

December 2023 Reports

Priest-in-Charge Report

Friends,

This month has been as busy as any and I am proud of all that is happening in our little congregation. But the most challenging thing has been getting used to doing church without Alison. We are hitting a new normal I think, and the hard part is mostly over, but she is missed by many.

We had a very successful potluck thanksgiving here and I am hoping it can be a cherished tradition. Thank you Jim for the delicious turkey and to all who have made amazing sides to go with it, it was a truly abundant meal.

I have had to do supply for San Esteban on three occasions this past month and that was hard because I had to rush back to St. Mary's and only arrive here at 10.30, but it was a great way for everyone involved with the service to step up and show that they can have everything ready and all set for the liturgy.

The changes to the rota are mostly going well, I still have to keep an eye on it and make sure it's filled out and correct, but that's not a hardship. We have the services schedule with the preaching and the rota up till Pentecost, I have the preaching schedule set till next Advent, but it is exciting to have the whole year planned and to know what to prepare for.

Arianne made an online fellowship hour sign up and hopefully that will help with people signing up and remembering they have signed up.

St. Mary's Thursdays are well attended. We have not tried a game night yet and we are considering doing Bingo this month to see how that goes.

The biggest news that we have to grapple with is the reduction in the Diocesan grant. It is a big hit and it comes at a time when we are not doing ok with money, so it does have me worried. We need to pray and figure out ways to make money, without giving in too much to austerity and despair. We will prevail.

Blessings,

Dani+

Senior Warden Report

I reached out to Big Game Construction regarding moving forward with the siding and they said that we'll probably need to wait until next year, because there can't be snow on the roof and it shouldn't be wet. However, they will look at their schedule and see if there is something that

they can do to readdress the leak in the meantime. Rev. Dani is still in communication with the Standing Committee about the loan, but they have not voted on anything yet.

We haven't had time to install any more of our cameras, but Dani+ and Arianne have set them up in internal locations, to make use of them, in the meantime. Also, the Nominating Committee hasn't met up, but I have sent out updated copies of the forms we used last year, so we can hit the ground running.

No parking signs have been installed, but Arianne still needs to look into tree trimming. Arianne also found a free QR Code hosting site, so we can leverage the same code while being able to update the url behind the scenes. The newsletter ad for the desk was successful and the parishioner who claimed it has already picked it up.

Junior Warden Report

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Income

- Pledge contributions were ahead of budget for the month of November by over \$1.5k. Year-to-date pledge contributions (January-November) were ahead of budget by \$10.5k.
- Plate contributions were above budget for the month of November. Year-to-date plate contributions were significantly ahead of budget (by over \$5.8k).
- Grant income for November was received as expected.
- Overall, income year-to-date is ahead of budget by \$16.6k.

Expense

- Copier costs (lease and actual usage) are over budget year-to-date by approximately 1.1k. This was addressed with the 2024 budget.
- As expected, utility expenses will be over budget for the year. Annual increases in cost were included in the 2024 budget.
- The organist expense will be over budget for the year. This was addressed with the 2024 budget.
- The Parish administrator expense will be over budget for the year. This was addressed with the 2024 budget.

There was a \$2.7k surplus for the month of November. There was a \$7.6k surplus year-to-date (a year-to-date deficit of \$8.5k was budgeted). St. Mary's is in a solid financial position with 92% of the budget year expired.