

September 2023 Reports

Priest-in-Charge Report

Beloved friends,

It has been a busy month since our last meeting and much has happened. I am spending quite a bit of time with the Racial Healing Committee planning for an Indigenous Day celebration in October and then making long term plans for an ongoing program for people of color in our diocese. It is great work and I am honored and humbled to be part of it.

Some parishioners and I visited Esther's Garden at the Congregation Kol Ami in SLC and we were incredibly impressed with the atmosphere and also the quality and quantity of the produce. They had vegetables, fruit trees, grapes and also a portion of the garden that was middle eastern and had even pomegranate trees. Pictures are attached at the end of the report. I have been invited to be a guest on another podcast, Of Good Report with Ben Tanner. We had a good conversation and at the end he wanted to know how he can help our congregation. I have mentioned that we might need help with redoing our garden. Inspired by Esther's Garden. I am thinking that perhaps a better approach is to get rid of the raised beds and make a level garden with a drip system. Ben Tanner, who has some high function in the LDS church, has spoken to a bunch of people and they are ready to help us with the labor for this if we send them the details and what we need (how many people, when, and for how long).

I am meeting with parishioners on a regular basis for counseling and pastoral conversations. We have a lot of people that are in good places in life, but also people who are hurting and in painful transitions.

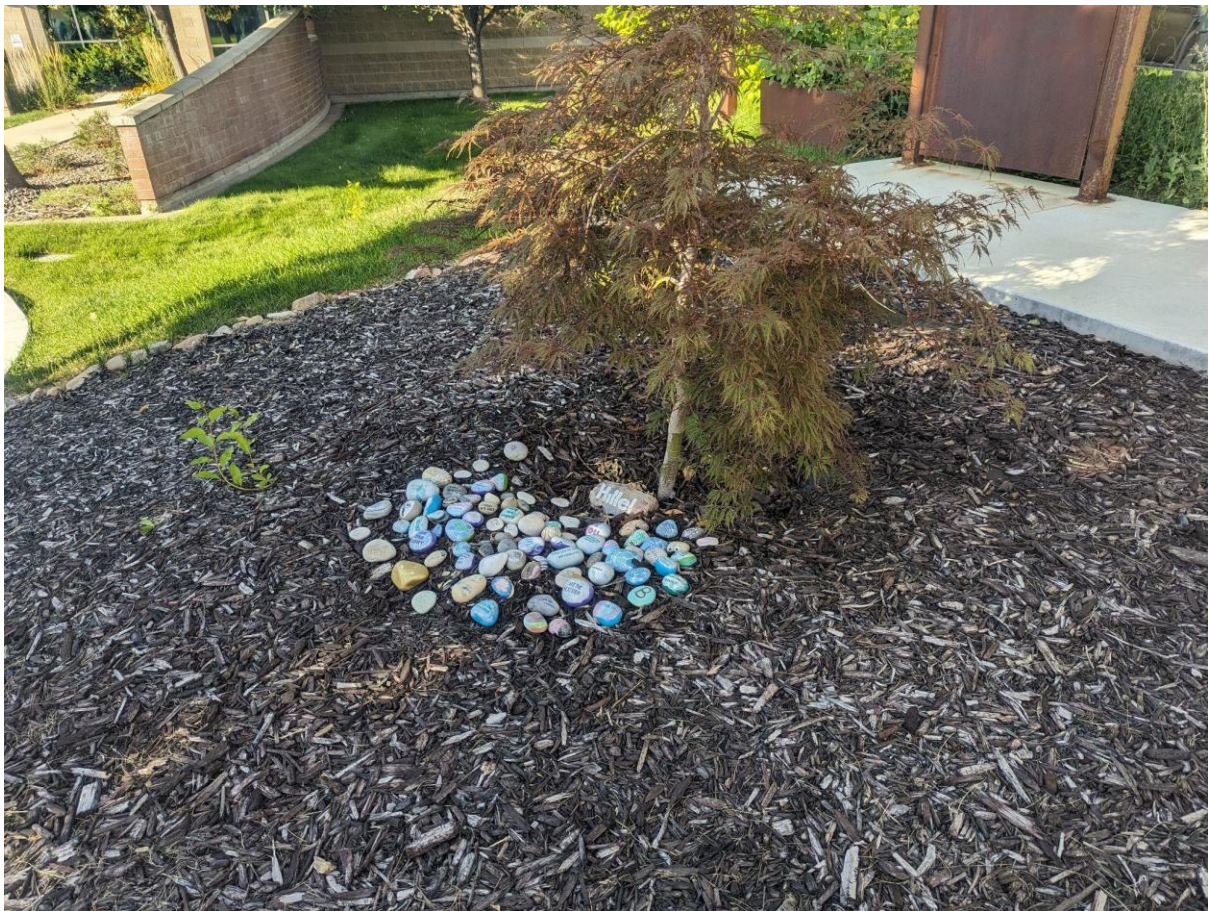
We are getting ready this Sunday for four baptisms and we hope and pray that we will not overflow.

There are over 13 people in the confirmation class. Not all will be confirmed this year, but I am encouraged by the interest and the desire to learn and all the questions I am getting.

We had the first meeting for that Stewardship Revival on Wednesday. The way it works is that it will not provide us with training on how to do it because it was started too late and we are already ahead (as I am starting the stewardship campaign this Sunday). Taran and I attended this first meeting, it is mostly just conversational, so, if you have time, try to attend during the next few weeks.

My first funeral was this Friday, for Steven Briggs. It was a rather emotional day, there were military honors at the gravesite and the church service went well.

Blessings,
Dani+







Senior Warden Report

Hello all,

The “Rooted in Jesus; Branching out in Utah” gathering was enjoyable. It is always nice to be able to spend time with the greater Episcopal community, and I believe some of the exercises were useful for developing ideas that could translate to our church and its community. I was also happy to spend more time with those of you who could attend.

We have started the Stewardship Revival. So far, only Rev. Dani and I have been in attendance. While I know it’s a big commitment, it could give us ideas that could help during or outside of our pledge campaign. If you feel the same and have time to even show up to one or two of them, I’d encourage you to do so.

Steven Briggs’ funeral was in good attendance, which was great to see. It was also nice to see some of our less regular members come and show their support.

I realized what happened with July’s financial statements; they were only sent out to the Finance Committee. So, I made sure to get those and August’s uploaded to the folder this time around.

We still haven’t made progress on getting a third quote for the siding because too much has been put on Rev. Dani’s plate this month, but now we also have Gidge and John on it, so the first one to get it is what we’ll submit to the Standing Committee.

Thanks for all you do!

Taran

Junior Warden Report

No report submitted.

Treasurer’s Report

Income

- Pledge contributions were short of budget for the month of August. However, year-to-date pledge contributions (January-August) were ahead of budget by almost \$4k.
- Plate contributions were above budget for the month of August. Year-to-date plate contributions were significantly ahead of budget (by nearly \$3,800).
- Grant income for August was received as expected.
- Overall, income year-to-date is ahead of budget by over \$7k.

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 expense has already exceeded the annual budget. Electric expense is likely to surpass the annual budget before the close of the year.
- The organist expense will be well over budget for the year. This is likely another under budgeted category for the Finance Committee to consider.
- Yard expenses will be well over budget for the year. This is likely another under budgeted category for the Finance Committee to consider.

There was a \$2,951 deficit for the month of August mainly due to the prepayment of quarterly Property & Liability Insurance. Nonetheless, there was a \$565 surplus year-to-date (a year-to-date deficit of \$6,168 was budgeted). St. Mary's is in a solid financial position with 67% of the budget year expired.