ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2022
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From the Rector

As we began 2021, our hopes were high. We had moved through the first year of the pandemic with creativity and dedication, and we looked forward to regathering as soon as it was deemed safe to do so. Through the generous support of many, we were in a good position financially, and we had discovered that many parish ministries actually thrived during the transition to “virtual church.” These gifts meant that we were well positioned to meet yet another year of unexpected challenges, as 2021 proved to be.

Regathering for worship, fellowship, and formation was the highlight of 2021, even if it was not all we had imagined back in the days when we talked about “getting back to normal.” We are still wearing masks, we are still keeping our distance, and we are still dispersed, as many are not able to gather in person. And we are still the church, offering a precious sanctuary to many, growing in love, and seeking, in our various ways, the renewal of the world.

Three images from 2021: the festive party under the tent in November, a joyful celebration of regathering. The return of children and their families to Godly Play and church in Advent, a joyful celebration at the heart of our community. And the tent encampment on our tree lawn, a challenge to our hearts and minds, a tangible witness to the work that remains to be done so that all God’s children can live with a measure of safety and dignity.

This is a moment of transition in leadership roles. Near the end of the year, we announced that Zoe Cole had accepted a full time position as Reading Clerk of the Colorado State Senate, an ideal job for someone with her skills and experience. Though she will no longer serve as our children’s minister, she will remain a member of St Andrew’s and will find many ways to take a new role in our community life. Though there will be an interim period for part of this year, the vestry and I are committed to maintaining and growing our ministry with our youngest members and their families in 2022.

Elizabeth Rohrbough retires as clerk of the vestry, after three years of stellar service. Elizabeth was faithful, tireless, and fair in the dispatch of her duties, and on those occasions when she chose to speak, her remarks offered valuable, fresh perspective.
Retiring vestry members Toni Amicarella, Kathy Fleming, and Kathleen Beatty brought tremendous professionalism and long experience to our leadership community. Each of them offered support, unflagging commitment, and humor to the task of leadership in unexpectedly challenging times. And they asked hard questions at the right times.

Finally, my sincere gratitude, personally and on behalf of the parish, to Roger Kilgore, who retires as senior warden. St. Andrew’s has weathered the first two years of pandemic life so well thanks to his diligence, insight, courage, and energy. From overseeing the creation of our livestream technology and a new phone and internet system, to his participation in pastoral work such as phone calling, to his meticulous work with our treasurer Bob Mosher, to his faithful attention to the needs of the parish in prayer, he has been the effective and caring leader we most needed in this time. I am grateful for his attentive listening, perceptive questions, and willingness to debate hard questions, as we took counsel for the wellbeing of this parish.

When I consider the life of this parish through the past two years, I think often of the children of Israel and their time in exile. Though there was sorrow, and loss, there was transformation in that time. Some of the stories and customs that made them a people, stories of creation and covenant, the custom of keeping the Sabbath, come from that time. When future generations look back on the journey of the church through this pandemic time, may they find that we also preserved what was best, and embraced the new. When we do this, we find our way in the good future of God.

The Rev’d Elizabeth P. Randall, Rector
elizabeth@standrewdenver.org
St. Andrew’s Ministry Reports: 2021

From the Senior Warden

As I re-read my report from last year, I realized that I was confident we would say goodbye to Covid in 2021. I was wrong, covid continues. This reality shifted my thinking to what we can do to strengthen the community even as we reimagine our future.

This past year was a year of recovery even though our future is not fully formed. We restarted in-person worship and strengthened our streaming ministry providing multiple options for sharing in community. Many in the parish were able to gather for a magical evening in November for dining, music, and conversation in our tented parking lot thanks to a generous donor.

Just last month, we sadly said goodbye to Zoe as our minister to children and family, but I am happy that Zoe will continue to be part of our community. I continue to be thankful for the work of our wonderful staff of Tim, Ralph, Jon, and Tom as they creatively and patiently adapt to changing circumstances.

In many ways, St. Andrew’s - and each of us - has been trying to figure out what the future looks like and how to care for each other in the present. In 2022, I hope that we can co-create our future. I hope that we can examine how to reimagine our worship and music, think creatively about our ministry to children and families, and be life-giving in the use of our property. As I see it, this co-creation will strengthen what we hold dear while energizing our community. I believe this can be the year of “YES.” Yes, we can create our new future together.

As we close out 2021, I am filled with gratitude for the community of St. Andrew’s. I am grateful to our wonderful clergy - Elizabeth, Nina, and Wib - who have continued to adapt to uncertain circumstances and did so creatively and steadfastly. It has been a particular honor and pleasure to work closely with Elizabeth our Rector. And it has been an honor for me to serve as Senior Warden for these past three years.

I am also grateful for our dedicated lay ministry leaders. Please read the reports from these dedicated leaders and express your thanks next time you see them virtually or in person.
And finally, it has been a pleasure to work with the vestry (Kathy, Kathleen, Toni, Frank, Jim, and Connie, Dwight, Shawn, and Sue), as well as our Clerk, Elizabeth, Treasurer, Bob, and Junior Warden, Lisa. Covid may be with us longer than we wish, but God is eternal. Let us move together with,
Trust in our community,
Faith in God,
Hope for our future, and
Love for each other.

**Roger Kilgore, Senior Warden**
kilgore.roger@centurylink.net

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**From the Junior Warden**
Well, one down, two to go. My first year as Junior Warden has been a learning experience about things like swamp coolers, boilers, mice, temporary fences, and gardens! I’m quite sure that the coming year will bring many more exciting adventures in those areas and more!

I won’t make this a big Oscar-worthy speech, but I do want to thank so many people: Tom, of course, for all of his patience with me; the Vestry, for asking the questions I forget to ask; Diane and Reese Jameson, for all the gardening expertise; Diane Solomon and all of the volunteer mowers who keep our grass looking fabulous; Mike Ogborn, for his help with fence building; and, of course, Carol for smiling and shaking her head as I drag her along on all my projects!

I look forward to the coming year and greatly appreciate your confidence in me.

**Lisa Sisneros, Junior Warden**
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**From the Deacon**
Let me offer again, my sincere thanks to the parish for the sabbatical time afforded me from mid-July to mid-October. It was a time of much needed rest from church activities for me.
Over the course of 2021 I officiated at Morning Prayer, served at Eucharists, and preached in accordance with the Rota. I continue my roles in the Building our Vision and Mission and Outreach ministries as well. Additionally, I have been engaged with a few other parishioners in trying to make St. Andrew’s a Safe Parking Site. This involved engagement with Colorado Safe Parking Initiative to offer safe space within the City and County of Denver to individuals experiencing homelessness and who are living in their vehicles. Prior to my sabbatical, I worked with our neighbors who accessed St. Andrew’s property for respite and sanctuary. In trying to access services and much needed supplies for this community I was reminded of how tenuous our sense of security can be. These interactions continue to challenge me as a Deacon to engage with those who create and enforce the policies and power structures which fail to serve the needs of the most vulnerable. Additionally, I am deeply conscious of our baptismal covenant that calls us to:

- seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; and
- strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

My personal ministry beyond St. Andrew’s at Sacred Heart House, a shelter for single mothers and unaccompanied women, suspended in-person volunteers during this time of Covid. All program participants are being housed in hotels for safety. I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year to bring to realization the projects to which this parish is called. As we are all aware, there is much need in our immediate neighborhood, the greater Denver metro area, and across the globe. I will continue to be actively asking each of us to engage in prayerful discernment as to where St. Andrew’s, and each of us, are called to be present to address the needs of many in our community and across the span of the globe. I encourage all of us to share our ideas as to how best we can be engaged in helping the tree of life to grow, in offering sanctuary in the city, and being agents in the renewal of God’s creation.

**The Rev’d Elizabeth Wib Garfield, Deacon**

wibgarfield@hotmail.com
**Endowment Committee**
Due to some generous bequests, the endowment of Saint Andrew’s presently is worth more than $800,000. The funds are invested by the Colorado Episcopal Foundation. On a yearly basis, the church receives income from the endowment (a defined percentage of the assets invested). That income may only be used for specific purposes such as outreach and debt service.

The endowment committee consists of six members who serve three-year terms; members for 2022 will be: Marjanne Claassen, Kathy Fleming, Rick Larson, Benjamin Skeen, Diana Solomon, and Jake Thomas. Thanks to Elizabeth Rohrbough and Lynn Valentine, who both recently completed their service on the committee.

Please consider a gift to Saint Andrews when you are drawing up a will or other estate plans! And should you decide to make the church a beneficiary, please let us know so we can thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Elizabeth Rohrbough**

[erohrbough@yahoo.com](mailto:erohrbough@yahoo.com)

**Altar Guild**
It has been an honor to serve as sacristan on the Altar Guild following the generous service of ten years from Liz Evans. Hopefully, I will continue to serve the parish with the same graciousness and fidelity as Liz who continues to be a phone call away when I need her assistance. The purpose of the altar guild is to provide setup and assistance for all liturgical services at St. Andrews. These include all eucharist services, baptisms, funerals, prayer services, weddings and all other services as determined by the liturgical needs of the particular liturgical season. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the Altar Guild to manage an inventory of needed supplies used throughout the liturgical year. This includes all supplies such as bread and wine, candles, palms, ashes, etc. The Guild is also responsible for keeping staff aware when repairs are needed. Tom has been a kind influence in assisting me regularly. There are two issues that I anticipate during the year.
1. Repair the sliding doors on both sides of the sanctuary.
2. Recruit and train a couple additional members to assist.
Finally, thank you for the invitation to assume this opportunity to serve in this capacity. It is, indeed, a sacred privilege.

Leo Bonfadini, Sacristan
leob8643@gmail.com

Guild of Readers
2021 was a creative, challenging, and somewhat discombobulated year for the Guild of Readers. We began the year with still fully-online worship, but early in 2021, we began regular in-person worship in the church, with 11am services and special services also live-streamed. We’ve tried to have the readings at the 11am services be pre-recorded but that’s not always possible.

Some of our readers are not yet comfortable attending in-person, and recorded readings present some technical challenges for many.

We’ve still managed to fill the reader slots for the most part. The readers who’ve participated with live and/or recorded readings have been an enthusiastic, and adept handful of our greater “roll of readers.” There have been challenges with communication as we continue to be sort-of-back to “normal” and sort-of not. We continue to try to overcome those challenges. We also returned to using CalendarWiz as our sign-up method (which was put on hold for nearly a year during the early pandemic).

Micaëla was thrown an additional life-change of moving to Longmont after 30 years in the same Denver home. For several months, during that transition time, she got great help and leadership coverage from Kathleen Melleno. Enormous thanks to Kathleen for her work!

We have also, just recently, added a few new folks to the reader rolls and we’re grateful and enthused about that. We welcome anyone who would like to take part in this ministry. We hope that, especially when the current Omicron surge settles down, we may see more and more of our lectors return to reading regularly.

Micaëla Larsen Brown
micaela@ecentral.com
Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors for 2021 were Scott Barnette, Selena Billington, Shawn Nowlan, Katie Schmidt and Diana Solomon.

From January through mid-July we continued to make pastoral calls to those on whom we had been visiting, in addition to some dear ones who had lost spouses this year. This was a blessing to be able to connect over the phone. We were able to enjoy longer conversations since we were no longer driving from home to home.

In mid-July as the church had been reopened to all parishioners, we invited back those parishioners whom we had been calling but were able to attend in person. This reduced our list to those who were unable to attend in person. Care facilities had ever changing protocols for visitations. Our parishioners had varying levels of comfort in having visits, and the visitors themselves vacillated from time to time as to their confidence in safely visiting.

Perseverance and commitment in the face of uncertainty prevailed for the Lay Eucharistic Visitors in 2021. Many thanks to our faithful ministers!

Diana Solomon, Chair  diana.Solomon44@gmail.com

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

As 2021 began and we continued to work through the ongoing and evolving nature of the challenges posed by Covid-19, the primary connections with families remained the weekly Family Formation newsletter, Zoom recordings of Godly Play stories, and home deliveries. As the year progressed, however, and adults, then teens and older children were able to be vaccinated, and the positivity rate of covid decreased, we began to see families in church with growing regularity. Newsletter readership also grew consistently throughout the year.

Inspired by this, the faithful children’s ministry volunteers began to explore how to provide formation opportunities safely.

In December, we offered two Sundays of Godly Play, telling the 4-week Advent story in two parts. Attendance each of the two Sundays with Godly Play was comparable to pre-pandemic levels (8 children the first Sunday and 6 the second). We were also thrilled to be able to once again offer the Christmas Eve Godly Play Pageant. Although fewer adults and children attended (assuring that families could maintain a safe social
distance), the turnout was significant and also allowed several of our teens to be involved in leadership.
Throughout the year, several baptisms were conducted and prepared, using technological modifications to assure safety and the participation of friends and family who were unable to be present in person. No nursery care was provided, but the nursery has been cleaned and organized, ready for children as we have volunteers and/or paid staff to support this.
Although several volunteers discerned a need to step away from ministry with children and youth, and the position of Minister to Children and Youth remains open at this time, several more parishioners have expressed an interest in becoming involved.

L. Zoe Cole, JD, PhD
Minister to Children, Youth, and Families, 2016 - 2021
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Building our Vision

2021 was a year of ups and downs with the parking lot project. BOV and its partners were well on the way to build an apartment building to house young people exiting foster care with TGTHR (formerly Attention Homes) and a common use pavilion near St. Andrew’s in the parking lots adjacent to the church. The design plan depended on the purchase of the corner lot next to 21st Street, but the owners of that lot refused to sell, making the project untenable as designed. Given this scenario, BOV began considering several options, including a smaller project. Before moving forward in examining other options, BOV felt it prudent to confer and coordinate with the Capital Campaign Committee to ensure the future needs of programs and spaces of SAEC are addressed in conjunction with any recommendations that Committee makes. BOV is still committed to determine a way to fulfill the vision of the parish regarding the use of the parking lots and will continue to work on this in 2022.

Mike Ogborn and Chris Buri, Co-Chairs
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**Education for Ministry**

St. Andrew’s and the Church of the Holy Redeemer co-host one joint Education for Ministry (EfM) group. EfM is a distance learning theological education program of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Completion of the program takes four years, during which participants study the Bible, church history, and modern theology.

EfM’s purpose is:
1) to teach one how to think theologically;
2) to deepen one’s faith and one’s understanding of our Christian heritage and baptismal vows; and
3) to provide one with confidence to be Christ’s minister in the world.

The 2020-21 class graduated two people. Covid 19 prevented us from appropriately acknowledging the graduates’ accomplishments during church services and coffee hours. We hope to remedy that sometime in the future. The current group continued on Zoom and began in September with eight learners and three mentors. The group consists of two learners in Year One, two in Year Two, one in Year Three, and three in Year Four. Learners are drawn from Holy Redeemer, Church of the Ascension, and St. Andrew’s. Covid 19 had caused us to meet on Zoom which continued throughout 2021.

As with the world at large, Covid 19 has affected practically every aspect of EfM. The group meets online Tuesday nights, September through June. Sewanee was late this year opening registration and distributing texts, which caused our group to start late. Nevertheless, we persisted.

Mentors: **Shawn Nowlan and Jennifer Macy** – email: efm@standrewdenver.org

Pennie Goodman, Holy Redeemer

**The Order of the Daughters of the King**

As with many organizations, we did not meet during 2021 as COVID-19 did not allow but we persevered in Prayer and Service. The DOK members prayed faithfully for the parish and all those asking for prayers.
Our service continued with the Irving Street Women’s Residence. We took turns taking cupcakes, cards and flowers to the women each month honoring the birthdays of that month.

**The Motto of The Order**

For His Sake...
I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?

*Joyce Culwell, President of St. Andrew’s DOK*
joyceculwell@msn.com

**History Project**

**Follow up to publication of* Historic Church Serves Big City***

Book reviews were published in two national church journals. One was published by the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists. Another was published by *Currents in Theology and Mission* by the Lutheran Church (ELCA.)

Two former, living monks from the Order of the Holy Family learned online about *Historic Church Serves Big City*. In response, they contacted me and we have been in communication ever since.

An online genealogy service printed an excerpt from *Historic Church Serves Big City* (portions of chapter three) to provide biographical information about the Rev. Jon Marr Stark.

Libraries that have placed copies of the book in their collections:
Public Libraries: Denver Public Library (Western History and Genealogy Dept.) & the Stephen L. Hart Library (History Colorado.)
Seminary Libraries: Iliff School of Theology, General Theological Seminary, Virginia Theological Seminary
Church Libraries: St. John’s Cathedral (Denver), Grace and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (Colorado Springs)

I gave a talk about St. Andrew’s history and architecture for the December 4, 2021 Historic Denver organ tour of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.
Publication of *Art From The Ground Up*
A companion book to *Historic Church Serves Big City* is being prepared for publication this year. It is a picture book about the architecture and art of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. One section of the book highlights the monastic art from 1969-1984. Over the past two years, I worked directly with a church art historian (Michael LaVallee) to research and photograph liturgical art within the church buildings and grounds.

Phyllis Kester
History Coordinator/Archivist, pkester7@gmail.com

Mission and Outreach Ministry
Despite the challenges of limited on-site opportunities, the ministry found several ways to stay connected to our Mission Partners, both in the Denver metro area and internationally. We continue to explore how to be of service and to celebrate with the agencies we support despite the limitations caused by the pandemic. More than ever, we recognize the importance of staying close to our neighbors in need, even if we have to be physically distanced. It is gratifying to share examples of resiliency, as our service partners look after the most vulnerable persons in difficult times. Examples include Irving Street Residence who housed women at near capacity throughout the year, managing to keep residents safe from COVID-19. CHARG Resource Center has maintained its mental health outreach groups and other resources for its members. Several parishioners have jumped in with both feet to help out our newest service partner, Rocky Mountain Refuge for End of Life Care (formerly Lazarus Gate). Susan Backus, Peter DeBlois, Jim Fittz, and Dan Wright participate in weekly meetings to help launch programs and increase community engagement. Susan Backus has been instrumental in developing volunteer training on how to address emotional care for dying persons. It is exciting to know that the seed money provided by St. Andrew’s in 2020 is culminating in the opening of the center’s doors in the next month.

Activities
Our annual Loaves and Fishes was once again organized as a drive-by drop off during July. A total of 465 pounds of food and $70 in cash were delivered to Metro Caring due to the generosity of St. Andrew’s parishioners. In addition, members of the church attended gatherings to bag beans and rice distributed through Metro Caring.
Parishioners donated items, such as a TV, dishes, pots and pans, and furniture, to assist a woman transitioning from the Irving Street Residence to her own apartment. Thank you!

We had a guest presentation with information about Locally Haiti (formerly Colorado Haiti Project) and look forward to strengthening ties with the organization.

For the second year, we held a very successful donation project, via online ordering, to help Family Promise provide needed household items to families as they move to apartments.

**Distributions**

The 2021 budget provided $22,500 plus an additional $2,618.02 carried over as designated funds from 2020. These funds were distributed as follows:

- **CHARG Resource Center**--$2000 to support drop-in groups on wellness and other topics for members.
- **Episcopal Relief & Development**--$2000 divided equally for domestic hurricane disaster and Haiti earthquake victims.
- **Family Promise**--$1400 to support housing costs for families.
- **Irving Street Residence for Women**--$1000 to purchase equipment and resources for a wellness room and for resident transportation and housing deposits.
- **Locally Haiti**--$2000 for disaster relief following the August earthquake and tropical storm.
- **Metro Caring**--$3000 for general operating support ($1000 was the fourth of five $1000 pledges for the Roots to Rise, a multi-year giving society which ensures the success of the agency over time).
- **Never on Sunday**--$500 to supply sheet music for the non-profit mixed choir. Their performances provide entertainment, inspiration, and financial support for a variety of organizations such as senior centers and churches.
- **Rocky Mountain Refuge for End of Life Care**--$3000 for general operating expenses. RMR is a one-of-a-kind organization in the Denver metro area that provides emotional and physical care for terminally-ill homeless persons.
- **SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders)**--$500 to support the Lunch and Learn program which was able to meet virtually in 2021.
St. Elizabeth’s School--$1418.02 to support scholarships at the school.
St. Francis Center--$3600 to furnish two rooms at the newly-opened Warren residence, a 50-unit housing facility for men and women transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.
Project Education South Sudan--$4700 to fund education costs which allowed several girls to matriculate to higher education.
The members express deep gratitude to Janice Woodward who led this ministry for many years. During her tenure, Janice’s steady vision created new opportunities for St. Andrew’s to become involved with its partners and provided wise leadership for decision-making to best serve the needs of its partners. Thank you, Janice!
Members of the ministry during 2021 were Joyce Culwell, Peter DeBlois, Wib Garfield, Al Grinestaff, Connie Klein, Mike Ogborn, Lynne Valentine, and Janice Woodward. We continue to meet monthly via zoom. We are always open to new members and invite you to contact any committee member for more information. Please join us at a meeting and look for announcements in Fruits to find out how you can contribute your time and energy for outreach to the greater community.
Connie Klein, Mission and Outreach
connie@treeoflifetherapy.org

Choirmaster’s Report

The second year of the pandemic has continued to require great flexibility and adaptability for the music of the parish. 2021 started as most of 2020 had gone – with no in-person services, online only, and only two weekly services (Morning Prayer on Sundays at 11:00am, and Choral Evensong on Thursdays at 5:45pm). Singers – staff singers only -- were mostly in the choir stalls, but separated by 6 or more feet, and masked.

The month of May saw our first in-person services since the pandemic started, the resumption of the 9:00 service on Sundays, the return of Eucharistic services, the return of Still Point services . . . and we were able to incorporate volunteer singers again for the first time. Social distancing requirements limited us to 10 singers per service, so a
rotation of staff and volunteers meant that many singers could sing one or two Sundays a month for the first time since March, 2020. For a brief time in August, we even went so far as to remove masks for the 11:00 service, as the virus seemed to be in abeyance. Masks went back on, however, by September.

Starting in Advent, the social distancing for the choir was reduced enough so that we could fit anyone who wanted to sing in the choir stalls, and, although masks were still required, it seemed like the closest thing to “normal” that we had yet experienced. The appearance of the omicron variant has caused a few singers to withdraw temporarily, until the surge has abated, but I am pleased to say that most singers enjoyed a joyful holiday season of singing and worship.

Of particular note was our Advent Lessons & Carols Service, which included the largest choir and the highest-quality music in almost two years.

I continue to be deeply grateful for the good spirit and positive attitude of all the singers, who have been forced to “roll with the punches” at each alteration of the situation, and who have willingly cooperated with safety protocols, such that there is no sign of any covid transmission at St. Andrew’s during the entire period; and to Ralph, who has been an absolute rock of reliability and support throughout this time. I am honored by the unstinting support of clergy and parish leadership, and by the varied expressions of thanks that I have received from many, many congregants for the work we have done to keep the music of the parish as excellent, meaningful, and supportive-of-the-liturgy as it can possibly be in these difficult circumstances.

Timothy J. Krueger, Choirmaster
music@standrewdenver.org

Ralph Valentine, Organist
rbval2001@yahoo.com
**Community of Caring**

The Community of Caring continued its ministry of pastoral care during 2021. We contact parishioners who are unable to be active, with those who wanted extra support during a challenging period in their life or just wanted some extra contact with our parish. Thankfully towards the end of this year with Covid vaccines and boosters, we were able to provide limited in-person visits in addition to our calls.

We were able to be creative in our support by delivering food, providing rides to medical appointments, joining for walks, and visiting over coffee. Again, this year we assembled and delivered 15 holiday baskets filled with Advent readings, hand-calligraphy poems, Christmas cactus, home-baked muffins, and other personal gifts. It’s hard to know who enjoyed the deliveries more, our appreciative recipients or those of us who delivered them with care and love from St Andrew’s.

As we begin another year, we invite anyone who could use an extra layer of love and support through virtual visits, phone check-ins, a listening ear, and a time to pray together to reach out to us. To connect with our ministry, contact Barbara Day, 303-704-8524, or Mother Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara Day**

b_e_day@msn.com

**Acolyte Ministry**

The Acolytes met in November, 2021 to reflect on this year’s Stewardships theme, “Good Gifts: Giving and Receiving.” Our time together was highly productive, and we found the theme to be a great jumping-off point for discussion about what draws us to this ministry that all of us find so meaningful. Notes from our discussion appear below.

As we move to 2022, ongoing training for our ministry’s members, new and continuing, will be critical. We look forward to bringing new members into this ministry who might also enjoy and cherish the opportunity to be an integral part of worship at St. Andrew’s.
We strongly encourage anybody with an interest in becoming part of the acolyte ministry to contact Mike Kornelsen, Acolyte Warden, or any acolyte or clergyperson to express your interest.

**Acolyte Reflections on the Stewardship Theme**

The Acolyte ministry helps to facilitate the liturgy, which contributes to a holistic space in which the community worships.

We also represent the community and serve as a bridge from the congregation to the altar. Our ministry helps revere and celebrate life milestones at memorials, marriages, and baptisms. We are the face of the community at the altar.

**Quotes from acolytes:**

I have been approached by people that haven’t attended a service in a while, and they tell me how nice it is to see a familiar face at the altar. So I think we provide continuity.

Giving and receiving is what it’s all about.

I love helping congregants to be in a worshipful space.

Serving the wine gives me a special relationship with each congregant.

It has something to do with us all working together for the glory of God rather than as individuals.

People have expressed to me how excited they are to see a woman thurifer. It’s welcoming for some people who have never seen certain things happen at the altar.

In giving, we receive.

We contribute to a greater whole, a physical presence that helps inspire everyone to be more enthusiastic and be aware of the necessity to contribute.

I love serving at the Still Point service; it is a lovely, fulfilling, and simple format.

**Mike Kornelsen, Acolyte Warden**

mike@kornelsen.com
Social Justice Ministry

The mission of the Social Justice Ministry is rooted in the question from our baptismal covenant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

The following are the ministry’s programs through which we seek to address inequalities based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and limited resources for housing:

- Advocacy - In partnership with the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, we lobby our state representatives and senators through letters, phone calls, and testimony, seeking to turn pending legislation into laws that support social justice. We focus on bills addressing racial justice, housing and homelessness, and LGBTQ+ issues.
- Education to raise awareness and commitment - We have twice offered Sacred Ground, the National Church’s program on the history of race in our country, and we continue to provide opportunities to deepen our understanding of racial justice through films and other resources that address complex racial issues.
- Lectio Divina for Social Justice - A weekly contemplative prayer gathering focusing on writings by authors of color and on scripture enriches and brings to powerful awareness our commitment to activism.
- Rapid Response - We notify parishioners when urgent action is needed for pending social justice legislation and to let them know about events related to social justice issues.

Members of the Social Justice Ministry are: Bill Calkins, Peter DeBlois, Jim Fittz, Betsy Hoover, Nadine Kerstetter, Sue Kilgore, Clyde Lovell, Frank Nowell, Sue Torfin, and Dan Wright

Submitted by Sue Kilgore
Sue.Kilgore@centurylink.net
**Garden Guild**

Due to COVID, the Garden Guild met only a few times outdoors during the year. For the most part, Reese and I did most of the spring and fall cleanup and maintained the gardens. When out working, we had always had a number of passersby who commented on the beautiful gardens and thanked us for our ministry.

Several said they felt safe there, as opposed to a few years ago when they were in a state of disarray and there were more unhoused on the grounds.

We did not do much additional planting but did move some plants from one site to another. We also took down the volunteer hackberry in the Garth and planted a Tatarian Maple in its place. This tree is a Plant Select and should do well in the space, as well as provide summer and fall color and food and shelter for birds. The Serviceberry we planted in place of the Crabapple the year before is doing well and was covered with blooms this past year. Our other natives are all beginning to shine, this being the third year they’ve been in place.

Sadly, the grass we sowed in the two tree gardens was destroyed by tent campers this summer who were there for 8 weeks.

We’re now considering how to make these spaces attractive with native plants, rock and the like and, at the same time, unsuitable for camping. We hope to get something going this Spring. In the meantime, the areas are fenced.

Our wonderful anonymous benefactor who gave us a large donation for three consecutive years died unexpectedly this year. We do have a substantial amount left in our account that will hopefully allow us to fund the tree garden project, however, since we do not receive any budget funds, we’ll have to look for new sources of funding in the future.

**Diane Jameson, Chair**

dgjameson@gmail.com
Parish Life

The Parish Life Ministry is dedicated to building community in the parish through social events. Included in those social events are the monthly 1) Movie Group, 2) Moveable Feasts, a monthly 3) Book Group and an annual 4) St. Andrew’s Day at the Rockies.

The Movie Group
The group meets on the first Saturday of each month. Interested parishioners are placed on an email list and are notified a week or so before the first Saturday of the month and invited to submit suggestions on films we might like to attend; towards the end of the week everyone on the list is notified by Jill Ogborn of the movie chosen and the time and location for viewing. After the show we gather in the lobby where those who wish can proceed to a nearby cafe to discuss the film. Discussions are always lively and that’s what makes this group so much fun. If you are not on the Movie Group email list, you can send a request to be added to Debbie and/or Jill at: dacinden@gmail.com or jill.ogborn@gmail.com.

The Moveable Feasts
This ministry is coordinated by Debbie Courtney and enables members of St. Andrew’s to share a meal and spend an evening with a large variety of other members whom they have either not met or do not know very well, strengthening our bond as a family and fostering an appreciation of our many different parts.
Although COVID has prevented us from offering Moveable Feasts, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume in the near future.

Book Group
The Book Group meets on the second Monday of the month from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm in the Common Room of the Parish House. Since the arrival of COVID, we have met via Zoom instead. In early September, members of the group send in a list of suggested books and the group as a whole selects which books will be read in the coming months. Although COVID has prevented us from meeting in person, we hope our in person meetings can resume in the near future.
Day at the Rockies
In 2016, on Sunday afternoon, June 26, 30 members of the parish attended a Rockies vs. the San Diego Padre’s game. We are hoping to be able to revive this activity once COVID is no longer a problem. We are looking for a new chair for this event – see Debbie.

Debbie Courtney, Chair
dacinden@gmail.com

Exploring Life and Faith
This group offers a variety of adult formation classes. During the first half of 2021 all the classes were held via Zoom. We used the Genesis video series, produced and led by Bill Moyers.
This series looks at 10 stories in the book of Genesis, beginning with creation. Participants could watch the video before the class and then we had a discussion of the story during class led by different members of the ELF committee. We covered the first 5 stories during the winter and spring.
The committee met in person in August to plan the sessions. During the fall we covered the second 5 stories of the Genesis series.
The season ended with a holiday party in December for all parishioners with an appearance by Santa Claus, carols, food and decorating the outside of the church.
The ELF committee is a great group of able and creative people including Peter DeBlois, Kathy Fleming, Charlie and Penny Ozinga, Pat Petrash, and newest member, Lesley Watson.

Rev’d Nina Churchman, Chair woodynina@gmail.com

Flower Guild
The pandemic did not stop the flower guild but required some adaptation this year. Our usual Easter and Christmas displays were visible to livestreaming worshipers at home, as well as the congregation in the pews. The technicians did a great job of focusing in for close-ups, particularly before and after services. We created flower
arrangements for a wedding and several funerals and made a dozen table arrangements for the Harvest Home Dinner. Parishioner and professional florist Jenny Skeen presented an excellent and informative workshop of practical tips and design skills for floral design. This year’s guild participants included Caroline Cammack, Marsha Campbell, Betsy Hover, Judie James, Diane Jameson, Reese Jameson, Karen Mayes, Denny Muirhead, and Lynne Valentine.

**Judie James, Chair** judithmj@gmail.com

**Card Ministry**
This ministry has proven to be valuable as an alternative means of staying connected, especially during the pandemic. On a weekly basis, cards are sent to parishioners for a variety of occasions (Birthday, Anniversary, Congratulations, Sympathy, Thinking of You, Get Well). A means for tracking the cards sent has been set up, so that cards sent can be quantified. A database is still a work in progress, but this will be helpful to keep track of recurring events.

**Scott Barnette**
sbarnette4772@gmail.com

**Facebook Ministry**
When the pandemic arrived in our community during Lent of 2020, we were forced to expand our awareness of what it means to gather for worship as a faith community. Thankfully, technology, in the form of Facebook and Zoom, offered us virtual spaces to continue worshiping and serving.

Our Facebook page and its connected groups (the virtual Undercroft and virtual Quire) have become a new kind of community, a place to pray together, share jokes (in the form of memes), and stay up to date with what’s happening in our parish.

One of the biggest blessings of "virtual church" is its ability to gather in people who, for whatever reason, cannot come into the physical building - new connection in this time of disconnection. People who have been separated from their parish family for years can now attend worship as often as they like. People who live far away, who perhaps have never even visited Denver, can feel a part of our community. People who are looking for
a church home or for a meaning-filled worship experience can "come and see" what we're all about before venturing to our campus. And, as the pandemic wears on, virtual church provides an efficient and effective means of shifting protocols and ensuring everyone's safety. It has been particularly moving for us to see how families are able to gather together, even across great distances or hampered by quarantines, to celebrate the lives of their dear ones who have passed on, through live-streamed memorial services. Technology widens the sacred circle we inhabit, further opening it into a loop where all may enter.

As social media ministers, we enjoy seeing how church comes to life in the stories told by posting pictures, videos, ministry spotlights, and prayers. We delight in the practice of keeping our Facebook space present to the seasons of the liturgical year and the celebrations of the Lectionary calendar.

We're grateful for all the gifts that technology has provided to our parish over this past year and more, and we're looking forward to seeing all the ways our social media can connect and gather us in the coming year. Ministry team, Jon Moore and Katie Schmidt.

Submitted by, Katie Schmidt
kschmidtarts@gmail.com

Prayer Chain
The ministry of the Prayer Chain is intercessory prayer. Prayer requests of the parish are gathered into the Parish Prayer List from email received. The Prayer Chain currently has 12 members who give their time to hold the requests of the parish in prayer. Each member of the Prayer Chain chooses a day of the week as their special time to offer the Prayer List in private prayer. On Friday at noon, anyone can join a group via Zoom to focus together on the Prayer List. The regular practice of intercessory prayer helps us as members of the Prayer Chain to grow in our spiritual life, and brings us closer to the parish.
The Parish Prayer List is updated weekly and available through the Fruits of the Tree e-newsletter, and on our website, offering the members of the parish the opportunity to participate in prayer. New members of the Prayer Chain are always welcome, we operate by email.

Jean Rafsnider
prayersonstandrewdenver.org

Welcome Ministry

Covid has altered the way we welcome. The Welcome Ministry, like so many ministries at St. Andrew’s, pushed through the challenges of re-gathering while also being cautious of individual safety needs and concerns. Quickly responding to changing guidance made it important to offer the warmest welcome possible in the changing pandemic circumstances that our members and visitors faced each day. We were excited when we took a brief respite from mandating mask wearing during the summer months. Yet, like many other communities, we responded to the emergence of new variants and made sure masks were available to members and visitors to ensure the safest experience possible for all who come to worship with us. Jonathan Culwell along with a rotation of regular welcome ministers cover the morning services. I welcome those who attend Still Point twice a month vs weekly.

We are most happy to see new faces who walk through our doors to “Come and See.”

Maryella Morley, Welcome Minister
morleymaryella@gmail.com
Photos from this past year...

2021 in Review:
To View more great photos, please click here.

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