



The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

The 71st Annual Parish Meeting

January 20, 2019



A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ, joyfully serving others.

Rule of Life at St. Charles Episcopal Church

Our Rule of Life is how we live the Gospel daily.

1. Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and prayer is the foundation of our life together.
2. We come together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.
3. We listen to one another with the compassionate heart of Christ, and ask questions for clarification.
4. We respect one another's stories by listening and keeping their confidence.
5. We strive to practice forgiveness as we have been forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection.
6. We behave knowing God is in our midst.
7. We seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.
8. We respect the dignity of every human being.
9. We actively build worship, education, service and giving.

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St. Charles Episcopal Church

71st Annual Meeting

Agenda

January 20, 2019

Call to Order

Opening Prayer/Welcome: The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector

Appointment of Clerk

Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting January 21, 2018

Appointment of Treasurer

Welcome of New Members

Elections of Wardens and Vestry Candidates

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates (3) and Alternate
Delegates (2): Nominations accepted from the floor

Celebration of Ministry

Recognition of those ending ministry service

Recognition of those starting ministry service

Recognition of those recommitting to ministry service

SCEC Rule of Life

Rector's Report

Treasurer's Report

Presentation of 2019 Budget

Closing Prayer

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

St. Charles Episcopal Church

70th Annual Meeting

January 21, 2018

Call to Order: Rev. Stacy called the meeting to order at 11.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Stacy led the opening prayer.

Kathy Heikkinen was appointed clerk

Sharon Miller moved to accept minutes; Tom Miller seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion

Katie moved and Bo seconded the motion to accept Holly Parks as treasurer.

Kristen Madden and Jill Mosshamer are nominated for 3 year terms on the vestry; Katie Richardson is nominated for a 1 year term to fill a vacancy. Bob Madura moved and Cynthia Victor seconded the motion to elect all three to their respective vestry positions. Upon hearing no discussion, all voted in favor.

Dallas Heikkinen was nominated as Jr. Warden by Katie Thomson, seconded by Lisel Ulesak. There was one abstention.

Presentation of the Rule of Life: Rev. Stacy stated the document was developed by the vestry in 2017. Its purpose is to foster better communication. Rev. Stacy asked all ministry leaders use this document at all ministry gatherings. The rule was read together. Erik remarked that this is an aspiration, knowing we all can use this as a goal.

Cynthia Victor, chair of the New Member Ministry, a new ministry, explained "Invite, Welcome & Connect" taken from an established program in Texas. The group is looking for new members. Katie Richardson shared that the committee can work for all personalities. She began a new tradition of welcoming new members: Robert & Catherine Huber, who presented a short drama to ; Connie Copland & her daughter Charlie; Joyce Moore; Pat Meane; Melinda Oakey; Hue & Christine Robinson; Sherry & Christine Weile; Victoria Skiles; the Stacy Walker family. We welcomed back Jill Mosshammer & the Blaine family. All were given Welcome Bags. Rev. Stacy prayed for these new or returning members.

Holly reviewed the 2017 financial reports.

We began the year with a \$25,000 deficit and finished at -\$150 in 2017.

The rectory taxes were not in the budget (\$4277.00).

Some of Pastor Joe's compensation was carried into 2017.

Formation had additional unbudgeted but necessary expenses.

Tom Miller, Andrew McCullough, Dallas Heikkinen, Erik Balisi, Katie, and Rich Foster worked on cleaning up designated funds so contributions could be made back into Operations. Those ministries will still continue, but be paid from large pot.

Working thru an on-line budget version. Holly cleaned up files so the Audit Committee should have an easier job. Katie T thanked Holly for her work. Laura asked what was moved to Operations - prayer shawl ministry, feeding ministries, etc. Jim Bachman asked for a list of these ministries that will now fall under Operations.

Holly presented the 2018 budget.

Projected income of _____

Our Diocesan pledge is budgeted at \$1000; the Diocese asks for \$3300. They are very helpful & the hope is to increase our giving.

Children's formation line increased, New Member Ministry

Explanation of "Operations"

Facilities does not include rectory.

Snow is being paid "per push."

We have a new cleaning service, a little more expensive but better service

Debt \$51,000 a year payments.

5 year notes with a balloon payment at the end. Amoritization _____

Some notes have a lower rate so it is not feasible to put them together

Total debt is \$179,704

Becky Kruse asked about a Capital Campaign .The new vestry will begin planning for something to raise this money.

Deficit is \$41,000

Holly pointed out \$1000 a year is being set aside for future building repairs. She hopes to increase it to \$10,000 next year.

Catherine Huber asked about “The Common Mission Share” requested by the Diocese. Rev. Stacy said it is a request, not a requirement. Holly added that the health & welfare of the parish is a higher priority than parishes meeting the pledge

Laura ask about \$10000 building maintenance proposal. What about the emergency fund money? Holly explained it is for unplanned for, emergencies.

Tom mentioned to 2 furnaces, one of which is 40+ years old.

Carol: Is \$60 accurate for printing bulletins? Yes, the because it was absorbed in office supplies.

Larry Engel asked if using a capital campaign is OK w/ diocese for debt retirement? This is an ongoing conversation.

Bo asked about the deficit. Phyllis explained that the budget was created from a 0-based budgeting process.

Laura asked about the number of pledging households. Dallas said it was 69. Laura thought it would only take about \$600 (\$1.25 a week!)

Tom Miller moved to accept the treasurer’s report, Charles Boerner seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Erik then shared the names of those who are stepping down from leadership in various ministries, as well as those who are continuing in their ministries.

Charles, Dan, Lisa-Anne & Will Ditch are stepping down from vestry

Continuing: Holly & Kathy

Columbarium Committee:

SWEEPS

Education: Bob & Holly since late 1990’s!

Worship: new leaders

Dan Steamer will lead acolytes

BJ Griswald & Tara O will take over the HS class next fall

Katie Thomson will lead HEMs

Lisa-Anne - meals for families in distress

Rev. Stacy recognized Erik, Dan Charles, Lisa-Ann & Will with a donation to the Bishop’s Appeal.

Rev. Stacy’s report, “Celebrations & Pray About It”

She is especially thankful for the growth of our Adult Formation. She introduced the Good Book Club, which will be used during Lent & Eastertide.

There will be a Lent Retreat Day February 24, "What are you hungry for? Slaying Your Goliaths"

Charles thanked the group for electing him

Bo mentioned that the Rummage Sale will need new leadership.

Becky Kruse mentioned a way to support our Hessed House ministry "Christmas in July."

Bill Yeck thanked Kathy Hari & Candance Moline for entertaining the children during our meeting today.

Rev. Stacy asked for motion to close meeting. Carol Townsend moved and Lisel Ulasek seconded; all voted in favor of adjourning.

Rev. Stacy led the group in a closing prayer.

Opening statement: Rev. Stacy shared her thoughts on being called to be the rector at SCEC. She reflected on the strength of our lay leadership, and our commitment to Christian formation and discipleship. She also acknowledged the willingness to talk and grow through conversations, and that she sees we love each other. Stacy thanked all for calling her to be our rector.

_____ asked if we had a quorum. Clerk indicated we do.

_____ asked for changes to the minutes of last year's meeting.

All voted in favor of Katie Thomson serving as warden.

WARDEN & VESTRY CANDIDATES and BIOGRAPHIES

- ◇ Kristin Madden (Jr. Warden)
- ◇ Bob Huber
- ◇ Bob Madura
- ◇ Regan Jancauskas

Kristin Madden (Jr. Warden)

Four years ago I called the parish office to inquire about "Inquirer's Class" and it has turned out to be one of the best phone calls I have ever made. I immediately felt at home at SCEC because of the similarity of the Rite I service to Catholic Mass and because I knew a few of the members of this church from my professional life as a Designer/Project Manager at a local architecture firm.

I am already a member of a number of different SCEC ministries. I sing in the Adult Choir, I am a monthly lector at the 11:00 service, and I help serve at the Free Spaghetti Dinner most months. My faith has grown and I have made many wonderful friends through my involvement in these ministries.

Two years ago I also served on the Rectory Committee and played a strong role in renovating the rectory for Reverend Stacy and her family. It was a lot of hard work but also very fulfilling.

I am honored to be on the Vestry ministry I look forward to strengthening my faith and

fellowship as a part of Vestry. I would not be the person I am today without SCEC and I want to do all I can to give back to this amazing church.

To paraphrase a quote from my favorite movie, Seabiscuit: "though she be but small, she is mighty." A church does not have to be large to do great work. I am blessed to be part of the great work and I thank you very much for the opportunity!

Bob Huber

I'm Bob Huber. When I retired two years ago from social services administration, my wife and I moved from Ohio to Illinois in order to help with childcare for our granddaughter. In the earlier years of my life I was part of the United Methodist Church. I then became a happy Episcopalian 40 years ago, when Catherine and I were wed.. I'm a lifelong, active church member, really like this parish, and look forward to serving on the vestry here.

Bob Madura

The Madura family has been members of SCEC since 2003. My wife Karen and I have been married for 26 years and we have 3 children, Sam 25, William, 22 and Elizabeth 19. We have been active in youth group fundraising over the past years and supported many of the important causes SCEC stands for.

Both Karen and I have been co-coordinators of SCEC Hesed House Feeding Ministry for the past 3 years and have derived great joy in working with our fellow parishioners as well as friends of the congregation in supporting this important mission.

I am currently employed as a VP, Senior Director of Sales for Watson Standard Co. Industrial Packaging Group. I have been in this position for the past 6 years, before to that I ran my own business for 19 years prior to selling it in 2012.

Outside of work and church both Karen and I enjoy traveling as well playing golf and fishing when I can find the time.

Regan Jancauskas

I grew up in Geneva, IL; attended St. Mark's Episcopal for many years until moving on to St. Charles Episcopal Church at the encouragement of a couple of choir members. I have been a member here for a little over 10 years; active in choir, music librarian, musician in the 9:00 service; prior vestry member; serve at spaghetti dinner; intercessor at 11:00 service. Recently have added Altar Guild and Sunday School assistant for the younger parishioners (pre k-1st?). Looking forward to helping SCEC be the best it can be, with the help of Rev. Stacy and the rest of the Vestry.

Report of the Rector to the 71st Annual Meeting of St. Charles Episcopal Church

January 20, 2019

Dear Friends,

I am writing this report just shy two days of our two year anniversary of working together for the glory of God as Rector and Parish. In two years we have gotten to know each other better, and we

are learning how to listen to one another and to listen together to God to discern how best to serve Christ together. We have grown in healthy ways over the past year. Like any other relationship, now that we know one another better, the conversations are going deeper. Going deeper in conversation and relationship means that a change has occurred. This can be exciting and life giving, it can also be frightening. We all can become comfortable in our modes of operating, and change is uncomfortable. This is why it is important to keep our focus on a common goal. **What is our goal? To be a healthy, unified parish effectively proclaiming the Gospel, and joyfully serving Christ in the world.**

Healthy and Effective Communication

Last year at the annual meeting our **St. Charles Rule of Life** was presented. Our Rule of Life was written as a guideline for how we live the Gospel daily. It was written in response to some unhealthy patterns of communication I and other leaders in the parish including members of the vestry were noticing. It takes time to make positive changes in one's life as an individual, and this is also true in the life of a congregation. I am seeing some moves in the direction of healthy communication, and I am heartened. The vestry and I have completed our second Mutual Ministry Review together this past October. We will be discussing our findings from that review at our annual vestry retreat next month. We recognized that we need to continue to grow in the area of effective and healthy communication as a parish. You can help by referring to and praying with our Rule of Life in the small groups and ministries of which you are a part. This past year I wrote a reflection on each of the nine points of our Rule of Life. These were published monthly in the 2018 Heartbeat newsletter. They are also posted as notes on our "St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles, Illinois" Facebook page.

2. Financial Health

First let me be crystal clear: we are doing O.K. financially. There is no need to panic. Now, having said that, **there is need to be thoughtful and concerned about our financial health.** We are closer than we were this time last year to paying off our debt on three outstanding loans. And our finance committee has done everything in their power to negotiate the best interest rate on these loans. The truth is, the debt repayment still occupies a large percentage of our annual budget and is one of the primary causes of our recurring budget deficit. I am grateful for the response to our 2018 Christmas Appeal. Donations were more generous at over \$39,000 than they were the year before when we raised just over \$32,000. That along with some expenses that were lower than projected means we ended 2018 in a good place.

But, we have virtually no savings. We have no money for any capital improvements. We have no room in our budget to hire any additional staff, for any purpose. There is no room in our budget for expanding our current ministries or starting new ones. We are planning in our 2019 budget to pay only 5% of our recommended Diocesan Common Mission Share. **This is why we have signed on with the Episcopal Church Foundation to assist us in planning a capital campaign.** With the generous assistance of the Diocese of Chicago, the cost of the consultant is free to us. The understanding is that we will donate a portion of whatever we raise in a capital campaign to the Diocesan Endowment to fund ministries in our Diocese of Chicago. We have an wonderfully

enthusiastic group of leaders working with me and our ECF consultant to get us rolling on the discernment phase of the campaign. The Mutual Benefit Campaign team includes myself, Erik Balisi, Dallas Heikkinen, and Kristen Madden. **We will all have a chance to meet our ECF consultant, Jim Buggy, when he visits St. Charles to provide training and answer questions the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd, 2019.**

3. A Healthy Sunday Morning Schedule

In early 2018 I was blessed to have a frank discussion with many of our families and households that attend our 9:00A.M. Family Style Holy Eucharist. In the summer of 2017 we had maintained a three service every Sunday morning schedule. Attendance is always lower in the summer, but the attendance at that service in the summer some Sundays was so low that basically it was the musicians and myself in attendance, with perhaps two or three others. We were all in agreement that going to a two services a Sunday schedule for the summer of 2018 was a good idea. We also agreed to not have a Family Style Holy Eucharist as one of those two services in the summer because families travel a lot during summer vacation. Since the summer of 2018 I have heard a lot of positive feedback about that summer experience of having two services on a Sunday. Many people have come to me asking that we make a move to two services. After thoughtful conversation with the vestry, our staff, and God I have decided that we need to address our Sunday morning schedule including number and time of services, fellowship, and education. The vestry and I strongly agree that this is not a decision to be made lightly, and so we have prayerfully invited a group of people representing many different demographics in our parish to discern what a healthy and life giving Sunday morning schedule at St. Charles would look like. **The members of this Sunday Morning Schedule Task Force are: Bill Yeck and Jill Mosshamer (vestry representatives), myself (Rector), B.J. Griswold, Larry Engel, Karen Madura, Jan Hoffman, and Diana Brown. The task force will meet as often as needed to discuss this important decision and report their recommendations to the Vestry as a whole, of which the Rector is a member.**

This will be a significant change for our congregation and undoubtedly will cause some in the congregation to wonder why a change to our Sunday morning schedule is necessary. The following shares the thoughts of myself and the other members of the vestry from our recent conversations on this topic: This change is needed for the long term health our congregation. We know change is a challenge for many people and recognize the importance of thoughtful conversation as a task force and with members of the congregation so that we can be a healthy, united church that effectively serves Christ and proclaims the Gospel. Our hope in examining our Sunday morning schedule is to provide better use of our resources and staff, to facilitate more effective communication within the congregation, and to in general have a less frantic pace on our primary day that we gather for worship, fellowship, and education. We hope that a modified Sunday morning schedule could help form new friendships and renew existing relationships within the congregation. We are also concerned about a potentially negative impression new people receive when they see so few people at any one of our current Sunday services. As you look at churches around Chicago Metro and within our own community, most do not have more than two Sunday services. That includes those with bigger budgets, and those able to support a senior pastor with an assistant or a deacon.

In Conclusion:

In each parish I have served as a priest I am always asked at the beginning of my tenure what my goals are for the parish. Thanks be to God, I have grown in wisdom enough over the years to realize that I cannot possibly set goals for a parish all by myself! Not only that, I cannot possibly know what God's call is for my gifts at a parish until we have spent some time together as a congregation and pastor. **After two years, I believe God has called me here to St. Charles to lead our parish into a place of health and unity.** What that looks like exactly, only time will tell. At this point in 2019 focusing on 1. Healthy and Effective Communication, 2. Financial Health, and 3. A Healthy Sunday Morning Schedule is where God is inviting us to go. We are also being invited by the Holy Spirit to *trust* that we do not make the journey alone. God is with us *always*, and in all ways! Thanks be to God.

In Christ,

REPORT OF THE RECTOR, REV. STACY A. WALKER



The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector

SENIOR WARDEN, KATIE THOMSON

Senior Warden Report

As my term as warden comes to an end, it does so with tremendous gratitude for the faith and energy of the people of our parish. Each of our vestry members has done an amazing job of strengthening their respective areas of oversight. Our youth and adult formation classes are continuing with solid curricula and discussion. Our service ministries continue to touch the lives of both our parishioners and members of the larger community. Our musicians breathe amazing life into Sunday services and special occasions enjoyed by those within and without the parish, such as Taize and Lessons & Carols. People of all ages are invited to serve in new roles, and to participate in creative ways. For the second year, church leadership engaged in thoughtful, honest dialogue about what is working in our church and what needs attention through the process of Mutual Ministry Review. Our focus continues to be retiring our debt, and moving the parish ahead towards growth in all its forms. As we traverse that path in the coming days and weeks, each and every one of us not only has gifts to share, but also IS a gift to us all. I am grateful for the support you have offered me during my tenure as warden. I have the utmost confidence in the vestry members continuing our work. I am so grateful to have served alongside those of you who were with me during my time on the vestry.

May God continue to bless us our faith community!

Katie Thomson

JUNIOR WARDEN, DALLAS HEIKKINEN

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

This year as Jr. warden has been a different experience for me. Different than the first time I was a warden, there have been changes. Changes for the better. Vestry is more organized than before, members know what they need to do, and can do it with a little guidance. To get a feeling of what vestry does you should talk to our continuing vestry members about their jobs. They will tell you of the rewards and failures that happen to all leaders.

As is becoming usual we had to have a Christmas drive this year to make up for a budget shortfall. It has struck us that the shortfall is almost equal to our loan repayments. We are taking action on our shortfalls, working with the diocese and the Episcopal Church Foundation. We will be soon asking for the talents of the congregation to achieve our goals. This is an exciting and positive action that Rev. Stacy, Erik Balisi, Kristin Madden, and I are working on.

The final thought for this report; I want to say is a big thanks to Katie Thomson our Sr. Warden for 2018. She did a great job and was a joy to work with. I'll miss all the text messages, maybe.

Dallas

Jr. warden

SERVICE COMMITTEES, Jill Mosshamer

St. Charles Episcopal Church has three major feeding ministries that have fed thousands throughout 2018, not to mention the previous years of service. This reflects well on a parish committed to serving in the name of Christ.

Free Spaghetti Dinner, led by Kathy Hari and Dallas Heikkinen, will celebrate 10 years of operation, as of March 2019. This year 2,076 plates were served [including take-outs], which averaged 173/month. This is an increase of 10% from last year. To date we have served approximately 15,724 plates of spaghetti and meatballs. FSD took in \$2,134.54 (decreased earnings by -30% vs 2017) as free will offerings and donated \$229.00 to SCEC operations. Corporate sponsors are Racconto Italian Foods of Melrose Park and Felecia's Deli & Meat Market of Elk Grove Village, which donate pasta and meat to FSD. Our live entertainment, which is generously provided by Jeremy Glaser (keyboard) and Tom Kirkland (vocals), continues to bring wonderful music & song to our dinners. East High School National Honor Society students supply us with extra volunteers to help serve our dinners. Of course, this is only possible with the dedicated volunteers from our parish who help set-up, cook, bake, serve, and clean up. When leftovers are available they are donated to Lazarus House. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to serve, cook, bake desserts, set-up or clean-up,

please contact Kathy or Dallas. Extra help is always needed and donations are helpful. As of Jan 27th, the FSD will be held the last Sunday of each month with new hours of 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

Hesed House, led by Bob and Karen Madura, has been served by SCEC since 1985. Bob figures that over 100,000 meals have been prepared, served and purchased by SCEC parish over this time period. This is a remarkable support of the Hesed House ministry, which houses and feeds the poor, assists individuals in obtaining independent housing (349 in 2018), addresses substance abuse and mental health issues, and in 2018 helped 162 people obtain job training or employment. Bob and Karen, along with parishioners, family and their friends, help support this ministry the third Saturday of each month. On the previous Friday 120 sack lunches are prepared at SCEC and delivered to Hesed House. That Sat breakfast is prepared at Hesed House for about 160 guests from 3 to 5 AM, and is then served by the second shift from 5 to 7 AM. In addition to servers one person is needed to unlock lockers for guests, and another person is needed to manage the store. About 15 people are needed to serve this ministry each month. If more people offer their services it would be possible to alternate volunteers. The next opportunities to serve will be February 15-16, March 15-16 and April 19-20.

Trinity Church Sandwich Board (known as the **Soup Kitchen**) is led by Dottie Finatri, with assistance from Jim Bachman. It was started about 34 years ago, with 4 to 5 other Episcopal churches in the Fox Valley, so that a free lunch could be offered every Thursday of the month, following a Eucharistic service. SCEC has provided lunch every 4th Thursday for approximately 120 guests, with donations provided by volunteers to offset the cost to our parish. Some volunteers supply specific food items to be used the previous evening at SCEC during food preparation. On Thursday food is transported to Trinity Church where final cooking is completed and a salad is made. After Rev Stacy delivers the Eucharistic service, a buffet lunch is served, as well as fresh fruit and dessert. It takes about 8 to 10 people to prepare food, finish cooking, serve and provide clean-up. In 2018 we no longer served at Trinity on Thanksgiving and the Thursday of Christmas week due to low numbers willing to serve. Beginning 2019, SCEC Soup Kitchen will be held on the following dates: January 24, February 28, June 27, July 25, September 26 and October 24. Meal preparation is the Wednesday night before at 6:30 PM. The Unitarian Church often provides volunteers, and people willing to serve from our parish are always encouraged and needed. :

Fox River Valley Initiative (FRVI) is a non-partisan community organization made up of non-profits in the Fox River Valley. Membership is not by individuals but by organizations. In our case, SCEC is a member with annual dues of \$600, for our parish members to participate. Currently member organizations consist of 18 churches, as well as Hesed House, Lazarus House, IEA, the ETA, Mercy Housing and the Association for Individual Development. Funding comes from member dues and from Episcopal Charities Foundation. The purpose of this ministry is to make changes in systems and structures to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities. Currently members of FRVI are addressing a 3 pronged criminal justice reform strategy of Crisis Intervention Training, development of Crisis Diversion Centers for the Mentally Ill, and affordable housing across DuPage and Kane Counties. Current participants from our parish are Rev Stacy, Dallas Heikkinen, and Jill Mosshamer. Anyone interested in this ministry should contact Dallas.

In 2018 successful fundraising drives were led by the following:

Backpacks for U-46 with school supplies, led by Katie Thompson

WORSHIP COMMITTEES, Kristin Madden

Altar and Flower Guilds

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to care for the altar, priest's vestments, vessels, elements, and altar linens used in worship services. The members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards.

Altar

In 2018, members of the Altar Guild were Diane Edwards, Barbara Haase, Kathy Heikkinen, Regan Jancauskas, Candace Moline, Kathy Mertes, Maria Owen, Sandy Parsons, Sandy Peterson, Grace Rhead, Jody Rullman, Deb Sturges, Katie Thomson, Sarah Travis, Diana Brown, and Patti Trotta. We welcomed Charles Boerner and Linda Boerner, who joined in 2018 and assist with the 11:00 a.m. service. Patti Trotta and Candace Moline resigned; we sincerely appreciate their service to our church.

Flower

The Flower Guild decorates the sanctuary with flowers. 2018 members were Sarah Travis, Dottie Finatri, Marina Morrow, Jody Rullman, and Patti Trotta. As the year ended, the Flower Guild examined their role. Significant changes were made, and discussion about flowers in our worship services will continue in 2019. To sponsor flowers, the cost is \$60 dollars. Funeral flowers will cost \$100 dollars, or families may choose to use a florist. The flower guild will not do wedding flowers.

The Altar Guild needs new members and invites all parishioners to consider embracing this ministry. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Diana Brown at diana-brown47@gmail.com.



Music Ministry 2018 Report

Mark Downey, *Director*
Music is well said to be the speech of angels
--Thomas Carlyle



The 2018 music ministry created prayer-filled and musically enhanced liturgies. We used a wide variety of hymns, chants and psalms, as well as new Mass settings. We utilized GIA's online hymn service, which allows for the legal reproduction of hymns, psalms, and other Mass settings.

On Easter, we sang many Alleluias as the St. Charles Brass Ensemble, coordinated by Rob Barnes, provided uplifting song with our choir and organ.

In the summer, we continued singing "My Favorite Hymns". Each week, a favorite hymn was chosen by a church member and often a comment was given as to why that hymn was chosen. It is a great way to get to know a person and how important their faith is. Thank you all who participated in this outreach.

In October, we celebrated, sang and meditated in the Taizé tradition.



We blessed and played our new 2-Octave Schulmerich Handbells for the first time on the Feast of Christ the King. The bells were donated by Mrs. Mary Horton in honor of Ed, and Mr. and Mrs. James Collins.

On the same day, OrgelKids came to St. Charles as several children and adults combined their skills in building a 24 note pipe organ. It was great fun watching the adults struggle as the children quickly figured out how to assemble over 500 moving parts of this organ.



We honored the great tradition of celebrating **Advent Lessons and Carols** on December 9 and concluded it with a reception, hosted by Bob and Catherine Huber as well as members of the choir. I am pleased that over 50 were in attendance.

A heartfelt thank you to our choir members: **Kristen Balisi, John Coffey, Lydia Downey, Dottie Finatri, Kathy Heikkinen, Regan Jancauskas, Kristin Madden, Paul McNassar, Melinda Oakey, Phyllis Otto, Bo Smith, Lisel Ulaszek, Beth Willadsen, and Bill Yeck**, who spend hundreds of hours preparing the weekly Sung Eucharist.

We give thanks for our 9:00 AM Musicians who assist in leading the music: **Jim Hari, Regan Jancauskas, Ad-die Osborne, Tara Osborne, and Carol Townsend**.

I commend and thank our instrumental musicians who enhance our worship by sharing their musical talents during the liturgy: **Eli Balisi, violin; Kathy Heikkinen, viola, cello and violin; and Regan Jancauskas, violin**.

I especially thank Regan Jancauskas, our choral librarian who spends many hours filing and repairing old music, as well as updating our music library.

Finally, I encourage and invite you (regardless of your age) to share your music with this community by singing in the choir or playing an instrument for the honor and glory of God!

Sincerely,

Mark J. Downey

Organist and Music Director

Crop Walk, led by Kathy Heikkinen

Salvation Army Bell Ringers, led by Rich Foster

Hesed House Starter Kit, led by Becky Kruse

EDUCATION COMMITTEES, Bill Yeck

I represent a very strong and committed group of Christians. Their enthusiasm and commitment to teaching about God and the way of living a Christian life humbles me. These reports are just a sample of their works. The names mentioned and those not mentioned who helped in Christian Education and that of the Church are many. A multitude volunteered to help and fill in, for we are a church of doers. I'm excited for our Church.

This year Will Ditch was named the Ludtke Scholar. The senior high Summer Service was impactful. The high school provided their insights into God as they shared their experiences with us Sunday Mornings.

Two retreats were held this year. A retreat for teachers was held in the fall before classes started creating a team with shared goals. A Lenten retreat was held looking at the story of David and Goliath. Many insights into the full story with all the relationships and God's role. Breakouts for prayer and a wonderful salad luncheon.

Confirmation was started this year for 7th and 8th graders. We are using the "Confirm not Conform" materials as being led by Reverend Stacy. High School students also have an opportunity for confirmation.

Children and Youth Education Coordinator: Kathy Hari

Candace Moline is the lead teacher and excited about teaching "Godly Play" for the Primary class. Kathy Heikkinen subs when Candace is unavailable. The other teachers for this class are Laura Graf, Regan Jancauskas, Kristen Madden, and Phyllis Otto. There are 7 students with 1 new student starting in Jan.

Connie Copeland leads the Intermediate Class (4th-6th grades), continuing with "Connect" workbook, CDs and bibles are the studies of the class. Along with Connie, Lisa-Ann Barnes, Ali Blaine, Linda Boerner, Diane Edwards, Lee Kolodziej, Lisel Ulaszek. There are 5 students with 1 new student starting in Jan.

New this year, Rev Stacy leads the Confirmation Class (7th & 8th) on a two year commitment. Katie Richardson and Bill Yeck are the 2nd leadership deep for this class. There are 5 students.

Advent Celebrations was attended by 5 children. The children sang a song, listened to a story about Jesus being born. They made advent wreaths with clay and live greens and were given reading material about Advent to take home.

Senior High under the leadership BJ Griswold and Tara Osborne who have been working with the group as they prepare for their mission trip this June. Bob and Holly Parks sub when

available. There are 6 students in this class. Emma Foran will be graduating in May. May 19 is scheduled for our end of the year .

Adult Education Coordinator: Katie Thomson

Education for Ministry continues, with 9 participants, meeting weekly to discuss the Old and New Testaments and Church History.

This year's adult formation class on Sunday mornings has utilized the Forward Day By Day materials as well those provided by Living Compass. The number of group participants ranges from 1-6 on any given week. More facilitators are needed and I have reached out to the parish via all the usual modes of communication. Hopefully we will have more engagement in 2019.

Keeping God's People Safe Coordinator: Katie Ditch

KGPS's purpose and "way of life" was inaugurated by the Church Pension Group of the Episcopal Church to safeguard all Episcopal churches from all forms of abuse, exploitation, harassment and violence, especially sexual transgressions. Essential safeguarding begins when churches utilize church-provided educational and informational resources to inform, to educate all their membership. Safeguarding is further realized when local church leadership formulates policies and processes that promote consistent safeguarding behaviors and programmatic practices. The emphasis here is that KGPS is less a program than a "way of church life" enacted by all adult members, that brings about safety for all church members.

Budget Line Items for 2017-2018: Background Checks: As needed-very rare Materials and Resources \$0 Budget Line Items for 2018-2019 will remain the same.

Compliance numbers: 2016-21 parishioners and staff completed training. 2017-16 parishioners and staff completed training and in 2018 we trained or re-trained 9. We are currently at 100 compliance with training which will continue to be offered ongoing throughout the church year. Training and class participation is required every 5 years by those who work with youth, are in leadership positions and who participate in our services. A big thank-you to everyone who supports and participates in this valuable program!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEES, Cynthia Victor

New Member Ministry: The year started strong with 5-6 members and there were 3 official meetings held. The group began utilizing the Invite/Welcome/Connect program. The group utilized various forms of advertising (moo cards, flyers, pamphlets, brochures) to invite new members. A new Visitors pew card was created to welcome new members. The ushers and greeters were enlisted to welcome all newcomers in a more formal fashion. About mid year, it

became difficult to get meetings scheduled. However, a few things were accomplished: Additional updated church brochures were created, moo cards were handed out for holidays services and 3 large banners were created to advertise the explore God series in January. Currently there is no active group working within this ministry. We are looking for someone to be the point person in 2019.

Church Photography: Lee Kolodziej continues to do a great job capturing the important moments in our church community!

Heartbeat Newsletter

The Heartbeat Newsletter is one of the ways that St. Charles Episcopal Church's communicates to his members and friends. Newsletters are a standard item in most churches. Our newsletter is published monthly. Information in The Heartbeat is gathered mostly by email, but articles can be left in the mail slot near the offices. The Heartbeat contains some regular features: a note from the rector, fellowship meal information, fundraisers, worship schedule changes, and vestry reports. I have noticed over the past year or so that the number and variety of articles submitted for publication has dropped considerably. I used to put out a 12-16 page newsletter on a regular basis. That has dropped to 6-8 pages, with some filler content put in to make printing easier. The number of pages of an electronic file isn't important, but when printing, it is easiest to have a page number that is a factor of 4. Therefore I have been often adding a "Kids Page" or adding Diocesan/National/International Church news to fill space. I have been editing the newsletter for more than eight years and have recently taken on other duties within my ministry with The Order of the Daughters of the King and plan to retire from editing the newsletter at the end of the school year, 2019. I informed the rector and the vestry of my plans in late Summer, 2018 and have repeatedly advertised the fact that I am looking to mentor a replacement. So far, no one has stepped up. If you are interested, please contact me. Respectfully submitted,

Carol Townsend

PARISH LIFE & PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEES, Phyllis Otto

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Kathy Hari, Ministry Leader

This ministry speaks volumes when one receives a prayer shawl or afghan that comforts them in the time in their life when everything is crazy due to sickness, birth of a baby, death of a loved one, or missing your family when away at school. In 2018 we provided 9 prayer shawls and 6 afghans for our graduating high school students. There are currently 7 active members knitting and crocheting for this important ministry. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, please join us on the 1st Thursday of the month in Ludtke Hall or contact Kathy Hari for more information.

Y.E.S. St. Patty's Lunch – Kathy Hari, Ministry Leader

2018 was our 15th celebration of the Youthful Episcopal Seniors St Patty's Lunch. The food was wonderful thanks to our resident chefs Matt Rhead and Chris Trotta. The Foy School of Irish Dance provided us with awesome Irish dancing. In attendance were 34 (21 YES members) adults, 2 kids, and for a total of 36 people who were served the

traditional Corn Beef Dinner. About 15 volunteers total are required to make this event a success. If more people attended, ticket sales would pay for it, unfortunately that rarely happens so the church is responsible for picking up the deficit. Younger volunteers are needed as more members of our parish qualify as YES members (60+) for this to continue without asking the YES members to work an event geared toward honoring them for all their service to the church. Mark your calendars for March 17th for our next St. Patty's luncheon. Contact Kathy Hari.

Home Eucharistic Ministry – Kathy Thompson, Ministry Leader

Our Home Eucharistic Ministry continues in earnest. This year, we did some reorganizing of how we do things, in keeping with our Keeping God's People Safe initiative. The ministers gathered early in the year to discuss making the ministry more efficient and effective. Home visits are now done in pairs, and each pair was assigned to a regular slot on our schedule. The pairs make a regular monthly visit to a long time homebound parishioner. Rev. Stacy has made a number of hospital visits with communion to our parishioners, and requests ministers to make additional visits as the need arises. The ability to use phone/email/text methods of communication, combined with the flexibility of our ministry team, has enabled us to work effectively together to serve those who are unable to celebrate the Eucharist with us each Sunday. Thanks to all of our ministers for their faithful service: Jim Bachman, Jody Rullman, Laura Graf, Janet Craft, Katie Thomson.

This ministry reaches out to people in our parish who need some short-term help with meals.

Christmas Cookie Express

Thanks to Candace Moline for the 2nd annual "Christmas Cookie Express". 10 bakers supplied Christmas cookies for 13 recipients and the nursing home. Melinda Oakey hosted a Christmas Cookie Express cookie baking party at her house. She hopes to make this a yearly event.

Healing Prayer Ministry

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any of you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:13,14

The Healing Prayer Team offers prayers for healing, laying on of hands and anointing on the fourth Sunday of each month at all services. Monthly

meetings included prayers for healing and study using *Contemplative Healing: The Congregation as Healing Community*, (Geddes, F., 2011).

Highlights 2018

Ministry Charter, the first since transitioning to a parish-based Ministry
from a Chapter of the Order of St. Luke

Special Healing Prayer Liturgies, August: message and prayers focused on
healing ministry of Jesus. Opportunity to be prayed with by Rev. Stacy
and healing prayer team. Look forward to another Special Healing

Liturgies, Lent 2019.

Partnering with Home Eucharistic Ministry

Home Eucharistic Ministry (HEM) and Healing Prayer Team (HPT) met in December to explore partnering between these two ministries with overlapping purposes and members. A first step will be offering Prayers for Healing when taking the Eucharist to home bound members.

Janet S. Craft

Labyrinth Ministry

The labyrinths of St. Charles Episcopal Church continue to be a vital part of the contemplative ministry of the church. We host an open walk at noon on the second Saturday of every month; all who wish to come and walk are welcome. These walks are most often taken on the outdoor labyrinth, with some walks occurring indoors on our canvas labyrinth if weather conditions warrant. We also have a large wooden finger labyrinth in the library for use at any time. The outdoor labyrinth is available during daylight hours year-round, so please feel free to come and walk it whenever you wish. The indoor canvas labyrinth is available for rental by any group interested in using this powerful archetype for prayer and meditation. The cost for outside groups is \$150 for a week's rental; the fee is waived for parishioners. There is no wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Labyrinths have been used for centuries as an aid to prayer. We encourage you to try out this active form of meditation. For more information on labyrinths in general or our labyrinth ministry in particular, please contact Carol Townsend.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Townsend

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES, Katie Richardson

Buildings & Grounds Report

Buildings (Rich Foster)

There have been many minor repairs occurring throughout the church buildings this year. Several minor repairs were made to the rector's house. Minor plumbing issues were fixed, including a new sump pump, and repairs to the dishwasher. In addition the flat roof over the sacristy was repaired.

Grounds (Lee Kolodziej)

The biggest news this year is that we have a new look to our sign out front. It was a temporary fix until we come up with something new, as our old sign was too expensive and not worth the money to repair back to its original state.

Fundraising

A fun, new idea the Fundraising Committee worked on in 2018 didn't come from our committee, but from Warden Katie Thomson! Her suggestion to have a catered barbecue was a hit! What was most exciting was the interest from outside the parish--seeing so many non-parishioners drive up to the BBQ. We learned something valuable from that experience--with SCEC's visibility on Rt. 25 we have an opportunity for more fundraising and evangelism with the community. Pairing this with the ministry fair, a good time seemed to be had by all, we heard comments about the tasty food and netted \$477. Based on this success, expect a catered barbecue again this year. Keep bringing on the new ideas!

A highlight of the year was our annual rummage sale under the experienced leadership of Marina Morrow. Our biggest fundraiser, it was highly successful again, netting \$2,562, while serving many in the community. After many years of service, Marina would like to step back, but she and others are willing to consult and support you, so please let us know if you'd like to help.

We try to be aware of fundraising fatigue--avoiding going back to you over and over for money. Thus, the challenge has been how to obtain more funds from the community at large. We have had success in the past with our popular cooking classes, sometimes getting as many as 75% of our attendees from outside the church. (Unfortunately we've had trouble lately finding a professional chef to volunteer to lead this, so if you know of someone interested, please let us know.)

Thanks to the suggestion of Dan and Jan Hoffman, our every-other-month fellowship meals offered more fellowship in 2018. They suggested that we try to coordinate a time when a number of us can plan to have dinner together, so now those who are interested shoot for about 5 p.m., making it all the more fun. We netted \$800 on fellowship meals, thanks to your support and our restaurant sponsors.

Our gift card sale set a recent record, netting \$602. Special thanks go out to Mark and Lydia Downey for their time-saving database help, and to Cory Blane for placing the order. We also had another successful frozen pizza sale, netting \$140. We are the clearinghouse for church fundraising events so if you have an event in mind, kindly let us know so we can help you avoid schedule conflicts and have success.

Thanks to your support we had another successful fundraising year. Our net grand total for the year was \$4,581. Thank you to the Fundraising Committee of Charles Boerner, Regan Jancauskas, Marina Morrow, and Fay Viverito, as well as Tara Osborne and Kathy Mertes for publicity and vestry rep Katie Richardson. To join the Fundraising Committee, or offer yourself for leadership of the committee, and have fun while making a difference at SCEC, contact committee chair Bo Smith at 630-263-9512, bosmith99@aol.com, or any committee member.

Treasurers Report

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial health of the parish. The committee is comprised of the treasurer (Holly Parks), the rector, (The Rev. Stacy Walker), one of the wardens (both wardens, Katie Thompson and Dallas Heikkinen, attended meetings) and past treasurers Rich Foster, Andrew McCullough, and Tom Miller.

This year we focused some of our efforts on creating policies to stream line activities and incorporate good accounting processes. We formalized and presented to the Vestry for their approval a Bidding Procedure and a Gift Acceptance Policy. Both were approved by the Vestry and are now in the "Policy Book."

We began work on the Endowment Fund Policy and through the course of our work we decided we needed more information from people who were around when we originally received the endowment. We have since found out what we need to know and will begin to finalize the policy in 2019. We also worked on an Approved Vendor List. This is an on-going project and will be our focus early in 2019.

We ended the year with a surplus of \$5,929.72. This surplus came as a result of some people paying more on their pledges in 2018, the Christmas Appeal, which netted us \$38,414.08, and an early 2019 pledge payment of \$6,000.00. Thank you to all who made contributions for the Christmas Appeal. We have a very generous and faithful parish.

The year-to-date numbers are:

Income	\$318,875.81
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$312,946.09</u>
Surplus	\$ 5,929.72

We started the budgeting process in June so we would have a better idea of our needs for 2019. This was communicated to the parish in the stewardship drive. The 2019 budget will also have a fairly sizable deficit. The main reason is due to the loan principle and interest payments. We will pay off the parking lot loan in 2019, and are scheduled to payoff the rectory renovation loan in 2020 and the mortgage in 2021.

Prayerfully submitted,
Holly Parks
Treasurer



Service	Worship	Education	Evangelism	Pastoral & Congregational Care	Stewardship
Jill	Kristin	Bill	Cynthia	Phyllis	Katie
Feeding Ministries Free Spaghetti Dinner (Kathy Hari) Heses House (Karen & Bob Madura) Sandwich Board (Dottie Finatri) Lazarus House /USUG (Dallas Heikkinen) Jobs Ministry (Bo Smith) Fox River Valley Initiative (Dallas Heikkinen) Drives: Backpacks for U-46 (Katie Thomson) CROP Walk (Kathy Heikkinen) Heses House Starter Kit (Becky Kruse) Salvation Army Angel Tree (Katie Ditch) Salvation Army Bell Ringers (Rich Foster) Facilities are used by outside groups: Boy Scouts Troop 25 AA (several) Al-Anon Fox Valley Knitter's Guild Yellow House Artists Guild	Worship Liturgical ministries LEM Acolytes 9:00 Hosts Lectors/ Intercessors (Bo Smith) Ushers/ Greeters (Ed Manning) Altar Guild (Jody Rullman & Diana Brown) Altar Bread (Sarah O'Connor) Flower Guild (Sarah T) Banner committee (Charles) Adult Choir (Mark D) Viva Voce (Mark D) Music librarian (Regan Jancauskas) Healing prayer HEM (Katie T.)	KGPS (Katie Ditch) Children & Youth Formation (Kathy Hari) ETM (Katie Thomson) Vacation Bible School (open) Adult Formation (Katie T.) Sacrament (Baptism, First Communion, Confession, Confirmation) Preparation (Rev. Stacy)	Newcomers program (Cynthia Victor) Worship in the community (Rev. Stacy) Communications (Kathy Heikkinen) Newsletter (Carol T) Website Bulletin Boards Public Relations (Tara Osborn) Church Directory Facebook Chamber of Commerce Master Calendar (Martin) Church Photographer (Lee)	Columbarium (Larry Engel) Prayer Shawl Ministry (Kathy Hari) St. Patrick Lunch (Kathy Hari) Y.E.S. (Kathy Mertes) Labyrinth (Carol Townsend) Mens' Group (Bo Smith) Fellowship Easter Egg Hunt (Bill Yeck) Coffee Hour 11:00 (Hubers) Easter Brunch (Hubers.) Fall Kickoff Sunday (?) End of Year (Phyllis Otto, Bill Yeck) Xmas Eve Receptions: Early service (?) Late Service (Hubers) Lessons/Carols (?) Sacrament Celebrations (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation) (Kathy H. - cake, Holly P. - towels, t-shirt ?) Funeral Receptions (Kristen Balisi) Daughters of the King (Katie Thomson & Carol Townsend) Sr. High Youth Group (Tara Osborne) Emergency meals (LA Barnes/Thomson) Peg's Mission (Peg Petersen) Christmas Cookie Express (Candace Moline)	Buildings (Rich Foster) <i>Buildings:</i> Cleaning Carpet & Floor cleaning Maintenance Schedule Rectory maintenance Grounds (Lee Kolodziej) Parking lot Lights Sign Mowing Snow removal Landscaping Labyrinth Planters (?) Fundraising (Bo Smith) Finance (Holly Parks) Audit Comm (Jim Bachman) Stewardship (VACANT) Planned giving Capital campaign Administration (Martin) Office supplies Equipment