



THE CHURCH
OF ST. PAUL IN
THE DESERT

82nd Annual Parish Meeting

January 31, 2021

Mission Statements

God has invited us to share the abundant life of Jesus Christ through the *Church of St. Paul in the Desert* by serving Christ in others and by gathering to praise and thank God in worship. We are a welcoming, empowering, supportive community.

***The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego* is a missionary community that dares to follow Jesus Christ in his life of fearless love for the world.**

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Agenda for the 82nd Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2021

- I. Call to Order Steve Moore, Sr. Warden
- II. Opening Prayer The Rev. Canon David Caffrey
- III. Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory
- IV. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 2020
- V. Presentation of the Annual Budget for 2021
- VI. Nominating Committee Nominees for Vestry:
 John Hampson, 3-year term
 Kathy Kilmer, 3-year term
 Ben Palmer, 3-year term
 Ray Tackett, 3-year term
- VII. Election of New Vestry Members
- VIII. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members:
 Raffael Alberto, (remaining as treasurer), Bonnie Stroock, Clinton Carbon,
 Kathy Kilmer, (completing 1 year appointment)
- IX. Transition Committee Clinton Carbon, Convener
- X. Sr. Warden's Report Steve Moore
- XI. The Rector's Report Fr. David Caffrey
- XII. Introduction of 2021 Vestry and Sr. Warden
- XIII. Closing Prayer Fr. David Caffrey
- XIV. Adjournment



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore; let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise: grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, ser - ving thee whom we a - dore.

Church of St. Paul in the Desert
Minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:37 AM by Senior Warden Peter Di Carlo.
- II. The Rev. Canon David Caffrey offered the opening prayer.
- III. Meg Irwin-Brandon led the congregation in singing Hymn 594.
- IV. The minutes from the 80th Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.
- V. Treasurer Raffaele Alberto reported that for 2019 the parish had total revenue of \$548,224 and expenses were \$568,695. Net operating loss was \$20,471, however, with investment income factored in, 2019 ended the year with final net income of \$23,470. In 2020, the Finance Committee has budgeted \$526,750 with anticipated revenue of \$525,702. With the addition of investment income, 2020 is projected to end with net income of \$7,952. Raffaele mentioned that for 2020, pledge income to-date is below projections.
- VI. Senior Warden Peter Di Carlo who chaired the Vestry Nominating Committee introduced four candidates, all of whom would serve three-year terms: Christopher Butler, Alex Christensen, Johnny Miller, and Steve Moore.
- VII. The Senior Warden asked for any additional nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to close the nominations. The new Vestry members were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
- VIII. Canon Caffrey thanked the four Vestry members who were retiring after three years: Tim Stein-Steele, Marcus Fuller, Jim Panos, and Peter Di Carlo. Canon Caffrey expressed his appreciation and that of the congregation for Peter's service as Senior Warden during the parish's time of transition.
- IX. The Senior Warden introduced Clinton Carbon, the Convener of the Transition Committee that will conduct the Parish Profile and the search for a new rector. Clinton introduced Gary Scott who is coordinating the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey which will be available online or by hard copy from February 16 until March 7. He stated that all parishioners over 16 may take the survey which is anonymous. The results of the CAT along with the Parish Profile questionnaire will be used by the Diocese to seek Rector candidates that are suitable for St. Paul's. Candidate resumes will be referred to the Transition Search Team which will vet possible choices and refer the prescribed number to the Vestry for review and eventual call of the next Rector. The Transition Committee teams were introduced, and the members stood to be commissioned by Canon Caffrey. The Parish Profile Team members are Stan Bisho and Mary Mann, Co-chairs; Brian Blueskye, editor; Julee Collins, Craig Ewing, Lena Granet, Dale McGhee, Gary Scott, and Roberto Thais. The Rector Search Team members are Audrey Spencer and Ed Walsh, Co-chairs; Dee Barton, Hap Blaisdell, Alexis Clark, Brian Evans, Tom Lutgen, Rick Tinsley, and Russ Uthe.
- X. Peter Di Carlo gave his final report as Senior Warden. He reviewed the year and thanked the Vestry and Junior Warden Br. John Charles for their support. He reported that the most significant event was the retirement of The Rev. Canon Andrew Green after 30+ years as Rector. He also mentioned the need to stay on top of maintenance issues common for an aging campus such as St. Paul's.
- XI. Canon Caffrey thanked the parish for their strong lay leadership. He stated that his three priorities as Interim Rector are as follows: religious education, liturgy and music, and pastoral care. He also announced that at the recommendation of the Diocese, The Rev. Patricia Horkey will be on staff one day a week to assist with pastoral needs because of his half-time schedule.
- XII. Canon Caffrey introduced the 2020 Vestry and announced that Steve Moore has agreed to serve as Senior Warden. The remaining officers of Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk will be elected by the Vestry.
- XIII. Canon Caffrey offered the closing prayer which was written by the Daughters of the King.
- XIV. The 81st Annual Meeting was adjourned by Senior Warden Peter Di Carlo at 11:22 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Stroock, Clerk

ST. PAUL'S IN THE DESERT
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

DATE: January 31, 2021

TOTAL CASH IN BANK: currently as of December 2020 = \$600,579

This amount includes approximately \$495,156 in reserves

During 2020: Additional Assets were purchased thus a usage of cash:

- Organ	\$75,000
(Funds contributed from Estate of Linda Curea)	
- Stove for Parish Hall	2,230
(50% was contributed by Well In The Desert)	
- Balance contributed from a Vestry Member	
- Office Furniture	873
- Video Streaming Equipment	5,371
- Computer Equipment	1,682

TOTAL -	\$85,156

2020 vs 2019

Our Final Income (Loss) for the year =2020 \$45,573 vs 2019 (20,470)

During 2020 there were one-time Gifts from two estates totaling: \$80,000

Income from pledged, non-pledge, and other offerings decreased by approximately \$(116,097) compared to last year. When including the blessing of the Estate Gifts our final income decreased by: \$(36,096). The Hodges Endowment Fund decreased in value from last year by \$(7,905) and as of December 31, 2020 is worth \$271,762. This decrease is not included in the Operating Income due to it is not related to operations.

As to the 2020 **Budget** – Gross income from donations not including the one-time estate gifts was \$(32,107) under budget. If we include the blessings of the estate gifts our gross income increased by \$47,893. During the year there were building maintenance costs of \$13,842 over budget mostly due to the additional cleaning procedures put in place from COVID restrictions.

Our total reserve funds included in the amounts previously disclosed are approximately: \$495,000
These funds are invested with BBVA Bank in CD's, Money Market and an annuity.

MOVING FORWARD TO 2021:

The budget for 2021 reflects an increase in Pledges/Donations of approximately: \$15,000 totaling \$326,500 which is equal to the pledges received to date. The Stewardship committee is still working on obtaining more pledges, their goal is: \$400,000. The balance of income is basically reflective of past years. There are a couple parishioners who remembered St. Paul's in their estates. Once funds are received St. Paul In the Desert's Finance Committee has recommended to start a Reserve for Capital Upkeep and Improvements, due to the age of our structures. Reflected in the 2021 budget are the normal annual increases to salaries/insurance/etc.

Church of St. Paul in the Desert
Consolidated Statement of Operations and Budget
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 and Budget 2021

	<u>2020</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021</u>
Revenue		
Pledges	300,346	326,500
Non-Pledged	106,594	76,332
Total Pledged & Non-Pledged	<u>\$ 406,940</u>	<u>\$ 402,832</u>
Gifts	2,565	5,876
One-Time Estate Gifts	80,000	110,000
Other	96,062	122,723
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 505,567</u>	<u>\$ 531,431</u>
Expenses:		
Programs /Worship	33,900	35,140
Mission Share/Diocese	59,226	59,292
Beyond the Parish-North Park	5,040	5,040
Administration	37,527	41,759
Property	115,981	99,375
Staff - Clergy	43,330	79,150
Staff - Layworkers	124,578	124,400
Staff - Benefits/Payroll Taxes	39,930	55,805
Rector Transition Expenses	482	25,000
	<u>\$ 459,994</u>	<u>\$ 524,961</u>
Net Operating (Loss)	45,573	6,470
60% (Cost) of Donated Home Until Final Closing in 2021	(6,775)	(2,135)
Investment Income/Unrealized Gain		
(Loss) on Investments	(7,905)	66
Interest/Dividend Income	5,835	5,527
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Final Net Income (Loss)	<u><u>\$ 36,728</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,928</u></u>

Church of St. Paul in the Desert
Consolidated Statement of Operations and Budget
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020 and Budget 2021

2020

Disbursements for Improvements/Capital

X	Organ for the Church	\$	75,000
X	(Funds from Estate of Linda Curea)		
	Video Stream Equipment		5,371
XX	Stove for Parsh Hall		2,230
XX	(Note: 50% donated by Well in the Desert/ Balance Donation from Vestry Member)		
Total Disbursements for Improvements		<u>\$</u>	<u>82,601</u>



Vestry Candidates

One of the main events of the Annual Parish Meeting is the election of our four Vestry members to serve until January 2024. A nominating committee has put prayer, thought and discussion into the slate of Candidates below.

John Hampson

My name is John Hampson. I was born in 1981 and started attending St. Paul in the Desert in 1984. Emile Duvernay trained me as an acolyte in 1993 and since then I have never stopped volunteering at St. Paul's. My assignments have included usher, alter guild, vestry, thurifer, chalice bearer and worship coordinator. I also became a Soccer referee in 1992 and have served as a board member of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) since 2002. Those charities have filled my life ever since. I have worked at Crown Meat & Provisions in Palm Springs for 17 years and am currently the HACCP Coordinator (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points). I work to facilitate food safety and quality assurance.

Kathy Kilmer

My name is Kathy Kilmer, and it is my privilege to serve the Church of St. Paul in the Desert in many ways. I was appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of another vestry person in August of 2019. That term expires in January 2021, and I am honored to be asked to run for a regular vestry position.

I am a cradle Episcopalian and moved to California from Upstate New York in 1980. I am a certified medical assistant and worked for a neurosurgeon for 27 years. After that I ran my own licensed home day care until 2013 when I retired. I have to say I sort of "failed" retirement and continued to work part-time at a couple local preschools, as well as doing private childcare until the pandemic hit. I became a member of St. Paul's in 1981 and served at St. Paul's during the ensuing years as a Sunday School teacher and Sunday School Coordinator for a period of about sixteen years. I have also served previous Vestry terms and have served as an Altar Guild member and Altar Minister (Worship Coordinator). I currently hold the position of Co-Director of the Altar Guild/Altar Ministers. In my capacity as Vestry member this last year, I have served as Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee. I look forward to serving the parishioners and friends of St. Paul's as one of your Vestry members.

Ben Palmer

My name is Ben Palmer. I have been a member of The Church of St. Paul in the Desert since February 2018. My membership was transferred from St. Andrew's Parish in Derby, Kansas. I became a member of St. Andrew's Parish February 2010. I was confirmed February 19, 2012 by the Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, Ninth Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. I was baptized April 10, 1961 at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Kansas. While attending St. Andrew's, I was part of the Altar Guild and Ministry. I also helped with the Episcopal food bank in Wichita, Kansas. I am retired now and have been since April 2014. My professional life was in Radiology. I studied at Wichita State University and Wesley Medical Center. I was the Radiology supervisor for a private orthopedic in Long Beach, California from 1973 to 1994. I returned to Kansas to help care for my dad. While there, I worked at Wesley Medical Center in the MRI department, specializing in child sedation cases. I returned to California in 2014 after retirement. The first time I walked into the Narthex at St. Paul's I knew I had found my spiritual home. I love this parish and its congregation. It will be my honor and privilege to serve on the Vestry. Presently I serve on the Altar Guild and Ministry. Peace and Blessings.

Edward Ray Tackett (Ray)

I was born in the Pacific Northwest, east of the mountains, in Chelan, Washington. My parents were not Church goers but sent me each week to the Little Stone Church in Lakeside, Washington, a small inter-denominational and conservative congregation. From there I began my spiritual journey. In 2008, I had decided I was done with "church." However, God had a different plan for me and, much to my surprise, my partner Larry Wilson, upon returning from a visit with his brother and attending an Episcopal service said, "I want us to start attending the Episcopal Church!" So, in 2010 we began attending. Larry was soon Baptized and Confirmed, and later in 2016, I was also confirmed. It was also in 2016, while we were snowbirds, that we came to St. Paul in the Desert and fell in love with the location and the Parish. We purchased a home in Desert Hot Springs in the spring of 2019 and quickly became members of St. Paul in the Desert. Currently I am privileged to serve as a Lector, as a member of the Alter Guild, and as a member of the

Stewardship Committee. This fall I will also begin my third year in the EFM class held at St Margaret's.

Before retiring in 2018, I was a Respiratory Therapist, spending most of my career in the Neo-Natal ICU or the Adult ICU. I spent my final two years as the manager of the Respiratory Department, managing 84 therapists and technicians. Prior to meeting Larry, I was married and raised five children (three stepdaughters and two sons of my own).

I feel so privileged to be part of St. Paul's in the Desert at this exciting time in our Parish! Serving on the Vestry is an honor and privilege, and St. Paul's will succeed with God's help and your help. May God bless.

Transition Committee

Clinton L Carbon, Convener

One year ago, the Transition Committee was commissioned with the task of conducting the process of finding the ninth Rector of Church of St. Paul in the Desert. Little did we know that in addition to learning and managing the intricacies of a multifaceted process, that we would be forced into isolation from each other by the uncertainties of a pandemic. After having only one or two in-person meetings, both teams turned to technology to accomplish planning and work sessions via Zoom. The Parish Profile and Search Process Teams separately began the work of collecting information from the parish using an all-parish survey (**CAT - Congregational Assessment Tool**) and Listening Sessions. We were very pleased with the participation of the parish in taking the CAT. Our response numbers approached 40% of the parish and exceeded the usual response rates for assessment tools.

While the CAT is designed as an online tool, the Listening Sessions were supposed to be held in-person. One in-person session was held before the first lockdown of Palm Springs due to COVID-19. Subsequent congregant information was collected using email to canvas the parish. Emailed responses were of varying lengths and the response rate was not as successful as the CAT. Transition Updates were delivered at the beginning of the taped worship services, via email blasts, and posted as events dictated in the Abundant Life Newsletter. In May 2020, a mailing containing the Executive Summaries of the CAT and the Listening Session were mailed and made available on our Parish Website. A search for parish photographs to be used in the profile was launched mid-summer. The next six months were spent writing and editing the Parish Profile and Office of Transition Ministries (OTM) Form. The two documents are instrumental in providing key information about our parish to prospective candidates. Each document was given final approval by the teams, the Vestry and the Bishop in late December 2020-early January 2021. A status postcard was created by the Search Process Team and distributed by mail to parishioners. We invite you to mark off our progress over the next months.

On January 15, 2021, the Parish Profile was published on the St. Paul website, the OTM was uploaded to the Episcopal Church Office of Transition Ministry website, a position open advertisement was purchased on the Episcopal News Service (10,000+ readers), and a post announcing the search was placed on the St. Paul Facebook page. Full application details are available to parishioners in the Rector Search section of the St. Paul webpage. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 26, 2021. The diocese will collect, process and vet all candidates before turning over the applications of successful candidates to our Search Process Team. The team will review applications and supplemental information, interview candidates through online interviews, and reduce the number of candidates to the 4 to 6 candidates requested by the Vestry. Those candidates will be invited to visit campus if COVID-19 protocols allow or a second round of online interviews will be held. All information will then be turned over to the Vestry who will discern those applicants and choose our next rector. The process is expected to last 12 to 24 months. Timely status updates will continue to be made during pre-service announcements, our weekly service bulletins, emails, mailings and postings on our church website. A new timeline is forthcoming.

Over the twelve months, we have lost some members of the committee to life events and other commitments. The majority who remain are steadfast to completing our commission. Prayer and discernment have been integral and deliberate with each meeting, caucus, writing session, and edit of the Committee. We ask your prayers for the Transition Committee, the Vestry, the potential candidates, our parish and the Diocese as we move forward with this process.

Respectfully submitted,
Clinton L Carbon, Convener

Senior Warden's Report

Steve Moore, Senior Warden

Our year began with plans for many good things which were brought to a halt when news of the Covid-19 virus began to appear in cities around the world. We suddenly realized that our world as a church was going to change in an instant. The most pressing topic was how do we continue to offer "church" to our parishioners and not stop worship. With the help of Fr. Lorenzo Lebrija, we seamlessly moved into a virtual world of faith and started recording our Morning Prayer services to post on our website. These services have now evolved into a full Eucharist and are seen across the country by many.

The pandemic also brought on the need to assist our brothers and sisters through the Angels of St Paul to assist with errands, calls to all parishioners by members of the Vestry and Fr. David Caffrey, and increased presence on Facebook and our church website and newsletter. With many local services restricted or eliminated in the city, we received a waiver from Palm Springs to allow our kitchen to continue preparation of food and service to those in need through the Well in the Desert.

All of our lives took a turn in many ways which left the finances of the church unsure with the loss of pledge and plate revenue. After prayerful consideration, a campaign led to recovery and the Stewardship season began in early November with great participation from our parish family. We have a solid foundation as we move closer to the end of our Transition and installation of our new Rector.

There have been several parishioners who passed this last year and our hearts grieve for the families who have suffered their loss. Along with this came amazing gifts of love and gratitude in the form of bequests from their estates. These gifts have included a beautiful new piano for the Parish Hall and financial gifts to our investment accounts and have enabled us to purchase Live-Stream equipment for the sanctuary and a new state of the art Rogers Infinity organ,

The new year always brings the annual Vestry Retreat which includes election of positions and strategic planning for the coming year. This year will no doubt be one of the busiest as we welcome our new Rector and adjust to a new direction in the life of the Church of St Paul in the Desert.

Peace to all,
Steve Moore, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Br. John Westaway, Junior Warden

This year has brought us some challenges that would have been unimaginable when I wrote my annual report last year. COVID-19 has changed everyone's life and it has changed parish life for St. Paul in the Desert. We have had to shut down, almost completely. Anyone on the campus must wear a mask, even while we record our church services for Sunday broadcast.

Our aging campus is experiencing plumbing issues. Did you know that a toilet develops problems even when it's not in use? I'm not kidding. We've had to replace three toilets and have the piping repaired or replaced on another two. Sometimes I feel like "Josephine the Plumber."

We have established a team of people who are tasked with developing a re-opening plan which is currently in draft form. Some of the deliverables from the plan have already been implemented.

We have hired Cintas Corporation to manage the complete sanitization and cleaning of every surface in the church, parish hall and offices. They also sanitize the air with anti-viral products. We have supplies on hand for touch up during the week. And when we return to in person worship, you will notice that all of the old manual soap and paper towel dispensers have been replaced by touchless dispensers. Before you enter the church, you will need to sanitize your hands and put on a mask. And, because of social distancing, you will be assigned a seat in church (we will make accommodations for families and couples).

We have invested some time and money to bolster our collaborative ministry with Well in the Desert (WID). They use our “little kitchen that can” for creating delicious, nutritionally balanced meals that served approximately 32,500 last year to our brothers and sisters on the margins. After more than 25 years in use, the stove/oven in the kitchen finally died. St. Paul’s and The Well came up with a collaborative plan to share the expenses of the oven itself and the installation.

Our very highest priority, in all of this, is the health and safety of our staff, our parishioners and our visitors. We look forward to the day when we can welcome you back to safe and healthy campus. Please keep safe and stay healthy.

Faithfully,
Br. John Charles, CG

Interim Rector’s Report

The Rev. Canon David Caffrey

The year 2020 was like no other we have known when it comes to “doing Church” — or much of anything else, for that matter. Since March, we have been closed and our worship has been videotaped on Thursdays for viewing over the weekend. Except for a Bible Study, a book study, an occasional Zoom meeting and ongoing, part-Zoom Vestry and Transition Committee meetings, things have been very quiet indeed. I will say, given the obvious limitations, I am very pleased and even proud of the quality of worship and music we have offered at St. Paul’s.

Though closed, we have certainly been functioning and I cannot say enough of our Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Registrar, Assistant, new music director, administrator, worship coordinators and other volunteers who have kept us going. We have, in my opinion, a very effective new approach to the stewardship effort this year. Our Transition Committee has been doing its job under the most difficult circumstances. Well in the Desert is still serving meals. I could go on, and am deliberately *not* mentioning any names out of my fear of omitting someone who should be mentioned. My apologies if I am leaving out any ministry or function.

For myself, I have been in the office every Thursday to work in person with a small handful of volunteers and staff which I have deemed absolutely necessary for keeping the parish vital, given all the other limitations with which we have had to contend. Without being able to make house calls or hospital visits I have found myself spending huge amounts of time on the phone (a technology I *do* appreciate!) and have journeyed through the parish member list (some 234 households) four times now and, no doubt, I will be starting again very soon. Ironically, I think I have gotten to know the parish in some ways better than if I had been simply seeing most of you just on Sunday after church.

I also must make special applause for the clergy who assist in our sacramental life in many ways and make the burden a lot less heavy. I cannot say “thank you” enough for them and their companionship in caring for St. Paul’s.

This coming year is full of promise and hope in 2021. There IS light at the end of the tunnel — even if the tunnel still seems very long. Many of you have expressed longing for our return to in person worship and it seems this will at last begin to happen in the coming year. This year, a new rector will almost assuredly be called, and this half-time priest will finally be able to reclaim retirement and simply be a member of the parish once again.

I believe this will be the year where we will come to a new sense of who we are and what it means to be a Christian community, and that we will not have suffered in vain.

Affectionately,
The Rev. Canon David L. Caffrey

Music Ministries

Canon Philip Smith, Director of Music

It is my privilege to be your Interim Director of Music and Organist since mid-February 2020. My first rehearsal with the choir was on Wednesday evening, February 19 and I played my first services on February 23, 2020. A few weeks later, the pandemic ended choir rehearsals and Sunday services.

During this time of the pandemic, I was asked to continue as the Director of Music and Organist. The choir had three staff singers: Debbie Biddick, soprano, Grace Stewart, alto, and David Bruns, bass/baritone. Grace gave her resignation of her position in June, as she was pursuing her master's degree. I needed to fill that position and also to hire a tenor, to make a full quartet. We hired Nicole Benvenuti as alto and then Douglas Graham, tenor.

Choir members have remained in contact with each other and are all anxious for the opportunity to return to singing together. All rehearsals in the Parish Hall are with the protection of masks and distancing.

In September 2020 we were alerted to the amazing opportunity of obtaining a Rodgers digital organ by the company who has long serviced our instruments. Through negotiations we were able to acquire the organ in tribute to Linda Curea, a longtime choir member who left a significant gift to the church after her passing in December of 2019. We are anxious for you to sing with the beautiful sounds of the new organ. Our old organ was acquired by a Lutheran church in Arizona. I continue to hold hope that we will soon be together again and make music together again!

Canon Philip Smith, Interim Director of Music and Organist

Altar Guild/Altar Ministers

Kathy Kilmer and Br. John Charles Westaway

Twenty-twenty, wow what a year! It began fairly normal, but soon took a big detour. One of our last in person services was for the Memorial Service for our beloved, long time Altar Guild member Jan Heller in early February. The day after was our last in person worship services before everything was shut down by our Bishop, city, county and state. Boy did we have to learn a lot about technology quickly!! We went from recording the Liturgy of the Word on our cell phones from home to eventually bringing back a full Eucharist Service that is recorded in the church and can be viewed on our website, Facebook Page and YouTube. The positive part of this is that we will be installing camera equipment to live stream our services, and we have gathered a following of non-parishioners who view our service each week.

Even though we are not yet able to resume in person worship, the Altar Guild/Altar Ministers work has not stopped. We have established a core group of Altar Ministers and Lectors who are willing to come in on Thursday mornings to take part in our worship service recordings. We continue to maintain the communion vessels and linens, as well as the altar coverings, frontals and hangings, and change them appropriately according to season. We also did the decorating for the Christmas services this last December.

We look forward to faithfully serving and adapting in 2021 as the COVID-19 Pandemic becomes controlled and eradicated, a new rector comes on board, and we can hopefully return to some form of in-person worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Kilmer & Br. John Charles Westaway, Co-Directors

Camping Ministry

Bonnie Stroock, Camping Coordinator

A twice postponed camping weekend took place in October 2020 at Black Rock Campground in Joshua Tree National Park. Camping has experienced a huge growth of popularity during COVID restrictions because a small family can isolate but be out in nature. Four overnights went out mid-week and had a dinner with a dozen church friends cooking on a campfire and camp stove. We began the next day with a wonderful morning hike and then we broke camp with a prayer of thankfulness for being able to see friends we had been missing. Next summer, we hope to go to Idyllwild for camping in a more gentle, healthy, and friendly world.

Bonnie Stroock, Camping Coordinator

Children and Family Ministry

Ken and Deana Huff

As we all know, this year has been a year in the history books. In March 2020 as we tried to grasp the concept of not having an in-person children ministry, everything came to a halt. In June 2020 Kathy Kilmer and I received an exciting email from Charlotte Preslar (youth missionary) inviting us to have a zoom meeting on innovative ways of staying connected with our ministry groups throughout the diocese. The meeting went well, and Ken and I decided to participate in a four-week VBS video lesson called "the Rocky Railway" where each children's ministry director was featured in a segment. Ken and I volunteered for two weeks where we used puppets and our children to introduce and conclude the segments. It was so much fun, and we can't wait until summer 2021 to participate again.

As summer ended, we had to become more creative. We came up with the idea on using our puppets to perform skits and do arts and crafts to reach out to the children of our ministry online using social media (Facebook). We launched our first video before thanksgiving in November and received many views. We are in the process of launching our second video.

Stay tuned!!! Be blessed and stay well.
Ken and Deana Huff

Latino Ministry

Bonnie Stroock

The Latino Ministry planned a program last March with the San Diego Diocese Latino Missioner, Rev. Carlos Garcia. We were getting some RSVP's and planning our morning agenda, when it was cancelled as COVID fears had cut back group gatherings. So, our monthly meetings became virtual and we discussed what was still possible to do. Bonnie Stroock attended a week-long on-line conference run by the Episcopal National Church to help parishes be more welcoming to Latinos. In the fall, we planned and created a Memorial Altar by the cactus garden for All Saint's Day and the Day of the Dead. On Nov. 12th, 20 people attended a special service there, dedicated to remembering parish lives lost to COVID, and other illnesses, and victims of social injustice over the last year. We wore masks and sat in separated chairs as Fr. David prayed in English and Spanish, and we read off a list of names.

We meet on the last Monday night of each month at 6:30 by Zoom. If you enjoy speaking Spanish or want to be part of our ministry with a dozen church friends, contact Bonnie Stroock at 760-324-7949. Gracias!

The Order of the Daughters of the King, Mary in the Desert Chapter

Patty Kiker, Chair

Our Order consists of women who desire a closer walk with the Lord, strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. Our primary goal is to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others. Chapter members are Jo Anne Adair, Kaye Ball, Marie Berkner, Patty Kiker, Karen Nelson, Bonnie Stroock, and Teri Whitmer. Our chaplain, Br. John Charles Westaway joins us for our meetings, studies, and fellowship and is a much appreciated, integral part of our chapter.

After the departure of our much-loved chapter president, Sharon Strong, our chapter's current slate of officers is Patty Kiker, President; Karen Nelson, Vice President; Bonnie Stroock, Treasurer/Prayer List Updates.

Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM, currently via Zoom due to the Coronavirus. We also meet for study on the second Tuesdays of the month. Several of our members participated in the Latino Ministry's Memorial Altar Service in November. Additionally, in 2020, our members attended Zoom meetings for Diocesan Spring and Fall Assemblies, Province VIII Spring Retreat, and periodic National Order "Conversations with Daughters". In 2020, we created an email address, dokstpaulsps@gmail.com, to accept prayer requests from the greater congregation. The requests are added to our chapter prayer list for one month and may be renewed monthly. As a part of our Rule of Prayer, our members pray the list daily.

Patty Kiker, Chair

Parish Life Report

Fred Ross and Gary Hiatt, Co-Chairs

With the exception of the book group, most activities under the Parish Life umbrella in 2020 went from a rolling boil to a slow simmer due to the pandemic. The semi-annual parish potlucks were not held and the six small group potlucks, known as Circle Suppers, have been on hiatus since February. A few of the groups continued engaging via ZOOM happy hour gatherings with a BYOB&F (bring your own beverage & food!) format. All the groups are looking forward to the time when we can gather again safely to share the warmth and friendship for which the Circle Supper potlucks are known.

Our hiking group activities were curtailed after our hiking guru, Chris Kelly, moved to Riverside, but thankfully he is close enough that a hike in Redlands is planned for next month, safely distanced, of course. Watch for the announcement in the weekly newsletter or on our website. Our after-service hospitality committee and funeral/memorial service reception coordinators have been on extended leave due to Covid-19 restrictions but are poised to resume their important work when it is safe to do so.

The following is the Book Club report from the group leader, Alan Zimmerman:

As 2020 came to a close, the Parish Life Book Club completed its fourth year. In 2020, Book Club read ten novels and met to discuss them on the first Tuesday of the month. The first three meetings were held in the Library and seven meetings were held remotely via Zoom. Book Club is fortunate to have a dedicated core of readers. Our reading list is eclectic. In January, Book Club read *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkia, a story of a group of friends confronting the AIDS crisis in Chicago, and concluded the year with *American Dirt* by Jeannine Cummins, a story about a Mexican woman and her son on the run from a drug cartel. Book Club appreciated the assistance provided by the office staff announcing monthly meetings in the service leaflet and on the website and assisting in the transition to Zoom meetings.

Fred Ross and Gary Hiatt, Co-Chairs, Parish Life Team

Social Justice/Outreach Committee

Lena L. Granet, Chairman

As we conclude the year of 2020, we are still in a pandemic. Hopefully, we will be out of it soon. In the meantime, our Social Action (aka Social Justice) Ministry has been active. Since the pandemic began, we knew that we could not be actively involved with the distribution of clothes, sundries to those less fortunate. Instead, we packaged those items and gave them directly to the organizations that distribute daily to those less fortunate. Committee members would pack and then distribute to the following areas: Well in the Desert, Palm Springs, CVRM – Palm Springs location, Methodist Church in Palm Springs, and RMHUC. We also did a Christmas Distribution to Father's Heart Ranch for 24 boys. They received sundries, socks, backpacks & blankets. I have picked up ALL clothes that have been donated from our parish and with our ministry's assistance we are preparing for another distribution by end of January 2021. Thank you for your "outreach" to our ministry.

We always welcome more people to our ministry. If you care to join, do not hesitate to let the office know.

God Bless and keep safe,
Lena L. Granet, Chairman