

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

The 72nd Annual Parish Meeting

January 19, 2020



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

The Rev. Stacy A. Walker, Rector



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St. Charles Episcopal Church

72nd Annual Meeting Agenda

January 19, 2020

Call to Order

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

Appointment of Clerk

Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting January 20, 2019

Appointment of Treasurer

Election of Wardens and Vestry Candidates

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates (3) and Alternate Delegates (2)

(Nominations accepted from the floor)

- Bishop Electing Convention: Saturday, June 20, 2020 at St. James Cathedral, Chicago (“Walk abouts” to meet the candidates June 4-6, more details tba)
- Diocesan Convention:

SCEC Rule of Life

Rector’s Report

Welcome of New Friends and Members

Treasurer’s Report

Presentation of 2020 Budget

Celebration of Ministry

Recognition of those ending ministry service

Recognition of those starting ministry service

Recognition of those recommitting to ministry service

Closing Prayer

Ministry Review 2) Financial Health – deficit budget and debt have been present for years. We will be participating in the Mutual Benefit Campaign to help in this area. A capital campaign will be aided by our diocesan consultant, Jim Buggy. Dallas Heikkinen, Kristin Madden & Erik Balisi have been already trained. 3) Having a healthy & unified parish, especially by having 2 services on Sundays so we can come together. The Sunday Morning Task Force are Rev Stacy, Bill Yeck, Jill Mosshamer, BJ Griswald, Larry Engle, Karen Madura, Jan Hoffman, Diana Brown. Rev. Stacy concluded with saying that she is very grateful to be here. After 2 years she feels her call here is to lead us into a healthy place, joining with many members who are working with her.

Holly reviewed the 2018 financial reports. Christmas Appeal was about \$39,000. 2018 began with a \$35,000 deficit. But Holly believes we should not worry about the future. God will provide. All ministries were moved into the budget so we can acknowledge that they are part of our mission, our life blood. Areas not covered by donations were still covered.

Holly presented the 2019 budget. Lizel Ulaszek asked about the Fundraising and children's & youth ministry data – there was a \$4,132 net profit for Fundraising, and Formation money was spent for supplies & end of the year recognition.

Tom Miller – What is proposed is a budget to cover the debt. Our debt is “killing us

Becky Kruse – snow removal (it's paid per push) at \$750; we have a 5-year contract with the current provider.

Katie Ditch – Emergency fund? (we have one); we are working on being pro-active, so we use our building funds before emergencies arise.

Jim Hari – How much do we owe? 3 loans: \$129,842; Line of Credit will be paid off in August; mortgage in 2020; rectory

Larry Engel – Are capital campaign funds are in the 2019 budget? (no) A portion of what we would raise would go to the diocese endowment. Common Mission Share from diocese is based on plate; we're only paying 5% of what we're asked to in this budget. We did increase our giving this year. This is separate from the capital campaign. Flowers will be used less often on the altar? Yes, due to less participation in the Flower Guild.

Fay Viverito – Isn't the parking lot paid for? Cost overruns from the City of St Charles put us over.

Connie Copeland – Purpose of capital campaign? We will decide this as part of the parish discernment process. Members will have “cottage meetings” and trained to do that in the next month or so.

Jim Hari – Number of active members? Parochial report not completed

Pledging units? About 65 of the 102 requested. Number of members lost/moved?

Rob Ulaszek moved & Bill Yeck 2nd acceptance of 2018 report.

love to stay active by weightlifting, fitness classes, jogging and cycling. Katie and I love to travel, and we hope that one day our family will continue to grow as our children mature and have lives of their own. Over the years, I have been an active participant in many programs including Senior High youth leadership, Middle School teacher, Confirmand Sponsor, Hesed House volunteer, Cursillo attendee and volunteer, Spaghetti Supper helper, Buildings and Grounds projects, Stewardship, Senior High mission trip fundraising, and the Rummage sale. I am excited to continue to work for the benefit of our church as your Junior Warden.

Bio for Diana Brown

My husband Doug and I have been members of St. Charles Episcopal Church for over thirty years. I have served on the Altar Guild, as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Clerk of the Vestry, and assisted in fundraising, youth formation, and office support. Six years ago, I retired as St. Charles Public Library Director, but have continued to be active in several local service and cultural organizations. Very recently, I realized that my involvement in those organizations, as worthy as they are, was preventing my being more deeply committed to the church that has been such a sustaining and nourishing presence and power in my life. If I am fortunate to serve on the Vestry, I hope I can offer my support to our church as it faces challenges and change, as it has supported me in my personal journey of life and faith.

Bio for Candace Moline

St. Charles Episcopal Church is my church home. My parents were founders of this parish and I was raised in these pews. This is the place I was married, baptized my son and buried my half-brother and my parents. During my earlier adult life I was a member of St. John's in Naperville and St. Mark's in Geneva. Eight years ago my personal life changed, and I decided that as I approached retirement from teaching second grade in D303 I wanted to belong to a faith community where I felt more in harmony. At St. Charles I have found a wonderful priest, and a caring and dedicated congregation who focus on their faith; melding mission with practice. I have participated in altar guild, formation, Hesed House ministry, EFM, and fellowship.

I am deeply invested in the future of this church and am willing to serve on vestry.

In 2020, I would like to see us continue to focus on a variation of these areas for the past year: Healthy Communication and Evangelism, Healthy Stewardship, and Healthy Sunday morning and other Fellowship.

First a guiding verse for **Healthy Communication and Evangelism**: from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:3-4 *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interest, but to the interests of others."* It is time for us to focus on communication of who we are and why someone would want to be a part of what God is up to at SCEC. We are not a large parish, but we are not as small as some might think. An organized effort of communicating with new friends and new members is needed. An organized effort of networking and advertising our assets to the wider St. Charles and Fox River Valley communities is needed. Better signage in and around the building. Designing and promoting events that are of interest to our neighbors, such as our annual Blessing of the Animals, Advent Lessons and Carols, and Taize services. But we could do much, much more: events with our Labyrinths (outdoor and indoor), Blessing of the Bicycles, the options are primarily limited by our lack of imagination and inward focus. As Paul encouraged the Philippians, so I encourage us: look not to our own interest, but to the interests of others. **In 2020 a functioning and creative evangelism committee is needed, not only for the interests of our parish, but to serve the people whom Jesus is calling to follow him.**

Second, a guiding verse for **Healthy Stewardship**: from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 3:8-9 *"The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."* I am counting on each and every one of you and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to successfully complete our Light the Way capital campaign. Beyond financial pledges, I ask you to be a faithful supporter of this work of improving our financial health and improving our physical plant to the glory of God and the sharing of the good news of life in Christ Jesus. Be an encouraging voice, a curious voice, a willing voice. Refrain from negativity, criticism, and sowing discontent.

Continuing with the theme of **Healthy Stewardship**, I am so grateful for the service of Holly Parks as our parish Treasurer for the past three years. Holly will be resigning from the position of parish Treasurer at the end of 2020. The Vestry and I will be discerning who to call as our next parish Treasurer beginning in early 2020. I ask that you seriously consider if you have gifts for this ministry of managing the parish finances. The Treasurer does not work alone, s/he has the support of the parish administrative assistant, a payroll support person, and the finance committee. Not to mention the Rector and Vestry.

Finally, I want us to continue to grow into the goal of a **Healthy Sunday morning and other times of Fellowship**. Moving from three services to two services on a Sunday was a huge decision for good health as a congregation. Now we need to take a closer look at how

REPORT OF THE DEACON, REV. STEVE LOWE

December 23, 2019

Dear Friends,

I am writing this report just two days shy of celebrating our 1st Christmas together in the Parish. At the end of December 2019, Lela and I will have been here for 5 months. It has been a quick 5 months. Let me say from the start, we are happy to be here. My new diaconal assignment is truly an answer to prayer, especially for Reverend Stacy and myself. Thank You, Thank You for being so welcoming.

Feeding Ministries

The Rector and I have agreed that my primary emphasis will be our three Feeding Ministries: The Free Spaghetti Dinner, Hesed House and the Sandwich Board. Great conversations have taken (and more to follow) place with regard to these ministries. What do I see as my role? Two primary focuses: #1. Be a good listener to the Ministry heads; #2. An encourager. Listening in terms of ministry strengths, weaknesses and concerns. Encouragement in terms of serving Christ in the world.

Healing Prayer Ministry

Lela and I are now part of the Healing Prayer ministry team. We meet monthly to pray, study and plan. When it comes to prayer, I have a six-word question: **How Can I Pray for You?** Only six words but very profound in the terms of our prayer life.

Some of you may not realize that as a “Vocational Deacon”, I cannot be paid by the Parish for my diaconal ministry. Remember that Bishops, priests and deacons all have different ministries within the Church. This applies also to the Parish. Reverend Stacy and I have different ministries, but we work together to bring Christ to the world.

Within a month of the Annual Meeting, I will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of my ordination as a Deacon. It will be an absolute joy to celebrate this occasion with St Charles Episcopal Church.

God also blessed us with Deacon Steve Lowe and his lovely wife Lela this year. I told him that it feels like he has always been here even though he really just arrived. They bring a joy for serving others that also exemplifies our church's Mission.

I am truly blessed to be part of this church family and I am ready and willing to continue my service as Senior Warden in 2020.

Sincerely,

Kristin Madden

S.W.E.E.P.S. 2019 SERVICE REPORTS

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS- JILL MOSSHAMER

Free Spaghetti Dinner

Free Spaghetti Dinner celebrated our 10th year in operation (started in 3/2009). This year we served 1721 plates (averaging 144/month) including take-outs (decrease of 17% from last year). To date we have served approximately 17,445 plates of spaghetti and meatballs. FSD took in \$1,641.00 (decreased earnings by -23% vs. 2018) as free will offering and donated \$171.00 to SCEC operations. The expenses were up 23% at \$2,434.38 resulting in a negative balance of (\$793.38). Our corporate sponsor Felecia's Deli & Meat Market of Elk Grove Village continues to donate 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 and this year the NHS students are excited about volunteering. Lazarus House benefits from our abundance when available. Of course, this is only possible with the dedicated volunteers whom cook, bake, set-up, serve and cleanup. Thanks to all who have participated from our Parish and those from the area neighborhoods in making Free Spaghetti Dinner a priority to keep this vital ministry a staple in our community. Currently, there are 7 churches/ communities that offer free meals each month. We appreciate all your hard work and thanks for your support. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to serve, cook, bake, set-up or cleanup, please contact Kathy Hari or Dallas Heikkinen.

Fox River Valley Initiative (FRVI)

Since SCEC is a member of FRVI, SCEC parishioners are eligible to participate in the organization's action teams. There are 17 religious and civic institutions which are an affiliate of the Industrial Area Foundation, part of the oldest and largest network of broad-based citizen organizations in the country, funded by member dues and donations. Current SCEC members include Dallas and Kathy Heikkinen, Laura Graf, Rev. Stacy, Ed Manning, Jill Mosshamer, and Hugh Robinson, who attended the December 5th Leaders meeting at SCEC, where there was a large attendance of other members. Focus was on establishing key relationships needed to move forward and the key issues that continue to need action – focus has been on decriminalization of mental health issues, crisis intervention training, crisis stabilization units, affordable housing, and strategies around gun policies. The next meeting is Jan. 28th, 2020 at 6:30 pm, and then a local action meeting is scheduled for Sun, March 15 at 4 pm., which needs 200-300 people (places TBD). There is also a 2-day Leadership Training scheduled for Feb 15 & 16. Every participating individual is highly encouraged to at least attend the 2-day training.

Drives:

- Backpacks for U-46

Katie Thompson reported in 2019 SCEC and other organizations increased the number of backpacks distributed to 1,900.

- Salvation Army Angel Tree

Organized by Katie Ditch, 50 children will receive Christmas gifts from St Charles Episcopal Church donors.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers:

For the past 7 years Rich Foster has led the Salvation Army Bell Ringers, but in 2019 Bo Smith took the lead organizing our parish volunteers for this important ministry. SCEC has 9 volunteers who will be ringing the bell for Salvation Army on Saturday, December 14th from 10am to 7pm. The 14th of December is Match Day, when at least one local company will match whatever our volunteers collect. The Salvation Army uses the funds raised by our Bell Ringers to help those in need in the Tri Cities area. These funds provide essential services such as rent assistance, heat, food, pantry items, computer training, low cost after school and summer day camp programs, clothes and toys during the holiday season, and much more.

Home Eucharist Ministers

Home Eucharistic Ministers take communion regularly each month to 4 members of our faith community who are unable to attend the weekly services. Additional visits are arranged as needed and is communicated to the team by Rev. Stacy. For the second consecutive year, the schedule for HEMs is made/distributed one year in advance. Member include: Jim Bachman, Mike Ditch, Janet Craft, Jan Hoffman, Laura Graf, Jody Rullman and Katie Thomson.

Acolytes

Acolytes are a vital part of our service, serving as crucifer, as well as altar duties as needed by our rector and deacon. We have a small team of youth and adults who serve each week and are looking to expand our roster. If you are interested or even intrigued by this ministry, please contact Rev. Stacy for details and/or training.

Intercessors

The intercessor's ministry at SCEC at the late service is a little different from what you may find at other Episcopal churches- intentionally. It truly is the prayers of the people, as we spread the prayers around the congregation. Multiple member surveys over the years have found this to be a popular aspect of the late service. Intentional pauses allow for added individual prayer and reflection. Thank you to Kathy Heikkinen, Regan Jancauskas, Bo Smith, Katie Thomson, Carole Woods and Bob Huber for their faithful service.

The early service Prayers of the People will be led by Deb Sturges, Diana Brown, Maria Owen, Kathy Mertes and Regan Jancauskas. Volunteers are always welcome; if you are interested or just curious about this ministry, contact Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

EDUCATION COMMITTEES REPORT-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 Emma Foran was named the Ludtke Scholar. The senior high Summer Service project was different and impactful as they were in inner Chicago. The high school provided their insights into God as they shared their experiences with us the Sunday Morning after their project.

The Confirmation class has been a joy to experience. Their retreat, service projects and the sharing of the Bible verses shares what the youth can do within our church and community.

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 Explore God and our questions as Christians. This sharing within our parish strengthens our bonds in community and with Christ.

Adult Education is becoming a strength within our parish. Many types of spirituality are available to our adult parishioners. Book studies, small groups, retreats, and guest speakers have blessed us this year.

My final thank you is to Kathy Heikkinen for volunteering to lead the Children and Youth formation.

Children and Youth Education (Kathy Heikkinen)

Candace Moline is the lead teacher and excited about teaching "Godly Play" for the Primary class. Regan Jancauskas subs when Candace is unavailable. The other teachers for this class are Laura Graf, and Phyllis Otto. There is 1 student regularly attending with 1 student visiting often.

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, Linda Boerner, Dallas Heikkinen, Lee Kolodziej, Lela Lowe and Kristin Madden. There are 7 students enrolled.

Rev Stacy leads the Confirmation Class (7th & 8th) on a two-year commitment. Katie Richardson and Bill Yeck assist in leadership duties. There are 4 students. All students will be

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.

Compliance numbers: 2016-21 parishioners and staff completed training, 2017-16 parishioners and in 2018 we trained or re-trained 9. We did not have training in 2019. In Early 2020 there will be training for 3 new teachers for 2019 and new Vestry members in 2020. 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 COMMITTEE REPORT -CYNTHIA VICTOR

The Evangelism arm of the Sweeps group is made up of The Communications Committee, The New Member Ministry, Worship in the Community and Church Photography.

Major Updates in 2019:

- **Communications:** This was the last year for the eNewsletter, which ended in May of 2019; It has been replaced by a more robust Pulse that goes out weekly by email and in the Sunday church bulletin. The Facebook page has been used more broadly to advertise happenings at church and we routinely get new views each month. It also seems to be more active among church members. Kathy Heikkinen requested money for a website designer. This was brought before the vestry for discussion in March/April.
- **New Member Ministry:** This ministry has been at a standstill in 2019. No point person was ever found to lead this ministry. An attempt at gathering some possible members was initiated but a date to meet was never agreed upon. The Invite/Welcome/Connect program is a good program and we have utilized some of its ideas but more needs to be flushed out. A core group of ministry members will be needed to get this program back up and running. (six persons would be ideal with one of them be the point person). As the vestry liaison to this ministry, I made sure the new church members in 2018 were recognized at the annual meeting in January 2019. I provided information to the Admin. Asst. on how to create new brochures for the new church schedule – as our previous ones had become outdated. I also provided the mock-up for the new visitor cards for the pews. I helped create Moo (advertising) cards for the Easter services and then

considering starting a DOK chapter. There are two women from SCEC currently going through the discernment process. It is anticipated that they will be admitted in early 2020.

Men's Group (Bo Smith)

Did you know there's a men's group at SCEC that meets weekly to explore and share your faith and help you along your faith journey? Gentlemen, you are invited!

Launched out of the Cursillo movement 12 years ago as a reunion group, the group has evolved over the years, and is now open to all SCEC men. It meets every Wednesday from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the church library.

We recently tested the waters with a 7 p.m. meeting on a Friday, as we've had a little feedback that some men aren't able to make it until later. Let us know if this is something you'd like to continue occasionally.

A lot of faithful sharing goes on, and your presence can make it even more so. As in Las Vegas, what's said in men's group stays in men's group. We hope you'll be able to attend. Drop in anytime. No commitment required. Questions? Contact Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

* A few of our SWEEPS-area ministries are currently inactive: the Y.E.S. (Young Episcopal Seniors) group; Peg's Mission; the Senior High Youth Group.

* Our other Pastoral and Congregational Care ministries are functioning well and offering timely and important hospitality, fellowship, and "special occasions" support for our congregation and community.

*A Hospitality Committee will be formed in early 2020. The purpose of this committee will be to enhance communications and better share responsibilities for hospitality throughout all aspects of parish life. Contact: Bob Huber.

YES St. Patty's Lunch (Kathy Hari)— 2019 was our 16th celebration of the Youthful Episcopal Seniors St Patty's Lunch. The food was wonderful thanks to our resident chefs Matt Rhead and Chris Trotta. "Accordion Bob" provided music for our listening pleasure. In attendance were 49 (28 YES members) adults, 5 kids, and for a total of 54 people who

- ~ replaced numerous ceiling light bulbs,
- ~ Cleaned the church gutters,
- ~ Installed ridge vent on sanctuary roof,
- ~ Evaluated church soffits,

We accomplished many projects this year with many important ones still needing work to commence. Specifically maintenance projects that need to be done to keep God's House safe and comfortable for the hundreds of people that use it on a weekly basis

Fundraising Committee (Bo Smith)

Keep an eye out for an exciting, new cooking class in 2020. Thanks to Cynthia Victor and Fox Valley Food for Health, the Fundraising Committee is re-launching its popular cooking class. Many of you may remember fun cooking classes with parishioner Chef Mike Zema (assisted by Chris Trotta) before he moved to Florida. We have been challenged to find a professional chef to volunteer since. The good news is through a partnership with Fox Valley Food for Health, the cooking class is returning! Not familiar with FVFFH? It is a nonprofit that provides healthy meals from professional chefs for the seriously ill, while empowering teens. We want to help them get the word out about what they do, and they are going to help us by volunteering a professional chef to lead the class. We'll split the proceeds. Watch your Pulse for further details.

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 cooking class, sometimes getting as many as 75% of our attendees from outside the church. That's why re-launching the cooking class is important.

Despite the antics of Mother Nature, we had another successful barbecue led by Team FIB. The rain hindered support from outside the parish, but thanks to your support (and a generous, anonymous community donor), the church still netted \$475, similar to last year. And we had fun! Another BBQ will be planned in 2020, with better cooperation from the weather appreciated.

The most important fundraiser of the year is our annual rummage sale. Under the experienced leadership of Marina Morrow, it was highly successful again, netting \$2,281, 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. Regan, Charles and Bo took on a bigger role this year. Please let us know if you'd like to help.

2. Funding the Endowment with undesignated memorial funds now and in the future.
3. Putting all new memorial donations into the Endowment fund unless otherwise designated with approval of the Vestry. (Note: the Vestry needs to work on an approved list of Memorial Fund designations per the Designated Fund Policy submitted and approved last year.)
4. Moving existing undesignated memorial funds over to the Endowment over a 5-year period as we are able so that our memorial funds are working for us.

Emergency Fund Usage

To be used for unforeseen, unbudgeted things that must be done and are not covered by insurance. Deferred maintenance does not constitute an emergency.

Gift Acceptance Policy

A Gift Acceptance Policy was presented to the Vestry previously (I believe in 2016 or 2017) but there wasn't any record of the Vestry voting to approve it. We presented a slightly edited version to the Vestry.

Policy for getting bids

This policy is to ensure that we are following protocol that will prevent fraud when bidding out projects for the church.

All these policies were approved by the Vestry and can be found in SharePoint. The Vestry is working on providing access to paper copies of these policies as well.

In 2019 we paid off the loan for the parking lot in August. Two loans remain – a mortgage loan that was taken to do bathroom renovations and the rectory renovation loan. We are in the process of refinancing/renewing these two loans. It is the hope that we will be able to pay off these loans with proceeds from our capital campaign. The balance due on the mortgage is \$64,490.40 and on the Rectory Renovation it is \$24,683.15.

The Christmas Appeal brought in \$21,185.96 for which \$15,000 was matched, bringing the total to \$37,185.96. The \$15,000 was deposited in January so it does not appear in our financials for 2019.

We ended the year with a deficit of \$14,788.20. This was covered by the \$15,000 that was deposited in 2020. This is amazing but not surprising. God provides! Thank you all for your generous support of the work and ministries of St. Charles Episcopal Church.