



St James Cathedral

CHICAGO

2021 Ministry Reports

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Worship

Vergers & Acolytes	1
Altar Guild	1
Linen Care Ministry	2
Ushers	2
Readers & Intercessors	3
Online Services	3

Music

Cathedral Choir	4
Cathedral Choristers	4
Concerts at St. James Cathedral	5

Children & Youth Faith Formation

Children's Ministry	5
Youth Ministry	6

Adult Faith Formation

Introduction	7
Young Adults	7
Centering Prayer	8

Parish Life

Invite Welcome Connect	8
Welcome Team	9

Pastoral Care

Introduction	10
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	10
Sacramental Life	11

Outreach Ministries

Introduction	12
St. James Meals	13
Meals Among Us	14
Summer in the City	14
Revive Christmas Gifts	16
Antiracism Working Group	17
Charitable Giving	17

Governance & Finances

Senior Warden Report	18
Finance Commission	19
Investment Report	20
Count Ministry	20

WORSHIP

VERGERS & ACOLYTES *by Kevin Godsil, Head Verger*

2021 was an exciting year of growth for the Vergers and Acolytes. We began the year using one acolyte at every livestreamed 11:00 a.m. service, as COVID-19 protocols dictated no more than ten people at any gathering at that time. Over the course of the year, we recruited several new acolytes and welcomed back some familiar faces to the ranks. Now as we move forward, we can staff the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Eucharist in a more familiar, formal, and elaborate way and look to continue moving in that direction as guidelines allow.

We hope that 2022 proves to be an even more exciting year as we continue to grow and increase our abilities to train new servers and offer a higher level of liturgical service. The Acolyte Customary is in the process of being revised for current practices and we plan on having at least one training workshop, as circumstances allow, to reinforce that Acolyte Customary.

Our current roster is nine acolytes, three of which are vergers, and we hope to increase those numbers in the new year as we are able.

ALTAR GUILD *by Charles Peterson, Chair*

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the sanctuary for Sunday and weekday Eucharists, as well as a variety of other services like weddings, funerals, and diocesan events. There is a wide variety of things used in the services: fair linens, frontal linens, priestly vestments, a variety of candles, silver, brass, torches, crucifixes, wine, bread, flowers, and the baptismal font. The Altar Guild takes care of all these precious items. As we work in the sanctuary, sacristy, vesting room, and laundry, we experience a special closeness to the Holy Trinity and the members of the parish.

There are three groups of volunteers contributing to the work of the Altar Guild. Arista Elder and I usually set up for services. Thom Ehlen sets up for the weekday Eucharists at Noon. The Linen Care Ministry team, led by David Briere, cleans and irons the fair linen. Nathan Mason is responsible for the decoration of the sanctuary with flowers, greens, and colorful fabrics for special feast days. I would also like to thank the acolytes, who have been so cooperative and eager to help with preparations and cleaning up after the services.

During this COVID-19 period, membership in the Altar Guild has diminished, especially those who work on Sundays, for weddings, funerals, and diocesan services. Arista and I long for new members to join our team. It may sound like a lot of work, and it is, but it is also such a blessing to serve God, the parish, and the many visitors who attend our services. If you feel called to participate in the preparation for worship services, please contact Arista or me. You are also encouraged to meet us in the sacristy before or after services.

LINEN CARE MINISTRY *by David Briere, Ministry Leader*

The Linen Care Ministry is an offshoot of the Altar Guild Ministry, whose focus is on keeping the Cathedral's fine linens in impeccably clean and excellent condition. This involves weekly gathering of soiled linens, then treating, washing, ironing, and folding them in a manner prescribed for the various services at the Cathedral.

With the increased number of weekly and Sunday services during 2021, we began to see the number of pieces of linen being used increase to an amount close to pre-pandemic counts. The task of ensuring a clean supply of linens was handled well by our loyal team of volunteers.

Our Linen Team had been comprised of four dedicated veteran members: Edith O'Keefe, Jane Marienau, Sue Cloud, and me. We were very fortunate to add Marsha Watt to our group in 2021. This special group of "unseen" volunteers always welcomes new members and encourages you to inquire about and join this very rewarding ministry.

USHER MINISTRY *by Allen Moye, Head Usher*

Despite the evolving restrictions related to the Covid pandemic, the usher ministry continued to provide a warm welcome for all who chose to worship in person at St. James Cathedral. By late January, in-person capacity was increased to 50, with masks and social distancing requirements still in place. Although our ranks had begun to shrink since the reality of the pandemic set in, we managed to support our services and events with a core group of committed volunteers. By year's end a few more had returned to serve, and thanks to the recruitment efforts of Laura Jenkins, we managed to add three new members.

As we moved into the Advent Season, we were supporting a full schedule of services and events. Each week a team of two to four ushers regularly participated in the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. In addition, we assisted at two funerals, the annual Hispanic Liturgy, a Diaconal Ordination service, Choral Evensong & Compline Services, Lessons and Carols, and three services over the Christmas weekend.

As 2022 dawns, we find ourselves amid a surge of a new strain of COVID-19. However, we remain faithful and committed to supporting the in-person services and events at St. James in whatever format that may be for the foreseeable future.

We are asking St. James members to consider participating in this valuable and indispensable ministry. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with an usher, or contact me at moyear@hotmail.com. We will be more than happy to tell you about our ministry.

READERS & INTERCESSORS *by Jocelyn Colao, Associate for Administration*

The service of reading scripture and speaking the prayers of the people plays a vital role in worship. As representatives of the congregation, the body of Christ, readers and intercessors embody two ministries to which every Christian is called: to share the good news of Christ and to pray. Taking over this ministry has been a great pleasure for me. I am constantly amazed at the dedication and enthusiasm for this important ministry.

After two long and tiring years within the COVID-19 pandemic, our readers and intercessors have continued to enhance our worship services with their voices and prayers, representing an incredible resiliency and turning us towards the Bible in the most difficult of times. After returning to some sense of normalcy, we welcomed back six readers and intercessors to the roster who, because of safety and health protocols and concerns, had taken a break from this ministry. With these members returning and a handful of new members joining, our full roster stands at a thriving 17. I extend a heartfelt thank you to each member of this team for their continued commitment and support of this vital ministry, but we could, of course, always use a few more volunteers! I invite any member of the St. James community who may be interested in reading or interceding to contact me and learn more about joining this important ministry.

ONLINE SERVICES *by Robert Black, Canon for Administration*

When COVID-19 arrived in 2020 and in-person worship was suspended, we moved as quickly as possible to offer our worship services online. In Holy Week 2020 our clergy began recording daily, week-day video reflections YouTube and those popular videos continued without fail in 2021, with 255 daily reflections and a combined 17,423 views (an average of 68 per video).

We began live streaming Sunday 11 a.m. services on YouTube in Fall 2020 and continued in 2021 with 64 live streams and a combined 5,357 views (an average of 84 per service). As 2021 progressed, we fine-tuned our production by adding a sixth camera and upgrading our sound recording system. For most of 2021 our cameras were placed on tripods throughout the Cathedral, as we experimented with camera angles. In December 2021, the cameras were mounted in permanent positions.

I am grateful to Paul Bieschke, who has been the editor of our daily reflections and video director for every live stream but two since we began. Although the Bieschke family moved to Nashville, TN, in 2021, Paul continues to direct the live streams remotely from there.

Our online presence was augmented and expanded in November 2021 when The Rev. Lisa Hackney-James appeared as a guest preacher on the prestigious, long-running *Day1* national radio program and podcast featuring preachers from across the country.

MUSIC

CATHEDRAL CHOIR *by Stephen Buzard, Director of Music*

2021 was a challenging year for choirs. Singing produces a much higher volume of aerosols than most activities, exacerbating the risk of spreading an airborne virus like COVID-19. We began the year entirely virtual, each singer recording their part along to a reference track. Organ Scholar Meg Cutting and I stitched these files together to create a virtual choir, providing vocal leadership in worship services. After the vaccine rollout, we began to incorporate live singing once again, rebuilding the choir's size to pre-pandemic levels by September.

Throughout the fall, the choir sang wearing masks while maintaining at least three feet of distance between singers. Proof of vaccination was also mandatory. Although distance and masking are a hinderance to singing, the choir has arguably sounded better than ever before. This is partially attributable to some excellent new hires among the paid singers. St. James burnished its reputation as a good employer of musicians by keeping all singers on payroll throughout the pandemic, making a position in our choir even more coveted than it was before. The process of virtual recording also enhanced our choir's musicianship, encouraging each singer to grow more independent. But I believe this improvement is due to something much more personal and essential. A year without singing has taught us to cherish each moment we make music together and to be more present with one another in community.

As the Omicron variant took hold and case counts began to spike, we added a regimen of rapid testing to the choir's coronavirus precautions, allowing us to carry on through Christmas when many other choirs had ceased singing. Until this wave begins to abate, we have suspended the full choir, engaging an octet of masked, distanced, and tested singers on Sunday mornings only. We plan to resume a normal choral schedule once the local coronavirus data return to more manageable levels.

CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS *by Stephen Buzard, Director of Music*

As with the Cathedral Choir, this year has been both a challenging and enriching one for the choristers. At the start of 2021, all chorister training was accomplished online, which is not an ideal environment for singing. In the early spring, Meg Cutting and I began teaching the choristers individual in-person voice lessons in the cathedral. As the weather warmed, we resumed chorister rehearsals in the south garden. In the fall, we moved rehearsals inside, keeping the children in family pods with at least 6 feet of distance between choristers from different families. Once all the choristers could be vaccinated, they were able to sing Advent IV and Nine Lessons and Carols alongside the adult choir.

We found that the individual vocal instruction has led to an immense improvement in the choristers' skills and confidence. The choristers have begun tackling more and more complicated repertoire, most notably Britten's *Missa brevis*, written for three voice parts using advanced 20th-century compositional techniques. The choristers would not have been capable

of rendering this very fine piece of music without their hard work and the individual instruction they received during the pandemic.

To maintain a safe, controlled environment for the children, we have not recruited new choristers during the pandemic. As such, the group is smaller now and will need to be rebuilt after the worst of the danger passes. Due to the Omicron surge, we have suspended choristers for the month of January, resuming once case numbers decrease. As we rebuild, we will be doing so upon a stronger foundation.

CONCERTS AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL *by Robert Black, Canon for Administration*

After a year of no live concerts in 2020, having canceled 26 concerts that were scheduled that year, we were finally able to resume in-person and live streamed Rush Hour Concerts in the Summer of 2021, with portions broadcast on WFMT radio. In the Fall of 2021 we hosted five more live concerts, with performances by The Chicago Composers Orchestra, Camerata Chicago, Northwestern Medical Orchestra, and Lakeside Singers. In 2022 we are looking forward a concert by the internationally renowned British choral group VOCES8 and to welcoming back Rush Hour Concerts and other groups.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY *by Alison Barrington, Director of Children's Ministries*

In 2021 we continued to create opportunities for the children at St. James to gather through online and in-person activities and were grateful for the way in which the community was able to grow and thrive together despite the necessary COVID-19 restrictions.

The start of the 2021 saw children and youth formation groups continuing their online sessions on Sunday mornings. At 9 a.m. I led Songs and Stories for our very youngest children and their caregivers, and at 10 a.m. Dean Niedenthal, Allison Ortlieb, and George Culver were online presenting Sunday School through games, discussions, videos, and prayer. Karen Hafstrom provided games, word searches, arts and crafts, and activities which were sent out each week.

We offered online Winter and Spring Arts Camps led by The Rev. Erika Takacs and me. Children attended from St. James Cathedral, Church of the Atonement, and from further afield, and enjoyed sharing crafts, prayers, stories, and singing together.

Other online activities included cooking classes with Chef Jackie and arts and crafts projects sent out to encourage the children to engage in seasonal events and the liturgical calendar. The most impressive piece of artwork can currently be seen in Kyle's Place. LeeAnn Shelton led this

summer project which enabled 12 families to color a poster with a message of invitation into our community.

When the 9 a.m. family service resumed in-person, the younger members were able to reengage by leading prayers, reading scripture, and serving as acolytes. Re-imagining this service has led to the introduction of sign language for the Eucharistic prayer and our littlest participants enjoy ringing the bells during the Great Amen.

During the warmer months the families gathered in parks for games, conversation, and community. Andrew Shelton and Maria Price provided endless ball games for the kids, which was a real joy. Many thanks for their energy and enthusiasm.

We started in-person Sunday School classes with a welcome back party in September. Classes started with a curriculum focusing on the Good Samaritan, which encouraged the groups to consider our Christian values of welcoming and serving our neighbors. The Sunday School and Junior High groups have taken responsibility for our Meals Among Us feeding ministry once a month. Their eagerness means that the work gets done in about half the time! Many thanks to Tim Zeller for his leadership.

All the Sunday School leaders have been so generous, flexible, and thoughtful with their time and talents. It really has become a team effort and I want to thank Christine Callahan, Allison Ortlieb, Andrea Van Duzor, and Maureen Zeller in their roles as leaders, as well as Tara Johannesen, Jess McCarthy, and Yvonne Alokha for their caring support. We keenly await Karen Hafstrom's return to in-person classes – we know she's waiting in the wings!

Finally, a big thank you to Dean Niedenthal, who wrote and produced the in-person Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. Narrated beautifully by Christine Callahan and Leland Culver, it was a great success.

YOUTH MINISTRY *by Maria Price and Alison Barrington*

Youth ministry at St. James Cathedral continued with online meetings throughout 2021 and leaders Andrew Shelton and Maria Price focused on establishing a sense of community via Zoom every week. When the weather was warmer, they also gathered in person, playing volleyball and other games. Transformation team building has been so vital during the pandemic for the members of this ministry. Since Fall 2021 the youth ministry has been divided into senior high and junior high groups, which has necessitated a growing team of leaders.

Junior High: Leaders Andrew Shelton, Timothy Beltran Del Rio, and Maria Price welcomed the second group of Junior High students, 6th and 7th grade, to the Rite 13 class which has been in person since September 2021. Each Sunday students received thoughtfully developed lessons that combined Rite-13 curriculum with relevant and engaging activities and discussion. Each session is designed to allow for authentic student-led inquiry and conversation exploring aspects of faith, spirituality, and society. The purpose of Rite-13's holistic classroom approach is to help our community's adolescents discover the meaning of church and Christian faith

independently. In addition to class time in Sunday School, throughout the fall students actively learned about serving our neighbors by making sandwiches for the Meals Among Us ministry.

Senior High: The Senior High youth group focused on confirmation classes in the Fall and were led by Dean Niedenthal and George Culver. These classes engaged the members in lively discussion which encouraged both their own spiritual journey and a growing sense of connection within the St. James community. On October 31, Benedict Barrington, Mary Jane Maus, Alex Olmstead, and Zach and Natalie Ortlieb were confirmed by Bishop Barry Beisner. These sessions will move on beyond confirmation classes in 2022 and engage in a wider variety of activities both within and beyond the cathedral.

St. James Cathedral is moving forward with a confident sense of commitment to the members of these groups, and it is a joy to know that there is strong leadership developing within this ministry.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

INTRODUCTION *by The Very Rev. Dominic Barrington, Dean*

For obvious reasons, 2021 was a complex year to offer adult formation! A successful online learning opportunity based on the Presiding Bishop's *Becoming Beloved Community* was successful in the first weeks of Lent, but an increasing weariness with Zoom led us to move away from online offerings later in the year.

Dean's Forums resumed in September, focusing on a 'back to basics' approach to revisit the Bible. Measured as a percentage of those who attended either the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. service, attendance at the forums was higher than in 'normal' times, and there were some illuminating and robust conversations with wonderful contributions from just about every person present. It was also a delight to have a confirmation class for adult candidates that culminated in the Confirmation service on All Saints Sunday when we welcomed Bishop Barry Beisner.

YOUNG ADULTS *by The Rev. Anna Broadbent, Associate for Outreach Ministries*

Despite the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, St. James Cathedral continues to attract a steady flow of young adults searching for a church home. The Young Adult Ministry is the metaphoric big red door of welcome that helps those in their 20s and 30s connect and integrate into the St. James Cathedral community.

Throughout the majority of 2021 the Young Adults Ministry was able to return to their monthly in-person gathering, the Second Sunday Supper. Second Sunday Supper provides Young Adults an opportunity to engage in fellowship over a shared meal, closing the night out by praying compline together around the high altar. Young Adults Ministry also consistently volunteered together with Meals Among Us, allowing them the opportunity to connect and get to know one another through acts of service.

Young adults continue to integrate themselves throughout the life of St. James. They regularly give of their time and talents in a variety of ministries including acolytes, readers, intercessors, youth ministry, Cathedral Chapter, and outreach ministries.

CENTERING PRAYER *by Greg Gerber, Centering Prayer Leader*

The St. James Centering Prayer practice “lived” entirely in a virtual world in 2021. We gathered each Wednesday evening telephonically through conference call. This medium worked well, with a dedicated group gathering each week.

Centering Prayer started at St. James during Advent, 2019 with an in-person practice in St. Andrews Chapel. Centering Prayer is a wordless, contemplative prayer practice that involves “opening” ourselves to divine presence. While there is a simple “method” that is used, the primary purpose of Centering Prayer is to come together with the intention of connecting with God. This age-old Christian practice looks and feels like meditation. Centering Prayer connects with God through silence and through being in community with others. John of the Cross suggested “Silence is God’s first language.” Our practitioners would likely agree, having experienced a unique spiritual communion through Centering Prayer.

The Centering Prayer group has used Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault as our primary teacher. Her books “Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening” and “The Heart of Centering Prayer” were primary texts. Additional references include teachings from Fr. Thomas Keating and other spiritual leaders. Centering Prayer will continue to “gather” via dial-in until COVID-19 protocols allow us to return to St. Andrews Chapel. All are welcome to join us!

PARISH LIFE

INVITE WELCOME CONNECT *by The Rev. Canon Lisa Hackney-James, Sub-Dean*

In 2021 flexibility and persistence were crucial to the ministry of welcome and connection at St. James. Even as COVID-19 numbers and protocols evolved and changed, new members were added to our community. The Welcome Team report below details the efforts of our local Invite Welcome Connect team.

Across the church more broadly, we have recognized the need to develop new ways of welcoming and incorporating those who have come to us primarily through online and other digital means. The Rev Lisa Hackney-James serves as Chair of the national Invite Welcome Connect Advisory Board, supporting the work of the organization focused on resourcing the church with tools for this moment as we emerge from pandemic restrictions.

THE WELCOME TEAM *by Laura Jenkins, Welcome Team Leader*

The Welcome Team is one facet of the parish-wide Invite-Welcome-Connect (IWC) initiative. The thriving Welcome Ministry of early 2020 experienced enormous challenges during the pandemic shutdowns of 2020 and 2021. In-person worship, with capacity limits, resumed (again) in early 2021, but many IWC team members, like parish members in general, were slow to return to the physical church building. Online worship continued, as did informal electronic “greeting” in the chat section of the Facebook feed. A brief period of lifted restrictions on capacity, mask wearing and physical distancing during the early summer, along with wide availability of vaccines for adults, made it appear that life was returning to “normal.” However, rising COVID-19 case numbers and the reinstatement of mask requirements in Chicago in late summer and through the fall modulated that sense of freedom. Nonetheless, the Greeter Ministry took tentative steps toward re-establishing in-person greeting at services.

Despite all the challenges, new people continued to find their way to St. James. We were delighted when an informal poll of some of these newcomers indicated strong interest in an in-person (rather than Zoom) Newcomer Lunch on September 26. Weather cooperated to allow for a pleasant lunch outdoors on the terrace next to Kyle’s Place, and Chef Jackie was able to create wonderful box lunches in place of our usual buffet. Attendance was the same as for pre-pandemic lunches, with about 35 newcomers and hosts.

In late 2021 a small group of clergy, staff, and lay leaders was constituted to review and update the enormous database of potential, active, and former members of St. James. This working group is refining the database to develop an accurate record of members. This allows us to re-engage with people who may have a tenuous relationship with St. James and is one of the first steps toward creating the long-desired parish directory that will allow us to connect with one another more easily.

Recognizing that opportunities to gather outside of worship are essential for a truly welcoming church, we plan to hold at least four Newcomer Lunches during 2022, and to restart coffee hours with dedicated “Connectors”— people who will invite and escort newcomers into the coffee hour space and introduce them to others. Both efforts will depend upon the relaxation of restrictions that were reinstated as the omicron variant of the virus began spreading rapidly at the end of 2021.

Although much of the structure of Invite-Welcome-Connect at St. James must be rebuilt and re-envisioned, considering what we have learned through the pandemic, the strong faith-based foundation of this ministry remains.

Pastoral Care

INTRODUCTION *by The Rev. Canon Lisa Hackney-James, Sub-Dean*

Pastoral care lies at the heart of our life in community. Bearing one another's burdens, sharing in one another's joy and celebrations, we live out our baptismal promises by supporting one another in mutual care and prayer.

While lay eucharistic visits were not possible during most of the year, clergy pastoral calls were possible with responsible precautions, and continued throughout the year. One cathedral member, Laura Jenkins, completed the Bishop Anderson House Pastoral visitor training program.

The prayer life of the cathedral community continued to be enriched by members who compose and offer intercessions at the 11:00a.m. service. Parishioners and members of the wider community have made increasing use of the cathedral prayer list to request the prayers of our cathedral congregation.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS *by Laura Jenkins, LEM Coordinator*

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) offer the consistent sign of God's care and presence by bringing the sacrament (elements of communion blessed in congregational worship) to members of the congregation who are unable to be present at the celebration of the Eucharist because of illness or infirmity.

As the pandemic continued in 2021, COVID-19 protocols meant that home visits were not possible during most of the year. Mary Jo Barton, Mike Hess, and Laura Jenkins remained in the ministry and were able to maintain some connections by phone and email with homebound parishioners.

Diocesan restrictions on home visits for communion were lifted in late 2021. Ministry team members anticipate that active ministry will be able to resume in 2022 (COVID-19 allowing). We also look forward to meeting with our clergy liaison to review past practices and future procedures, including protocols to ensure parishioners who might benefit are made aware of the ministry.

We would also look forward to developing complementary activities under an expanded pastoral care ministry (e.g., card ministry to the homebound; maintaining contact with family members following the death of a home bound parishioner; providing compassionate connections with parish members in need of community.)

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms

William Mac Hagerup
Yara Magdalene Evelyn

Youth Confirmations

Benedict Michael Barrington
Mary Jane Maus
Natalie Ortlieb
Zachary Ortlieb
Alexander Olmstead

Adult Confirmations

Kristin Anna Bernhard
Patrick Kellow
John Fischer
Beth M. Mitchell
Marsh Watt
Eugene Wang
Candace Wang

Received

Robert Patrick Callahan, Jr.

Burials

Harry Conkey
Jordan Hamilton
Barbara Hampton
Timothy Loeffler

Marriages

Jillian Kimberly Wiedrich & Matthew John Newman
Thomas Alan Taylor & Calvin Johannes Coleman
Kevin Garza Rodriguez & Kaitlin Alexandra Chakos

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

INTRODUCTION *by The Rev. Anna Broadbent, Associate for Outreach Ministries*

Our outreach ministries at St. James Cathedral continue to be something for which the entire St. James Community can be proud. St. James outreach ministries, including Summer in the City, St. James Meals, Meals Among Us, and ReVive are dependent on the generosity of time, talent, and treasure of this community. Members of St. James Cathedral from the ages of 3 to 90 have found a way to contribute to one or more of the outreach ministries we offer. Since my arrival at St. James, 2021 was the year I saw more members get involved in one way or another.

The continued COVID-19 pandemic created continued opportunities for the outreach ministries of to adapt and be creative to ensure that we continue to live out our mission. The passion for outreach and social justice ministries at St. James stems directly from our community worship and baptismal covenant. All members of St. James aspire to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to strive for justice, peace, and dignity among all people.” Our outreach and social justice ministries provide a very tangible way to live a life that reflects Jesus Christ in our community.

A highlight of 2021 was the honor of hosting an Interfaith Service of Remembrance for our St. James Meals community guests. The service, hosted on the St. James Commons plaza, provided an opportunity for our neighbors to honor and remember those who had died throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I was honored to officiate the service alongside clergy from Fourth Presbyterian Church and a rabbi from Chicago Sinai Congregation.

St. James Meals continued to serve two homecooked hot meals a month from the St. James Commons kitchen. When the weather warmed up, we were able to set up tables on the St. James Commons Plaza, which gave our guests a much-needed opportunity to reconnect as a community. Volunteers continued their commitment of prepping food in the kitchen the day before and on meal days to ensure we could provide full meals while respecting COVID-19 protocols.

Summer in the City (SitC), following the camp-in-a-box pivot of 2020, was proud to return to a two-week in person day camp, welcoming 37 campers in 2021! SitC felt familiar and brought joy to all who participated. Campers and volunteers enjoyed adventures throughout the City of Chicago, from Skokie to Southshore. A highlight of SitC was building a new partnership with a youth center in Englewood, “LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood”, and welcome 12 new campers. SitC 2021 was Program Director Tony Santiago’s last summer with SitC. We are extremely grateful for Tony’s four years with SitC and are excited to build upon the foundation he established for St. James.

Meals Among Us, our weekly bagged meal ministry established in late 2020, continued to thrive throughout 2021. We maintained our efforts to provided 100 bagged meals per week to Martin

Temple AME Zion Church in the Grand Crossing neighborhood. With a generous grant from Episcopal Charities we were able to expand Meals Among Us to also provide 30 bagged meals to our new partner, LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood.

As the Associate for Outreach Ministries at St. James Cathedral, I want to extend my gratitude to the willingness of this community to engage in these pivotal ministries. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the outreach ministries of St. James Cathedral, please consider my door open to you – I would love the opportunity to help you find the right fit for you!

ST. JAMES MEALS *by Erin Maus, Chair of St. James Meals Committee*

Nearly 2,000 meals were served to our food-insecure guests during this second year of the pandemic. After a steep pandemic-related learning curve in 2000, we were able this year to settle into the most safe and effective way to provide hot, healthy, and fulfilling meals to our friends and neighbors.

When we reported on this ministry last year, we were optimistic that the pandemic might be waning, and that this ministry might be able to come back inside for sit-down meals. Much discussion and planning by the St. James Meals Committee went into envisioning what that would look like, particularly when the weather started to cool. However, the Delta and then Omicron variants made such a transition impossible. We were able instead to put tables on the plaza during good weather to invite and allow for our guests to sit safely distanced and enjoy not only their meal but each other's company. We continue to strive to offer our hospitality to all who join us and facilitate opportunities for fellowship among our volunteers and guests, despite the safety and space restrictions we continue to face. We also implemented a permanent time change for our Sunday meals from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This change ensured that this ministry did not conflict with any of our worship offerings, allowing our volunteers and guests the opportunity to both worship and participate in a Sunday meal.

We maintained our regular offering of personal care toiletry items and socks. Masks and hand sanitizer were added, when available. We were, once again, blessed by a generous donation of socks from Bombas, with an increased commitment for 2022 of 5,000 socks – the largest yearly donation from Bombas to date. Through the gift of a generous donor we were able to continue our tradition of giving away grocery gift cards during our two December meals.

A debt of gratitude is owed to all within the St. James Cathedral community who have supported St. James Meals this year. Many of you have supported this ministry through financial gifts, cooking and cleaning, and serving. Our guests remain grateful that St. James has continued to serve healthy, hot meals throughout the pandemic. Regardless of what happens with the pandemic this year, we know that this ministry will thrive because this faith community is committed to sharing the love of God with our neighbors no matter what challenges we face.

MEALS AMONG US *by The Rev. Anna Broadbent, Associate for Outreach Ministries*

Meals Among Us has quickly risen to be a staple of the St. James Cathedral community. In the year since its inception, it has easily integrated itself into the regular rhythm of our Sunday morning routine. Week in and week out, a team of 4-8 volunteers gather on the 2nd floor of St. James Commons to commit an hour or two of their time to assemble the meals that are then delivered to our community partners the following morning. We are extremely grateful to continue our partnership with Martin Temple AME Zion Church in the Grand Crossing neighborhood, providing them with 100 bagged meals per week that supplement their hot meal served every Monday.

We were blessed to receive a \$5,000 Parish Partnership grant from Episcopal Charities. The grant has given us the resources to add a new partner to Meals Among Us. Building on the relationship established between Summer in the City and LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood, we committed to providing the youth a bagged meal weekly, throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Meals Among Us has also integrated itself in with the curriculum of the Sunday School program. On the third Sunday of each month, Meals Among Us provides an opportunity for children and their families to put their faith into action, which is a huge highlight for Meals Among Us volunteers and the kids who serve.

Meals Among Us has thrived under the committed leadership of several volunteers who act as Team Leads (provide Sunday morning leadership one a month) and our drivers (rotation of three volunteers who deliver the meals to our partners once or twice a month). Meals Among Us also greatly benefits from the leadership of Chef Jackie Lord, who designs the menu and ensures that all the necessary food and supplies are available on a weekly basis.

SUMMER IN THE CITY *by Nicole Spencer, Summer in the City Committee Chair*

2021 was the fourth year of SITC leadership by Program Director Tony Santiago and Associate for Outreach Ministries, Anna Broadbent, and the second year of Camp Manager Micha Figueroa (the “SITC Team” or “Team”). The primary influence on SITC 2021 programming was the ever-evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Team wanted to ensure that the SITC community (campers, families, and volunteers) continued to receive engagement, even when unable to gather in person, through off-season events (Fall in the City, Winter in the City and Spring in the City). Encouraged by the Dean, the Team and SITC Working Group were committed to developing camp programming that would allow for the maximum number of campers and safe in-person interaction consistent with evolving public health and Diocesan policies. The program plan and budget were approved by the Cathedral Chapter.

Despite COVID-19, the SITC off-season events had another successful year with the development of the SITC Community Murals. A contracted artist created seasonally-themed murals and rendered each into pieces that could then be mailed out to camp families along

with the assigned crayons (think “paint by numbers”). The murals were mailed back to St. James Cathedral and reassembled. Participants gathered via zoom to see the unveiling of each completed mural. The murals were displayed in the windows of Kyle’s Place which face the Pepper Family Plaza.

2021 camper recruitment focused on engaging past campers as well as reaching out to churches in the South Deanery of the Diocese of Chicago, of which St. James Cathedral is a member. Anna contacted each of the churches in the South Deanery to invite and encourage participation. In addition, Anna established a new partnership with “LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood” that brought 12 new campers and a staff person. SITC 2021 was also promoted in the Diocese of Chicago and St. James Cathedral newsletters.

The SITC Working Group hosted an in-person summer kick-off on June 5, 2021. The kick-off event was an opportunity for campers to gather, meet the staff, pick up their summer “swag bag”, and for parents to complete necessary paperwork.

SITC 2021 took place from July 19 through July 30. Acknowledging that most campers attending SITC were unvaccinated, the program prioritized activities that were outdoors and allowed for appropriate distancing. Masks were required indoors and on the bus. To limit time indoors and multiple bus trips a day, the hours of camp were shortened to 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., eliminating breakfast and with only one adventure per day.

SITC 2021 adventures included: Street Art in Pilsen, Paddling at Skokie Lagoons, Pottery at Humboldt Park, Garfield Park Conservatory, family portrait night, hiking in Labagh Woods, Chinatown, Farmer’s Market in Lincoln Park, Rainbow Beach, and a field day at St. James Commons.

The remote structure of SITC 2021 welcomed 37 campers, surpassing our goal of 35 campers. 14 campers were from within the St. James Cathedral community. 23 campers were new to SITC. Twelve of the new campers came from the west-side youth center, LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood. 14 participants were returning campers.

The staff for SITC 2021 was smaller than in years past. The Team decided not to hire counselors due to the reduced programming and staff provided by LaTanya and the Youth of Englewood. All camp staff and volunteers passed background checks and completed their respective Keeping God’s People Safe certifications. SITC 2021 also benefited from contracting with four returning teaching artists Joel Maisonet (photographer), Liz McCarthy (pottery), Jackie Lord (chef), and Cooper Foresman (botanist).

Eighteen volunteers from the St. James community supported SITC 2021. As in years past, volunteers were pivotal to our success. Volunteers were present every day of the camp and provided hands-on support and supervision of SITC Campers. Most volunteers were new to SITC.

Feedback from SITC 2021 campers and their families included the following:

My kids are so happy to go to camp every day. It's a new adventure and they wish it could be longer. – Parent

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for organizing fun and interesting activities and making this year's camp such a wonderful experience. – Parent

My favorite part of SITC was the Swan Boats at Humboldt Park and Beach Day at Rainbow Beach! - Camper

At the conclusion of SITC 2021, Program Director Tony Santiago shared with the SITC Working Group that he will not be continuing with SITC. Tony expressed gratitude for SITC and his experiences with the St. James community. Before his departure, Tony created a cloud-based library of SITC records which included a database of camp families and contractors as well as SITC policies and procedures.

In 2020 the SITC Working Group set three goals for SITC 2021: (1) to continue to increase the sustainability of SITC by further developing documented policies and procedures; (2) clarify the role of the camp manager; and (3) to improve on the recruitment and retention of campers. The SITC Team achieved all three goals.

After review of SITC 2021 the Working Group set four goals for SITC 2022: (1) update the job description for the SITC Program Director position and hire a qualified director; (2) increase engagement and ownership of SITC within the St. James community; (3) identify additional partners to assist with recruiting campers; and (4) develop a strategy for retention of campers.

REVIVE CHRISTMAS BASKETS *by Jocelyn Colao, Associate for Administration*

In 2021 St. James Cathedral continued its partnership with the ReVive Center for Housing and Healing to provide Christmas Baskets for 64 families throughout the City of Chicago, which was six more families than in 2020. ReVive, which has its roots in the Episcopal Church, works with love and compassion to end homelessness and provide affordable housing for a better Chicago.

2021 presented so many financial challenges for many in our city due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with concerns focused on paying rent and putting food on the table. ReVive offers an opportunity for families to let go of at least one of those financial concerns for the holiday season. Each family that participated with ReVive received a grocery gift card (\$15 per person) and a \$30-40 gift for each person. In total, we supported 217 individuals, which is 41 more individuals than in 2020. What struck me this year was how many of the gift requests were focused on meeting basic needs such as asking for winter coats, socks, linens, and clothing.

It was incredible to see so many from the St. James community support this ministry – even seeing other ministries from around the church (the choir and Sunday school families) collaborate in creative ways to support some of the larger families. I also extend a heartfelt

thank you to all who helped me take over this ministry while Anna was away for her chaplaincy training. The joy and generosity of the St. James Cathedral community towards ReVive Christmas Baskets was clear even though we faced many challenges caused by the pandemic. For 2022 we will continue to partner with the ReVive Christmas Basket program and will also explore additional ways to engage in the great ministry they provide throughout the year.

ANTIRACISM WORKING GROUP *by The Rev. Anna Broadbent, Associate for Outreach Ministries*

Following the success of previous programming at St. James Cathedral (Pathways to Reconciliation and Challenging Conversations), a committed group of St. James parishioners gathered throughout the spring of 2021 to discern and pray about how St. James Cathedral can continue the work of antiracism as a community. Together the group engaged in reading articles, books, and watching videos that explored different aspects of antiracist scholarship and engagement. The group's study culminated in a half-day retreat during which the group gathered to worship, discuss learnings, and pray about how St. James Cathedral may mindfully integrate an antiracist focus in every ministry and aspect of our life together as a faith community.

CHARITABLE GIVING *by Robert Black, Canon for Administration*

In 2021 the congregation raised \$98,000 for charitable purposes. \$24,543 came through special offerings and collections to support the ministries of Gaza Hospital, La Creche Orphanage, and the Cathedral Counseling Center in Chicago (an organization founded here in 1974). \$73,489 was raised to support our own outreach ministries of Summer in the City, Meals Ministry, and Meals Among Us. Thank you!

GOVERNANCE & FINANCES

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT *by Craig Elder, Senior Warden*

First, I would like to thank the parish for allowing me to serve as Senior Warden for the past two years. It was an honor and privilege to do so. The one disappointment I have about my term was that the Cathedral Chapter did not meet in person after the March 2020 meeting, so there were some members that I never met in person. Rest assured, we will be in good hands going forward with Nicole and Susan as our Wardens.

I would like to thank the clergy, staff, and parishioners for their support during my time as a warden. It has been challenging for the clergy and staff to keep the doors open as COVID-19 ravaged live events, but they managed to do just that. It was not easy as they had to make decisions on the fly for us to be able to worship. Their efforts are much appreciated by me. As for the parishioners, despite the issues you have had to deal with in your work and personal lives, you have responded with the gifts of your time and money to support St. James!

Next, I would like to thank the Cathedral Chapter members of the past few years. Despite having to meet on Zoom for our meetings beginning in April 2020, we managed to have civil debates, with members expressing their opinions in an open forum. Also, my thanks to Erin Maus for her service as the Senior Warden during my time as the Junior Warden and her continued service as our Chancellor.

Last, I want to thank everyone on the Finance Commission (or as I sometimes refer to it, our Accounting Commission). These meetings are sometimes (ok – always) a bit of a grind – we once spent 23 minutes discussing how to properly book a \$65 entry. However, organizations that do not have this attention to detail are generally the ones that have problems that lead to financial distress. I can rest assured as I leave the Commission that St. James finances are very well managed.

When writing this for the annual meeting I thought of just copying my report from last year, as much has not changed. That report began, “The best description of 2020 is that it was year of challenges.” COVID-19 is still around, just dominated by another variant. Who knew learning the Greek alphabet as a fraternity pledge would help me identify the various Covid-19 variants? Thank you, Lambda Chi Alpha. It was another challenging year for the parish as we continued to operate during a global pandemic, despite the development of vaccines as the alpha variant gave way to the delta variant, which was followed by the omicron variant (which seems to be waning in Chicago). Hopefully, we do not experience an omega variant.

We made progress in securing space in a new building at 65 East Huron when the diocese sells the plaza & office building.

The video equipment for lives-streaming is no longer a temporary installation (extremely dangerous for a clumsy unnamed usher) but is permanently placed, which is a sign that church worship has likely changed permanently. Members of the parish no longer need to live in the

Chicago area to view our services. Also, for those of us who are becoming chronologically challenged and are not as mobile as we once were (or like to think we are), the live-streaming allows us to view our services when it is difficult to attend in person.

We are in the process of upgrading the organ keyboards to make it easier for our organists to play and hopefully prevent the need for the parish to put an orthopedic surgeon on retainer. Later in the year we will fill the new position of Associate Director of Music to allow for even more growth in our wonderful music program.

We have a great new addition with our new Interim Associate for Youth Ministry in place (even if he is a Dodgers fan), which I feel is very important in that it will provide our teenage parishioners an opportunity stay involved in parish life as they progress through high school.

In closing, on my way home from work in the Loop, I walk past Northern Trust's front desk on Monroe as I make my way to the bus stop on Dearborn. There is gentleman working behind the desk that I have never met – nor do I remember when we started our ritual of a big wave. Sometimes he sees me first and waves, other times I am the first to wave. It probably doesn't mean anything to anyone else but me, but when we wave it makes me feel that I have had a good day, whether I have or not. St. James produces a similar feeling. Shutting the doors, as we had to in 2020, and the yearning for a chance to worship here grows immensely. Much like the waves with the gentleman at the bank, when I walk past the open doors of St. James it always makes my day better.

FINANCE COMMISSION *by Paul W. Thompson, Treasurer & Chair*

In 2021, the Finance Commission consisted of members George Culver and Kevin Godsil, with *ex officio* members Craig Elder (Warden), Nicole Spencer (Warden), Alan Gunn (Investment Officer) and Paul Thompson (Treasurer). The Treasurer served as Chair. Dean Dominic Barrington, Canon for Finance and Administration Robert Black and Accountant Christine Price also attended meetings. Nine meetings were held during the year via Zoom, typically on the fourth Thursday morning of the month.

The role of the Finance Commission is to advise and assist the Treasurer, the Cathedral Chapter, and the staff on financial matters such as budgeting, bookkeeping, banking, and investing, and to closely monitor the Cathedral's financial performance and reporting. The Commission also met with the Cathedral's auditors, Selden Fox, Ltd., and with the Cathedral's Audit Chair, Sean Smith.

The Finance Commission is a resource as well as a working group. I would like to thank the members of the Commission for their time, expertise, and commitment during this past year.

INVESTMENTS *by Alan Gunn, Investment Officer*

St. James Cathedral's reserve financial assets are overseen by the Finance Commission, which meets monthly. The Cathedral began 2021 with \$5,799,443 in assets in restricted and unrestricted investment accounts and ended the year with \$6,012,675. The year-end amount includes \$67,936 in a separate account set up in 2020 to receive capital campaign donations. The rate of return for these assets in 2021 was approximately 16.50%. Appreciation accounted for \$437,306 of the gain and income was \$62,484.89. Drawdowns from the investment assets in 2021 for Cathedral operational and capital expenses totaled \$600,000.

The Cathedral's assets in 2021 were invested in four Vanguard exchange-traded funds (ETFs): a domestic bond index ETF (BND: -1.85% return in 2021), an international bond index ETF (BNDX: -2.28% return in 2021), a domestic stock ETF (VTI: 25.24% return in 2021), and an international stock index ETF (VXUS: 8.69% return in 2021). Invested cash was held in a money market fund (VMFXX: 0.01% return in 2021). Fees charged by Vanguard were approximately \$2,953 in 2021 based on average balances and an 0.05% average fee.

COUNT MINISTRY *by Marianne Culver, Chair of the Count Ministry*

The Count Ministry handles all the various items that appear in the collection plates and drop boxes at St. James Cathedral. The team counts and tabulates all cash collected at services and deposits it in the Cathedral bank account each week. We count special collections, too, like the Lenten Pence Can collection and the Christmas collections for La Crèche Orphanage in Bethlehem. Our merry band of human calculators includes Mary Jo Barton, David Briere, Sue Cloud, David DuPre, Fran Horn, Tom Patterson, Norman Sunderman and Laura Jenkins. All perform a demanding job with accuracy and good cheer.



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