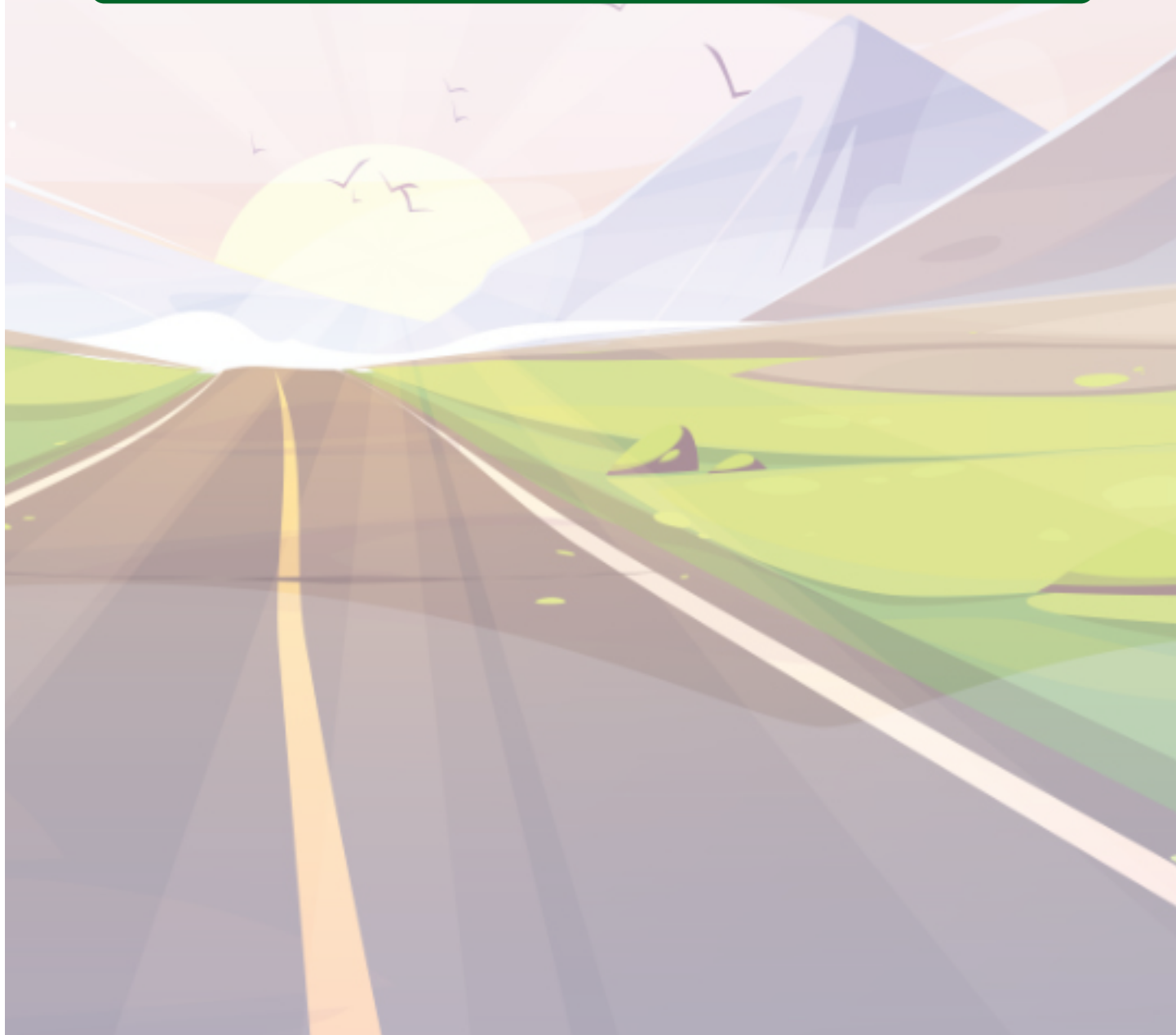




**ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2025:**

**THE ROAD FROM
MISSION TO PARISH
...AND BEYOND**





2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:

THE ROAD FROM MISSION TO PARISH AND BEYOND

10:30am Prelude

Call to order – Laurie+

Establish a quorum – Ushers

Open polls and name slate of nominees – Laurie+

Vestry: Brigitte Jung, Christine Markus, Nathan Tenholder

Diocesan Delegate: Michael Booker

10:40am Let Us Pray – Eucharist begins

11:30am The Road from Mission to Parish + Beyond

Approval of 2024 annual meeting minutes - Laurie+

Adoption of 2026 budget - Laurie+ and Treasurer
Jeff Rainbolt

On the Road

The road behind

Just in the rearview

The road ahead

Elections of nominees for Class of 2029

Vestry

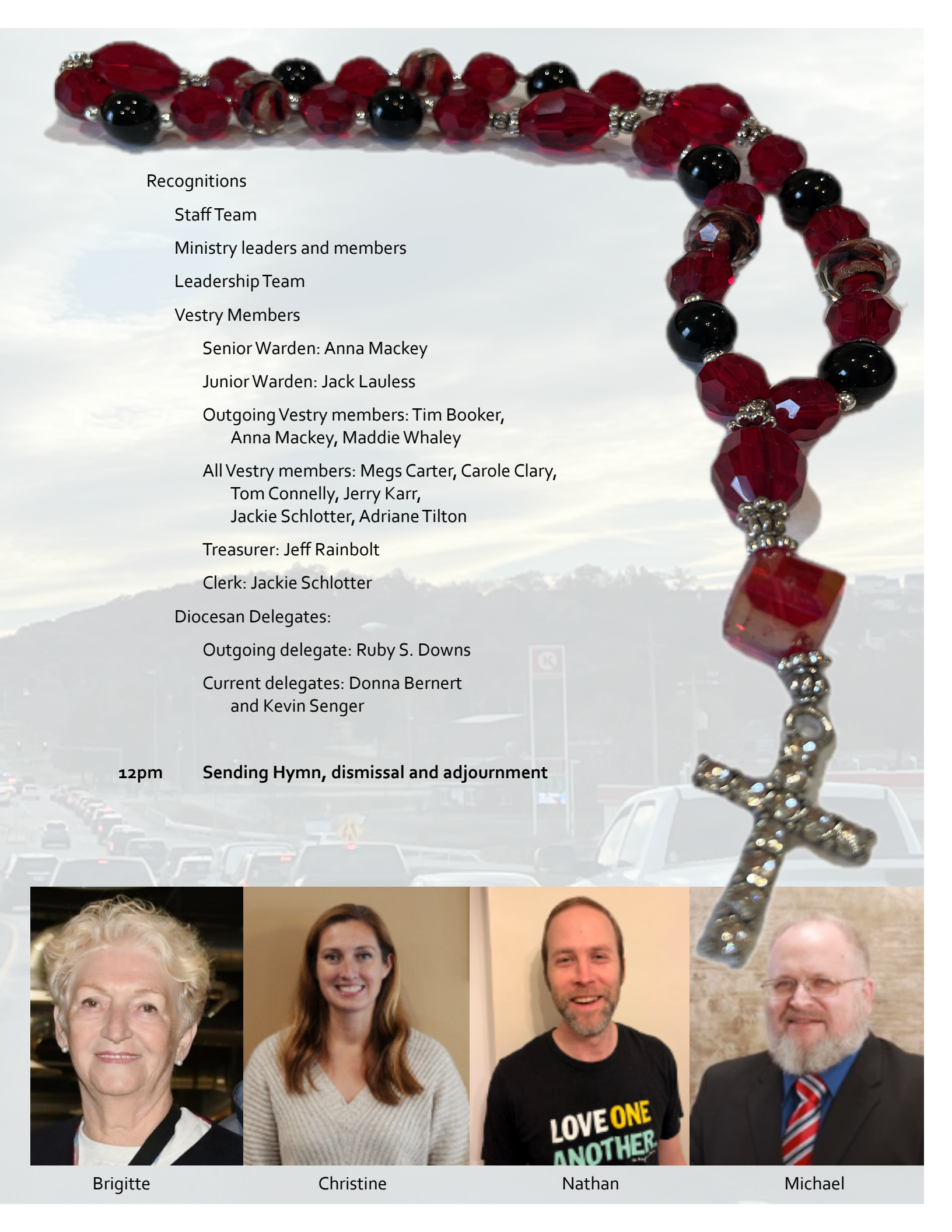
Diocesan Delegate

Executive Committee Appointments for 2026

Senior Warden, Adriane Tilton, Class of 2028

Junior Warden, Jack Laules, Class of 2028

Treasurer, Jeff Rainbolt



Recognitions

Staff Team

Ministry leaders and members

Leadership Team

Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Anna Mackey

Junior Warden: Jack Laules

Outgoing Vestry members: Tim Booker,
Anna Mackey, Maddie Whaley

All Vestry members: Megs Carter, Carole Clary,
Tom Connelly, Jerry Karr,
Jackie Schlotter, Adriane Tilton

Treasurer: Jeff Rainbolt

Clerk: Jackie Schlotter

Diocesan Delegates:

Outgoing delegate: Ruby S. Downs

Current delegates: Donna Bernert
and Kevin Senger

12pm

Sending Hymn, dismissal and adjournment



Brigitte



Christine



Nathan



Michael

MINUTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING 2024

The 2024 annual meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Bishop's Warden, Anna Mackey. The ushers confirmed that we have a quorum. The polls opened with the introduction of the nominees for Bishop's Committee (Jack Laules, Adriane Tilton, Tom Connelly, and Jackie Selle) and the Diocesan Delegate Alternate (Kevin Sanger). Worship service began at 10:35.

The business portion of the annual meeting began at 11:30 a.m. Minutes from the 2023 annual meeting were reviewed. Michael Booker moved and Joe O'Reilly moved that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Finances: Reverend Laurie+ reviewed our budget for 2024 and our projected budget for 2025, including the transitions between three treasurers, Bob Schaefer, Mark Vago, and Jeff Rainbolt. Jeff Rainbolt continues to serve as treasurer.

Jeff reviewed our finances for 2024. We began our journey to parish status, which meant giving up diocesan financial support and hiring additional staff. Despite significant financial challenges, we finished strong in 2024. Ending our year in strong financial shape allowed us to allocate funds for significant upgrades to our Wired Worship program. The 2025 budget was previously approved by our Bishop's Committee, and a resounding oral vote of confidence was echoed by the congregation during the meeting.

Laurie+ introduced this year's slate of nominees for Bishop's Committee. Bill Thompson moved and Joe O'Reilly seconded that the nominees be approved. The motion passed. Jim Brown moved and Mary Ann Kinder seconded that Kevin Sanger be approved as our diocesan alternate delegate. The motion passed.

The Bishop has approved Anna Mackey as bishop's warden and Jeff Rainbolt as our Treasurer. Laurie+ clarified that our leadership team includes the Bishop's Committee, Treasurer, Clerk, and Diocesan Delegates. Laurie+ thanked the outgoing Bishop's Committee members and delegates and welcomed the new members and alternate diocesan delegate.

Laurie+ thanked ministry leaders for their continued work and the updates included in their annual reports. She then thanked the St. Francis staff of Lynne, David, Leslie, and Sue.

Laurie+ invited ministry leaders to come forward. Leaders reviewed their roles and their work at St. Francis. Each leader/team added to the illustrations on the altar of deepening our roots.

Anna Mackey moved that St. Francis (a mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri) to be admitted as a parish in the diocese. Ryan Baskin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Anna then asked for signatures from Jerry and Bob Smith and Linda Doolittle as they have been members since the mission's inception in 1991. Others were invited to sign after the meeting adjourned.

Paul Jokerst moved and Tim Booker seconded that the meeting adjourn. After the conclusion of the sending hymn, the congregation was adjourned to our potluck lunch.

The new Bishop's Committee convened briefly to appoint a Junior Warden to replace outgoing warden Ryan Baskin. Anna Mackey nominated Jack Laules to serve as Junior Warden, and Tim Booker seconded. The motion passed. Members attending were Tom Connelly, Jackie Selle, Laurie Anzilotti, Anna Mackey, Jeff Rainbolt, David Luckes, Tim Booker, Carole Clary, Adriane Tilton, and Jack Laules.

The 2024 annual meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Jackie Selle, Clerk



LEADERSHIP ROSTER

BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson,
Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri



STAFF TEAM

The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti, Rector
The Rev. David Luckes, Deacon
Lynne Glickert, Director of Music
Leslie Heberlie, Director of Administration
Director of Finance, October–present
Sue Pape, Business Manager, January–September 2025



VESTRY

Anna Mackey, Senior Warden, 2026
Jack Laules, Junior Warden, 2028
Vestry Clerk, Jackie Selle, 2028
Tim Booker, 2026 Jerry Karr, 2027
Maddie Whaley, 2026 Tom Connelly, 2028
Megs Carter, 2027 Adriane Tilton, 2028
Carole Clary, 2027

Treasurer, Jeff Rainbolt

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Ruby S. Downs, 2026
Donna Bernert, 2027
Kevin Senger, 2028



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Lori Scissors and Della Thompson

*Years after leaders names refer to the year their
"class" term will end on the leadership team.*



With God's Help,

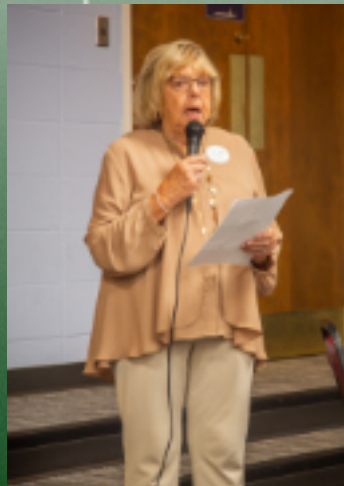


On November 15, 2025, we paused to celebrate, share stories, and worship after 35 years of spreading the Good News together, striving to be the Body of Christ in Eureka.

We thanked those who have walked this journey with us, from our bishops past and present to all clergy, Bishop's Committee members, church leaders, staff, and members, and remembered those who contributed meaningfully and have gone before us in death.



We Are a Parish



The Road Ahead: Strategic Plan: 2025-2027

St. Francis has followed best practice for Church communities by creating a strategic plan every three years. In 2019, St. Francis the Parish Profile set future priorities. In 2022, the Leadership Team worked with the consulting firm Partnership for Renewal to develop our Divine Purpose. This 2025 Strategic Plan builds on that earlier work. The plan has 4 goals:

GOAL 1

GOAL 1: MOVE INTO PROGRAM-SIZED CHURCH LEADERSHIP

As St. Francis welcomes additional parishioners, and engages with more Community Partners, the congregation's patterns of leadership must evolve to meet current demands.

St. Francis will focus on households that include youth from birth to 18-years by continuing to engage with our neighborhood and school partners and hiring a Youth and Family Community Builder.

A.
YOUTH



A.
RECTOR

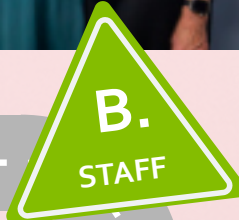


The Rector's time and energy must be deployed strategically by structuring her time efficiently, and focusing on strategic thinking, liturgy and formation, and development of Staff and Lay Ministry Leaders.

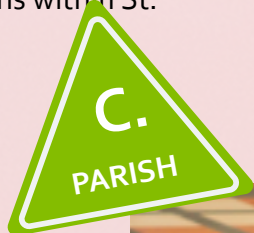
GOAL 2: DEVELOP DIVERSE COMMUNITY

St. Francis will continue to develop a vibrant community that reflects the demographic diversity of its neighborhood and wider area.

GOAL 2



The Staff will focus on leadership within their content areas by connecting with peer colleagues in the wider church and forming and managing lay ministry teams within St. Francis.



St. Francis will equip parishioners to serve in a program-sized church by expanding the number of certified Lay Ministers, and continuing to reflect with the Leadership Team on the differences in communication, leadership, and socialization at various church sizes. Ongoing awareness of these differences is critical for parish leaders.



Theological Grounding for the Strategic Plan

Jesus' ministry begins with his baptism, but it grows to include 12 disciples. It expands as he sends the disciples in pairs to a specific audience: the people of Israel (Mt. 10:5-14). Since 1991, St. Francis' ministry has grown from a small, nomadic church. If current trends continue, it will emerge into a program-sized church. Just as Jesus' ministry took a different shape as the number of followers increased, so too, St. Francis' patterns of ministry will change shape as it grows. Goal One of the Strategic Plan reflects these changes. And, just as the disciples went out to heal, raise the dead, and throw out demons without pay, Goal Two focuses on St. Francis' Ministry Leaders engaging with a specific demographic to build relationship and better serve.

Jesus instructs his disciples to go out without gold, silver, or a backpack of supplies. While Goal Three concentrates on the Parish's financial security, it does not do so with an aim to amass "silos to store our extra" (Luke 12:13-21), but to ensure the Parish can weather financial ups and downs which will safeguard future ministry here. Finally, the disciples are to proclaim the Good News as they travel. Goal 4's aim--to review and improve St. Francis' communications--allows the Parish to do the same in our cultural context.

Following the example of Jesus and his disciples, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this is the journey St. Francis's Leadership Team has discerned over the next three years.



B.
TARGET
DEMOGRAPHIC

St. Francis will seek ministry leaders who will coordinate outreach to their specific demographic within the parish and wider community, determining best modes of engagement with this demographic.

**GOAL
3**

A.
TENANT

GOAL 3: INCREASE SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

To secure the future of Episcopal ministry in the Tri-county area, St. Francis will increase savings and investments.



St. Francis will secure a tenant in the St. Clare Wing for Shared Ministry that will replace \$30,000 of diocesan funding lost upon becoming a parish. This tenant will be a Community Partner with St. Francis and support one another in mission and values.

St. Francis will rebuild savings used to address the 2025 deficit.



B.
STEWARDSHIP



The Stewardship Team will provide year-round leadership to express gratitude throughout the year, provide formation in the spirituality of generosity, and tell the story of St. Francis' ministry, for a three-year term.

C.
SAVINGS

GOAL 4

REVIEW COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

To better tell the story of the congregation, St. Francis will review all communication channels.

St. Francis will create a legacy giving plan with the potential to develop an endowment. This work will be led by the Deacon whose professional expertise lies in this area and by a subcommittee of the Leadership Team.



A paid consultant and parishioner advisory team will review the current website and recommend changes which will be implemented.



A pro bono content-area advisor and a parishioner advisory team will review the current social media platforms and content and recommend changes which will be implemented.



A pro bono content-area advisor and a parishioner advisory team will review the current weekly communications and content and recommend changes which will be implemented.

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

This sermon was delivered at the 2025 Annual Meeting Eucharist. It places the Rector's yearly report into conversation with the readings for the day: Micah 6:1-8, and Matthew 5:1-12.

"Hear ye, hear ye! The case of God v. the People of Israel is now in session. The Honorable All-of-Creation presiding."

This is how our first reading from the Prophet Micah begins. Well, not with those exact words, but if Micah chapter six had a setting, it would be a courtroom. If it had musical accompaniment, it would be the opening tune of *Law and Order*. In this passage, God argues his case against Israel, not to a jury, but to the mountains, the hills, and the eternal foundations of the earth.

In his opening statement, God says "Israel, I have cared for you. I brought you out of slavery in Egypt; I gave you great leaders. I paved the way for you to enter the promise land. Don't you see how I work for you?"

Israel responds like a sarcastic teenager. "Oh, what should we do? Give you a burnt offering? Oh, wait, we already do that." (Bringing a burnt offering, a portion of a cooked animal, was a common way to worship God at this time.) Then Israel gets really snarky, "A burnt offering isn't enough? Maybe you want a thousand rams or ten thousand rivers of

oil?" You can practically hear them yelling, "Still not enough? Do you want us to sacrifice our first born child?!"

A modern take on Israel's rebuttal might sound like this, "I pray every day. I read the Bible, go to church, and tithe 10% of my income. What else do you want?! Do you want me at church 24/7? You want my house and car? Should I hijack an airplane and a luxury yacht for you, too?!"

The passage ends with the mediator in the case, Micah. "No," we imagine him saying calmly to the inflamed Israel, "God doesn't want rams or oil or your child dead. God told you what he wants: do justice, embrace love, and walk humbly with God." Micah tells Israel--and he is telling us, too--to be equitable and love God. That is what God wants. Be equitable and love. Case closed.

We hear the same call to equitable action in our Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. New Testament scholar AJ Levine points out that the Beatitudes do not dictate how to pray or what to believe about Jesus. Instead, they tell us how to act: be humble, hunger for right relationship with God, be merciful, pure, and peaceful. That's what gets you to heaven.

Micah's prophetic statement echoes not just in the Beatitudes, but throughout the Gospels. Jesus was a faithful Jew who knew the Prophets' teachings. Those teachings emerge throughout his ministry. For example, when he tells the Pharisees, "the two greatest commandments are these: love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind, and





love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 22: 37-39) what else is he saying but, "love God; be equitable"?

If Micah's prophetic instruction underlies Jesus' core teaching and ministry, then, as followers of Jesus, Micah's teaching better underlie our ministry, too. As we pause to look at the road behind us in 2025, we must ask: Were we just? Did we love and walk humbly with God?

Throughout the year, St. Francis' parishioners strived to do justice and embrace love in a myriad of personal interactions and decisions. Call to mind the time you held your tongue instead of lashing out or gossiping, the times you listened or questioned instead of judging, the times you shared when your first inclination was to cling. There is a mountain of these stories. They are everywhere in this congregation. I see them. They are the foundation on which this community is built.

But we also do justice outside our walls. At last year's annual meeting we committed to creating a team of parishioners to answer every call we receive from strangers asking for assistance in the face of hunger, homelessness, or fear. In August, we

launched the Samaritan Ministry to listen to callers, verify their stories, call landlords, pay utility bills, and distribute gift cards. The more people we help, the more the fund seems to grow thanks to your generosity.

Justice also looked like an expanding Meal Ministry, teaching about justice versus service in Forum, and working with local school districts. Justice meant addressing the critical shortage of in-person counseling in Eureka. In November, I convened regional religious, business, and behavioral health providers to begin work on the Tri-County Behavioral Health Collaborative. The Collaborative is in its infancy, but offered its first counseling sessions here in our building in January. You can expect to learn more about the Collaborative in the coming month.

We were also just by taking our final steps to become a parish which consumed much of my time and of our hearts in 2025. How was this justice? Well, in 2024 St. Francis had the eighth highest average Sunday attendance of the 39 diocesan parishes. We are no longer the "little mission that could." We are the "strong parish that is." The Bishop can now reallocate the \$30,000 we received

yearly toward his goal of launching 10 new missional churches by 2030 in areas of Missouri with dramatic population increase.

We also embraced love programmatically as we shared our communion table with people suffering in body or mind in Ellisville, High Ridge, Affton, and Grey Summit. Thanks to Bill Thompson, who was commissioned as Lay Pastoral Minister in January, we went from 25 Eucharistic visits in 2024 to 60 last year. Thank you, Bill, for your ministry!

We embraced love of the stranger, as we reworked our process for welcoming visitors, added a new Ministry Coordinator role to streamline communications and integrate new parishioners, and more than doubled the size of the Hospitality Committee.

But doing justice and embracing love must be rooted in walking humbly with God. We do that through worship. The Way of Love, seven practices for a Jesus-centered life, calls us to thank, praise,

and dwell with God *weekly* in worship. Our average Sunday attendance of 83 in a parish of 151 congregants reflects your commitment to being here each week. We honored the centrality of Holy Week in our Christian story by offering daily evening prayer, and adding back an Easter Vigil service. We upgraded our Wired Worship Ministry in February, dramatically enhancing the video and audio quality for those worshipping at home. In all our worship, the increased number of cantors, vocalists, and musicians raised our souls and our spirits more fully to our God.

In 2025, as we became a parish, we took time to update our history, to pause and look at the road we have traveled since 1991. But we also planned for the road ahead as the Leadership Team revised a Strategic Plan that will guide our path forward through 2027. You can read about the four goals of the plan on pages 8 through 11 of this report. Whether the strategic plan unfolds as imagined or takes unexpected turns, please pray with me that on our path we will be faithful to Micah's prophetic call to be equitable and love God. Amen.



STATS AND DATA

LOVE

New parishioners:	19
Average age of parishioners:	54
Losses:	2, including 1 death, 1 transfers
Deaths:	1 Charley Coleman
Communications	197 newsletter recipients (up from 183 in 2024) 340 Facebook followers (up from 322 in 2024) 211 YouTube subscribers (up from 194 in 2024)

WORSHIP

Weddings:	2	Tom Schlotter and Jackie Selle Erik Baptiste and Samantha Shands
Funerals:	2	Charley Coleman + Gene Moreland
Baptisms:	5	Tiffany Anderson, Matthew Kennedy, Memphis Moore, Nick Moore
Confirmations/Receptions:	0	Bishop did not visit during 2025
Names on our prayer list:	178	
Number of Services Held + Attendance		
Sunday Liturgy:	103	
Total number worshipping on Sundays	4,284	
Average Sunday Attendance	84	
YouTube Sunday Average Attendance	10	

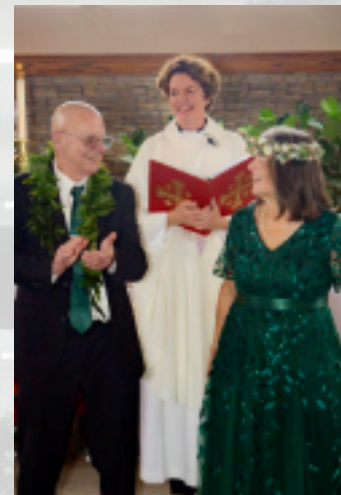
SERVE

St. Francis' Meal Ministry

Meals served:	351 dine-in (up from 275 in 2024) 747 take-home (867 in 2024) 402 distributed to senior centers (up from 287 in 2024)
Meal Host Groups:	12

2026 Stewardship Campaign

Pledges:	71 (up from 66 in 2025 campaign)
Pledge campaign total:	\$225,964 (up from 209,507 in 2025 campaign)





DEACON'S REPORT: *The Rev. David Luckes*

David Luckes is now in his fourth year serving as the Deacon of St Francis, where he is appointed by Bishop Deon to serve. In addition to serving in a Deacon's traditional liturgical and pastoral care roles, David focuses on leading and deepening the work of the Service and Justice Ministry Team. See David's reports on Lay Eucharist Ministry (pg. 29) and Service and Justice (pg. 34) to read how his ministries progressed in 2025.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: *Anna Mackey*

The big story of our year was becoming a parish, which felt like prayers being answered—but that wasn't the only story. In reality, it was a year of highs and lows:

We lost a tenant but gained a partnership with Trailblazer Academy, a micro school.

Our outreach continues to serve so many who are in need—from the ministries I coordinate like Backpack Drive, Blood Drive, and Adopt-a-Family to our wider service ministries. The flip side of the growing need is that our parishioners and leaders keep growing their ability to respond.

We worried about money during the summer, with building-related costs way over budget, but in the end of the year, we received large unexpected contributions that dramatically reduced our deficit.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: *Jack Laules*

The year 2025 was a mix of standard building maintenance (including annual inspections, updates and small repairs) and larger projects and repairs.

January: Snowfall and subsequent parking lot/sidewalk clearing and salting far exceeded our expectations. We surpassed our snow-clearing budget and closed the building for inclement weather multiple times, including on Sunday, January 5, when all services and events were canceled. We also called our locksmith for a few lock repairs.

February: We did three annual inspections: fire sprinkler system, fire extinguishers, and backflow device within the sprinkler system. We also replaced a failed sprinkler head, during which it was noted that our sprinkler system could be better insulated. Staff added a key lockbox for building users.

March: We hired a locksmith to change locks after the departure of the tenant in the St. Clare Wing.

April: We painted parking lot curbs to indicate curb-adjacent places where additional cars can be parked. How great to have a full lot each week!

June: We hired a locksmith to change locks in advance of our new tenant in the St. Clare wing and correct inconsistencies in the March re-key work.

July: This month required a few visits from HVAC companies to replace several failed thermostats that had reached the end of their service life. Additionally, a volunteer replaced the sensor light switch in the children's room with a regular switch.

August: We purchased floor mats for entrances and eliminated floor mat cleaning rental fees. Handyman John Bultas repaired a hole in water line in the St. Clare Wing, repaired leaking toilet, and added weatherstripping on door bottoms. The leak caused a considerable increase in water usage and billing. The narthex received a considerable upgrade: a coffee bar including sink, refrigerator, microwave, and coffee pot. We also completed a required annual inspection on a plumbing backflow device.

Summer: Playground overhaul! Pouring a semi's worth of ADA-compliant mulch, replacing the broken slide, and tightening and securing the whole structure prepared us to better host our partners at Trailblazer. We also painted and repaired many surfaces in the St. Clare Wing.

September: Volunteers added parking curbs to protect the sign indicating the ADA accessible spaces, which had been knocked out of the asphalt.

November: A urinal in the men's room was fixed by a plumber.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Jeff Rainbolt*

We began 2025 in a very strong position, supported by increased pledged income and very healthy rental income from Bright Beginnings Daycare. This stability allowed us to complete the Wired Worship upgrade and put a portion of our reserves into a Certificate of Deposit while we prepared for future projects and ministries. We were nearly through our two year journey from mission to parish and brimming with possibilities. Then Bright Beginnings closed and abandoned its lease.

We had prepared for this possibility by setting aside reserves in the St. Claire fund and the general fund, but this evaporated a significant income stream. We had been using that rent to stand independently without diocesan aid. Abandoning our journey to becoming a full parish so close to the finish line was a possible course, but we had faith in

our preparations and the potential here at St Francis. So we set out to find a new tenant for the childcare wing to bring us back to a balanced budget.

The Trailblazer Academy found our space and loved it for their new campus but they could not match what we had previously been receiving in rent. As we learned more about their microschool concept and met with Rebecca Pierce, the force bringing this idea into existence, it was felt that they had so much potential to strengthen both Eureka and St Francis. While we would not be returning to a surplus, the childcare wing would be a source of positive change, not just income.

We began the work of repairing the childcare wing, and preparing our space for this new arrangement. This included reinvigorating the playground and installing our new coffee bar. We also renamed the childcare wing the St. Claire wing as part of our new space sharing relationship. We could have felt fearful after months of unpaid rent, but we joyfully prepared for the arrival of Trailblazer Academy.

During these preparations we faced another unexpected hurdle. The rarely used toilet in the men's restroom was running and was not discovered until it had run through thousands of dollars of water. Knowing how tight things would be on the lower Trailblazer rent, this was a blow.

I knew a year we were transitioning between tenants would be costly. I knew there is always the chance for costly repairs and mishaps. I was



prepared for the year's end to show a big step down in our cash reserves.

I was not prepared for how strongly the St Francis congregation and even visitors would respond. I was bowled over by the number of gifts we received. People who came to hear Rebecca Pierce speak on the school she is building wanted to support us in our decision to accept the lower rent. Other people saw the stress the water bill caused and wanted to alleviate that. Still more people felt called to support the works of St. Francis.

In the last few weeks of the year, we were met with such an outpouring of support and generosity, all

the ground we had lost over many months was regained. I am always impressed with the time and effort this congregation dedicates to strengthening our community and I am amazed with how other people recognize that and want to support it. While our bank balance may look like not much changed this year, in actuality we grew and accomplished a great deal. We strengthened our current ministries, began new ones, and built new relationships.

I am deeply grateful for the faith, stewardship, and commitment of the St. Francis community, whose support continues to sustain and strengthen our

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2025

Dec. 31, 2024 Dec. 31, 2025

ASSETS

Cash

Checking Account	\$150,656	\$109,068
CD Account	0	30,625

Property

Furnishings	61,098	61,098
Playground Equipment	8,637	8,637

TOTAL ASSETS	\$220,390	\$209,428
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LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

Due to Samaritan Fund	\$0	\$0
General Fund	108,405	103,653
Memorial Garden Fund	14,209	14,209
Flower Fund	2,514	3,030
Grounds Fund	682	3
Meal Ministry Fund	3,833	2,133
Theology of Space Fund	165	0
St. Clare Fund	9,080	13,816
Special Giving Fund	2,550	962
Joe Niemann Fund	2,296	0
Wired Worship Fund	8,412	21
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	0	3,359
Capital Improvement Fund	68,247	68,247

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	\$220,393	\$209,433
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2025 FINANCES + 2026 BUDGET

	ACTUAL 2025	BUDGET 2025	BUDGET 2026
Receipts			
OPERATING INCOME			
Pledge Income	\$202,887	\$209,000	\$223,464
Unpledged Income	27,784	18,000	15,959
Visitor Contributions	23,029	2,500	2,853
Plate Offering	2,983	2,700	2,528
In-kind Donations	3,426	0	0
Interest Income	446	3,200	1,500
Special Contributions	110	0	15,000
St. Clare Wing Rent	16,583	52,080	12,000
Credit Card Fees	338	0	0
Other Operating Income	2,700	2,000	3,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$280,286	\$289,480	\$276,304
NON-OPERATING INCOME	\$21,920	\$0	\$0
Total Receipts	<u>\$302,207</u>	<u>\$289,480</u>	<u>\$276,304</u>
Disbursements			
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Clergy Salaries + Benefits	\$110,764	\$106,673	\$109,518
Staff Salaries + Benefits	64,325	64,410	78,484
Repairs + Maintenance	19,880	17,700	15,500
Liability Insurance	9,073	9,270	9,553
Utilities	26,537	21,066	25,120
Office Expenses	14,134	11,617	10,235
Marketing + Communications	3,580	1,000	500
Worship	8,574	7,900	7,400
Congregational Life	4,369	5,125	4,575
Christian Education	782	1,600	1,400
Outreach	1,900	2,600	2,600
Apportionment	24,201	25,652	35,331
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$288,518	\$270,338	\$300,216
NON-OPERATING EXPENSES	\$28,061	\$0	\$0
Total Disbursements	<u>\$316,579</u>	<u>\$270,338</u>	<u>\$300,216</u>
INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENSE	<u>(\$13,974)</u>	<u>\$19,143</u>	<u>(\$23,912)</u>

MINISTRY COORDINATOR: *Adriane Tilton*

This role was created in 2025 to coordinate communications among our growing network of ministries. Though our varied ministries all fit within our Divine Purpose to "Love, Worship, Serve," they are broad in how they operate and what their leaders need. The Ministry Coordinator is a single point of leadership to connect the ministry leaders.

In September, we hosted a Ministry Fair to showcase the variety of our congregation's ministries. Trailblazer Executive Director Rebecca Pierce was present to share about the school. The Fair also highlighted the launch of our newly redone website.

The Ministry Coordinator is a liaison between the full leadership of the church and the ministry leaders. She smooths the way between those responsible for our broad vision and those on the ground living it out. The role also supports ministry leaders with logistical concerns as well as help them with communication, recruitment and more.

MINISTRIES OF LOVE

Within St. Francis'

COMMUNICATIONS: *Leslie Heberlie*

This year saw exciting growth in our attention to our parish communications. Previously, our comms strategy included an active social media team led by Ruby S. Downs and Della Thompson, which dovetailed with staff products (email newsletters, blue announcement sheet, seasonal mailings, parish directory, and website updates). All of that work has continued, and we added in the following:

In early 2025, we created a Communications Advisory Committee to provide feedback about the efficacy of our comms. These parishioners graciously agreed to serve on this committee: Liza Anzilotti, Phil Davis, Carole Clary, and Liz Rainbolt. Their feedback was generally positive about the type, amount, content and design of what we create and distribute, but we returned numerous times to the need for our website to better represent us and welcome newcomers. In the

summer, we engaged Janis Greenbaum, recently retired from her role as Director of Communications for the Diocese, as a contractor to refresh our website. We kept what was working: the use of the Wordpress platform, the template we'd previously implemented, and asked Janis to redo our content with these goals:

1. Reduce outdated content and streamline messaging.
2. Improve the navigation so the most-sought information was front and center, and other content was easier to find.
3. Update the overall style to current standards.

In August, we went live with the new site. All feedback has been overwhelmingly positive about the work Janis did, creating a welcoming, attractive, easy-to-navigate website that met all the asks of our wise advisory committee.

We also produced a few specialty publications this year. First, Ruby S. Downs helped us generate content to promote the space available to rent in what became known as the "St. Clare Wing." This helped us find and partner with Trailblazer Academy, who has been using the space since June of 2025. Ruby's work also included a brochure to invite community members to use our space for small events like birthday parties, meetings, etc.

Additionally, we produced an 8-page booklet dense with information about the history of St. Francis, called "Celebrating the Path to Parish," which we first shared during our Parish Celebration Brunch on November 15. Creating that document was a project of sifting through various archives and previously compiled histories, notably including those done by The Rev. Kevin Selle and Jerry Smith. This new iteration, produced by Ruby S. Downs, Brigitte Jung, and Jerry Smith, tells the story of St. Francis from our origin in 1991 through the diocese's vote to accept us as a full parish in November 2025.

A few other behind-the-scenes notes:

I have worked on the biggest shift in bulletin production of my career: the end of MS Publisher. Since I made my first church bulletin in July of 2007, MS Publisher has been the gold standard for this task, at the intersection of flexibility and church-sized budgets. I spent 2025 learning new software and moving our publications into the Affinity Suite.





Ruby S. Downs has been instrumental in the production of event fliers and graphics, almost always with an immediate turnaround.

I attended a diocesan comms workshop led by AhSa-Ti Tyehimba-Ford at Grace in Kirkwood in August.

This annual report was aided enormously by the addition of volunteer personnel to its production, especially Jeff Rainbolt who helped index content and Adriane Tilton who collected reports from ministry leaders.

We added a phone line for the Samaritan Ministry, purchased through Google Voice, and upgraded our desk phones to a new service that saves money and allows us to answer the church line from cell phones.

None of my work here would be possible without Jeff Veenstra's quiet behind-the-scenes technology support. In 2025 he purchased and configured computers, troubleshooted problems, and ensured that the leadership and I can operate sanely in seemingly insanity-inducing tech landscapes.

CRAFTERS: *Doris Schaefer*

This year we once again made hats and scarves which were blessed by clergy before being distributed to those who can use them. This is also a social time for those attending, and anyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday afternoons after worship ends. We moved our meetings from the Community Room into the Narthex, where we often use the cozier couches and chairs while we craft, as Trailblazer students use the Community Room for lunch.

MONTHLY GAME NIGHT: *Tim Booker*

Game Night has been placed on an indefinite hiatus due to lack of attendance after the change in start time from 5:30 to 6:30, a change necessitated by the coordinator's work schedule. After meeting monthly for the first 8 months of the year, the last meeting was September 26, 2025.

If someone is willing to host at an earlier time I will gladly assist in whatever way I can.

HOSPITALITY: *Julie "Flynn" Flynn*

The Hospitality Ministry and its growing group of dedicated volunteers continued to provide a place of community where parishioners gather to nourish their bodies, build friendships, and welcome newcomers to the St. Francis family. Attendees of our early service and those who attend the second service come together for coffee and treats between services in addition to coffee and treat hour after our second service. Coffee, donuts, and home-baked goodies aren't all we're about, though! The ministry has also hosted many pot-luck meals for special occasions like Blue Christmas and Easter, cakes for others, a catered dinner on Christmas Eve, and the Pet Blessing BBQ. As St. Francis grows, so does the Hospitality Ministry! We have several new volunteers and are joyfully feeding bigger crowds than ever.

MEN'S GROUP: *Joe O'Reilly*

Each month, 10-12 men from the parish meet up to enjoy dinner and often a drink. These regular dinners out are an opportunity to socialize and coordinate our support for current parish projects. We also often coordinate our efforts to be on service to one another, trading turns as drivers for doctors appointments or doing other helping tasks.

Additionally, the Men's Group runs the "Shrove Sunday" Pancake Brunch on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, creating a fellowship opportunity for the entire parish and guests through our joint cooking efforts.



QUILTERS: *Sally Hader*

This small but mighty group creates quilts, wall hangings, and throws for a variety of causes. Most recently 12" squares for a group of quilters in Texas who will transform 35 squares into a quilt to donate to families who lost children to the July flood along the Guadalupe river. We were able to send squares for 2 quilts and some extra squares.

WOMEN'S GROUP: *Sue Schmidt*

On the second Tuesday of the month, the ladies meet for a social evening at local restaurants, or occasionally a member's home. This gives us an opportunity to welcome new members of St. Francis, and let them get to know us better. We usually have 16-24 participants each month. Restaurant locations for 2025 included: Pacific Brew Haus, Wildwood Pub, O'Dell's for St. Pat's Day, Mint and Martini, Big Chief Roadhouse, China Wok, and Sushi AI. In August, we met at Sue Schmidt's new house, and in December, a crew of volunteers created a Christmas party, with a huge meal and an ornament exchange, at the Hilltop Village Clubhouse.

Administration

HELPING HOSTS: *Leslie Heberlie*

Our Helping Hosts are the first point of contact for visitors here at St. Francis, offering a warm "St. Francis welcome" as folks come through the door, as well as providing crucial office and building support. Each host's portfolio is unique, drawn by the skills and assets that host brings to the table, though all are graciously flexible and have willingly supported work far outside their own interests—for which the staff is exceedingly grateful!

We began the year with three host shifts and finished with five! Our hosts are:

Tuesday morning: Lori Scissors manages data for ASA (average Sunday attendance), supports parishioners with mailed newsletters, and is often the power behind a big mailing.

Tuesday afternoon: Scott Ward supports finance work by creating documentation and maintaining our financial filing.

Wednesday morning: Jackie Selle creates building signage, engages in parishioner support and communication, and types Leadership Team minutes and plans Trivia Night.

Wednesday afternoon: Jeff Rainbolt supports written document production and works on treasurer duties while he's at the host desk.

Thursday afternoon: A rotating team of hosts—Janet Houseman, Sue Schmidt, and Diane Tilton—help us prep the building for Sunday worship.

PERSONNEL: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

St. Francis was richly blessed in 2025 by its current staff, to add a staff member, and to increase staff hours and volunteer administrative help. These things enabled the staff team to deepen our service to parishioners and the wider-community.

In September, the Rev. David Luckes completed his fourth year with St. Francis serving as Deacon. St. Francis is so fortunate to have him lead our Service and Justice Ministry and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. At every turn, David calls us as a parish to deepen our ministry. He invites us to the depth of living the Gospel "not only with our lips, but in our lives" as disciples of Jesus Christ (Prayer of General Thanksgiving, Book of Common Prayer, 101). He is an invaluable clergy colleague. You can read more about the projects he leads in his Deacon report.

In July, Lynne Glickert completed her third year as Music Director at St. Francis. She has improved the quality of our music, the hymn selections, and the number of people participating in our music program in her years with us. We more fully connect to the sacred in our worship because of her talents and efforts. In the fall of 2025, Lynne began to play at the early Sunday service. The service time moved to 8:30am and Lynne began offering instrumental pieces for the prelude, offertory, communion, and postlude. Moving away from Laurie+'s warbly a capella singing and Spotify selections created a more sacred and solemn



worship at 8:30am.

Leslie Heberlie completed her fifth year as Administrative Director in mid-November. The Parish thanked and recognized her at the Parish Brunch celebration on November 15th. Leslie began in 2020 with a 15-hour work week. She now works 20-hours each week as Administrative Director and 5-hours a week as Finance Director. In addition to hands-on work in all facets of the church's administration and communication, she coordinates teams of parish volunteers. At the start of 2025, five "Helping Hosts: provided nine additional hours of hospitality and administrative help. By year's end, eight parishioners were providing 15-hours of help! She also coordinates a Communications Team of two parishioners who post to social media and with the Wired Worship on the YouTube livestream. In the fall of 2025, a parishioner wrote, "Leslie makes the office a sacrament." A sacrament is an outward sign of an inner reality; she is the outward sign to all who engage with our parish of the inner reality that we desire to love, worship and serve in all that we do. Without a doubt, Leslie has played a big part in St. Francis' growth from mission to parish.

In January of 2025, St. Francis added another 12-hours-per-week staff person, Sue Pape. This new role focused on: 1) tracking expenses and income, and reporting out to the Vicar, Treasurer and the Leadership Team, 2) spearheading all financial correspondence, 3) coordinating building rentals. Unfortunately, the loss of our tenant, Bright Big Beginnings Childcare, in January of 2025 meant that we could no longer afford this position by

September. Leslie returned to handling finances at 5-hours a week, and parishioners stepped in as Helping Hosts to assume Sue's other roles. Jeff Rainbolt and Scott Ward assist with finance support and communication, and Anna Mackey spearheads rentals. We are grateful to Sue for the time she gave to St. Francis.

At the start of 2023, between paid and volunteer administrative staff, St. Francis had 30-hours of administrative support. By the end of 2025, we had 43-hours, a 30% increase! The hours dedicated by the Helping Hosts are invaluable to St. Francis. Their time and effort enable us to respond promptly to both parishioner and community inquiries, enrich our community life, and keep up with the growing needs of an expanding parishioner-base. Most importantly, they provide a warm welcome and a listening ear for those who visit the parish.

I lead a remarkable staff team. Each of them has been leaders in our region at various points in their careers. They bring their experience, passion, and expertise to our parish. It is my prayer that as the leader of this staff team, all of our efforts may glorify God and in some small way build God's Kingdom.

In the Community

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: *Sue Schmidt*

St. Francis is represented several times a year at the monthly Eureka Chamber of Commerce meetings. If we are highlighting one of our events, we announce it, as well as putting fliers on each table. We also use this opportunity to thank our partners who have participated in our Meal Ministry. We remain active members of the Chamber as a component of outreach and connection with the wider community.

MINISTRIES OF WORSHIP

Formation

FORUM: *Michael Booker and Dave Denner*



The Sunday Forum team (Laurie Anzilotti, David Luckes, Michael Booker and Dave Denner) put together a broad array of topics for the 9:30 Sunday morning time period. Primarily geared for adults, there have been mission presentations, Episcopal Church teachings on Baptism, the Eucharist, church calendar and Book of Common prayer, Bible studies and book reviews.

The Sunday Forum schedule combines a balance of material that promotes biblical literacy, community awareness and sharing our own stories. We meet most Sundays between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. This year we expanded last year's initiative of offering multiple options for programming during the time between services. Attendance has been quite solid this year – thanks for attending!

Some of our sessions included:

- A series on the Psalms
- A four-part series on Dignity
- Our fourth year of "Who Is My Neighbor?"
- A four-part series on Wrestling with Doubt
- A series the Gospel of Matthew

GODLY PLAY: *Janet Houseman*

The teachers/doorkeepers added to the ministry are Conradette King and Elaine Booker, Jackie Dear and Kevin Senger. Linda Carter and Christine Markus, Janet Houseman and Kathleen O'Reilly complete the roster of participating members.

The Godly Play program was gifted a set of saint cards and a model of Bethlehem. Creation II lesson was added with the figurines and models of the Garden of Eden.

Attendance by the children varies from week to week, between two and nine in each session.

The children are delightfully curious and offer comments to expand the sacred stories. Their keen



questions and remarks about the life of church keep our sessions lively.

SPIRITUAL CAFE: *Skip Moreland*

As we move into our third year, the Spiritual Café continues to be a meaningful ministry of connection, conversation and hospitality within St. Francis. Over the past year, the Café has served as a welcoming space where faith, questions, doubts and stories are shared openly – over coffee, laughter, and thoughtful silence.

This year, we saw increased participation, deepened relationships, and a continued growing trust among attendees. The Café remains a living expression of our St. Francis' commitment to meet people where they are, nurture spiritual curiosity, and build an authentic community.

Over the last twelve months, we explored many diverse ideas including the Jewish roots of our Christian faith, seeing how God sees, temptation and truth, our "me-centered" culture, the nature of sin, and our "unshakable goodness."

Several ongoing themes emerged over the year:

1. Belonging – participants consistently name the Café as a place where they feel seen, heard, and accepted.

2. Spiritual Growth – many shared that the Café helped them deepen or rediscover their faith through conversation, rather than instruction.
3. Healing – our open format allowed space for grief, doubt, and struggle, often leading to unexpected moments of grace.
4. Bridge-Building – The Café continues to attract deep thinkers who are open to spiritual conversation beyond traditional worship.

Our prayer is that the Spiritual Café will continue to be a place where people encounter God – not through answers alone, but through presence, listening, and love.

YOUTH + FAMILIES: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

St. Francis youth are full and active members of our church community! Week-in-and-week-out, the active participation of children and teenagers is vital to our mission to love, worship and serve. From the youngest ages, youth sing or play an instrument as part of St. Francis Singers, or serve as acolytes, lectors/intercessors, and ushers. Families serve together in our Meal Ministry, and love the community as they join in intergenerational

The year began with the Wise men delivering a



special gift for each family: a Bible that was age appropriate for each family group. Our high school teens and Deacon David planned an MLK service day with our ministry partner, Wyman Center. Children as young as five served alongside parish and community members in this day of service coordinated by our teens. In March, families and youth gathered for a Lenten Messy Church. These special evening services blend liturgy, story, song, and active responses to the Gospel story as the "sermon." Family dinner follows. Summer children's sermons engage our youngest parishioners and also serve to connect the wider parish to the Godly Play ministry that happens every Sunday of the academic year. Parishioners from eight to 18 were also invited to Camp Firebird. Three parishioners attended this weeklong, faith building experience. As the school year began Backpack Blessing Sunday sent our students (and adult teachers and staff) off to school with our blessing and "coffee hour" became "ice cream and popsicle hour" in their honor. The year ended with a holiday open house at

the Tilton-Mueller home for parents and other young adult and with an Advent Messy Church.

St. Francis' participation in the This Young Church Project with the Diocese of Missouri ended in the summer of 2025. This project provided the support of the Rev. Erin Pickersgill, Ministry Developer for Children & Youth at Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, in moving forward our ministries to children and youth. Over the course of the academic year, Erin+ worked to develop volunteer leadership to develop formation and programming for the teens of our parish. Unfortunately, these efforts did not work. Having tried this approach, it became clear to the Leadership Team that St. Francis needs a staff member specifically dedicated to Youth and Family Ministry. With the Leadership Team's approval, Laurie+ and David submitted a proposal to the 2026 New Ventures Grant in the Diocese of Missouri. St. Francis receive a grant of \$15,000 and will use those funds to hire a Youth and Family Coordinator 10/hrs week beginning in early 2026.

The intergenerational nature of St. Francis' community is essential to who we are. On Messy Church Sundays, when our youth and families are not in early morning worship because they gather at night, the entire church misses their presence. Something feels off! As Laurie says each week, "We cannot be St. Francis without you;" we know that is particularly true of our youth from birth through 18!

CAMP FIREBIRD: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

A week-long summer camp for youth is a longstanding tradition in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Previously known as Camp Phoenix, this camp experience offers fun and faith formation under a new name and in a new location, Camp MoVal in Union, MO.

Camp days are filled with fun and structured activities, including regular meals, outside activities and group challenges, free time, swimming time, rest time, and a rhythm of prayer, worship and formation. The Diocese aims for campers to feel a sense of belonging, safety, and excitement and that Camp is a unique extension of their parish/weekly church experience.

Parishioners Violet and Isaac Tenholder attended Camp Firebird in 2025. It was their first time there. Before camp, Violet was hoping to meet new people her age in a welcoming and inclusive place. She reports that all the counselors made her feel comfortable and part of the cabin group. Her favorite activities were kayaking on the "weird lake" and being silly in the cabin. Through her time at camp, she learned more about The Episcopal Church and her own relationship with God. Violet had such a positive experience that she will return in 2026 as an apprentice counselor. She hopes to be more involved in creating a great experience for others. She encourages anyone to go to Camp Firebird because it's a great place to meet people, learn about the church, and have lots of fun!

Weekday Worship

BIBLE STUDY: *Bill Thompson*

We currently have 3-5 in attendance most weeks.

We finished the book of Luke and transitioned to the book of Acts. I began the Bible study as a way to become more familiar with the New Testament. My knowledge of the Bible is from scripture during mass. Bible study has opened my mind to each person's studies, beliefs, and understanding. Please join us on Thursdays between 9-10 am.

MORNING PRAYER: *Linda Carter*

The Morning Prayer group continues to have Monday and Friday prayer online at 8:30am, typically with 3-5 attendees. Whereas we used to use Facebook to stream, we now exclusively use Zoom. Please let me know if you would like support joining us for Morning Prayer. Contact me, Linda Carter, at 314-605-3033 or greyheaded1967@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

One of the most beautiful outcomes of the pandemic was the development of a noon Eucharist at St. Francis. Those who gather appreciate the informal setting, shared turns reading, and a lectio divina sermon in which everyone shares a word, image or thought that speaks to their heart and life in the daily readings. This Eucharist allows participants to bring joys and griefs to an intimate prayer setting. Many pieces of our communal life are blessed during Noon Worship: holy water, prayer shawls, prayer beads, quilts, furnishings and more!

In 2025, eight to 12 people gathered weekly for noon prayer. It was most often Eucharist, but not always. Parishioner Ruby Downs received a certificate for Lay Liturgical Leadership from the Bishop. She routinely lead Noon Prayer in Laurie's+ absence. In Advent, Ruby led the group in Advent wreath prayers and song. Her leadership provided stability for that worship community. It also points to a core truth that can be forgotten in our hierarchical religious structure: laity don't need clergy to gather as a group and praise God!

The Wednesday Worship is one of the sweetest and holiest times at our church. If you find yourself in Eureka at that time, take the chance to join us!



Worship is the heart of our life together. In 2025, this team of people moved more deeply into thinking about how we worship and why.

ACOLYTES: *Jeff Veenstra*

The ministry of acolytes is weaved throughout our worship, with a history of almost two thousand years. The job of an acolyte is to serve the clergy however needed, to ensure our worship services flow smoothly. In fact, the word acolyte comes from the Greek word *akoluthos*, meaning "follower" or "attendant."

At St. Francis, our acolytes fulfill multiple functions such as Crucifer (carrying the processional cross), Server (assisting at the Altar during the Eucharist), Thurifer (preparing and carrying the incense and the Thurible), lighting and extinguishing candles, as well as many other small tasks that assist the clergy and help our worship to flow smoothly. Most often, a single acolyte serves in multiple roles during worship. At special times, we may have multiple acolytes serving together.

In October, we held an acolyte training for new members to this ministry and to refresh those who've previously served.

Thank you to the following members who served as acolytes this past year:

George William Baskin, Abbey Jones, Rich Mayfield, Tatum McCart, Jerry Smith, Violet Tenholder, Jeff Veenstra, and Madeleine Whaley. Also, please welcome our newest acolytes: Matthew Kennedy, Kevin Senger and Bill Thompson.

ALTAR GUILD: *Jerry Smith*

Each Sunday, all the special services and even the days in between the Altar Guild is charged with creating an environment in which all people can experience God's love, be at peace and be renewed. The Altar Guild cares for the altar, vestments, vessels and the altar linens of the church. We prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. We bring our creativity to each liturgical season and to feast days as the members arrange

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: *Tim Booker*

In the summer of 2025, I gathered feedback from young adults to measure interest in a regular scripture study, as well as their preferences on when, where and how frequently to meet. From this data collection emerged a clear need for the establishment of a young adult program. In September, we began meeting on Thursday evenings at Hope Episcopal Church in Town and Country.

This weekly gathering of 3-4 parishioners has finished Matthew in 3 months. We had a hiatus in December to allow for finals and the holidays. In 2026, we will work to invite more widely both within St. Francis' and around the diocese.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

The Worship Committee consists of the leaders of the: Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, Lay Leaders, Greeters, Hospitality, Lector, Wired Worship, Scheduling and Music as well as the Deacon. The Committee met seven times in 2025 and the meetings are FUN! The Rector convenes the group as the person responsible for the worship life of the community. Much of the Committee's focus lies in the day-to-day functioning of worship; however, they also serve as key advisors to the Rector on discerning how the congregation is formed in faith through our worship.

flowers and plants or special items like the All Saints Day Altar of Remembrance. Our work is at the heart of our worship life.

St Francis altar guild has six very dedicated members: Linda Doolittle, Sue Schmidt, MaryAnn Kinder, Kathleen O'Reilly, Jeff Veenstra, and Jerry Smith.

We invite you to join us as a member of this vital and rewarding ministry. It may sound like a daunting task but it's all written down and we work together.

GREETERS: *Sue Schmidt*

When a greeter is at the door of our church, each arriving person is met with a smile and a welcome. If the person is new, our greeter makes out a name tag and walks them to the usher, introducing them as a visitor. We also try to seek them out after the service, to walk them in the community room, again introducing them to several members for coffee.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY: *Rev. David Luckes*

The Lay Eucharistic Ministry is lay ministry, licensed by the Bishop, to distribute the consecrated elements of bread and wine at the celebration of the Eucharist in church and to those members of a congregation who are unable to be present for the celebration due to illness or infirmity. Like serving as a lector or an Intercessor, becoming an LEM (Lay Eucharistic Minister) is a way parishioners help create the worship experience we share every Sunday. Lay Eucharistic Ministers who carry communion outside the walls of St. Francis are part of St. Francis' pastoral care team enabling those who cannot be with us on Sunday to share the one cup and one bread that binds us together as Christ's body every Sunday.

The LEM program has ten licensed ministers who serve, primarily, at the 10:30 a.m. service to distribute the consecrated wine. These individuals are scheduled to serve along with lectors, intercessors, ushers, greeters, and the Alter Guild volunteers.

2025 marked a significant step forward for St. Francis' Eucharistic Visitors (EV) and Pastoral Care Team as discernment by parishioner Bill Thompson resulted in him becoming a Lay Pastoral Care Minister. In close collaboration with Rev. Laurie and Deacon David, Bill expanded our capacity to increase Eucharistic Visits to the homebound and those experiencing and recovering from illness. This program also grew in 2025 because of Rev. Laurie's visits to Autumn View Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care where several parishioners are residents. Total Eucharistic Visits reached 60 in 2025.

In 2026, Deacon David will be offering another comprehensive refresher and training for our current LEM and LEV volunteers that will also be open to the wider community and those interested in this ministry. Together, this educational opportunity will explore two foundational aspects of who we are as a Christian community which Eucharistic Ministry embodies (1) we are a Eucharistic Community, bound together as Christ's Body through the sacrament of his Body and Blood, and (2) we care deeply for one another through acts of prayer, compassion, and services.

Those interested in exploring whether this ministry might be a good fit for you are encouraged to reach out to Deacon David or Rev. Laurie.



LECTORS/INTERCESSORS: *Mike Rohan*

Volunteer lectors and Intercessors had a busy 2025!

During the year, St. Francis parishioners greeted members at the start of 8:30am and 10:30am weekly services, read scriptures from the Old and New Testament and intercede with Prayers of the People. They also helped our clergy and ministry teams deliver wonderful Holy Week/Easter services.

Lectors and Intercessors participated in a refresher training session in early June to see and understand step-by-step procedures to increase their comfort as they perform this important ministry at St. Francis. Every three months, Ellen Ogier Kreisel sends an email invitation to all lectors and intercessors so they can review and select dates and times in order to plan and be scheduled for upcoming St. Francis services. Ellen even sends reminder emails! Her online scheduler system works well and gives St. Francis church members opportunities to share the Word of God with all attendees—in-person and online.

We participated in the September 21 Ministry Fair at St. Francis to show what lectors and intercessors “do” and gained several new volunteers for the ministry. Interested? We need everyone--youngsters and seniors too. It’s easy to join. Just reach out to our clergy or Mike Rohan to let us know you are curious and want to learn more!

A special Thank you to all our lectors and intercessors!

MUSIC + ST. FRANCIS SINGERS: *Lynne Glickert*

Our music department had an exciting year. Our cantor program, begun in 2023 with all “guests,” has become a roster of regular cantors, supplemented by members of the parish. The cantors continue to support our robust singing while also at times offering beautiful solos to enhance worship.

Instrumental music is appreciated and encouraged, and we are blessed to have contributions by both parishioners and the broader community. Our keyboard instruments are tuned regularly and

continue to support the needs of the congregation.

The St. Francis Singers reflect the current reality of busy households that appreciate fewer rehearsals in order to participate. The Singers sing a monthly anthem, with two rehearsals a month. We have a delightful hodgepodge of ages and abilities with the common denominator that all love to sing. This model allows for more singers to participate and choose month to month if they can join in due to their own schedules.

I am grateful to be both worshipping and serving in the St. Francis community of believers. This is truly the first church ‘job’ I have had that I can say that it’s not just ‘work,’ I also feel like I have worshiped while I am here. I am grateful to God who has led me to this place.

USHERS: *Bob Smith*

Thanks to our great crew of ushers – Michael Booker, Rich Mayfield, Joe Bernert, Mary Ann Kinder, Nathan & Wyatt Whaley, Phil Davis, Violet Tenholder, Sally Hader, Mick Kreisel, Bob Smith, and those who step up when needed. The ushers are there to make sure that all the parishioners’ needs are met, assist the clergy when necessary, and help out whenever needed to assure that the service flows smoothly.

This year we welcomed Scott Mueller and Liza Anzilotti as ushers. New members are always welcome to the team. Anyone who is interested in this ministry please see me. I’d be glad to show you the ropes. This is an all-inclusive ministry—no matter your age or gender, you’re all welcome.

Thank you very much for your time and service!

WIRED WORSHIP: *Paul Jokerst*

As we reflect on the past year, the Wired Worship ministry experienced a significant transformation, all with one goal in mind: enhancing worship and improving the online experience for those who join us beyond the sanctuary walls.

The most impactful change this year was the

construction of a brand-new sound booth. This upgrade provided a dedicated, purpose-built space for our Wired Worship team, allowing for better organization, improved workflow, and more consistent sound and visual quality. The new booth has already made a noticeable difference in how smoothly services are aired each week.

Along with the new sound booth, we added new cameras to our system as well, greatly enhancing the quality and flexibility of our livestream and recorded services. These cameras allow for clearer visuals, improved angles, and a more engaging worship experience for our online congregation.

Audio improvements were another major focus this year. As part of the construction project, new suspended congregational microphones were installed, helping capture the voices of the congregation and creating a fuller, more authentic worship sound online. In addition, specialized microphones were added for both the piano and organ. These upgrades have significantly improved clarity and balance, ensuring that the richness of our music ministry is accurately represented for those watching and listening remotely.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, leadership support, and the continued commitment to excellence in worship. As we look ahead, Wired Worship is better equipped than ever to serve the church, connect with our online community, and support meaningful worship experiences for all.

As we close out the year, we must also be mindful of the people who make this ministry possible. We are excited to welcome Jeff Carter to the Wired Worship team and look forward to the skills, energy, and heart he brings as we move into the coming year. At the same time, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Jackie Schlotter and Michael Booker, who are stepping away from Wired Worship to expand their time serving in other ministries here at St. Francis. Our success this year can truly be attributed to their dedication, passion, and countless hours of service. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to this ministry and thank them for the lasting impact they have made on Wired Worship and our church community.

We are grateful for the progress made this year and excited for what lies ahead as we continue to grow and serve together.

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

Within St. Francis

PASTORAL CARE: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

The term pastoral in Pastoral Care comes from the Latin *pastorem* which means "shepherd." Embedded in the word is the idea of caring for the needs of the vulnerable. We do this at St. Francis through emotional, social, practical, and spiritual support. Through the years, we have had many ministries to tend to our most vulnerable parishioners; however, in 2023 Laurie+ convened



each of these ministry heads to form our Pastoral Care Team. The team consists of: Sue Schmidt and Ann Widner, who create and send cards of support or celebration; Jackie Schlotter, who coordinates meals; Deacon David Luckes, Rev. Laurie Anzilotti and Bill Thompson who make Eucharistic and Pastoral visits.

The most significant change to this team in 2025 came on January 12th--the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At the 10:30am service, parishioner Bill Thompson publicly renewed his commitment to the service of Christ through the Rite of Commitment to Christian Service. This Rite inaugurated Bill's role as Lay Pastoral Minister at St. Francis. He serves alongside Laurie+ and David to bring Eucharist to the homebound and those in hospitals. He also prays with and listens to those who are in grief or despair. Because of Bill's ministry, St. Francis more than doubled the number of Eucharistic visits we were able to make. In 2024, we made 25 Eucharistic visits. In 2025, we made 60! In 2025, Bill has fostered the faith of a man in hospice longing to reconnect to the Episcopal Church. Without his dedication to Pastoral Ministry, St. Francis could not be as present to those outside our walls who long to connect with faith community. Because of Bill's witness, another parishioner is in discernment about serving as a Lay Pastoral Minister in the coming year.

Matthew 7: 17, 20 reads, "Every good tree bears good fruit . . . Therefore by their fruits you will know them." The Pastoral Care Team bears so much fruit! Their efforts to show God's love for all his people through meals, cards, and visits. St. Francis routinely hears "thank you's" from those the team serves. Several people decided to become a part of the St. Francis community because of the outreach they received from the Pastoral Care Team. Truly, we could not be St. Francis and fulfill our mission to love, worship and serve without this Team!

LAY PASTORAL MINISTER: *Bill Thompson*

We have had an increased presence with parishioners this year. I currently conduct monthly Eucharistic visits with four homebound people.

Being a lay pastoral minister for the past year has allowed me to be of greater service for God and our parishioners. From impromptu visits to scheduled sessions, this has allowed me to work with help others get a better perspective on the spiritual life we all are seeking.

The pastoral care team has surpassed 60 Eucharistic visits for 2025! We continue to meet the needs of the Eucharist for the homebound and hospitalized. Please feel free reach out to us for your Eucharistic needs at stfranciseureka.com.

CARD MINISTRY: *Sue Schmidt*

Each birthday or wedding anniversary of our parish members receives a card with a hand-made bookmark, which are created by our artist-in-residence Bill Thompson. If there is a note on the Pastoral Care list, I send the appropriate card, as well as recognizing achievements, retirements, engagements, etc. and these are also sent with one of Bill's beautiful bookmarks.

MEAL CARE: *Jackie Selle Schlotter*

Thanks to a pool of talented home cooks, we have continued to provide meals to our St. Francis friends and family as they encounter both challenges and celebrations. We have transitioned from a primarily frozen meal delivery to more of an "on demand" approach so that we can better tailor meals for recipients. We've also used a meal train website to coordinate some meals with others outside the parish, and we look forward to continuing this important ministry for our St. Francis community.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS: *Bill Thompson*

My wife Della and I conduct a blood pressure screening on the second Sunday of each month. A blood pressure, pulse and pulse ox is taken and recorded. Our records are available to each individual upon request. We currently have ten parishioners who get their pressures checked regularly. We usually conduct the screenings in the Narthex immediately following the 8:30 am service.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE: *Brigitte Jung*

Spring Grounds Clean Up and Improvements

April 12, 2025

Attendees: 13 Volunteers and some committee members

- Weeds behind air-conditioner were eliminated during winter of 2024
- Put down landscape fabric and added gravel, which improved the area behind the air conditioners and patio, and will eliminate weed pulling.
- Spread 4 yards of mulch onto flower beds and around building
- Added plants and pulled weeds around the building and Memorial Garden

Summer 2025

- Volunteers watered plants throughout the summer

Fall Grounds Clean Up and Improvements

October 25, 2025

Attendees: 7 Volunteers and some committee members

- Trimmed bushes and grasses around the building
- Cleaned and weeded the area around the Memorial Garden

Fall Clean Up and Improvements Day 2

November 8, 2025

Attendees: 6

- Removed old landscape fabric lining from the drainage ditch next to the playground, to prepare the area for seeding of the Prairie in January.

PRAIRIE PROJECT: *Megs Carter*

2025 has been a year of preparation for our ¼ acre pocket prairie. We've successfully cleared the land

of monotonous turf grass and selected our seeds. We have over 80 varieties of flowering plants and six varieties of native grasses ready for sowing in January.

PRAYER SHAWLS: *Doris Schaefer*

Our handmade prayer shawls provide a tangible sign of St. Francis' prayer and concern. This year, the Pastoral Care Team shared a number of shawls with those experiencing illness or loss.

STEWARDSHIP: *Lori Scissors and Della Thompson*

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign focused on the theme of the Languages of Love and how we, as a community, love St. Francis and St. Francis loves us. The Stewardship Co-chairs, Lori Scissors and Della Thompson, led a packed Sunday forum where parishioners explored their personal love language and thought about its application to the personal relationships as well as the church community. The campaign included a well-designed brochure and an





TELLERS: *Suzanne Jones*

During 2025 we recruited one new teller and retained all tellers from 2024 (which is amazing due to the challenge of this ministry that taxes the brain with math and the eyes with illegible writing!). In case you are not familiar with what our tellers do, we spend 30-45 minutes after the 10:30 Sunday worship service documenting the financial contributions of parishioners, friends, and other supporters collected in the previous week. Serving once a month or so, we work with a partner to prepare the weekly bank deposit, which is a great way to keep organization, math, and basic bookkeeping skills sharp (with the help of a calculator, of course!) Reach out to Suzanne if you have questions or are interested in joining this ministry at St. Francis.

FAQ pamphlet about pledging. Weekly Sunday speakers during the October campaign reflected on how St. Francis loves them and how that translates into their financial support for St. Francis.

The campaign raised about 8% more in pledges than in the prior year. Eight new households pledged and for the first time in its history, St. Francis had more than 70 pledges!

Lori Scissors and Della Thompson will remain as co-chairs for the 2026 campaign. There is a lot of knowledge required to run stewardship campaigns, and remaining in leadership for several years will allow them to accrue knowledge that is essential to a well-run campaign. The duo will also become part of the Leadership Team monthly meetings in 2026 with voice, but no vote (as is true of all Leadership Members. Only the Vestry has a vote). As the leaders of St. Francis' largest source of revenue, it is important that they know how our funds are used so that they can share those stories throughout the year with the wider parish community. In addition, they will enlist the Leadership Team to express gratitude for pledges throughout the year.

The road ahead for St. Francis will require the financial resources to minister to more parishioners and expand our service in the community. The Stewardship Team is equipping the parish to meet those needs!

SERVICE + JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM: *Rev. David Luckes*

2025 was St. Francis' second full year where our Parish's Service & Justice Ministry Team and our Service and Justice Ministry Principles guided our collective outreach and service efforts focused on helping us serve as Jesus did. We continued to live into what it meant to coordinate these ministries through a leadership team and live in to our principles as we deepened our understanding of how existing ministries fulfilled them. A copy of these principles is attached at the end of this report. The Reverend Deacon David Luckes helped guide and facilitate these ministries as the primary focus of his ministry in 2025 as he also remained active in the worship life of St. Francis and assisted with pastoral care, primarily through the Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors he oversees.

The Service & Justice Ministry Team members included in 2024 included ministry leaders, Arlene Underwood, Anna Mackey, Donna Bernert, and Sue Schmidt. Arlene chose to step aside in mid-year as she was dialing back commitments away from home. The team meets most every month. The team continued to cultivate a keen sense of community as we shared the joys and concerns of leading service ministries along with those of our individual life and faith journeys. We consistently

used our Service & Justice Principles to guide the choices we made in planning, evaluating, and deepening these ministries.

Several of the Service & Justice Ministries we note in the following list may have individual reports in St. Francis' Annual Report, but some do not. St. Francis' two areas of concentration with our Service & Justice Ministry remain hunger and education both of which are clearly represented in this list. We ask for understanding if in our attempt to offer a list of these ministries, from small to large, we may have missed something. Anyone who wants to learn more about these ministries or feels called to help with one of them in 202 should reach out to any member of the Service & Justice Ministry Team or to Rev. David or Rev. Laurie.

Fifth Annual Who is our Neighbor Forum Series – Three Sunday Forums January 12th, 19th, and 26th. The series emphasized the biblical call to work and advocate for justice. We highlighted how injustice is so often “systemic” or baked into the systems we take for granted. We learned practical steps we can take to become more aware of these systems, our role in them, and steps we can take to change them.

Martin Luther King Service Day – January 20th. Our annual youth-led service day offered in partnership with our neighbor and ministry partner the Wyman Center draws students from Eureka High School and Middle School as well as many parishioners.

Monthly Meal Ministry – typically on the Fourth Sunday of each month we're now serving some 150 combined dine-in and take-out meals, a significant increase over previous years. The ministry continues to reflect a diverse number of partnerships with area volunteer, business, and community partners. The ministry also continues to be the flagship, hands-on volunteer service opportunity for our parishioners who lead in months when community partners are supporting the meal but not providing a core of volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal.

Eureka Food Pantry – Weekly collection of non-perishable food and personal care items to support our community's food pantry.

Trivia Night and Raffle – March 22nd – joyous gathering that raised dollars to establish the Kathleen McDonald Memorial Scholarship. The event continues to innovate ways to have fun and raise dollars. We experimented with a silent auction in 2025 that is likely to become a regular part of this annual event.

First Kathleen McDonald Scholarship Awarded – May – The scholarship supports Pacific High School student that is experiencing homelessness. Homelessness is defined as individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

Pride Parade and Festival – June 29th – St. Francis Parishioners joined with the Diocese of Missouri in marching in our region's annual Pride Parade.

Back to School Bash – Pacific HS – Meramec Valley R-III School District – August 2nd – donated 125 plus backpacks and volunteered for this district wide event to help every family, regardless of their means, start the school year off on the right foot. We included Meal Ministry fliers in our backpacks plus handed out an additional 100 fliers at the event for a total of 225 fliers distributed.

Backpack Blessing Sunday – August 17th – Blessing of St. Francis Students, Educators, and Administrators along with their Backpacks as the Rockwood School District begins a new academic year.

Flu Vaccine Clinics in Partnership with St. Luke's Hospital – October 26th at Timbers of Eureka in conjunction with our Meal Ministry and on November 2nd at St. Francis.



14th Annual Harvest Moon 5K Run and Walk – October 11th – St. Francis continued as a sponsor supporting one of the key, local organizations advocating for and raising dollars to support hunger service organizations addressing hunger in our community.

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets – We piloted a new ministry under Anna Mackey's leadership to serve at-risk families around the holidays. In partnership with Eureka Elementary's social worker, we identified 5 families in need of support around Thanksgiving. A handful of parishioners agreed to purchase a prescribed list of Thanksgiving Dinner food items along with a gift card to purchase a turkey that were packaged for the social worker to distribute on our behalf. It was a success and is likely to expand in 2026.

Adopt-a-Family – Christmas Gifts for At-risk Families – In 2025 we focused our annual drive to purchase gifts for at-risk families on neighbors with the help of Eureka Elementary's social worker. By narrowing the scope of families we sought to serve, our goal was to better align the number of gifts needed with our parish's capacity to support them. It worked well.

Service and Justice Ministry Team Principles

St. Francis' Divine Purpose: We believe that God loves all people, and that love compels us to worship and to serve as Jesus did.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, St. Francis discerns our service and justice ministries will reflect the following principles:

1. Mindful of the needs of the world, we primarily serve our neighbors.
2. We embrace the need to focus our service and justice ministries in select areas, trusting God to take care of those we can't.
3. Without judgment, we serve the overlooked, those lacking the basics we take for granted, those struggling to shape a future for themselves.
4. We build relationships with those we serve by letting St. Francis' spirit of hospitality enliven all

we do.

5. We make longer-term service commitments because building relationships and gaining understanding take time.
6. We speak up for those we serve. We advocate for them and seek to change systems that entrap or hold them back.
7. We bridge the divisions we encounter in our service, even when it makes us uncomfortable.

Service & Justice Ministry Team:

Donna Bernert, Janet Houseman, Anna Mackey, and Arlene Underwood

Our initial areas of Focus:

- Hunger
- Education

EDUCATION: *Anna Mackey*

Education and Service and Justice - we continued in partnership with the Rockwood and Meramac Valley School Districts this year.

Backpacks were collected for Meramec Valley in early August. Kevin Senger, Deacon David and I volunteered at their Back To School Bash to help distribute the backpacks.

We took 2 loose change plate collections at church for snacks for Eureka Elementary. These snacks help teachers fill in when snacks are forgotten or can't be afforded by parents.

We also adopted 10 people from Eureka Elementary for Christmas gifts. These families were selected by their social worker. We built Thanksgiving meal baskets for 3 Eureka Elementary families and 2 from Blevins Elementary school, also selected by social worker.

We provided a \$1,500 scholarship to a Pacific High School student who has experienced homelessness through the Kathleen McDonald Memorial Scholarship.

We were hands-on in helping Trailblazer Academy open for their sessions—cleaning, painting, sorting, donating and trashing.

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT: *Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

St. Francis' continued its relationship with Eureka Elementary and the Rockwood School District in 2025, and expanded it through closer coordination with Rockwood Social Workers.

The District invited Laurie+ to serve on their Strategic Planning Committee as a Community Partner. As a member of the Committee, she provided input on Rockwood's five-year strategic plan. This Committee work ended in May of 2025. She also continued community work for Belonging in a Culture of Dignity which engages school and community leaders in thoughtful dialogue and furthers their understanding and vision to honor dignity and nurture belonging in the district. Laurie was able to bring this work on dignity to St. Francis in a four-part lenten Forum series and an evening dinner program.

Parishioner Carole Clary and Laurie+ continued to work together with Superintendent Curtis Cane and Director of Communications Mary LaPak to improve Rockwood's Clergy Cohort gatherings. These gatherings have more purpose and momentum because of this work. Carole Clary and Eureka Elementary Principal Corie Luczak presented to school leaders and clergy at the September clergy gathering. They shared how the church and school have such a close relationship and how we support one another.

In February, Rockwood School Board member Kary Bachert participated in the Who Is Our Neighbor Forum series. She shared how parishioners can support the district Advocacy Committee which monitors and communicates legislation that could impact the quality and condition of education and resources in the district.

In addition, we further developed our relationship with district Social Workers. We supported families the Social Workers identified at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also began to refer families in need to our Samaritan Ministry (see the Samaritan Ministry report).

While Eureka Elementary, the Rockwood District and St. Francis have very different missions, we find our areas of common concern and work together there. At both the building and district level, we have built trust with each interaction. Supporting the district and its families will continue to be an important way St. Francis serves.

MEAL MINISTRY: *Donna Bernert*

This is the fourth year St. Francis Meal Ministry has been successfully serving meals to those in need in the tri-county area. A total of 1570 free hot meals have been served to our guests in 2025. We have served 351 dine in meals, 747 take home meals, 110 meals have been distributed to Victorian Gardens senior center and 302 meals were picked up by Katherine Hinkle-Black to distribute to Avonlea, a low-income apartment complex in Eureka.

Our volunteer hosts include: The Holiday Inn at Six Flags, The Hindu Temple Youth Group, The American Turkish Society of Missouri, La Salle Retreat Center, Dr. Garnita Pleas with St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Church, Eureka Police and Fire Department, Culver's Restaurants, The Knights of Columbus, The VFW Auxiliary #5468, Eureka Contracting and Roofing and Eureka-Pacific Elks Lodge #2644. For the year of 2025 we have had 12 partners providing meals.



Next year Jerry Holloway with Brown Jerry's Blues, Brews and Barbecue will be partnering with us.

Our goal is to have an interfaith and interracial mix of partners reflecting the belief that we are all one people on God's Earth helping one another.

The Elks Lodge has allowed SFMM to partner with them in their "Backpack Program" by putting our invitations into their backpacks. This program gives kids in need in Eureka a backpack full of food to take home for the weekend. This has made a difference in our ministry by increasing the number of young families taking to-go meals home for their families.

Invitations to our guests in need are distributed at these locations: The School Districts of Rockwood and Meramec Valley, The Eureka Food Pantry, The Agape Help House in Pacific, Feed My People in High Ridge, St. Vincent DePaul, Circle of Concern in Valley Park and Healing Grace Free Clinic in Eureka. Our guests have come from these areas: Pacific, Villa Ridge, Catawisa, Labadie, Gray Summit, High Ridge, Ballwin, Robertsville, Fenton and Imperial. The St. Francis Meal Ministry has become known in far reaching communities.

Funding for the ministry has been generously donated from: The Task Force for Hunger from The St. Louis Episcopal Diocese for \$2,000.00, Walmart has donated \$1,500.00 and St. Francis has designated \$1,600.00. These donations have allowed St. Francis Meal Ministry to the purchase the supplies needed to serve the meals:

biodegradable plates and cartons, utensils, napkins, aluminum pans, chafing racks, Sterno, name tags, cleaning items and the printing of invitations.

St Francis has also sponsored several meals throughout the year, especially the Christmas meal where we spare no expense to provide a festive year end meal for our quests.

Last year two of our guests had volunteered to share their musical talents by playing Christmas songs for our Christmas dinner. This year the group has grown to a four-member, three generational family group. St. Francis Meal Ministry has grown to be a community within our larger communities in the Tri-County area. We now know most of our guests by name.

To make our Christmas dinner even more joyful St. John's Eureka Florist has donated floral center pieces for the tables again this year. They have been partnering with us since 2022.

Thanks to Deacon David for all his valuable help and guidance.

With God's help we will continue His work through 2026! Our goal is to help our partners and volunteer servers to know the joy of serving God's people.

Thanks to all the people of St. Francis Episcopal Church for supporting the St. Francis Meal Ministry! It not only takes a team; it takes a parish!

Proverbs 22:9 tells us: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor".





AD-HOC MINISTRY COMMITTEES

CATHEDRAL BANNER: *Jerry Smith*

Thank you to the core group that helped me design the St Francis's Cathedral banner, Catherine Goeke and Linda Doolittle, plus the parishioners who helped identify the symbols to represent St Francis.

I have appreciated all the help with the hand sewing to assure that our banner will last a lifetime. Thanks to Tim Booker, Catherine Goeke, Donna Bernert, Sue Schmidt, MaryAnn Kinder, Flynn, Brigitte Jung, and Jerry Smith. However, our work is not done yet! We have another month to complete the hand sewing on the second side of the banner. The banner frame is back in the sanctuary. Please come help sew!

NEWCOMER WELCOME: *The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti*

In early 2025, our head greeter, Sue Schmidt, and I agreed that we wanted to streamline and improve the process of welcoming new people into the church. We recognize that these journeys of entry look different from everyone: though they all begin with a newcomer walking through our door either in real life or virtually, then they diverge. Some folks join immediately and already know the rhythms of an Episcopal parish, while others are new to faith of any type—and there is every shade between. We called a series of meetings with the two of us and Anna Mackey and Leslie Heberlie, to assess our current process; systematize and streamline it; and establish roles within it. The process includes greeters, ushers, the card ministry, the pastoral care team, the staff, and more, as we help newcomers feel welcomed not just on our first contact but through the entirety of their time getting to know us.

