



St. Martha's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
November 14, 2021

ST. MARTHA'S ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Establishment of Voting Quorum

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Election: Report of Nominating Committee: Rick Legeer - results of election

Rector's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Finance Committee & Treasurer Reports & Draft Budgets: Dave Moore/Todd Stevenson

Stewardship Report: Ron Kerchner, Bill Freund, Mary Thompson, Phil Fleming

Other Agenda Items

Parish Announcements

Closing Prayer

**St. Martha's Episcopal Church
Bethany Beach, Delaware**

**Annual Meeting
November 8, 2020**

MINUTES

Present: The 58 participants exceeded the needed quorum. See list of attendees at the end of these notes.

Senior Warden Ron Kerchner called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. Interim Rector David Beresford opened the meeting with prayer.

Frank Bell moved and Tempe Steen seconded approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Approved.

Treasurer Todd Stevenson reported current account balances:

	Balances on Sep 30	Quarterly Income
St. Martha's Bethany	24,898	259
St. Martha's Bethany Lighthipe	408,202	4,260
St. Martha's Bethany Bowers	86,266	523
St. Martha's Bethany Capital Reserve	117,515	0
Lighthipe Trust FBO St. Martha's	4,308,723	44,963

	Balances on Nov 6
PNC Restricted	41,226
PNC Mission	61,344
PNC Operating	37,237
PNC Discretionary	1,421

Finance Committee Chair Dave Moore presented the 2021 budget, approved in October by the Vestry. The 2021 balanced budget totals \$407,730. Explanatory charts and the budget document are attached. Dave thanked Stewardship Co-Chairs Sharon Korody and Harry Burlew.

Changes to the Bylaws were expected to be proposed by Jim Reichert. Due to last minute questions and anticipated changes in the amendments, which must be distributed to the congregation 30 days before the annual meeting, the proposed amendments were tabled. St. Martha's will continue under the bylaws as amended in 2019.

Interim Rector David Beresford referred parishioners to his report in the annual meeting report summary. There were no questions, although several people complimented the thoroughness of the summary reports.

Senior Warden Ron Kerchner highlighted his annual meeting report because the report included in the annual meeting summary was incorrect. The correct version of the Senior Warden's report is attached.

Stewardship Co-Chair Sharon Korody reported St. Martha's had received 76 pledges totaling \$150,000 as of the annual meeting. Last year by the annual meeting 64 pledges had been received totaling \$124,000.

Search Committee Co-Chair Tempe Steen reported that Sue Proska has relocated so is no longer serving as a committee member. Tempe thanked parishioners for the high rate of Holy Cow survey returns. The website's rector page is being updated, and the profile is under construction. Candidates are already looking at the page, she said, and they'll be ready for applications in early December.

Ron Kerchner briefly outlined the new mission and vision developed by the Planning Committee and approved by the Vestry. Dave Moore supported the idea of Saturday evening worship, which he said draws young people, and offering concerts for the public. Wincy Jackson suggested reviving Wednesday morning worship. Ron Kerchner the parish use the hall to build a lifelong learning culture. Ron also recommended bolstering the pastoral care ministry with a proactive modified "Villages" effort. Fr David said one way to bring in younger families is, first, to invite them and to provide a nursery. He and Ron both spoke of a renewed effort to connect with newcomers. The Planning Committee will now draft 2021 goals and objectives for committee and Vestry consideration "to make this come alive and to hold us accountable," Ron said.

Nominating Committee Chair Tina Edgar thanked Don Clarke and Carl Long for their assistance and announced the four new Vestry members elected via online survey for the first time. Elected for three-year terms are: Mary Davis, Carl Long, John Short, and Mary Thompson.

Delegates and alternates were elected unanimously for the 2021 diocesan convention. Delegates are Pat Long and Carl Long. Alternates are Lanny Moore and Dave Moore. Those elected at the 2019 annual meeting will serve at the 2020 convention on November 21, 2020.

The 2020 annual meeting adjourned at exactly 12 noon with a prayer.

Participants (58):

The Rev. David Beresford, Interim Rector	Hank & Nancy Rojewski
David & Lanny Moore	Edwina Martens
John & Caryn Short	Mary Davis
Beth Maurer	John & Fran McElvey
Clem & Tina Edgar	Carl & Sue Mantegna
Diane Catlin	Carol Ann Heath
Martha Field	Jim & Fran Karns
Ron & Deb Kerchner	Tempe Steen
Mary Thompson	Frank & Jean Bell
Bob Cardoni	Bill & Alice Anne Freund
John Robbert	Carl & Pat Long
Cindy Kane	Wincy Jackson
Bette Wade	Jim & Lee Moore
Sharon Korody	Bill & Diane Gay
Todd Stevenson	Sandy Roberts
Don Boebel	Keith & Helene Smith
Anna Mae Buhl	Eric West
Rick & Josie Legeer	Phil & Andi Fleming
George & Kristin Jones	Mimi Dupont
Elsa Fuentes & Carol Ryan	David Kemper

Respectfully Submitted,

Mimi Dupont

Mimi Dupont

2020 Annual Meeting Secretary

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since we've only been together as Priest and People of God for less than two weeks, there really isn't too much for me to report to you this year! I can, however, joyfully, and gratefully report that my husband Anthony and I have been generously and graciously guided through your search process and welcomed into your family of faith at St. Martha's in Bethany Beach Delaware. We are deeply grateful for your kindness.

St. Martha's is blessed to have many faithful and talented people in parish leadership positions. I'm already indebted to the Vestry, Search Committee and Transition Committee for ushering in our new ministry together. St. Martha's is also blessed to have a great staff, and I'm enjoying getting to know and work with Jaclyn and Dave. I think we'll all make a great team!

As your new rector, my primary goal during this first year of our shared ministry will be to meet and get to know all of you. This will be my joyful privilege and my sacred duty. I am available to you 24/7, so please be sure that you and your close family members have my contact information. I intend to observe rector's Sabbath on Mondays and keep office hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Friday will be my reading/study/ sermon writing day, and I will work as much of every weekend as is necessary to officiate at parish services and events. My entire schedule will be "flexed" around your pastoral needs, so please don't be shy in letting them be known. I ask only that you give me the courtesy of "emergencies only" on Mondays and each night.

The vestry has some high hopes and ambitious goals for St. Martha's for 2022 and beyond. I will support these in as many ways as I can, always striving to focus and refocus everything we do on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I also look forward to deepening our shared relationships with God and with one another through meaningful liturgy, compassionate pastoral care, faith formation opportunities (book studies, Bible studies, Home Church Gatherings (home Eucharists), retreats, group, and individual spiritual direction and more) and Outreach Ministries. If there's something you'd like to try together, please let me know. If it appeals to you, it will probably appeal to others as well. We will treasure old traditions and create some new ones of our own.

In closing, let me just say how pleased I am to be called to serve God with you as your new rector. I'm excited to see what God will do with us, and in us, and through us, and as us, as Priest and People of God. We're a brand new and unique combination, and I expect that God will be doing some brand new and unique things, in Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit. May all that we are and all that we do be for our gracious and loving God, and for everyone and everything that God loves into existence and gives into our care. God is good ... all the time!

Peace, Prayers and Blessings,

Ria+

The Reverend Victoria Pretti, Rector

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

We have been through a lot these last couple of years. We have weathered a transition in Rectors as well as COVID. It has been abundantly clear that we have a strong community of faith.

We have made a lot of progress despite the challenges – to wit: tripled the outreach budget, expanded adult education and community events, established planning committee, helping hands, and men's breakfast group. There is a pent-up desire to get involved and do things as indicated by the Holy Cow survey. The parish just needed some guidance. And, we are seeing a lot of new faces, which is fantastic.

We had a wonderful experience with Father David. He truly pushed us toward being more Christ centric which is just what was needed. And, of course, he prepared us to accept a new priest which is what an interim is charged with doing.

And now, thanks to the outstanding work of the Search Committee, we are looking forward to having a long and excellent relationship with our new priest, The Reverend Victoria (Ria) Pretti. We are truly blessed. Many in our Diocese are without a priest or have been looking for a long time to fill a vacancy. We need to be grateful and take advantage of our opportunities to do God's work. Our job now is to build a sound partnership with Ria and help her become successful at St. Martha's.

Finally, it has indeed been an honor to be your Sr. Warden. Thanks for your support, ideas, and involvement.

God Bless, Ron

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT-BILL FREUND

As you must now be aware, Invite, Welcome and Connect (IWC), a major initiative of the Episcopal Church, grew out of the idea that we all want our parishes to grow both spiritually and numerically. So how is St. Martha's doing with this initiative? Two Diocesan visitors met with the St. Martha's task force (Bob Cardoni, Bill Freund, Carl Long, Mary Thormeyer, Jim Moore, Keith Smith, and Carol Stevenson) on August 22nd to discuss the status of our efforts. During the discussion, the visitors commented that we're "ahead of the curve" as compared to other parishes.

Remember, simply wearing a name tag is a courteous and friendly sign to a visitor and we all wear them now. Thanks to the efforts of many parishioners, our building and grounds have never looked better, parish wide activities (book sales, educational programs, and music events) attract people and visitors have commented about our friendliness. Over the coming months, we plan to strengthen efforts to assimilate newcomers into parish life through invitations to join dinner groups, and to be introduced to committees that match a newcomer's interests.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Don Boebel (Liaison to Vestry)

TEAM MEMBERS

Jim Karns (Chair)	John McElvey (Co-chair)
Don Boebel	Clem Edgar
Carl Mantegna	Jack Smith
Paul Thompson	Fran Karns

The Buildings and Grounds Committee stayed busy this year arranging for and meeting contractors to inspect, maintain and fix issues with building systems and the grounds. Special projects included building a wooden stand for Dave Kemper from which he could conduct the Bell Choir and making the curtain behind the altar removable for Bell Choir performances.

HVAC

Arctic Air performed semi-annual checks on all the HVAC units and fixed a problem with one of the units. During the summer, Arctic HVAC repaired an AC issue with unit for west end of building (Dave Kemper's office and conference room).

CRAWL SPACE

Brasures performed inspection of the crawl space, dehumidifiers, and sump pumps.

Humidity readings remained at acceptable levels, around 45% since larger dehumidifiers were installed in 2020.

In February, flooding occurred due to a separated water pipe connection. Sump pumps worked well.

ELECTRICAL & KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Jack Smith spent much time replacing light bulbs throughout the building. Jack replaced a bad rheostat for the ceiling fan over the altar. An electrician for Arctic HVAC replaced 4 ceiling fan rheostats and repaired noise issue with a sanctuary ceiling fan.

FIRE SYSTEMS AND EXTINGUISHERS

Systems had annual inspection.

PLUMBING

Sherman Plumbing fixed leak at urinal in men's room in old church and replaced a bad drain gasket. Jim fashioned a plastic cover under the urinal to cover wall damage caused by the leak and caulked around urinal.

In late February, the Bethany Water Department Inspector turned the water off at the meter after noticing a lot of water around the church. Sherman Plumbing found and repaired a separated connection where Rowe Maintenance tied into the water main for the irrigation system. Brian Rowe agreed to pay Sherman Plumbing and for extra water usage. Jim extended sump pump drainpipes to the parking area.

BUILDING EXTERIOR

Parking lots remain dry even with extensive rains after the drainage project in 2020.

Brasure's sprayed the perimeter for pest control, as per contract.

Jim and John met with a representative from Spicer Brothers to go over roof repairs on the old north section. They will do an estimate. Several shingles are broken and curling and have mold on them. The reserve study indicates the north roof needs to be replaced during 2022-2023 at an estimated cost of \$14k, which may be quite a bit higher now.

Jim made numerous repairs including replacing a bad wood step on stairs to choir loft and a bad deck plank outside parish hall and repairing a broken bench seat. He also replaced the flagpole and repainted handicap parking bumpers.

BUILDING INTERIOR

A locksmith fixed the problem with crash bar on door to the choir area. Several times.

Jim ordered 4 new chairs with arms for the sanctuary at the request of the Vestry.

Jim, John, and Clem disinfected the Sanctuary before and after each service through the spring. The Security crew performed daily rounds through the spring but stopped once there was more activity in the church.

Jim made poles for moving curtain behind altar. Jim and Clem installed curtain rod holders to make it easier to remove and replace the altar curtain.

Jim made a raised platform for Dave Kemper for the bell choir.

Jim made several repairs including to a hand sanitizer by the front door, to bottom latch on front door, to the back door in old section of church that was sticking and to the paper towel holder in the ladies bathroom. Jim replaced the bad blind in the parish hall.

Tabo and Florinda cleaned the church weekly. Pat and Carl Long cared for interior plants.

LANDSCAPING

McCabe & Sons mowed lawns and agreed to take care of snow removal. Rowe Property Maintenance refined the irrigation system for better watering. Vines Creek performed fall cleanup in 2020 and weeded and mulched all beds in the Spring. Jim contracted with Naturalawn to treat weeds and maintain lawn.

In early summer, Jim secured everything outside prior to Tropical Storm Elsa.

Fran and Jim heavily pruned the hydrangea tree in the north side bed and continually pruned rose bushes and grasses. Jim and Fran spent much time weeding, applying Preen and spraying the brick for weeds.

Jim and Fran planted donated Easter daffodils and tulips and purchased and planted lantana. Jim purchased and put more rocks around the front bed by the pine tree. Jim moved four benches away from the bricks and installed pavers under them.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members:

David Moore, Chairman; Bob Cardoni, Vestry liaison; Phil Fleming, Carol Ann Heath, Wincey Jackson, Fran Karns; Ron Kerchner, Sr. Warden; Carl Long and Beth Maurer, Deposit Coordinators, Todd Stevenson, Treasurer

Purpose:

The Finance Committee prepares the Annual Operating Budget for recommendation to the Vestry for its approval. The Committee seeks input from the various committees/groups to meet the physical needs and the program requirements of St. Martha's Mission Statement. In July, the Committee does an in-depth review of the Operating Budget for the first half of the year making suggestions to the Vestry for any changes it deems appropriate.

The Committee meets monthly during the year to review the Treasurer's Reports and make recommendations to the Vestry regarding the parishes Income & Expenses. Finance also reviews the Diocese Master Fund A investment reports monthly for all St. Martha's Unrestricted and restricted accounts.

The Committee prepares and reviews the Policies & Procedures for conducting St. Martha's financial affairs. These documents are sent to the Vestry for approval or revision. The Committee follows the procedures as found in the "Manual of Business Methods" as developed by the National Episcopal Church. The Annual Parochial Report Financial section is prepared by the Finance Committee.

The Committee has the task of scheduling the annual review of the parishes' financial records. The financial review for calendar year 2020 was conducted by an Internal Financial Review Team (IFRT) (Dianne Burlew, Beth Mauer, and David Moore) per vestry and diocese approval. The IFRT saves St. Martha's approximately \$12,000 annually in external audits fees. When this internal financial review was completed in June, the Finance Committee reviewed the report from the IFRT and made recommendations to the Vestry as needed. As required by diocesan canon, the written financial review report with supporting documentation was submitted to the diocesan office and accepted.

Accomplishments:

- Discussed and approved the Payment Card Policy that covers the VISA debit cards that we use on the PNC Operating Account and the PNC Restricted Account.
- The Barnabas Fund Technology Grant Application for \$2,500 to offset the cost of the U-tube video equipment presented by the Treasurer was reviewed and then recommended to the vestry who approved. This grant application was accepted and funded by the diocese.
- The separate operating and mission account reporting scheme was reviewed and deemed optimum for St. Martha's.
- Due to the Covid-19 Church re-opening, the 2021 Operating Budget was revised in July and approved by Vestry.

PERSONNEL

Chairperson – Clem Edgar

Participating Members – Ron Kerchner (Vestry Liaison), Todd Stevenson, Barbara Goebel, Tempe Steen

Purpose or Goal of Ministry – To help ensure open communication between staff and Vestry; to avoid misunderstandings; to maintain fair and objective personnel procedures. To that end, the committee reviews and recommends policies and carries out its responsibilities under the policies as provided.

Activities and Accomplishments – The Personnel Committee assisted the Senior Warden with performance reviews of the staff (Director of Music and Administrative Assistant) for 2021. The Personnel Committee continues to provide guidance to the Wardens and Vestry as requested.

Plans/Visions for 2022 - Review the history and current activities of the committee with the new Rector (Rev. Ria). Continue to oversee staff personnel and modify policies and procedures as necessary if this is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Rector and the Vestry.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

2021 has been an interesting and challenging year.

From July 2020 through July 2021 Father David Beresford was our Interim Rector and was responsible for worship. During his time with St Martha's, we went from a closed church with services online to an open, one service church with no more than 50 persons, wearing masks, sitting 6 feet apart and no singing. Then we went to a fully opened, 2 service church with singing and Eucharist in one kind. There were weekly updates in procedures to be compliant with the Covid-19 guidelines from the bishop and the governor. Live streaming of the 10:00

service continued throughout those times. Memorial services and funerals were difficult to schedule and had to be postponed till the church was reopened.

At the end of Father Beresford's time as interim the worship committee pulled together to ensure that worship services were offered each Sunday. In the absence of a rector, worship services continued by conducting Morning Prayer and Eucharist service by visiting clergy. The Rev. Blake Wamester, Bishop Kevin Brown, The Rev. Cannon Martha Kirkpatrick and The Rev. Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin and worship leader, Dianne Burlew took turns leading Sunday worship from August to November 7, 2021. * Note- Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin held the first ever Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament service (Deacon's Mass) in the Dioceses of Delaware, so St Martha's, helped to set at a precedence for the future.

The Worship Committee this year consisted of Nancy Rojewski(leader), Beth Maurer, Dianne Burlew, Alice Ann Freund (flowers), Diane Gay and Carolyn Smith (altar guild), Dave Kemper(music), and Clem Edgar(media).

Beginning November 1, 2021, The Rev Victoria (Ria) Pretti arrived to be the new rector of St. Martha's. She will lead the worship committee from here on. The members look forward to her direction and will continue to be a support.

Respect submitted,

Nancy Rojewski

PLANNING COMMITTEE-RON KERCHNER

The Planning Committee has had a busy year. They worked on reviewing and updating our mission and vision statements to include a narrative version of the vision (reprinted below for your info).

Mission

St. Martha's is a Christ-centered church alive in the spirit of God's love. We joyfully serve our community through ministries of caring, sharing and learning.

Vision Narrative - A Possible Future

St. Martha's Episcopal Church is first and foremost a church, a place of vibrant spiritual growth, where God is worshipped in song, word, and sacrament and where deep and lasting friendships are formed. Worship offerings vary from the Meditation Service on Saturday afternoon to the early Sunday service that features a trumpet solo, to the later Sunday service with a full choir and musical guest. There are thought-provoking sermons applicable to daily life. Music is an integral part of worship at St. Martha's and is not confined to Sunday. A variety of concerts and other musical events that appeal to all ages are conducted throughout the year and are enthusiastically embraced by the entire community.

At St. Martha's it is not unusual to find as many parishioners at church on a weekday as on a Sunday – and Sundays are crowded. St. Martha's has earned its reputation as the "go-to" church to address community issues by being a guiding light – a beacon – for our community and by enthusiastically supporting the Southeast Sussex Ministerium. St. Martha's employs the skills of our mostly retired congregation, who are eager to use their time and talent to fulfill the church's mission, by encouraging and empowering members who have great ideas to get things going. The momentum is sustained by building on small groups who share passion for a ministry, and who invite new arrivals to join them.

Lifelong learning is a defining issue for St. Martha's. It is hard to say whether our educational programs have grown as the parish grew – or whether the parish grew as our educational programs developed. St. Martha's warmly welcomes all people to attend our lectures and short courses.

St. Martha's is a community where people love and care for each other. This is our preferred community where we embrace opportunities to share our journeys of faith, where we choose to devote our energies, where we seek friends and socialize, where we offer to give of ourselves. St. Martha's is a village where each of us is there for every other, unconditionally, and where no one need ever be alone, or lonely.

St. Martha's uses that same attitude to bring witness to the story of Christ throughout Sussex County not just by dispensing fish but also by teaching people to fish. We have challenged charitable orthodoxy by not "giving" toys at Christmas but rather by helping parents choose and "buy" gifts for their children – a gift to both parent and child. St. Martha's provides support to groups directly involved in the daily lives of those who struggle to overcome the legal and financial difficulties faced by so many families. We also welcome all who come through our doors and support people of all races, sexual orientations, and faith backgrounds to find their place in the church.

The committee held several focus group discussions during coffee hours to elicit parishioner feedback on the mission and vision.

Using these mission and vision statements as guides, the committee drafted the following nine 2022 annual objectives for the Vestry to consider:

1. Foster caring in parish culture by implementing St Martha's Helping Hands program. Be more proactive in offering individualized support.
2. Continue IWC Task Force initiatives.
 - a. Increase our outreach (Inviting) to new groups (e.g., HOAs, realtor welcome packs, Chamber)
 - b. Promote Welcoming attitude among all parishioners
 - c. Develop new ideas for Connecting with existing parishioners as well as newcomers

3. Establish a position and job description for part-time employee or consultant or parishioner to oversee PR communication and activities for St Martha's in the local community. Investigate ideas to improve effectiveness of the church information sign.
4. Empower Dave Kemper to expand St. Martha's music program. Consider hiring a part-time assistant.
5. Establish a task team of St Martha's church leaders to identify and develop new leaders:
 - a. Define responsibilities and duties of leadership positions such as committee chairs.
 - b. Use criteria to identify potential new leaders from within the parish membership
 - c. Provide leadership training (via Diocesan resources or ECF resources) and mentoring so new leaders can become more involved and more impactful in the work of our church
6. Expand involvement in community networking efforts: Chamber of Commerce; Southeast Sussex Ministerium; Diocesan Warden network; Group of local beach churches.
7. Join the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches to learn from other endowed parishes. Mine ideas from ECF (Episcopal Church Foundation) report.
8. Establish a task team to develop ideas for establishing a Grant Funding Program so that we can effectively invest some of our resources in community projects that further our mission.
9. Expand Adult Education / Community Events programming. Goal is to become a cultural center for the area.
 - a. Expand internal offerings
 - b. Expand public offerings.

Thanks to the committee for their unwavering enthusiastic involvement: Bill Freund, Mimi Dupont, Tempe Steen, Keith Smith, Martha Fields, Carol Ann Heath, John Robbert and Ron Kerchner.

ADULT EDUCATION/COMMUNITY EVENTS-RICK LEGER

The Adult Education/Community Event committee is engaged in providing informative and educational events for the Parish and for the greater community. Educational events focus on our faith and the church, while community functions are open to the public. We are a relatively new committee holding our first events in the fall of 2019 – a personal safety presentation by the Bethany Beach Police and an informative meeting with the Greater Lewes Community Village. A month-long discussion of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* was held in January 2020 between the Sunday services; it was well received with active participation.

Several well-planned parish events were scheduled for 2020; Covid pretty much eliminated those activities. One event, "Life before Death" was successfully repurposed to a four week Zoom effort. And, a virtual book club was formed, discussing both faith and non-faith titles.

Recovering from Covid limitations, we have coordinated two tours of the Delaware Botanic Gardens and continue the Zoom book club. Tentatively we would like to schedule movie nights,

possibly host a discussion on the three Abrahamic faiths (one of the Covid cancellations), hold music events, and coordinate additional tours. In addition, the committee is providing input to a group looking to improve Parish publicity.

As a new committee we are actively exploring new Parish and community wide efforts. We believe that resources are available internally and externally to enhance St. Martha's Parish education efforts and provide events of interest to the community. The committee is an engaged and energetic group; we welcome participation, both event specific and general. To learn more about the committee contact Rick Legeer at 301-758-7539 or rlegeer@gmail.com.

FLOWER GUILD REPORT

Chairpersons: Alice Anne Freund and Pat Long

Purpose: The Flower Guild seeks to praise God through the medium of flowers and other decorations each Sunday, at Easter and Christmas, and on other special occasions.

Activities for 2021: Late 2020, and to date in 2021, has been an active and exciting time for the Flower Guild. We created a new display for Christmas altar flowers last year and introduced a new color scheme. In January, we engaged Bethany Florist to be our primary flower supplier and have enjoyed the variety they have brought to our Sunday arrangements. On Maundy Thursday this year, we made a charming Garden of Gethsemane for quiet contemplation. This was followed by a glorious display of spring flowers for our Easter arrangements both in front of the altar and in the Narthex. The Flower Guild has also arranged for flowers for several funerals as well as a wedding and a Holy Baptism.

Jim Moore has kindly made our new sign-up sheet for 2022. This enables congregants to designate a Sunday for remembering a loved one or event with flowers for the altar.

The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

Plans for Christmas are underway.

TELLER COMMITTEE

Deposit Coordinators: Carl Long and Beth Maurer

GENERAL PROCEDURE

Purpose: Schedule Tellers to count the plate cash from both Sunday services.

Record all cash, checks and credit card payments into computer and prepare weekly bank deposits.

Forward deposit reports to Treasurers, Bookkeeper, Senior Warden and Rector.

Provide semi-annual and annual statements to contributors.

Tellers: After the 10AM service the Tellers count only the cash received from both services and complete a simple report for the Deposit Coordinators.

We have updated our computer and software to make this job easier and more streamlined. We have developed procedures for clear tracking of credit card payments.

The semi-annual statements were prepared and sent out in early July.

Anyone with questions, please contact Carl Long or Beth Maurer

ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT-CAROLYN SMITH & DIANE GAY

The Altar Guild falls under the auspices of the Worship Committee. Members serve the Church under the direction of the Rector (or most recently, the Interim Rector). Working in teams of two for every service, our members continue to be faithful to the following responsibilities:

Preparing the altar for Sunday and other special occasion services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms.

Setting the credence table with the elements (bread and wine).

Ensuring the altar, lectern and banner hangings are dressed in the proper liturgical color.

Cleaning up after each service and putting everything away.

Providing proper care of linens, candles and any other materials used in the worship service.

Preparing travel kits for Eucharistic ministers who take the sacraments to parishioners that are unable to attend church.

During this past year we have created an instruction manual which includes photographs and can easily be updated to any reflect changes requested by the clergy or necessitated by circumstances.

We have sorted through and labeled most of the drawers and cupboards in the Sacristy to make it more efficient.

Linens and supplies continue to be purchased as needed. We have ordered some new linens (corporals, purificators and lavabo towels) and created a wish list to enhance the altar and aid members in their responsibilities.

Members of the Altar Guild are usually asked to volunteer for one service each month. Due to the continuing pandemic our numbers have fluctuated this past year. We are actively recruiting new members who are always welcome!

HOSPITALITY-JOSIE LEGEER

Due to the Pandemic, the Hospitality Committee was unable to do any events in the first part of 2021. In June a beach picnic was held. The coffee hours were resumed, and kitchen supplies were purchased. In September the Hospitality Committee had a bake sale in Bethany as part of Arts and Craft show that is an annual event. In October there was a game night and in November a birthday bash. A Christmas party at Cripple Creek is scheduled for December.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC – DAVE KEMPER

It is my continued honor and privilege to serve as the Director of Music at St. Martha's. The year 2021 has been an exciting one, and there is reason for great optimism about our future worship experiences. It was a pleasure to work with Rev. David Beresford during his time at St. Martha's. Both the bell choir and the adult choir returned to ringing and singing. It was great to fill the church once again with music! Despite the continued COVID regulations, we were able to safely have Sheridan Seyfried and his wife Ya-Jhu Yang present an amazing concert. I look forward to returning to a more active concert schedule in 2022. If you are aware of any musical performance groups that might be willing to visit St. Martha's, please let me know. Please consider joining the choirs. We'd love to have you!

Dave Kemper

Director of Music

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - JACLYN HICKMAN

Another year has flown by, and a lot has changed. The biggest change being the departure of our interim rector, Father David and the arrival of our new rector, Rev. Pretti. It was certainly blessing to have Father David with us during our transition period. We had a good working relationship which allowed for the behind-the-scenes operations to run very smoothly. But now, the wait is finally over, and I am very excited to be working with our new rector! We are off to a very busy start, and I am quite optimistic about what is to come.

Last year, I spent half of my time working from home, but I am now back working in the office during normal office hours (M-Th, 9am to 1pm). I am also happy to report activity again in our building. Most of the support groups have resumed their meetings, yoga has returned, the stitch and sketch group is meeting twice a month on Fridays, bible study is back on Tuesdays, handbell choir practice, choir practice, committee meetings, and more! It is wonderful for the building to be alive once again!

These are certainly exciting times here at St. Martha's and I look forward to learning, growing, and discovering new ways to better serve the congregation. Thank you all once again for allowing me this opportunity.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – FRAN MCELVEY

MISSION: The Outreach Committee of St. Martha's Church shall display the love of Christ by sharing our resources with others to help improve the quality of life for those in need in our community.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tom Catlin, Wincy Jackson, Fran Karns, Josie Legeer, Fran and John McElvey, Mary Thompson, Patty Yervey, and Carolyn Hay stepped down in April.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS:

ABC Bike Ministry: St. Martha's supports Mariners' bike ministry to help local residents and international students meet their transportation needs. Safety classes, as well as bikes, are provided to anyone who needs a bike without charge. ABC Bikes waved our \$500 donation this year because International Students would not be coming due to Covid.

ANGEL TREE: The Outreach Committee purchased lap blankets, hats/gloves, coloring books, toys and holiday bags for students in need at John Clayton, Phillip Showell, and Selbyville Middle School. Holiday gifts are given to 24 students in the elementary schools, two from each grade (boy and girl), and 10 to Selbyville Middle School.

BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: Parishioners donated 24 backpacks to two local elementary schools and \$1080 in monetary donations for school supplies. \$685 in school supplies were purchased for Phillip Showell and John Clayton Elementary and \$319 in supplies went to Selbyville Middle School.

BETHANY BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. AND BETHANY BEACH POLICE DEPT.: St. Martha's appreciates the services of our local police and fire departments. Outreach donated \$500 to each department in 2021.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE: Due to Covid, Food Lion Gift cards were donated, instead of canned goods, to the Pyle Center for those in need.

CAMP ARROWHEAD: Outreach provided 11 scholarships, totaling \$8,050, for students to go to Camp Arrowhead this summer.

CLOTHING OUR KIDS: \$1000 was donated to this local organization which provides clothing to children in need. The organization gives the clothes to school counselors to be distributed as needed.

CODE-PURPLE SHELTER: St. Martha's Outreach donated \$1000 to support the homeless shelter in Georgetown through Love Inc./Code Purple.

CROP HUNGER WALK: St. Martha's Episcopal church is one of 15 churches in our area to participate yearly in the Crop Hunger Walk. St. Martha's church donated \$1,100 to the walk. \$1000 came from the Outreach budget. Area food pantries receive 25% of the donations from the Crop Walk and the rest of the donations support just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster globally through Church World Service (CWS).

DELAWARE HOSPICE: A donation of \$500 was made to Hospice of Delaware which provides comfort and care to the terminally ill and their families.

DIAPER DRIVE: 3 boxes of diapers and monetary offerings were donated by parishioners. \$404 worth of diapers were purchased by Outreach and delivered to Indian River School District in April.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S NUTRITION:

1. Outreach partnered with the SummerCollab program and contributed \$2,400 in scholarships for tutors who work with students in the summer.
2. FOOD FOR THOUGHT: This donation goes into a fund controlled by the school cafeteria staff and is coordinated by the school counselor. All students are able to access the money if needed. It is also a way to provide healthy food to children who receive reduced or free lunch. Phillip Showell and John Clayton both received \$600 from Outreach in 2021 for their Food for Thought programs.
3. WHITE BAG LUNCHES: Outreach donated \$750 for the food program at Community Lutheran Church. This program provides bag lunches to food insecure students during summer break.

EMERGENCY FUNDS: Outreach used \$355 in emergency funds, to provide groceries for families from Clayton Elementary who had Covid and a family whose home flooded. In January 2021, \$250 in additional funds were used for Angel Tree gifts. \$50 in gift cards was also given to two residents of the Stockley Center. \$1000 was used for donations to Bethany Police and Bethany Fire Dept. and \$1000 was used to donate to Crop Hunger Walk.

FOOD PANTRIES: Outreach donated to five food pantries each month; The Pyle Center Pantry, Community Food Pantry (CFP), Indian River School District (IRSD) Pantry, Community Lutheran Food Pantry (CLFP), and Union Wesley Food Pantry. Donations were made by check or in \$25 Food Lion Gift Cards. Total food pantry donations are \$20,000 in 2021.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Habitat preserves homeownership and neighborhoods by building and repairing homes in partnership with people in need of decent, affordable housing in Sussex County. Outreach donated \$1000 to Habitat this year.

HOME OF THE BRAVE: Outreach donated \$750 to The Home of the Brave Foundation, Inc. This program provides targeted assistance regarding housing and counseling for homeless women veterans and their children.

MILFORD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: Strives to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing solutions to people of modest means. Outreach donated \$1000 in January 2021 to MHDC.

SOUTHEAST SUSSEX MINISTERIUM (SESM): Outreach donates \$2000 to the Ministerium to help people in Sussex Country who need assistance with their rent, utilities, and/or medical needs.

OPERATION SEAS THE DAY: This program was canceled in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic so we did not make a donation.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS: Parishioners provided Thanksgiving “baskets” of specific food items and a \$20 Food Lion gift cards to 30 needy families from John M. Clayton Elementary, Phillip C. Showell Elementary, and Selbyville Middle School.

THE WAY HOME: This facility in Millsboro provides inmates released from the Sussex County Detention Center a temporary residence, guidance, and support as they transition back into the local community. The Way Home has been especially impacted by Covid-19. State funds are down, and it is difficult to find housing for the clients. Outreach increased donations to The Way Home contributing \$15,000 in monetary donations and \$1000 in Walmart gift cards in 2021.

QUILTS OF VALOR (QOV): Many parishioners and others in the community have donated fabric and come together to create QOV quilts to present to veterans who have been touched by war. There were cutters, ironers, sewers, and quilters working together to complete these beautiful works. QOV are presented directly to a veteran and these priceless quilts are never sold or raffled. Materials and labor are estimated at \$600 per quilt. Outreach contributes a small amount for fabric as needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

COMMUNICATION: Outreach informs the congregation in several ways. There is a section for Outreach news in the Wednesday Information emails and announcements are often made on Sunday at the church service. Outreach displays are also on the walls in the Parish Hall. On October 3, Outreach participated in the St. Martha’s church fair and provided a handout for parishioners.

MENTORS: Several parishioners, including some Outreach volunteers, mentor in local schools. Due to Covid these programs have been postponed.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS: Counselors have kept Outreach informed when there is a need, such as, a family with Covid or a family whose home was flooded. Outreach used emergency funds to provide groceries for these families. Counselors also provide Outreach with “names” of the families who need Thanksgiving baskets and Angel Tree gifts.

The Outreach Committee thanks the people of St. Martha’s who have given so generously of their time, money and donated goods in support of the above charities and thus truly reflect “Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World”.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMITTEE – BILL GAY

Covid concerns again prevented us from having an International Students Program in 2021. But get ready for 2022! We hear from the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber that they expect Students to return in large numbers next summer. In addition to being appreciative of how we

unconditionally welcome all Students to the Community and our homes, the Chamber hopes we can help provide (or at least help find) safe, healthy housing for Students.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Members: Jaclyn Hickman (chairperson), Carol Ann Heath, Todd Stevenson, Dave Kemper, Ken Hooker and Clem Edgar (unofficially)

Meetings are held on a quarterly or as needed basis.

Last year we began discussing and researching a new audio/video system for the church. We are very pleased to have been able to see this through in the beginning of this year. We contracted with Mid-South Audio and were satisfied with this choice. Our new system has allowed us to live stream the 10 am service on Youtube every week. There have also been other occasions that we have utilized the equipment, such as funerals and music events and it is our hope that in the future there will be even more use.

Unfortunately, there have been some issues with buffering during the live stream. Clem has done extensive research into the issue. We upgraded our internet capabilities and even began disconnecting Wi-Fi to everything but the A/V equipment during streaming. This did help some, but the buffering has persisted. We also reached out to the Town of Bethany and met with their IT director and a council member to brainstorm causes. Our current internet/phone service provider is Mediacom. We had discussed this as a possible culprit for our buffering issues. The town recently switched to Comcast as their provider and have been satisfied with their service. Unfortunately, Comcast is not currently available in our location. We were told it would likely be 18-24 months before they expand coverage to the whole town so for now, we are stuck with Mediacom. Overall, we have noticed that the buffering is a bigger issue in the summer when our population explodes and much less of an issue otherwise. We have concluded that for now we will live with the spontaneous buffering. If it gets worse, we will resume our efforts.

Related to the installation of our new A/V equipment was the hiring of a videographer. Clem Edgar and Jack Smith volunteered in this role for some time, but we realized they might not always be available, so it was decided to make this a paid position. It was not easy to find someone to fill these shoes, but we currently have two individuals who are quite capable and rotate to cover our needs. Also related to the A/V project, we had Mid-South Audio return to mount camera 3 on the wall and install two drop-down mics for the choir.

Two final items that have been discussed this past year that are worth mentioning are upgrading the church sign outside and purchasing or leasing a defibrillator. In reference to the sign, Clem reached out to the Town of Bethany and was told that upgrading to an electric sign was not an option since we are in a residential area. Our current sign is grandfathered in as it was installed prior to the current restrictions so no changes can be made. As for the defibrillator, Todd Stevenson led the research on this topic. He met with a representative from Cintas, and she provided a proposal for leasing a defibrillator. He then reached out to the Bethany Beach Fire Department and spoke with someone there who mentioned a program through the State of Delaware where we could potentially obtain a defibrillator for free. We completed and submitted the paperwork for this program,

however, funds for the current fiscal year were depleted so we were placed on a waiting list for the upcoming year. We will continue to pursue this option, as it is a priority. If necessary, we will revisit leasing or purchasing a defibrillator.

GREETING CARD MINISTRY-BARB REARDON

The greeting card ministry is doing well. We have eight Members and send out 300 or more cards a year. We intend to do the holiday project again this year. This consists of providing the residents at Milford Veterans Home with a holiday packet. The packet consists of a season greeting from the parishioners at St. Martha's and three holiday cards/stamped envelope they can send to family and friends.

HELPING HANDS-RON KERCHNER

We have expanded our pastoral care efforts to form Helping Hands. Where pastoral care is needed from the Rector, that is of course still the purview of the Rector. Helping Hands is meant to address all other needs. It is an effort to be more proactive in helping our parishioners. Parishioners are typically reluctant to ask for help – they don't want to impose, don't want to "wear out their welcome", want to be independent, etc. So, we want to be more proactive (in a gentle, discrete way) to get our parishioners to be more willing to ask for help (or just a social call or visit for that matter).

Services being offered include transportation, meals, errand running, help with technology, light household repair work / yard work, and most importantly, social calls or visits. Research has shown that many seniors who are alone can get very isolated – some may only talk to one person a week! Our Shepherd Groups and the Helping Hands initiative are meant to combat this isolation – so take advantage of them.

We currently have 19 volunteers who are more than willing to help where needed. Requests can come through your Shepherd Group lead or the Helping Hands Coordinator. Don't be bashful.

BOOK SALES- BILL ZIEGLER

First and foremost, I wish to thank everyone who volunteered and provided the physical labor to set-up and take down this event.

Your continued support makes this event possible. We earn over \$5000 each year at no cost!

Sale results for 2021

Projected for 2022

<u>Sale</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Projected</u>
Christmas	12/5/20	\$0.00	12/4/21	\$600.00
Memorial	5/29/21	0.00	5/22/21	1500.00
4 th of July	7/3/21	2555.00	7/2/22	2000.00
Labor Day	9/4/21	1667.00	9/3/22	1700.00
		\$4222.00		\$5800.00

Notes:

1. Sales are for the fiscal year, December through September.
2. Due to Covid we had no sales in Dec. 2020 or Memorial Day 2021.
3. For the 4th of July we opened an additional 2 hours on Sunday after church. This total for "2" days was a book sale record!
4. For both sales in 2021, we did a color ad in the Coastal Point. We had favorable comments at checkout, especially for the 4th of July. I think we should repeat these ads in the upcoming year.
5. We still have adequate crates to store the books. There is no expense needed as of now for 2022.

