on Zoom, and twice off campus at major events. We have enjoyed programs on the Wisdom of Celtic Spirituality voiced by Mystic and Poet John O Donohue (Susan Eggimann), *Lectio Divina* (Susan Allen), a Rhode Island Woman's Sojourn with the Peace Corps in Ukraine (Mary Fasano on Zoom from DC, thanks to Sheila Hoogetboom), Spiritual Exploration through Art (Emily Gray), we heard Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, at Brown, we learned about the Open Doors Transitional House for Formerly Incarcerated Women from its director, Dina Bruce), and we heard Krista Tippett, host of prize-winning podcast *On Being*, at Central Congregational. I am happy to report that each meeting has included first timers and has been warmly appreciated by all attendees. As leader, I send a recap of each meeting to all women of St. Martin's and members at large so that even those who do not attend can feel a part of the group and learn from the content shared. I also send notices of programs of interest in the wider community to the group which are gratefully received. I am actively soliciting ideas and recruiting presenters for future programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Allen

Gander Men's Lunch 2022

About every six weeks a group of men of the parish (and sometimes beyond) gather for lunch in the Great Hall. There is no formal agenda, the purpose being to build relationships, discuss items of interest, whether religious, political, economic or social, and engage in outreach projects as individuals are available and needed.

At present there are twenty-two men on the Gander Lunch list. There is always room for more. If interested sign up with an email to the Church Office or to David Ames at daames3@verizon.net. It's a joyful and useful time when we gather. Sandwiches and drinks are catered and conversations are often provocative and stimulating.

Respectfully submitted,
David Ames

Gander Writer's Group 2022

We meet at 1pm the first Monday of each month in the Stearns Room. We submit short pieces of writing: essays, short fiction, memoirs, etc. to be read and discussed by the group. At present we have 6 members, and new members are always welcome to join. Contact the Parish Office if interested.

Respectfully submitted,
David Ely

Gander/Op-Ed Group 2022

Established several years ago, St Martin's Gander (Men's) Book Reading Group meets every 4-6 weeks except during the summer months. Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we gathered at a member's home and enjoyed a light meal before sharing our views on a mutually agreed upon reading assignment. During the winter of 2022 our discussions were hosted through Zoom conference calls (special thanks to Pat & Jack Nolan sharing their "unlimited" Zoom account). Fortunately by late Spring 2022 we were able to resume meeting in person. Going forward we plan to rotate hosting by one of our members with a light dinner and beverages provided.

For 2022 our readings ranged primarily from sports journalism to contemporary novels (special thanks to Candy Guberman's great suggestion several years ago that we take a break from "serious" history & biography to reading novels beginning with "Catcher in the Rye" by J D Salinger and which most members had read many years ago as teenagers). Our 2022 book readings included renowned sports journalist W. C. Heinz's "The Top of His Game" edited by Bill Littlefield of NPR, "Light Perpetual" by Francis Spufford, "Cloud Cuckoo Land" by Anthony Doerr, and "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. On January 24 Brian Robert will be hosting our group to explore Brown University History Professor David Kertzer's most recent, acclaimed, and highly relevant & timely book "The Pope at War." Anyone interested in joining our group or have any questions, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Stevens McAleer

20's 30's Report 2022

This year, the 20's 30's group saw significant growth and increased stability. We met almost weekly throughout the year, with some brief interruptions during breaks in the academic year. We read two books pertaining to spiritual life, discussing them weekly, and also formed a group to play Dungeons and Dragons together about monthly. On the weeks when we did not play D&D or discuss a book, we spent time together socializing, talking about our relationship to the church, and sipping tea.

Peace,
Joshua Maria Garcia
20's 30's Liaison

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2022

Hospitality and welcoming parishioners has been a tradition at St. Martin's since its inception. Because of the pandemic it disappeared for a bit of its long history, but I am happy to report that during the Fall of 2022 we were able to restart our community celebrations. This year our committee is small, but mighty.

On October 16, 2022 we welcomed 30 newcomers to Sunday brunch, our first such event since the pandemic.

In November the Hospitality Committee took on the role of planning and decorating for our St. Martin's Feast Day, Evensong, and Potluck Dinner after a two-year absence. Paul Bergeron prepared six excellent beef tenderloins and all the guests provided the wonderful sides, salads, and desserts. It was a very enjoyable and successful evening of delicious food and camaraderie. Thanks so much to co-chair Donna Huntley, Pat Whitman, Mary Jane Pagan, Carole Tucker, Jan Saik, Gail Hamel, and Jennifer Kiddie for their untiring diligence and talents.

In December we hosted a Christmas Tea after our Community Carol Sing. Huge thanks to all who contributed cookies for that occasion – we thought we'd run out of serving trays and serving room, there were so many! Another fun and entertaining afternoon of church community celebration. Thanks to Mary Jane Pagan, Pat Whitman, Piya Sarawgi, and Susan Kostas for their help.

Ongoing is our Coffee Hour after the 10 o'clock service on Sundays. Sign-ups started slowly, yet we now have only a few spaces left to fill. Thank you all so much! It's been lovely to get back to normal and celebrate our church community again through Coffee Hour. Thank you to all who have provided Coffee Hour so far – we look forward to the future.

The Hospitality Committee is looking forward to the future as well: After the Easter Vigil we will host the annual Champagne and Chocolates reception and our Easter Cupcake extravaganza for the Easter Coffee Hour. We will announce any future events at a later date.

Huge thanks to the members of the committee for their tireless efforts and ideas and to those who volunteered on their own just to help. It's most appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brookhart
Donna Huntley
Hospitality Committee

Thrifty Goose Annual Report 2022

I'm compelled to begin this year's annual report much as I did last year's (acknowledging the death of Marty Flaherty), as St. Martin's prepares for the funeral of Candy Guberman. Candy was a much-loved Goose volunteer, bringing cheer to the shop along with a talent for pricing. We are distraught by her sudden passing and will miss her very much.

2022 has been another very busy year for the Thrifty Goose! The volume of donations continues to climb as does our loyal customer base. We appreciate the many donations we receive and gratefully share them with the Cloak and other outreach projects. Working together with Mary Jane Pagan and Sheila Hoozeboom, the donations are nearly always put to good use and touch many lives across the state.

The Thrifty Goose has an active Instagram following, and we continue to receive support in that effort from Brigit in New Zealand. She recently helped us sell a 1950's Christian Dior coat on Instagram! Amy Fuller continues to manage our Facebook account and keeps the content current and fresh. As our newest volunteer, Joshua Maria Garcia brought a breath of fresh air to the shop and revitalized the Gander area. We appreciate their support!

For the first time in several years, the Goose closed for a number of days in July. During this time we accomplished a great deal behind the scenes in the shop and enjoyed a break as well. Although the shop is open just 8 hours a week, countless hours are spent each week sorting donations, washing, mending, ironing, pricing, and arranging merchandise. When we reopened in late July, business resumed as usual without missing a beat.

The revenue for the year exceeded budget, and this reflects the continued dedication and hard work of the Goose mainstays. A HUGE thank you to Jennifer Kiddie, Cynthia Renehan, and Bridgette Hubbard for their extraordinary efforts which enable the Thrifty Goose to be so successful!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Post Tingle

St. Martin's Estate Sale Final Report 2022

St. Martin's hosted an Estate Sale on October 29 and 30th, 2022. The goal of the two-day event was to raise needed funds for operations, promote St. Martin's efforts to serve the community, and showcase the Thrifty Goose which operates year-round. The hours were Saturday 9 to 3 and Sunday 11 to 2.

The bulk of the work fell to our experts in the Thrifty Goose who carefully priced each item, guided volunteers to help set up the Great Hall which showcased the donations in an appealing way to promote sales. The donations came from parishioners, friends, and family. Many items for sale were quite valuable. As in years past, there was a line out the door before the sale opened and sales were strong over the two days.

The leadership had anticipated we needed 30 volunteers to set-up in the week ahead, manage the payment and credit card stations, wrap and bag each item, help with sales on the floor during the event, to clean up at the end of day on Sunday AND to follow up on loose ends over the week following the event. It was the volunteers and St. Martin's staff who made this so successful and fun for the shoppers and other volunteers.

The Thrifty Goose staff put in an incredible amount of time and talent to help us reach our goals. They are masters at being sure to get the maximum price for each object while making the customers feel good about buying their one-of-a-kind object.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, shopped, or shared news of the event with friends.

Funds Raised: \$9159.00

Volunteers participating: 29

Respectfully Submitted,
Estate Sale Volunteer Coordinator
Sheila Hooceboom

Episcopal Charities Fund of RI 2022

For over 70 years St Martin's has been a key participant in Episcopal Charities Fund of RI annual fundraising campaign. Since 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic has posed unique challenges to both fund raising (forgoing the customary Spring Sunday Service Campaign "kick off" presentation and personal outreach) and to the timing and focus of Episcopal Charities grants. Notwithstanding the ongoing pandemic challenges, I am pleased to report that St Martin's combined 2022 donations (for both annual grants and Charities Now) amounted to approximately \$20,400, up approximately 8.5% from 2021 totals.

Similar to the prior several years, contributions have been allocated to 2 important areas: First, Episcopal Charities' traditional annual grants programs (including Providence based Hope Clinic whose executive director addressed St Martin's in May 2019). Second, to Charities Now, an exciting new program launched in 2020 and designed to disburse funds quickly (to the extent that there are funds available) throughout the year for approved organizations (typically charities that have ties with and support from local Episcopal parishes) serving at risk children and seniors. Over 20 church based and community based feeding programs located throughout RI have received Charities Now funding. The kick off for Episcopal Charities 2023 Campaign is expected to begin in the late Spring. Any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Stevens McAleer

Knitting Ministry Annual Report 2022

In 2022, the Knitting Ministry, now in its ninth year, continued the practice of contactless delivery of prayer shawls and meeting over zoom. We gradually started meeting in person again in the Spring. We finished the year with our annual Christmas party.

Our group of dedicated knitters and crocheters produced many beautiful prayer shawls throughout the year which were distributed to those in need of comfort. We also gave blankets to newly christened babies.

The Knitting Ministry meets on Saturday afternoons every month in the Stearns Room. If you are a knitter, or are merely interested in what we do, please contact the office or me.

Respectfully submitted,

Natasha Lofgren
Chair

Meditation Hour Annual Report 2022

St. Martin's Meditation Hour provided a neighborhood-wide place for mindfulness and spiritual growth for the sixth year.

We returned to regular in-person sessions, while keeping the Zoom option for several participants.

Our meetings are weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 in the Fireplace Room, with a Summer Break in July and August.

Led by Fr. Mark Sutherland, Mary Jane Pagan, and Prof. Brad Marston, we practice in Christian, Buddhist and Hindu traditions. This offers participants a range of approaches and traditions. Both sitting and walking meditations are used, as well as yoga nidra.

Submitted by,
Mary Jane Pagan

Outreach and Philanthropy 2022

1. Overview and Planning Initiative –Chris Dennis
2. 2022 AWE (All Welcome) Annual Report-- Sheila Hoozeboom
3. 2022 Annual Report for the CLOAK -- Mary Jane Pagan
4. 2022 Small Outreach Grants Annual Report – Jennifer Kiddie
5. 2022 The Epiphany Soup Kitchen (ESK) – Mary Blake
6. 2022 The “Out Hearts Are Open” Advent Project (DCYF) – Karen Ng

1. Overview and Planning Initiative

The term “outreach” has been used in St. Martin’s budgeting variously to include: an annual, operating budget line item (about \$5,500) separate from special funds; the rector’s annual emergency or confidential, urgent use fund (\$7,000); the diocesan apportionment (\$88,457 in 2022); individual parishioner’s contributions to the Episcopal Charities (not part of the St. Martin’s budget process); and “pass through” funds where parishioners give donations to St. Martin’s that are earmarked for particular groups or events (e.g. funds for the OpenDoors RI, Thanksgiving dinner, etc.). Thanks to the successful capital campaign, St. Martin’s now also has a special fund of over \$200,000 designated for outreach support.

In 2019-21 donations or grants from the annual budget line item (\$5,500 per year) have included about ten grants per year at an average of \$583.00 per grant. Over the last three years individual grants have ranged from \$250 to \$1,000.

Separately, parishioners also contribute to the diocesan Episcopal Charities of RI (ECRI). St. Martin’s parishioners gave, in aggregate, \$18,600 to ECRI in 2020 and \$18,800 in 2021. These contributions are yet another important feature of outreach giving and distribution. ECRI generally requires that grantees have a connection with at least one church community in the diocese. Two ECRI grantees, Hope Clinic/Clinica Esperanza (\$10,000 in 2021) and the Epiphany Soup Kitchen (\$1,000 in 2021) are associated with St. Martin’s.

Clearly, there are many other kinds of outreach that include, for example: volunteer efforts of time, such as staffing the soup kitchen; the Thrifty Goose; annual collections of clothing and other goods; the youth services Christmas drive; the knitting/prayer shawl ministry, and many others. These are all important in the life of the parish.

The current approach to outreach may be described as “let a thousand flowers bloom” and has several advantages, but the magnitude of giving in the latest capital campaign, which established the special outreach fund, suggests that parishioners expect more and that more should be done to broaden the impact of St Martin’s outreach.

Consequently, in February 2022 the vestry charged a working group with generating ideas and making recommendations to the vestry that might help give greater shape and intentionality to St. Martin’s already extensive outreach activities. The group (Jennifer Kiddie, Ann Pellegrino, Beth Toolan, and Chris Dennis) was also asked to consider helpful organizational rules of the road that might guide decision-making about grants. In April 2022 the group shared with the vestry several guiding questions it considered and a set of ten recommendations, subsequently approved by the vestry at its July 2022 meeting.

- Should there be identified “thematic” areas of potential giving? Should there be specific geographical considerations (e.g., proportionate support of local, national and international causes and organizations)? How can this be done while maintaining support for traditionally supported local organizations?
- Should some grant-giving be cyclical, supporting larger grants (say) every three years? This might allow for “rotating” investment in different thematic categories and reduce annual administrative effort for the grantees, stabilizing their funding in a longer time frame.

- What are the opportunities to link programmatic activities at St. Martin's with grant support to organizations or to spotlight one or more of the thematic giving categories?
- How might "marketing" of outreach activities, programs, including ready availability of the grant application form, be improved? Should the application form or processes be changed?
- What should be the decision-making process and protocol for annual or cyclical grant-giving? What should post-review and stewardship of grants look like? Should some grant giving be cyclical, supporting larger grants (say) every three years? This might allow for "rotating" investment in different thematic categories and reduce annual administrative effort for the grantees, stabilizing their funding in a longer time frame.
- What might opportunities for learning about new ways of giving and for deepening the biblical teaching on giving?
- How should the vestry prioritize implementation of the various outreach recommendations, ideas and suggestions? How might more people be involved in aspects of creating a broader outreach plan for St. Martin's

Ten Recommendations

1. Maintain the \$5,500 line item in the recent annual budgets, apart from any proceeds of the special outreach fund, to maintain support of current grant organizations
2. Plan on an annual 5% draw from the special fund to broaden and deepen the scope of outreach impact. (In 2022 that amount would be approximately \$14,000.)
3. Allow the vestry to approve a larger grant total from the special fund for extraordinary opportunities or outreach emergencies.
4. Link outreach events to St Martin's programs and grant-giving or other fundraising. This will require careful coordination with the annual calendar/planning cycle.
5. Upgrade the design of the website to feature easy-to-find access to the grant form and a guide for applicants—and add a "button" for individuals and families confidentially requesting assistance.
6. Appoint a regular grant review committee that might be a sub-committee of the vestry or another appointed group. The committee should develop detailed guidelines and protocols for awarding grants.
7. In addition to supporting current local grantees, consider awarding grants on a "thematic," cyclical basis, with attention to addressing local, national and international giving opportunities. Such "rotational" grants might enable larger grants and reduce annual paperwork.
8. Restart pre-pandemic programming around outreach and consider new approaches and models.
9. Redouble efforts from the vestry, pulpit and in programming to foster what might be called a movement towards a more RADICAL STEWARDSHIP at St. Martin's
10. The vestry should develop an approach to implementing approved recommendations by identifying priorities and involving as many parishioners as possible in creating buy-in for a comprehensive approach to outreach programs, education and grant-giving.

Mapping Exercise

For ministry Sunday in September 2022, Sammi Tulungen organized an exercise where parishioners were invited to volunteer (on post-it notes) what causes or organizations they support--sorted into local, national and international categories. 53 different organizations and causes were identified, about equally distributed in the three categories. The poll is a marker of how deeply and widely parishioners are thinking about philanthropy and outreach as part of their personal practices.

Individual outreach reports for 2022 for AWE, the Cloak and for our small grant giving program for local organizations follow. Smaller grants are funded from the \$5,500 operating budget and organized by Jennifer Kiddie. The 2022 vestry also approved larger grants for AWE (\$2500) and for the Rhode Island Food Bank (\$3,000) from the new special fund.

2. All WelcomE (AWE) 2022 Report –Sheila Hoogeboom

St. Martin's Church and Temple Beth-El continued their joint efforts to assist Afghan and other refugees throughout 2022. The Leadership Team was committed to continue the program, to formalize the efforts started last year, and to do our small part to smooth the transition for refugees as they adjust to life in the Ocean State.

Highlights of the 2022 Year

The project was rebranded as **AWE- All WelcomE**, and worked under the direction of Dorcas International, one of two agencies in Rhode Island authorized by the U.S. Department of State to resettle refugees arriving in the United States.

This year's team, led by volunteers Sheila Hoogeboom, from St. Martin's, as well as Amy Gaddes, Celia Harms, and Mona Goldenberg, from Temple Beth-El, instituted efficiency measures from all the lessons learned in 2021 and new work based on the interests of the Leadership Team.

Both houses of worship offered financial support, with St. Martin's awarding an Outreach grant of \$2,500 to help ease the transition of new families and provide special items most needed upon arrival.

In Spring of 2022, 6 apartments were set up on Jan 19 -22, Feb 4-5, March 30-April 1, May 2-3, May 19, June 23. There were approximately 50 volunteers. Outreach funds were spent to stock apartments with perishable and non-perishable food in the apartments prior to families' arrivals. (This practice has been discontinued.)

In Fall of 2022: 3 apartments were set up on Oct 6, Nov 1, and Dec 5 with assistance of approximately 27 volunteers. \$400 in toiletries and household supplies were purchased by St. Martin's for two families. (Temple Beth-El and St. Martin's share this responsibility.)

In addition, funds from St. Martin's Outreach Grant allowed the team to shop for and restock supplies for the Dorcas Warehouse in late Dec 2022 for a total of \$800. Dorcas International was thrilled with this gift and all we do for them.

In Fall of 2022, Dorcas International shifted our work to prepare apartments more generically--rather than set up and prepare an apartment for a specific family. This allows Dorcas the flexibility they need. In the spring of 2022, we set up apartments for specific families, knowing the number of children and adults we were serving, but in fall of 2022, we can no longer track these numbers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Hoogeboom, AWE Leadership Team

3. Annual Report for the CLOAK - 2022 -- Mary Jane Pagan

The Cloak continued its fruitful outreach clothing ministry in cooperation with The Goose. Donations in clothing and household goods are first reviewed by The Goose. Items not retained for sale by The Goose are forwarded to The Cloak, and distributed to:

HARRINGTON HALL, shelter for men Monthly 40 sets of underwear, socks, clothing, razors and dental care;

DORCAS HOUSE INTERNATIONAL, Refugee resettlement support Monthly bags of clothing for women, men and children; toys, linens and household goods;

CAMP STREET MINISTRIES, clothing and food neighborhood center We resumed donations of clothing for women, men and children after a COVID hiatus.

SAVERS, fundraising arm for Boys and Girls Clubs All clothing and household items not otherwise distributed;

R.I. SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS Monthly or bi-monthly donations of bedding, food and gear.

Submitted by Mary Jane Pagan, on behalf of the Cloak Team: Meg LoPresti; co-pilot Paul Bergeron, deliveries to Harrington Hall; Richard Burling, deliveries to Dorcas and Camp Street; Kevin Cunningham (community member), deliveries to RSPCA; and in appreciative memory of Paul DelCioppio, Harrington Hall.

4. 2022 Small Outreach Grants Annual Report—Jennifer Kiddie

This Outreach Fund supports local, small, non-profit agencies that provide food, shelter, clothing, job training, after school programs, counseling and assistance to men and women re-entering our community after incarceration. From this budgeted fund, grants were awarded to City Meal Site, Epiphany Soup Kitchen, Better Lives RI, Nathan Bishop Middle School PTO, Beat the Streets, RI Cares and Open Doors.

In support of a grant-funded program administered by the Community Libraries of Providence dealing with gender identity, the Thrifty Goose will supply vouchers (Goose Bucks) to a group of 15-20 teens and invite them to shop for clothing that affirms their identity and presentation.

Our community is a compassionate one. Our ongoing food, toiletries and clothing collection commitment supports food pantries and shelters. We hosted a benefit for Open Doors to help sustain their necessities fund. The yearly Advent gift project reaches out to many DCYF children. We were able to host a community carol sing this year and we have established a partnership with Temple Beth-El to set up apartments for refugee families (AWE).

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kiddie

5. The Epiphany Soup Kitchen (ESK) -- Mary Blake

The Epiphany Soup Kitchen (ESK) is a meal site in Providence, RI that provides a hot meal to those in need every Saturday afternoon. We have been operating for over 40 years now, including the COVID-19 years! ESK was founded by St. Martin's members Elke Moonan and Gail Peet, and is currently hosted on the second floor of St. Stephen's church (located on Brown University's campus).

In 2022, we were happy to open back up to in-person dining in September after operating as take-out only since 2020. Since then, we have recruited volunteers from various colleges, churches, and even high schools to help us ramp up again. The number of volunteers, as well as guests just keeps growing, and we expect to continue the trend into 2023!

The ESK leadership has also initiated a poster campaign to advertise to guests, received multiple grants and donations to buy extra food and supplies, and held a toiletry drive (ongoing into the new year). We have so many ideas for the future as we grow the organization and look forward to continuing to help as many people as possible! If you have questions about the Epiphany Soup Kitchen or would like to get involved in any way, please feel free to reach out to our new email: ESK.Prov@gmail.com!

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the good work of longtime board member, Paul DelCioppio, who passed away in December. We will greatly miss him, his dedication to the soup kitchen, and his friendship.

Sincerely,

The Epiphany Soup Kitchen Board

Elke Moonan, Bruce Lennihan, Mary Blake, and Elizabeth Blake

6. The "Our Hearts Are Open" Advent Project – Karen Ng

The "Our Hearts Are Open" Advent project had a successful year in 2022. We partnered again with the RI Dept of Youth, Children and Families and helped fulfill the Christmas wish lists of 45 children and made \$300 worth of gift card contributions to help with their Trackers Program to help re-engage teens. We had more than 100 St. Martin's parishioners sign-up to donate, shop, wrap and return gifts that were all delivered 6 days before Christmas. Thank you to everyone for their support and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ng

Finance Committee Report 2022

2022 was as easy a year financially at St. Martin's Church as I can remember.

Despite daily headlines blaring *War! Pestilence! Political dysfunction! Inflation! Bear markets!* our parishioners, staff and clergy delivered orderly, budget-beating financial results last year.

Pledges, our main and by far most important source of revenue, came in **ABOVE BUDGET** in 2022. (We almost always have a small shortfall.) Prior year pledges, that is, pledges made for 2021 but paid in 2022, **ABOVE BUDGET**. Plate collections: **ABOVE BUDGET**. Building use fees (when an entity outside our church rents space for, say, a wedding or a concert): **ABOVE BUDGET**. Thrift Shop (a perennial star in our firmament): **ABOVE BUDGET**. An unanticipated estate sale brought in an unanticipated but welcome \$9,200, **ABOVE BUDGET**.

On the expense side, personnel, by far our biggest expense, came in slightly **BELOW BUDGET**.

Our ornery, tired old building continued to present us with unwelcome surprises, this time in the form of extensive repairs needed for the west wall of the church. This, the long-awaited remodeling of the office area, and the addition of air conditioning in the Great Hall meant building maintenance was far higher than anticipated. But fortunately expenses of these sorts were anticipated when we conducted our successful capital campaign a few years ago and funds had already been set aside.

The bear market in financial assets affected the value of our endowment, but for the first time I can remember, our endowment outperformed the broader market, declining about 15% versus a decline of roughly 19% for the stock market as represented by the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, and much sharper declines for more speculative parts of the market. It is never pleasant reporting negative results on the investment front, but the hit we took in 2022 is relatively mild. I am confident we will make our money back and then some when things improve. And they will improve.

The one persistent problem in our finances has to do with the dwindling number of annual pledges we receive. The trend in the absolute level of our typical pledge has been gratifyingly positive in the past few years, but the number of pledges has declined dramatically. The net result has been highly positive—pledge income covers nearly all our expenses, enabling our endowment to compound as a bulwark against future financial shocks. But if the number of people pledging declines to zero, we will have no church! So keep up the good work, Fellow Parishioner, and invite a friend to join us, a friend who won't hesitate to pledge.

Thanks to you, to our clergy and staff for a successful year on the financial front at St. Martin's Church,
Fla Lewis

Chairman, Finance Committee

Memorial and Endowment Annual Report 2022

Memorial Funds

During the year funds were received in memory of Lois and Preston Atwood, Pat Knowles, and Marty Flaherty. A bequest was received from the Largie Richardson Trust. The funds were added to the General Memorial Fund as no special allocations were requested.

Monies were used from the Doeblor Doherty Fund to pay for special musicians at Easter. The Chafee Sabbatical Fund provided funds to Father Mark for his sabbatical in New Zealand.

Endowment Funds

In response to a request from the Planned Giving Committee in 2018 for additions to the endowment, a few parishioners are donating on a regular basis; weekly or quarterly. These additions in 2022 totaled \$540.

\$200,000 was transferred out of the Endowment (Building Maintenance and Investment Income accounts) to supplement the operating budget with the repair of the west wall and office renovations. \$5,000 was used for the annual Outreach grant.

In March 2015, the Endowed Pledge Fund (\$45,947) was transferred to the Rhode Island Foundation. The Foundation pays a dividend of 4½ percent of the balance over the preceding 16 quarters which could be added to the Pledges - Endowed income budget line item. A \$2,287 grant was issued in December. Annual earnings figures won't be available until next month.

Capital Campaign

Thank you to all for continuing to honor your pledges to the Capital Campaign. We have only \$120,000 left to be collected between now and when the campaign formally closes this coming September.

Line of Credit

Pleased to report that the Line of Credit which had been secured for the tower renovations was paid in full last fall.

Vestry Nominating Committee Report 2023

Nominations:

Officers:

Senior Warden (1 year remaining) – Cathy Bodner

Junior Warden (1 year remaining) – **Sheila Hoozeboom**

Treasurer (1 year) – David Whitman

Clerk (1 year) – Debby Boedeker

Class of 2026:

Patrick Hawkins

Susan Kostas

Brian Robert

Class of 2025:

David Barrall

Beth Toolan

Class of 2024:

Chris Dennis

Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Steve McAleer

Mary Jane Pagan

Respectfully submitted by,

Debby Boedeker

Cathy Bodner

Amy Stewart

David Whitman

Sheila Hoogeboom, Junior Warden

Sheila Hoogeboom has been a member of the St. Martin's community since 1987 and has a long and active history at the church where she raised 3 sons, taught Sunday School, led the Youth Group, managed the 1990's Faith in our Future Capital Campaign and was Received into the Episcopal Church.

She has a varied professional background in for-profit and non-profit organizations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Sheila has an AA from Cape Cod Community College, a BA from University of Massachusetts Amherst, and an M. Ed from Suffolk University.

Sheila, and her husband Karst, retired in 2021 and returned to Rhode Island full-time after 14 years working in Wellfleet on Cape Cod. They currently live in Cranston. Sheila enjoys sailing, hiking, biking, and x country skiing and being outside.

Patrick Hawkins, Jr., Class of 2026

Patrick Hawkins Jr. grew up in a Baptist Church in Georgia. He has been attending Episcopal churches for the past 8 years. He recently started attending St. Martins in the summer of 2022.

Patrick has a B.A. in Drama Education and an M. Ed in Teacher Leadership. He has been teaching for 14 years. He is currently living in Pawtucket with his husband Peter.

Susan Kostas, Class of 2026

Susan has been a St Martin's parishioner since 1988. She's a lifelong Episcopalian growing up at St. Edmund's Church outside Milwaukee, WI. She attends St. Martin's with her husband, Jude, and their twins Peter and Alison when they are home from college.

Susan has served on our Vestry in the past and chaired a Rector search committee. She is a full-time real estate agent with a career background in philanthropy and corporate sales and marketing.