



# Annual Report 2023

Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

*Welcome*

**2023**



# 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Appointment of Clerk
4. Approval of Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting
5. Vestry Elections
  - a. Method of Election/Requirements to Vote
  - b. Introduction of Nominees
  - c. Vote for Slate
6. Reports
7. Acknowledgments
8. Closing Prayer
9. Adjourn

*Note: The Vestry, including newly elected members, will meet briefly following the meeting.*

# Annual Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2023

# 2023

## 1. Call to Order

Dean Andy convened the meeting at noon in the Nave of the Cathedral and via online livestreaming following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in prayer.

## 2. Appointment of Clerk

Dean Andy appointed Valerie Johnson as clerk of the annual meeting.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting

Dean Andy presented the minutes from the January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting, which were printed in the 2022 Annual Report. Johnathan Sternberg moved the minutes be accepted as presented and Chip Buckner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent. Phaedra Fahnestock was thanked for recording the minutes at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

## 4. Vestry Elections

Dean Andy appointed Julie Toma, Cathedral Administrator, as teller of online voting. Bill Colvin, Nick Smith, Sharon Cheers and Michael Thomas were appointed as in-person tellers. Tellers were instructed to collect ballots and count in the clergy vesting area. Requirements to vote were reviewed and noted as: 1) confirmed member of the Episcopal Church age 16 years and above; 2) known to the Treasurer as having given money in the last six months; 3) known to the

Rector to have been in attendance in the past six months; 4) received Communion at least three times in the past year. The six Vestry nominees were asked to stand when introduced. For re-election: Ken Stewart and election to new terms: Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno, Mathias Nichols, Blain Lagergren, John Braum.

Members were instructed to vote for four candidates only. Paper ballots were distributed to the congregation. Votes were tabulated online and collected from the congregation.

## 5. Reports

**Financial Report:** Dave Barker presented the Financial Report found in the 2022 Annual Report booklet. A verbal correction to the Finance Report was highlighted. The sentence reads, "... budgeted expenses were exceeded by actual expenses by \$1.00." The dollar amount should have read as \$1200.00. Also highlighted was the raise for clergy and staff as it reflects an 8.7% increase to parallel the Social Security raise. As a result, there is a cost increase in benefits associated with salaries. The 2023 Budget was balanced and approved by the Vestry. This reflects a continued 4% draw from the Endowment.

Anticipated revenue from pledges in 2023 is \$500,000. Expenses in The Larger Church (Diocese) appears to be more in 2022 than 2021 due to a delayed billing. Community and Social Ministry appears to have fewer expenses in 2023 (\$1,200) than in 2022 (\$55,000). However,

this is a reflection of unused funds that are still accessible to the ministry (\$82,000) in 2023.

**Senior Warden's Report:** This report is found in the 2022 Annual Report booklet. Candy McDowell encouraged members to read the minutes of Vestry meetings accessible online; attend Vestry meetings as a guest; and serve on a Vestry committee (Budget, Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Stewardship, Social Outreach). The format for Executive Sessions of the vestry was described and members were encouraged to reach out to the Jr. or Sr. Wardens or Dean Andy whenever questions or concerns arise.

**Dean's Report:** It was included during the sermon at the 10:30 a.m. worship service and will be available in print form.

## 6. Acknowledgements

Dean Andy thanked the outgoing members of the Vestry, the continuing Vestry, the Jr. and Sr. Wardens and Steve Moore as Chancellor. Candy and Steve will continue to serve in their current roles. In addition to acknowledgements shared during the Dean's Report, gratitude was expressed for the past leadership of Linda Martin and Canon Ryan Wiksell and the ongoing service of members as they support the Cathedral. An update of the Diaconate training status and anticipated May 2023 ordination of member, Robin Rusconi, was also shared with the congregation.

## 7. Election Results

Results of the Vestry election were announced: Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno, Mathias Nichols, Blain Lagergren. Appreciation was expressed to John Braum and Ken Stewart for standing for election in addition to Ken's 3-year term as Vestry member.

The newly-elected members and current Vestry members were instructed to meet in the Common Room following adjournment.

Dean Andy invited questions or any items wished to be addressed from the congregation. Being none, Dean Andy suggested adjournment.

## 10. Adjournment

Joan Bergstrom moved the meeting adjourn and was seconded by Don Chase. The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie B. Johnson  
Clerk of the Vestry

*Learn*

**2023**



## College, Youth and Children's Ministries

*Clare Stern-Burbano*

Greetings friends!

Wow! What a year for our young people at the Cathedral. In the last year, our Youth have developed deeper relationships with the Word of God during our Formation hours. We have been walking through Lectio Divina as a community each week with the Gospel reading so they can be more comfortable reading, wondering and discerning what God is calling them to pay attention to in their lives and how to grow deeper in the mystery of faith.

In January last year, I attended the FORMA conference, a Christian educators conference within the Episcopal Church and learned a great deal about addressing mental health within the context of faith-based communities. We addressed mental health in September during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. I could not be prouder of our youth for taking this conversation seriously and pastorally. As members of the Body of Christ and here at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, you should be proud of how you have cared for these young people. It is because of you all they were ready to receive this information and receive it with compassionate hearts.

We also had a presence at Mega Camp, an Episcopal camp run by the Diocese of Kansas. At Mega camp, young people, grades 3–12 (must have completed third grade) are welcome to attend a week of fellowship, formation and fun. One of the beautiful things about this camp is it truly is a place where you see young people digging deeper into their faith and growing in skills and emerging as leaders. The Diocese of West Missouri will be supporting

and sending youth again this year in partnership with the Diocese of Kansas. This year, the dates for camp are June 2–8 and they will take place at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS. To learn more about Mega Camp, please contact me ([csstern@kccathedral.org](mailto:csstern@kccathedral.org)) and I will send you more information and a link to register.

After serving as the interim Children's Coordinator for several months, Dean Andy and the search committee for the Children's Coordinator position, extended an offer for me to become the children's minister on a permanent



basis. This came after a five-month search process and meeting with several candidates. I have loved every minute of serving as the College, Youth and Children's Minister these last few months. The announcement came three days before my two-year anniversary at the Cathedral. You all have helped this College, Youth and Children's Minister grow in her faith as a Christian, a gift that is too great for words. Thank you. Working with children regularly has been an immense joy. Having grown up with the Godly Play curriculum myself as a child, it is nice to come full circle being able to inspire wonder in our youngest leaders of the church as a storyteller of our most sacred stories.



*Family worship weekend!*

Jan 21  
Feb 18  
March 17  
April 21  
May 5 (Youth Sunday, which will include children)  
May 12

In an effort to getting children more comfortable and involved in worship services, we are starting what we call Family Worship Weekends. This means that rather than having Cathedral Kids, after the formation hour at 9:15, parents/guardians/caregivers will come pick their child up from Haden at 10:15 am and worship together as a family.

We have added items (Pew Boxes) that will be placed in the back of the Nave for these Family Worship Weekends. Some of the item's children can take home, some we will ask that you leave in the box.

If you have any questions, please contact Clare  
([ccstern@kccathedral.org](mailto:ccstern@kccathedral.org))

and reflect on their spiritual lives. This retreat will take place February 24 from 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church. Lunch, snacks, workshops, time for prayer, silence and more will be offered. For more information, please contact me and I will send you more information and a link to register.

The *All Things ... Episcopal Podcast* continues to flourish!

We are just shy of 2,000 downloads for the podcast and are now in ten different

countries. This

podcast has been a bit

of a labor of love and a new way to minister to young adults. I have been deeply moved by the impact that it has had on people's lives.



**ALL THINGS ...  
— EPISCOPAL**

Thank you all for a wonderful year and I cannot wait to see what we do in this next season at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

## **Women's Bible Study**

***Lissa Hoeplich***

The Women's Bible Study group (WBS) meets on Tuesdays from 12:30 until around 1:30 p.m. on Zoom using one of the Cathedral's Zoom spaces. As members arrive, they catch up, before joys and concerns are shared. Then a discussion of the current selected book or series begins. Around 1:30 the following week's facilitator is identified before concluding with a closing prayer. WBS attendance remains high as they continue meeting by Zoom. WBS meets virtually as members are more able to regularly attend.

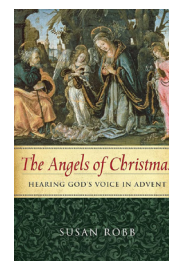
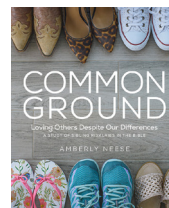
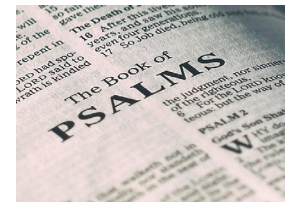
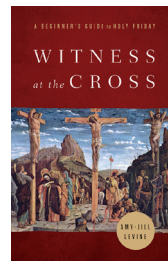
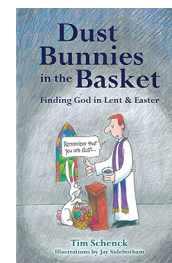
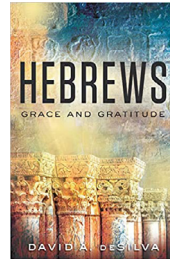
We have also introduced Family Worship weekends for the first time in recent history. Family Worship Weekends are a time when families are encouraged to attend the 10:30 service together. During these weekends, no Cathedral Kids will take place. This is an effort to get children more comfortable and involved in worship services. We also celebrated the baptisms of two of our newest children at the Cathedral on the January 7.

Our College and Young Adult Ministry continues to flourish. I frequently get requests from young adults to meet for coffee and learn more about Grace and Holy Trinity. Over the last couple of months, myself and members of the College and Young Adult Commission for the diocese, have worked to encourage college and young adults to attend the College and Young Adult Retreat at St. Augustine's. This will be the first retreat in quite some time to allow young people to rest, rejuvenate



In 2023 WBS's utilized a variety of studies, including a deeper dive into the Book of Psalms.

- From January until the beginning of Lent the group continued discussing *Hebrews Grace and Gratitude* by David DeSilva, where we looked at who Jesus is as well as discussing how we can gain a “deeper appreciation for the salvation we have received through Christ and hear afresh God’s call to a life of gratitude and faithfulness.”
- During Lent WBS looked at *Dust Bunnies in the Basket* by Episcopal priest Tom Schenck. The book encouraged readers to get involved in the world around us as Christ does.
- The week of the second Sunday of Easter we began Amy Jill Levine’s *Witness at the Cross*. We were able to look at the way each Gospel writer portrayed different people, as well as looking at the images and messages of those at the cross.
- WBS did a deeper dive into the Book of Psalms beginning in July. We looked at the structure of how and why the Psalms are structured as they are, their history and we discussed Psalms from each of the books.
- In October we began *Common Ground* by Amberly Neese. We began a study of how the Bible shows us how to find common ground with all types of people.
- We finished the year with our Advent study *The Angels of Christmas-Hearing Gods Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb. WBS considered four different angelic visits from the Gospels leading up to Jesus’ birth.



# Worship

# 2023



# 2023

## Dean's Report

*The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse*

I mentioned in my homily on Sunday, January 28, that when Jesus began his public ministry, he also began to usher in a new covenant with God's people that would last forever, binding us all together as a family. When we live together as a family we go through many things together, both good and bad. We rejoice together in times of celebration, and we mourn together in times of sadness. We congratulate one another when we come together to do something good. We say thank you to those who are deserving of our deep gratitude. We are a family. In good times we share much laughter and cheer, we can't wait to see everyone and be together again. In tough times we stand together so we can be strong. We help one another in these times of need with words of encouragement and hands to hold, we pray together knowing that we will persevere and get through tough times, that we will always be there for one another no matter what. We are a family ... we are Grace and Holy Trinity.

2023 was a good year for us. We continue to be a strong parish, our attendance continues to grow since coming back from COVID, and we continue to figure out how to build up Christ's church in this part of God's kingdom. We have much to be proud of, much to be thankful for, much to celebrate, but we also have some work to do to make this an even better place. We are a family, we work hard together, we face tough times together, we stay together because we love one another, that's what families do.

We accomplished a great deal throughout 2023, including finishing work on our new Strategic Plan and I am glad to share in our ongoing ministries with all of you. Our place as a Cathedral is unique, as our ministry is really expressed in two different ways: as the Cathedral Church of Diocese, who hosts diocesan events and serves as a home for our Bishop, and as a Cathedral parish, serving the spiritual needs of our members. On one level a close-knit family and on another level part of an extended family. You will hear me reference both types of ministries as I report on the year. I will say more about this as I think it is helpful to understand how we function in both ways.

In January we hosted the first Diocesan Ordinations for the year, including, at the time, our own Brittany Sparrow Savage. Later that month, we held our first annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Also in January I taught my first class in our partnership with the Center for Faith and Culture at William Jewell. My class was about finding Sacred Spaces. At the end of the month we held our Annual Meeting, thanked our outgoing Vestry Members and welcomed those newly elected, and set our Vestry retreat for later in the year.

February saw us again have our Shrove Sunday pancake breakfast on the Last Sunday of Epiphany, and a new social event start with our Mardi Gras celebration on Shrove Tuesday. About 40 of us gathered in the Common Room for a potluck of jambalaya and other festive dishes as we prepared for the start of Lent. We will gather again this year in Haden Hall in order to accommodate more people. We ended the month with

our usual services on Ash Wednesday as we began a Holy Lent.

In March we held our annual Vestry Retreat and several clergy, staff, and wardens traveled to Jacksonville, FL for the Episcopal Parish Network Conference.

We opened our arms again to our extended family in April as we hosted the Diocesan Chrism mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week where the clergy of the diocese received holy oils for the year and renewed our ordination vows. Following Easter Sunday, we continued our now annual custom of a joint retreat with the Cathedral Staff and Diocesan Staff. This was followed by a wonderful fundraiser later that week for Pete's Garden. The community came together to literally get a taste of the food Pete's Garden rescues and distributes to those in need. This is yet another way we extend our family as the Cathedral. Late in April I traveled to the North American Deans Conference in Washington, DC, hosted by the National Cathedral. It is great to gather with other deans and be reminded how we are not alone in our work as Diocesan Cathedrals and Cathedral Parish families. This year our conference will go international as we will gather at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

In May we had our Youth Sunday. Many thanks to Clare and all who participated in the service. Also, in May, we Commissioned Glen Wesner as Verger at the Cathedral, and I thank Glen for his ministry. Then, in June, we held more Diocesan Ordinations, this time seeing our own Robin Rusconi ordained to the diaconate. We were honored to have Robin serve with us the next day

before we had to say goodbye to her as she left to be the Deacon at St. Paul's, Kansas City. Later, we said goodbye to Brittany as she, too, moved on to St. Paul's. Thank you to Robin and Brittany for your time and hard work at the Cathedral. We are grateful for your continued ministries in our larger family. Our Parish Picnic also took place in June on Trinity Sunday.



The summer continued with more Diocesan Ordinations, where we saw Brittany ordained a priest. We hosted the picnic for the Northwest Metro Deanery and saw the return of our Summer Music Series. We also continued our tradition of holding parish breakfasts a few times between the 8 and 10:30 services. All were well attended, lively, and I look forward to having them again this summer.



As the fall began, we saw the return of several Cathedral events: the Ministry Fair, the Cathedral Cup croquet tournament, and classes in partnership with the Center for Fatih and Culture at William Jewell. This time my wife, Beth, joined with me as we presented "Speaking the truth in love: understanding and acceptance of transgender children." It was well

# 2023

attended and a great class. Many thanks to our oldest child, Siras, for joining us and for being willing to answer questions.



This past fall also saw our annual Blessing of the Animals on the Saturday nearest the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4), our Healing service on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Luke (Oct. 18),

our annual Fall Festival, our third annual Hymn Sing, Diocesan Convention, and Kirkin' O the Tartans. We celebrated the anniversary of Deacon Barbara joining us and prepared to welcome Fr. James on the first Sunday of Advent.



In December we welcomed the Nativity Puppets once again, welcomed back the Messiah sing along, enjoyed another City Come Again celebration with William Jewell

College, and welcomed all who came to join with us to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. Thank you, especially, to Clare and to our children and youth who participated, once again, in the Christmas Pageant at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

All said, 2023 was a good year for the Cathedral. As we continue in our post-COVID recovery, we have seen attendance grow, both in-person and online. We continue to be good stewards of our budget—cutting back where we can, but also realizing we need the staff to make sure this place runs efficiently and meets the needs of all who come to worship with us, pray with us, learn with us, and grow with us. Following the shut down during COVID, we have worked hard, forming contingency groups and looking at ways to cut costs because we feared what everyone feared, that money would just dry up. We generated some good ideas and made adjustments accordingly to help. Giving stayed pretty constant, and we have all of you to thank for that. I greatly appreciate the wonderful support we received during that time. We also received help in other ways over the past couple years to ensure we could retain our staff and take care of the people who work here. We applied for, and received, a PPP Loan, as well as Employee Retention Credits. These have allowed us to stay strong and operate at normal levels, they have served their purpose. As we worked on the budget for 2024, we used the last of these funds to help balance the budget. Moving forward, looking to 2025 and beyond, we need to be more mindful of how we set the budget, fund the budget, and remain good stewards of endowment and overall finances.

We are blessed to have an endowment, blessed to have had faithful people who, over the years, have given to the Cathedral to support our work and ministry in this place for years to come, but we can't rely on this solely to cover operating expenses or it will quickly dry up. But we also can't be afraid of it. We can't just

look at it and not touch it. It was given for us to use, but to use wisely and appropriately. That's why we have a Finance Committee, a Budget Committee, and a Vestry—people who can understand all this and make informed decisions for the life of the Cathedral. It is a true blessing, but as a parish in the diocese, we need to be able to raise our own money to fund our day to day operating costs. How do we do that? We do that mostly through pledges from our members, all of you. We also do that through plate offerings on Sundays and other feast days, through gifts, and through utilizing a monthly draw from the earnings of part of the endowment. In the past we had been taking a 5% draw, but reduced that a couple years ago to 4% in order to lessen that burden. We have kept it at 4% going forward for 2024. The question then becomes, how do we raise money? Here's where being a Cathedral comes in. Some may think that, because we have this role of being the Cathedral of the Diocese, we get money from the diocese to cover much of how we operate. That is not true. As a parish of the diocese, we are assessed just like every other parish and pay our share—what is, in effect, our pledge—to the diocese. That's how it works. We rely on the Cathedral parish to support our own ministries. We had an ambitious goal in 2023 to raise \$500,000 in pledges. To date, we are short of that goal by about \$44,000, though some money may still come in. We have set the same goal of \$500,000 for 2024. How do we get there? How do we increase pledging? Well, there are two ways: having everyone increase their pledge, which we will always welcome, or by having more pledging units, that is, more people pledge. How do you get more people to pledge? Create a place that welcomes more people in who then want to make this their home and want

to give to that work and ministry. This is where the Strategic Plan comes in.

This plan includes ways to open ourselves up to truly be a place that both welcomes and serves the community we're in. It is not just the neighborhoods around us, but the whole metro community. Again, you'll hear more about the plan in a bit, but there are some exciting things that can be done to allow others to enjoy what we enjoy. Growing our music programs by restarting the children's choir and handbell choir is part of it. Holding Community lectures and discussions on important topics that affect all of us, and not being afraid to tackle tough subjects and ask hard questions. This is what a Cathedral should do.

We will also start a new way of looking at the budget, setting the budget, and making sure it lines up with our mission and supports that mission. This starts with me, creating a vision for that process, and working with the Vestry in order to give a clear and proper charge to the Budget Committee to do this. Our Vestry retreat is set for February where that work will begin. I am excited about this, about what he have set as our goals moving forward, and about what this place can continue to become. We are so blessed to be here, to be part of this loving community, and to serve in this place. Thank you for making it all possible, and for all you will do to keep Grace and Holy Trinity strong and relevant for years to come.

## Associate's Report

*The Rev. James Yazell*

It has felt very fitting to start a new ministry here at the Cathedral right at the start of a new church year with the first Sunday of Advent! It's been wonderful to learn about the life and worship of the Cathedral, to be so warmly welcomed, and to be able to experience the beauty of worship at the Cathedral during Advent and Christmas. I am looking forward to getting to know you all more as our ministry together continues to unfold.

Beyond my participation in the worship and communal life of the Cathedral I've also had the opportunity to offer a few adult formation classes and have been greatly encouraged by the engagement, the thoughtful discussion and the openness to the Spirit that I have encountered in you.

Lent is now around the corner and as we discussed in our class on the church seasons, Lent is an especially opportune time to reconnect with God, to remove distractions and to take on new spiritual practices. We will have several opportunities for this work together. On the Sundays of Lent, we will have workshops on Anglican Spiritual Practices. This will be a time to learn about the foundational practices of our faith tradition, to try them out for yourself, and to then reflect on and discuss the experience with one another. We will also be offering classes on Wednesday evenings in Lent, including a study of the Book of Jonah. Jonah is a short book and a familiar story but hidden within those pages are some very deep themes on the spiritual life! It will be an opportunity to see this story with fresh eyes, learn about the importance of the Old Testament, and discover what Jonah and the whale can teach us about our own relationship with God.

I am looking forward to continuing our journey together into the mysteries of Christ and pray that your Lent be a time of renewal, growth and discovery.

## Deacon's Report

*The Rev. Barbara Wegener*

This past year has been one of growth and learning, which began the first weekend in January, with the ordination of four transitional deacons, including the Cathedral's own Mtr. Brittany Sparrow-Savage.

We also had ordinations in June and July, including another one of our own members, Robin Rusconi. For each Ordination, I worked closely with the Diocesan Vocations Minister and the ordinands to develop the service according to their wishes and the Book of Common Prayer. I met with Holly, our Events Coordinator, to plan the reception and contacted the ordinand's home parishes for their participation as well.

Ordinations are a wonderful opportunity for members of the Cathedral to welcome and show hospitality to those from throughout the diocese. Each one of these services are one of the most important times in the life of the clergy member, and I am grateful to the many volunteers who step up to make the services a holy event. Moving forward, the plan is to have two ordinations a year, one in January and one in June or July.

March brought my graduation from Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's, and my appointment as the diocesan intake officer. As Intake Officer, I am responsible for receiving and analyzing information if a clergy member is suspected of any kind of misconduct.

In June, I was elected to serve as a board member of Nourish KC and currently serve on the governance committee. I learn more every day about the many efforts towards food rescue in the Kansas City metro area.

As the contact person for those requesting assistance with rent or utilities, my involvement and attendance at the monthly Kansas City Human Services committee has opened doors within the community regarding options for those who may need more services than the Cathedral can provide. The Human Services Committee is just a part of greater Kansas City's Coalition to End Homelessness.

## Music

*Dr. Paul Meier*

The Cathedral music ministry strives to support and enhance the worship life of the Cathedral and to provide opportunities for people to offer their musical gifts to God.

The year began with the Trinity Choir providing choral music from the steps by the Baptismal Font, and in May, the choir returned to the organ gallery for the first time since 2020. Over the course of the year, the Trinity Choir sang at 67 liturgies at the Cathedral, including Sundays at the 10:30 service, choral evensongs, special services and diocesan services.

During the month of August, the 2023 Summer Music at the Cathedrals concert series featured three Sunday afternoon concerts at GHTC and the Eleventh French Organ Music Festival at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Dr. Lucas Fletcher joined the Cathedral staff as Associate Organist in September, and his first Sunday at the Cathedral was October 1. Lucas has been a fantastic addition to the Cathedral community, and we have been blessed by his beautiful playing and presence among us. Thank you to the Associate Organist Search Committee members Diane Barker, John Braum, Sharon Cheers, Bill McCandless and Charles Shipley for all their work throughout the search process. I am also thankful to Steve Burk, Nicholas Dold and Bill McCandless for



their musical assistance this year while the Associate Organist position was vacant.

On October 21, the Cathedral partnered with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City to present *Community Conversation: Sing Most Anything*, an educational event tied to the Lyric's performances of *The Sound of Music*. This event, led by Dr. Neal Long, Director of Learning at the Lyric, and me, was based around sacred music performed and taught by the von Trapp family.

On November 5, the Cathedral held the third annual Hymn Sing. For this event, participants submitted hymn requests which were drawn out of a hat and sung by attendees. The Dean served as host and MC. Later in the month, we celebrated Kirkin' o' the Tartan with the full complement of pipers and drummers of the Kansas City St. Andrew Pipes and Drums.

The Trinity Choir collaborated with the University of Kansas Bales Chorale in a concert of Advent and Christmas music at the University of Kansas in Lawrence on December 5. On December 9, the cathedral presented the *Messiah* Singalong for the first time since 2019, and this year marked the cathedral's 40th *Messiah* Singalong. The Trinity Choir offered the seventh annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 10, and William Jewell College presented the beloved *City Come Again* on December 11.

If you would like more information about the Cathedral's music ministry including ways to become more involved, please contact me at [pmeier@kccathedral.org](mailto:pmeier@kccathedral.org) or 816.214.9928.



## Volunteers

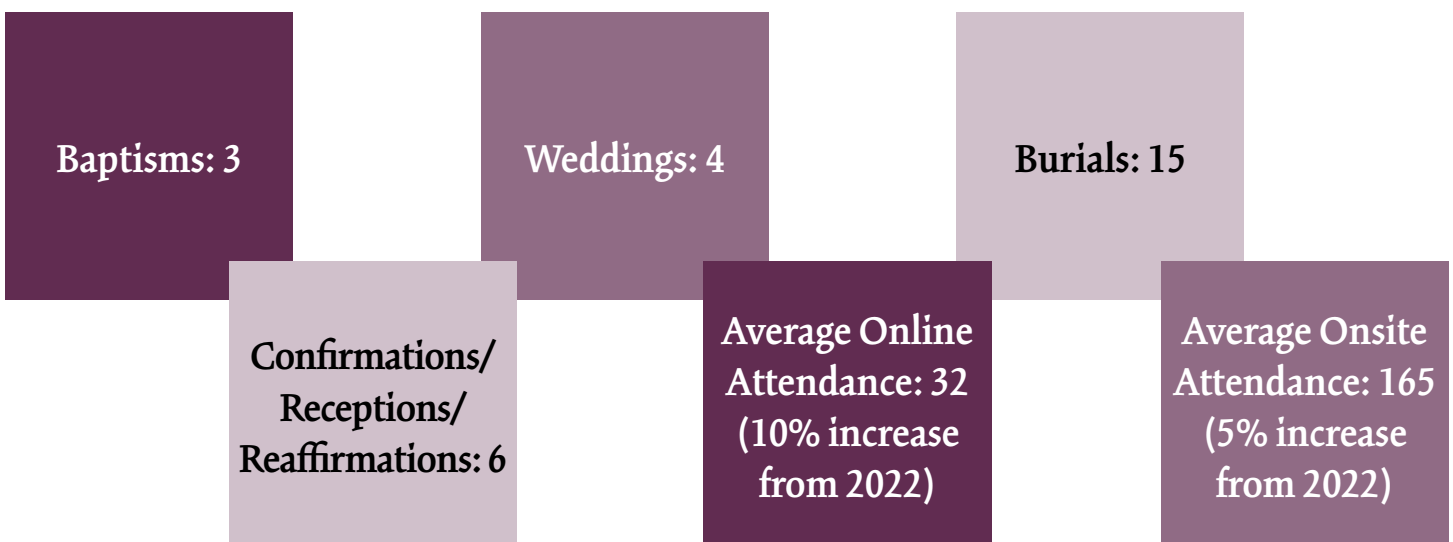
*Dr. Joan Bergstrom*

Thank you to the many faithful volunteers who help make our three worship services each Sunday a meaningful experience. Our church is blessed by the helpers in our parish who make it possible to provide the worship services we love. Your participation is what makes ministry at the Cathedral successful. You are essential to our mission as a welcoming and loving community. Volunteers serve in worship services, help with Outreach ministries, teach children, serve on committees, help with special

events, bring food for coffee hour and contribute in so many other ways.

We invite you to consider how you might be interested in serving in ministry at the Cathedral. There are about 40 serving positions every Sunday for worship. Sunday ministers include Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Holy Hands Hospitality and Children's Ministry volunteers. Contact a ministry leader listed throughout this Annual Report or contact me ([volunteers@kccathedral.org](mailto:volunteers@kccathedral.org)) to find out more about how you can get involved.

# Membership



*Serve*

**2023**



## GHTC Outreach Ministries

*Terri Curran*

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another; as good stewards of God’s varied grace”.*

*~1Peter 4:10*

The following is how the Cathedral served and shared with others in our community and world.

- Donated 258 lbs. of shelf stable food to Jewish Family Services Food Pantry during the Lenten food drive.



- Seven volunteers helped prep food at Nourish KC during Lent.

- Donated 136 Easter Baskets to the children at Sheffield Place, Crittenton and Camber Children’s Center.



- 651 paper items (toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex and personal hygiene items) were collected during the paper drive for Sheffield Place.

- Provided 24 Mother’s Day Baskets to the women who are residing at Sheffield Place.

- Collected 110 onesies to the Global Birthing Center in Haiti.

- Donated 40-\$25 gift cards to Crittenton to be given to foster children who otherwise would not receive a birthday gift.



- Donated 1,752 school supplies for the children at Crittenton’s residential and foster care divisions.

- Donated 9,055 diapers to the HappyBottoms Diaper Bank.



- At the Ladies’ Luncheon in December, 240 holiday treat bags were assembled for the children at Crittenton’s residential and foster care divisions and 106 holiday treat bags were assembled for backsnack students.



- Assembled and delivered over 1,000 backsnack lunches to three schools, two in North Kansas City and one in Kansas City, KS in the spring.

- Assembled and delivered a total of 212 Family Bags for BackSnack students at Spring Break and Christmas.

- Collected 480 rolls of toilet paper for the men and women at Shelter KC.



- Collected 288 pairs of socks and winter gloves to be donated Shelter KC, a homeless center for men and women.

- Partnering with Saint Andrews, Saint Pauls and Saint James Methodist Church, the Cathedral donated 102 men's and women's winter boots, along with eight bags of winter clothing (donated by a man in Chicago), to the Free Store in January.



- Hosted a Christmas Pizza party for the teens in residence at Crittenton Children's Center in December.

Hopefully in 2024 we can grow our Outreach initiatives at the Cathedral to include more hands-on volunteering. There is a great need at the local, national and international levels. If you have a passion that you would like to see the Cathedral support, and are willing to lead that initiative, please contact the Cathedral office or Terri Curran [tcurra2@yahoo.com](mailto:tcurra2@yahoo.com).

***“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”***

*~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



Outreach also donated funds to support the following during 2023:

- \$25,000 to the Kansas City Community Kitchen.
- \$10,000 to the Global Birthing Center in Haiti (Maison de Naissance) for healthcare for new mothers and babies.
- \$1,000 to the Global Birthing Center in Haiti for additional mid-wife support.
- \$1,500 to the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten Drive providing services for women and children.
- \$5,000 to Episcopal Relief and Development for earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.
- \$1,800 for scholarships for children at El Hogar in Honduras.
- \$730 for two scholarships for girls in Pakistan to attend school.
- \$5,000 to the HappyBottoms Diaper Bank.
- \$500 for Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs in honor of Black History Month.



# *Governance*

# 2023



## Senior Warden's Report

*Candy McDowell*

*“Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...”*

~1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

Those who served as officers and members of the Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral during 2023 are listed on the back page of this Annual Report. Additionally, Vestry members and their committee assignments are listed in the weekly Sunday Bulletins and on the Vestry page of the Cathedral's website, [kccathedral.org/vestry](http://kccathedral.org/vestry). During the past year the Vestry has striven to develop and use the members' varied gifts to carry out our responsibilities for the temporal affairs of the Cathedral while discerning God's call to our faith community. As you can see if you read over the minutes of the Vestry meetings for 2023, [kccathedral.org/vestry](http://kccathedral.org/vestry), our mission and vision are at the center of our discussions and guide our decisions and activities. Most actions—whether routine or one-time—are acted upon after robust discussion resulting in our meetings rarely adjourning before the covenanted two-hour limit.

Routine actions include:

- Approval of Minutes;
- Approval of Financial Reports;
- Approval of the Annual Audit;
- Approval of GHTC's delegates to the Diocesan Convention; and
- Approval of our Operating Budget.

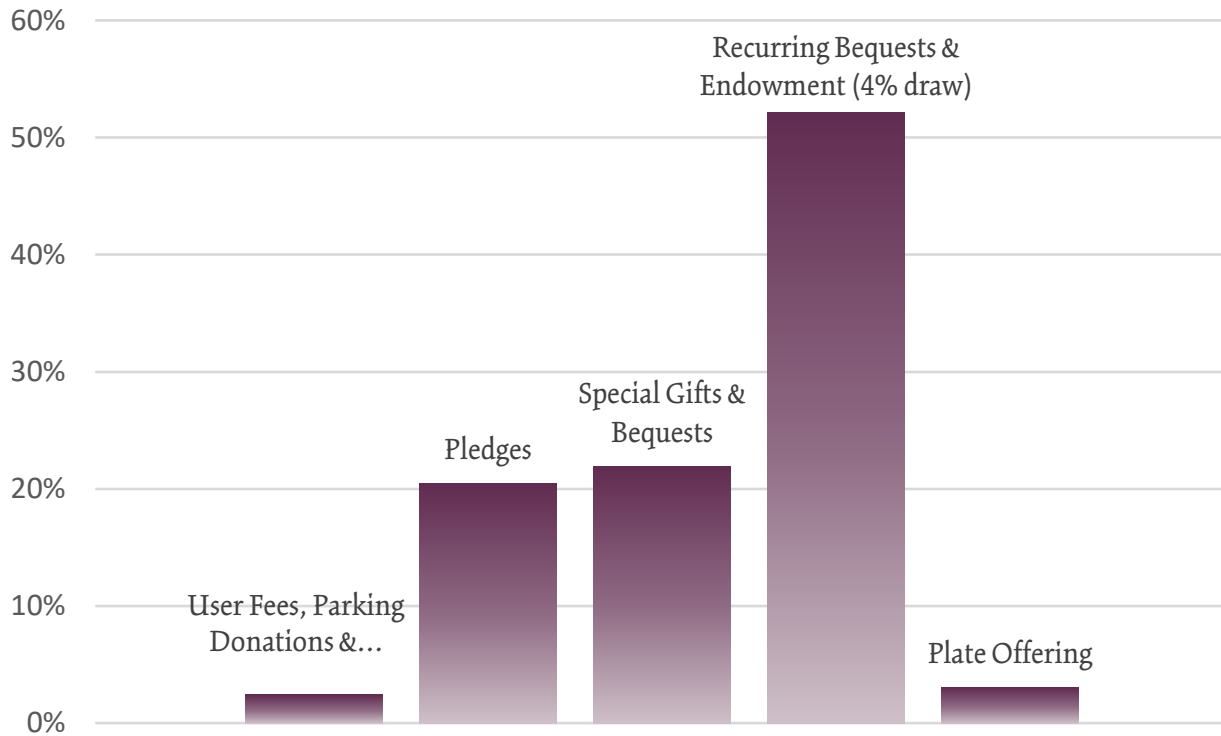
Highlights of other Vestry actions and activities during the past year include:

- The continuation of a Vestry Covenant. Our covenant is consistent with the Cathedral's mission statement and assures that although we have a variety of gifts and different perspectives we will be respectful of each other while discerning the common good;
- Continuing to make rounds of calls to parishioner households to check on members' well-being and to listen to their joys and concerns;
- Approving funds to continue the partnership with the William Jewell College Center for Faith and Culture;
- Reinstating the policy that the positions of Finance Committee Chair, Treasurer, and Budget Committee Chair be held by three different individuals;
- Authorizing the Common Room Renovation Committee to move forward with developing an action plan and budget for reimagining the function and form of the Common Room; and
- Approving and adopting the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan.

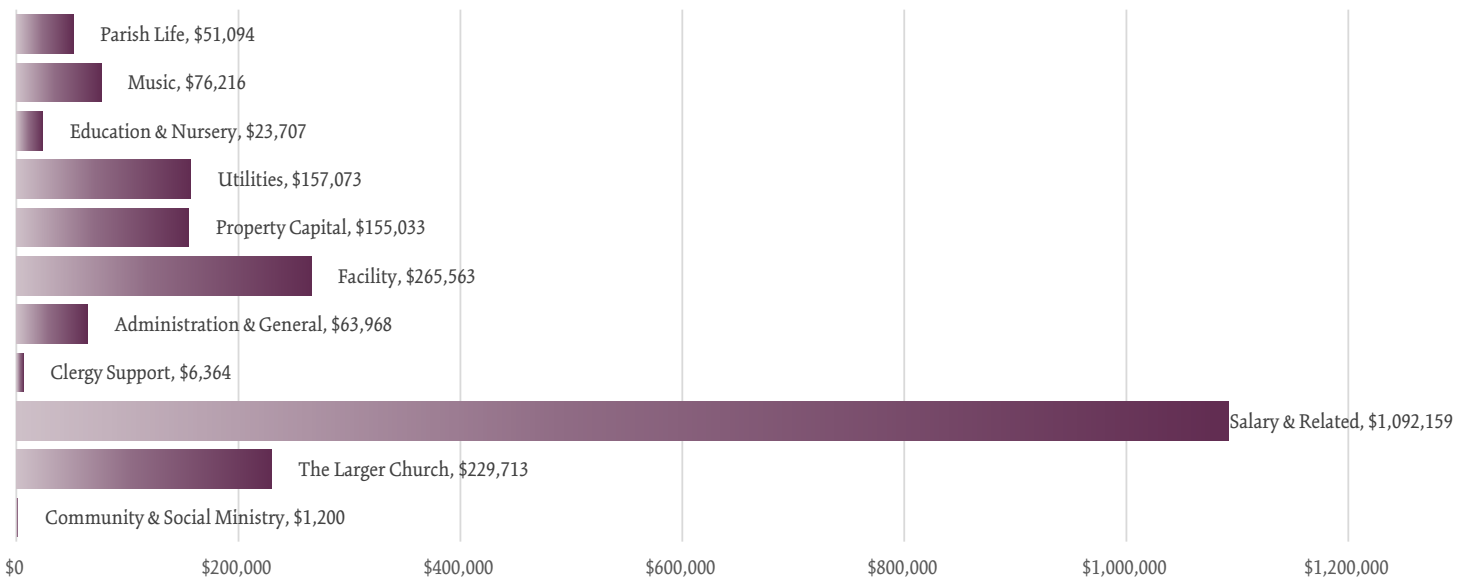
As this final year of my term as Senior Warden of the Vestry concludes, I feel honored, thankful and grateful. Honored to have served with the other officers and members of the Cathedral Vestry; thankful for the support and patience of the Cathedral Staff; and finally, grateful to Dean Andy for giving me the opportunity to serve our beloved parish in a unique way.

I look forward to supporting the work of the Vestry and the entire Parish as we continue to discern and do God's will as this part of the Body of Christ known as Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

## 2023 Budget Revenue



## 2023 Budget Expenses





## Treasurer's Report

*Dave Barker*

The strong markets were our friends in 2023. Our Investment Securities started the year at \$14,574,998 and ended the year at \$15,142,854, producing a gain of \$567,856. Over long periods of time, it's a trend. Over short periods of time, it's a trend we dare not count on. We continue to transfer money from our endowments to meet our ongoing obligations. In 2023 we transferred \$689,601 for that purpose.

The Budget for 2023 was balanced at \$2,071,115. Our total expenses for the year totalled \$2,112,090.

Our Pledge income was budgeted at \$500,000. Actual Pledge receipts were \$456,513 up from \$441,012 in 2022. The final result may be better than reported, as typically some pledge income comes in in January and February of the following year.

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b><u>2023 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2023 Actual</u></b>	<b><u>2024 Budget</u></b>
Pledges	\$500,000	\$456,513	\$500,000
Plate Offering	\$55,000	\$68,036	\$55,000
Gifts & Bequests	\$22,500	\$4,809	\$15,000
Diocese	\$1,762	\$3,970	\$2,209
Recurring Bequests	\$550,581	\$476,031	\$480,019
User Fees	\$50,000	\$53,877	\$52,000
Endowment to Operating	\$670,586	\$689,601	\$736,329
Interfund Transfers	\$0	(\$7,184)	\$268,844
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$1,850,429</b>	<b>\$1,745,654</b>	<b>\$2,109,401</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Community & Social Ministry	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$27,000
The Larger Church	\$231,887	\$229,713	\$241,408
Clergy Salary & Related	\$335,281	\$294,975	\$304,838
Lay Salary & Related	\$838,350	\$797,184	\$847,560
Clergy Support	\$8,900	\$6,364	\$7,500
Administration & General	\$76,123	\$63,968	\$70,852
Facility	\$265,142	\$265,563	\$269,150
Property Capital Expenses	\$0	\$155,033	-
Utilities	\$141,000	\$157,073	\$156,000
Education	\$28,000	\$21,299	\$26,500
Music	\$79,266	\$76,216	\$83,429
Parish Life	\$80,765	\$51,094	\$69,965
Nursery	\$5,200	\$2,408	\$5,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,121,115</b>	<b>\$2,122,090</b>	<b>\$2,109,401</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(\$270,686)</b>	<b>(\$376,436)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

*Michael Thomas*

The Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Vestry continues to meet every other month on the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are held in the Common Room at the Cathedral at 4 p.m. The format is hybrid allowing for zoom for those who cannot make it to the Cathedral. The current membership consists of Dean Keyse, Angela Graham, Julie Toma, Sharon Cheers, Bud McDowell, Ric Sweeting, Ken Stewart, David Barker, Blain Lagergren and Michael Thomas.

In 2023, the committee engaged in a number of projects to maintain our campus which covers a full city block. The buildings range in age from 20 years to 125 years. Projects undertaken by the committee this year include sealing and protecting the reredos in the courtyard between Diocesan offices and the Cathedral. Several HVAC projects were undertaken including repair of the compression fan in Founders' Hall, renewal of the heating system for the Common Room, and the purchase and installation of "cottonwood screens" to protect the large chillers outside of Founders' Hall. It is anticipated that this will save the church annual expenses on service calls to clean and maintain the equipment.

Service and maintenance of our plumbing is required on an ongoing basis. This included the addition of a main shut-off valve for Founders' Hall. Also, the grounds staff under the direction of Angela Graham is replacing the outside lighting around the campus. Sharon Cheers updated the committee several times on the security concerns on the campus and the lighting, with regular patrols from our off-duty officers, should help. Cameras were also added to

Founders' Hall to cover inside the entrance and the large hall inside.

Many of you noticed that the parking lot was repaired, sealed and striped this year. We also have the excellent assistance of Ric Sweeting, who in addition to heading up the Garden Guild, also plays an important role on the committee in advising about the grounds and gardens.

The committee is already planning for priorities that will need to be addressed for 2024 and beyond. Among those are to seek advice on the best approach to maintain and protect the flooring in Founders' Hall. In addition, planning is already in process for how to revise the way memorials are displayed for our memorial garden. The desire is to result in a more efficient use of the space which is durable and attractive. Finally, discussions are under way on ideas for remodeling the Common Room.

None of this work would be possible without the participation of all members of the committee. In particular, very little would be implemented without the diligent work and direction of Julie Toma and Angela Graham. For anyone interested in the work of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, your participation would be welcomed. Please call the Cathedral office with inquiries.

## Cathedral Events in 2023

### Lent

Jambalaya Dinner  
 Stations of the Cross weekly  
 Wednesday Night Classes  
 Altar Guild Workday  
 Palm Cross Making



### Lent/Easter

Holy Week services  
 Easter Vigil (confirmations & baptism)  
 Easter Day



### April

For Pete's Sake Fundraiser



### May

Youth Sunday



### June

First Friday Event  
 Parish Picnic  
 Pride Parade



### September

Croquet Tournament  
 Ministry Fair



### October

Blessing of the Animals  
 Lyric Opera – GHTC Joint Event:  
 Community Conversations



### November

Kirkin' o' the Tartan  
 Stewardship Lunch



### December

Nativity Puppets  
 Women of Grace Lunch  
 Messiah Singalong  
 Advent Lessons & Carols  
 Christmas Services



William Jewell Partnership Classes

## Diocesan Events at the Cathedral in 2023

### January

Ordinations (Deacons)  
 MLK Service



### June

Ordinations (Deacons)



### July

Ordination (Priests)  
 NW-Metro Deanery Picnic at GHTC

### August

Doctrine of Discovery Seminar  
 Journey with the Mystics Workshop



### November

Diversity Workshop: Undoing Racism  
 Diocesan Convention at GHTC  
 Diocesan Youth Presence Lock-in



## Some of the Other Groups that Used the Cathedral Spaces in 2023

Kansas City Symphony Chorus  
 Heartland Men's Chorus  
 William Baker Festival Singers & Summer Singers  
 Cornerstones of Care, Behavior Intervention Support Team  
 United Nations Association of Greater Kansas City  
 Kansas City Board of Elections  
 Saint Luke's Hospice  
 Saint Luke's Clinical Pastoral Education 50th Anniversary  
 Godly Play North American Conference  
 KC Bass Workshop  
 Mennonite Church USA Meetings  
 Kansas City Chamber Orchestra  
 Friends of Chamber Music  
 Sandwiched Caregiving  
 Nativity Puppets  
 ZuZu's Petals

# CLERGY & STAFF

**The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse**  
Dean

**The Rev. James Yazell**  
Associate

**The Rev. Barbara Wegener**  
Deacon

**Julie Toma**  
Cathedral Administrator

**Dr. Paul Meier**  
Director of Music

**Dr. Lucas Fletcher**  
Associate Organist

**Clare Stern-Burbano**  
College, Youth & Children's Minister

**Melissa Kilpatrick**  
Communications Coordinator

**Holly Campbell**  
Events Coordinator

**Steve Berman**  
Finance Coordinator

**Dr. Joan Bergstrom**  
Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator

**Glen Wesner**  
Verger

**Angie Graham**  
Facility Manager

**Bianca Jackson**  
Assistant Facility Manager

**Mike Guidry**  
Facility Assistant

**Brian Marrs**  
Facility Assistant

**Farzana Farzad**  
Facility Assistant

**Jenae Perkins**  
Facility Assistant

**Ken Stewart**  
Bookstore Manager

# VESTRY OFFICERS

**Candace McDowell**  
Senior Warden

**Michael Thomas**  
Junior Warden

**David Barker**  
Treasurer

**Valerie Johnson**  
Clerk

**Steve Moore**  
Chancellor

## CLASS OF 2024

**Pat Decker**  
**Candace McDowell**  
**Ron Michka**  
**Kay Woolley**

## CLASS OF 2025

**Sharon Cheers**  
**Valerie Johnson**  
**Paula Livingston-Lewis**  
**Michael Thomas**

## CLASS OF 2026

**Julie Brogno**  
**Sara Copeland**  
**Blain Lagergren**  
**Mathias Nichols**