

## August 2023 Reports

### **Priest-in-Charge Report**

Beloved friends,

Another month of this very short summer has gone by almost in a blur.

Two weeks ago, we had a Financial Committee meeting that I also attended, and since then we have gotten the complete list of accounts from Andrew. We will schedule another meeting before the budget meeting to go over that, see what accounts can be merged, and how to better describe them to help out Mary as much as we can when she is doing her bookkeeping work.

Right after our last meeting I have created a BC text message group that has proven to be quite useful and it has even helped us arrange carpooling for the parish picnic. I am glad to have such easy communication now with all the BC.

We have purchased Realm and are slowly starting to integrate it with the parishioners, it will take a couple of months until we can reliably use it. I will leave it in my announcements and let people know that those whose email address we already have will receive an invitation and those whose email address we do not have will be invited individually as we communicate with them directly.

We have started advertising PotLuck Sunday in this week's newsletter and we will continue to do so every week before the first Sunday of the month. Samantha has purchased the portable piano and has miraculously found a cable that fits the speaker we already had, so we had a wonderful musical experience at the Parish Picnic. Thank you all who have contributed to making that a successful day and especially Jim and his grandson Mason who put in so much time and effort into cooking amazing food for us. It was a wonderful day!

I have asked Robert Redd to head the Bishop's Visitation Committee and he has graciously accepted. I would like all of us to support him in making the Bishop's day with us a memorable one. Besides the food, we could also find a good dog friendly hike for us to take her on so she can become more familiar with the beauty of Utah County.

Most of my time these days is spent figuring out the Confirmation Class curriculum. Because of the special situation of the predominant culture

around us, I am finding that the resources from TEC are not addressing some of the more pressing issues of our parishioners that want to learn more about the Episcopal Church, so I have to put together materials to paint a comprehensive picture. In addition to that, in October, I will start a Faith Transition Class on Thursday nights that will most likely meet at a restaurant. Lon has agreed to co-facilitate that with me and the purpose will be to help people, who are coming from the LDS church, deconstruct some of the religious and cultural ideas that they have internalized over the years and to help them build an Episcopal identity that is rooted in more authentic practices and values. We will probably meet once a month or perhaps twice a month; I have not narrowed that down yet, but already a variety of people have expressed interest in this and it will serve as our ongoing faith formation curriculum. I believe these conversations will be valuable even for people who are not experiencing any faith transition because we will be very intentional in speaking about our practices and the way in which what we do as Episcopalians makes us who we are.

We are still getting quite a few BYU students from the World Religions Class coming in and asking many questions and, in addition to that, I have been asked by two professors from BYU to collaborate with them for the class to make the student's experience more informative and meaningful. In September, the whole class will come and experience an instructional Eucharist at St. Mary's and this brings me a lot of joy because now all the students in the class will get to have an encounter with our beautiful liturgy and understand it better. I will also facilitate a field trip for this same class to The Point in SLC, where Shannon Burke works, and let them see faith in action in caring for troubled unhoused individuals.

My office hours will remain Tuesdays and Thursdays for a while, I do quite a bit of work from home anyway and I do find that time more productive now that my children are in school as I get to work without being interrupted by anyone but my cats.

As always, it is the greatest privilege to be part of this congregation and do all this work together for the glory of God.

Blessings,

Dani+

**Senior Warden Report**

Hello all,

A few weeks ago, we met as a Financial Committee, along with Rev. Dani, to get more organized in that area so we can better communicate to the Bishop's Committee when account item questions come up. As always, Andrew is on board to assist in any way that he can. The main thing we asked was that he send us a Chart of Accounts. That is a list of every line item we have ever used which we have since received. I am still unclear why certain items don't seem to be on the list because the program must maintain an audit trail. My assumption is that these lines were just emptied out or merged into other lines, but I would still want to know how to track some of that in the system. Regardless, I look forward to simplifying what we use, bringing back items that might've been left off during the time of COVID, and making sure every mission and budgetary item has a better defined place.

Over a month back, Kurt Cook spoke about taking interest in our history and that re-sparked interest in going through the items in our basement to clean up but also archive and preserve what's important. Marilyn and Dani+ have started thinking about people who could help work on this and Kurt graciously offered to assist where he can. I believe we should keep anything that gives an idea of what was happening in our church at any given time, but also keep donated items for remembrance and other mementos that could add to the richness of our history and our timeline.

Just a few other things: Jim finally received a bid on our siding, but Marilyn's option fell through; so we still need a third bid. If anyone else can help with this, so we can get moving on our grant request and installation (hoping to get it done before having to deal with winter weather), that would be much appreciated. As far as our ongoing guest speaker series, Forrest Cuch looks good for September (still need to confirm), Dani+ is scheduled to meet with Rachel Whipple to see about October, and Lon Young is still on for November. Regarding opening the new Priest's discretionary account; Arianne and Dani+ are scheduled with Central Bank to do that on Tuesday. Also, security cameras have arrived!

Thanks for all you do!

Taran

### **Junior Warden Report**

I finally got a bid from the siding contractor and sent it to Taran. I haven't heard from Jared about the leak in the sprinkler system; but I don't see the

huge puddle anymore, so it may be fixed at the dump/waste valve, where we shut it off. We do need to plan another clean up soon. I hope everybody had a good time at the picnic. It was a great day and I had a great time.

Thanks,  
Jim

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Income**

- Pledge contributions were in line with the budget for the month of July. Year-to-date pledge contributions (January-July) were ahead of budget by over \$5k.
- Plate contributions were above budget for the month of July. Year-to-date plate contributions were significantly ahead of budget (by nearly \$3,500).
- Grant income for July was received on the last day of June. Thus, it appears that grant income was not received for July but the year-to-date total matches budget.
- Overall, income year-to-date is well ahead of budget.

### **Expense**

- Copier costs (lease and actual usage) are consistently over-budget; however, we likely under budgeted this category. We will revisit copier costs when we meet to discuss the 2024 budget this fall.
- Natural gas expenses have already exceeded the annual budget.
- The organist expense will be well over budget for the year. This is likely another under budgeted category for the Finance Committee to consider.

There was a \$4,173 deficit for the month of July mainly due to grant income being received in the prior month. Nonetheless, there was a \$3,500 surplus year-to-date (a year-to-date deficit of \$5,400 was budgeted). St. Mary's is in a solid financial position with more than half of the year complete.