



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

“Then Jesus said to him,
‘What do you want me to do for you?’”
Mark 10:51

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2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

SLATE OF NOMINEES

10:30am Prelude

Call to order—Laurie+

Establish a quorum—Ushers Joe Bernert + Mick Kreisel

Open polls and name slate of nominees—Laurie+

Nominees pictured to right

10:40am Let Us Pray—Eucharist begins

11:30am **Who Is Our Neighbor: Maintaining Connection
As We Expand**

Approval of 2022 annual meeting minutes—Laurie+

Adoption of 2024 budget—Laurie+ + Interim
Treasurer Mark Vago

Congregation: From Family to Pastoral Sized—Michael
Booker + Deacon David

Connected Neighbors in a Pastoral Sized Church—2023 +
2024 Wardens

Recognitions

Staff Team

Ministry Leaders + Members

Bishop's Committee Members

Bishop's Warden: Sue Schmidt

Junior Warden: Jack Laules

Outgoing: Jack Laules, Jeff Rainbolt, Sue Schmidt

All BC members: Ryan Baskin, Bethany Frost, Janet Houseman, Kathy Mester,

Tim Booker, Anna Mackey, Maddie Whaley

Treasurer: Bob Schaefer

Clerk: Jackie Selle

Diocesan Delegates: Outgoing: Joe O'Reilly; Current: Ruby S. Downs + Tony Weaver

Elections of Nominees

Bishop's Committee

Diocesan Delegate

Bishop's Appointments for 2024: Bishop's Warden, Anna Mackey, + Treasurer, Bob Schaefer

12:00pm Sending hymn, dismissal, slide show begins and adjournment to lunch



Megs Carter
BC Class 2027



Carole Clary
BC Class 2027



Jerry Karr
BC Class 2027



Donna Bernert
Alt. Diocesan
Delegate

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Ushers Phil Davis and Michael Booker certified that we have a quorum. Reverend Laurie Anzilotti opened the polls and presented the slate of nominees for the Bishop's Committee.

At 10:40 The Eucharist began.

At 11:30 a.m. Bob Smith presented a history of St. Francis from its earliest days leading up to preparing to having our own space.

Michael Booker moved and Paul Jokerst seconded that we approve the 2021 annual meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Sue Schmidt continued the story of St. Francis by outlining our history as we moved and adapted to various environments.

At 11:43 Reverend Laurie recognized various staff and congregational leaders: staff team, Ministry Leaders + Members, Bishop's Committee Members. Bishop's Warden: Bill Thompson, Junior Warden: Jack Laules, Outgoing: Mary Ann Kinder, Doris Schaefer, Bill Thompson, all BC Members: Ryan Baskin, Bethany Frost, Janet Houseman, Katie Jones, Jeff Rainbolt, Sue Schmidt, Treasurer: Bob Schaefer, and Clerk: Jackie Selle

Anna Mackey continued the history of St. Francis by summarizing our current congregational work as we love, worship, and serve our community such as the meal ministry, outdoor concerts, workshops, and a wide variety of outreach programs.

Bill Thompson moved and Barb Sacco seconded that we approve Maddie Whaley, Anna Mackey, and Tim Booker as new members of the Bishop's Committee. Donna Bernert moved and Bob Smith seconded that Ruby Downs serve as our diocesan delegate. The motions passed. Sue Schmidt will serve as our Bishop's warden and Bob Schaefer will serve again as treasurer. Jackie Selle will serve as parish clerk.

Treasurer Report: Bob Schaefer highlighted the financial report for 2022 and the budget for 2023, which are included in the annual report document.

At 12:04 pm the congregation joined in the sending hymn. The business meeting was dismissed. A slide show of the "Best of 2022" was started, and we and adjourned to lunch in the community room.

Jackie Selle, Clerk



LEADERSHIP ROSTER



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

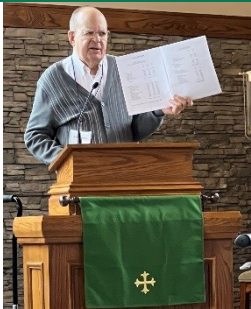
BISHOP

The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti, Vicar
David Luckes, Seminarian Intern
Lynne Glickert, Director of Music
Leslie Heberlie, Director of Administration

THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE 2023

Sue Schmidt, Bishop's Warden, 2024
Jack Laules, Junior Warden, 2024
Jeff Rainbolt, 2024 Ryan Baskin, 2025
Bethany Frost, 2025 Anna Mackey, 2026
Janet Houseman, 2025 Maddie Whaley, 2026
Kathy Mester, 2025 Tim Booker, 2026

TREASURER



Treasurer, Bob Schaefer



CLERK

CLERK
Jackie Selle



STAFF

Also pictured: the Rev. Lindy Hardwick,
friend and supporter of St. Francis'



CLASS OF 2026

DIOCESAN DELEGATES



Joe O'Reilly, Class of 2024
Tony Weaver, Class of 2025
Ruby S. Downs, Class of 2026

REPORT FROM THE VICAR

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

Let's start our annual meeting with a riddle: what does the opening of the Gospel of Mark have in common with St. Francis in 2023?

There are two similarities I would like to draw out.

First, Mark is the Gospel for the Instagram and TikTok age we live in. It is FAST. In 20 short verses, John proclaims and baptizes Jesus, Satan tests Jesus in the desert, John is arrested and Jesus begins his ministry and calls the first disciples. Wow! That's 3.3 verses per event. Mark flies through his narrative. In 2023, it often felt like St. Francis moved at the pace of the Gospel of Mark: new tenant, new people, new ministries, new use of rooms and offices, new sidewalks, new programs, new parking issues, new singing. One parishioner said in October, "every time I come, there is something new." And she is at church once or twice a week!

Second, in today's Gospel passage, Jesus—who is the Son of God, the Messiah—asks four fishermen to help him proclaim the Good News of God. Even Jesus can't spread the word of the kingdom alone! He needs partners. He needs community, and so do we.

In 2023, as a community, St. Francis' lived its divine purpose to love, worship and serve.

We LOVED as we formed future clergy in several ways. Parishioners and clergy served in the discernment of several people considering a call to ordination. Part of that work included hosting Jim Sparks from Trinity St. James for a 3-month internship. And our beloved Deacon-in-training, David Luckes, completed his 21-month training and was ordained to the diaconate and placed by the Bishop at St. Francis. We are blessed by Rev. David's ministry among us! We loved and built community inside our walls through our potlucks, game night, monthly women's and men's meals, the float trip, and more. We built relationship between ourselves and our wider community through our children's concert in May, monthly Chamber of Commerce attendance, the chili cook off in October and weekly Senior exercise classes with June.

St. Francis' sowed new seeds in WORSHIP and music as we launched the St. Francis' Singers and Cantor Program which bring a fresh model of choral singing for a modern church. We also began to have all baptized orders—priest, deacon and laity—lead worship. In July, Deacon David, with the Bishop's permission, began to lead Liturgy of the Word with Sacrament from the Reserve when Laurie is away on Sundays. Lay leaders Linda Carter and Ruby Downs stepped up to lead Noonday Prayer on Wednesdays when Laurie+ cannot be present for Eucharist. Worship at St. Francis is not dependent on one person or priest; we can praise God as a community in a variety of ways.

This year St. Francis' was able to better SERVE the community through changes to our building and grounds. Last January after a Sunday service, we all pitched in and cleaned the childcare center until it shined. As a result, we secured a lease with Bright Big Beginnings Daycare. With a critical shortage of childcare in our region, we are thrilled our space can serve the community in this way while also helping St.

REPORT FROM THE VICAR

Francis toward greater financial stability!. We also better served our parishioners and visitors, particularly those with disabilities, through the construction of an ADA compliant sidewalk connecting our Church and Memorial Garden.

The Spirit was vibrantly and palpably present as St. Francis' lived its divine purpose this year. We wait with eager anticipation to see where she will take us next as we love, worship and serve together!



Clockwise from top left, as referred to in Laurie+'s report: Linda Doolittle during cleaning day to prepare daycare space; parishioners before the float trip; cantors in worship; parishioners at BBQ after float trip.

STATS + DATA

LOVE

Number of parishioners at start of 2023
 Number of parishioners at end of 2023

130
 138

- 14 new parishioners
 - 1 birth, Willa Whaley
- 6 losses
 - 3 death
 - Jeanine Carr
 - Kathleen McDonald
 - Roger Reese
 - 2 transfers
 - 1 moved



WILLA ARRIVES!

- Communications
- 160 newsletter recipients (up from 147 in 2022)
 - 273 Facebook followers (up from 232 in 2022)
 - 91 Instagram followers (up from 80 in 2022)
 - 161 YouTube subscribers (up from 81 in 2021)

Wedding: 1 Josh and Briana Higgins
 Funeral/Interment: 3 Kathleen McDonald (funeral + interment)
 Cindy Dougherty (interment)
 Lee Pruitt (interment)

WORSHIP

We give thanks for the reception of: Jerry and Jenny Karr

185 people prayed for on our prayer list

Number of Services Held + Attendance

Sunday Morning Eucharists 92

- Total number worshipping on Sunday 3,889
- Average Sunday Attendance 75
- YouTube Sunday Attendance 407



KATHLEEN MCDONALD'S INTERMENT

WORSHIP, CONTINUED

Weekday Offices	99
Weekday Eucharists	41
• Total worshipping on weekday + Sunday	4,514
• Average weekly attendance	87
Eucharistic Visits	11



SERVE

St. Francis Meal Ministry

• Meals served: 1,638	561 dine-in 772 take-home 305 distributed to senior centers
• Unique volunteers	approx. 135
• Raised from outside to support	\$3,400
• Meal Host Groups in addition to SF	12

2024 Stewardship Campaign

• Pledges	60 (up from 48 in 2021, 54 in 2022 + 56 in 2023)
• Pledge campaign total	\$193,486 (up from \$175,736 in 2023)

Increased pledge giving along with the rent income from the childcare portion of the building allowed St. Francis not to request \$30,000 of diocesan funding for the 2024 budget. This is the first time in St. Francis' history we have gone without diocesan financial aid and is our final step in becoming a parish of the Diocese, not a mission.



SERVICE IN MANY FORMS

BISHOP'S WARDEN REPORT

Sue Schmidt

It was my privilege to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. We welcomed new members, more children, added fun family events, and meaningful ways to learn and worship. The health of St Francis has never been better.

As a church family, we rejoiced with each other as we celebrated our victories, and held each other close through the dark times. I saw the culture of love and respect, as we interacted with other faiths and lifestyles, through the active outreach programs that were developed.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and be part of this wonderful church.



PARTIES AT SUE'S HOUSE

In May and October, our illustrious Bishop's Warden welcomed all of us to her home, where we enjoyed a potluck with BBQ made by Judy and John Meixner as well as live music, volleyball, and fire pit time.



JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Leslie Heberlie, in praise of Jack Laules

In last year's annual report, Jack Laules said: "2022 was a transitional year for our building. It is no longer a cute and shiny newborn, but rather a recalcitrant adolescent that will require closer attention."

Boy was he right! Among other projects and maintenance, this year Jack and others:

- Prepared the daycare side of the building for our new tenant, including an all-hands-on-deck workday as well as required inspections for their commercial daycare license and updating locks and keys.
- Twice contracted with new snow and ice removal companies.
- Changed which rooms are used for which purposes, including turning the old music room into the Vesting Room, the old vesting room into Lynne's office, and David's office into an outreach office where volunteer hosts can work. Work included moving furniture, painting several rooms, and rewiring several switches.
- Responded to water coming into the Administration Office and then rearranged the space to make it work better as a welcoming space for our community. A dehumidifier was purchased and stored onsite in case of future need.
- Replaced the sunshade that fell off the center window in the sanctuary.
- Painted the community room and kitchen in support of the Theology of Space committee, and disposed of many gallons of old paint via local recycling.
- Power washed the outside of the building after mulching left us covered in mulch.
- Several times used large ladders to fix tiles on the roof, change lightbulbs, and change air filters.
- Performed all annual inspections including follow-up as necessary, including replacing batteries in fire exit signs.

REPLACING SUNSHADE



THIS DOOR HAD TO GO



ALWAYS WORRYING LESLIE
WITH THE LADDERS

FINANCES

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH STATEMENTS OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
RECEIPTS			
Pledge payments	\$169,987	\$175,876	\$191,946
Prepaid pledges	6,500	0	0
Daycare rent	0	0	51,100
Unpledged Income	19,237	22,000	15,500
Plate offering	2,169	2,500	2,500
Diocesan Assistance	30,000	30,000	0
In-kind Donations	3,328	0	0
Other Income, incl. interest	30	0	6,720
Other Operating Income	1,726	1,500	1,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts	\$232,976	\$231,876	\$269,266
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Clergy Salaries and Benefits	97,423	\$96,750	\$105,265
Staff Salaries and Benefits	46,284	46,284	57,276
Liability Insurance	7,587	7,724	8,745
Repairs and Maintenance	14,151	15,500	17,750
Utilities	21,370	20,340	22,895
Office Expense	8,752	8,416	10,202
Marketing and Communications	2,587	2,000	2,000
Worship Expense	4,964	4,800	9,425
Congregational Life	5,654	3,900	4,460
Christian Education	1,310	3,000	1,600
Outreach	2,740	2,800	3,900
Diocesan Apportionment	19,598	19,598	24,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$216,781	\$201,250	\$268,512
RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS	\$557	\$764	\$754

ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Dec. 31 2022	Dec. 31 2023
Cash:		
Lindell Bank	\$71,031	\$84,386
Custodial Account Held by Diocese	20,923	20,923
Diocesan Investment Trust	13,731	13,731
Property:		
Furnishings	61,098	61,098
Playground Equipment	8,637	8,637
Daycare Assets	972	0
	<u>61,098</u>	<u>61,098</u>
	<u>\$176,392</u>	<u>\$188,774</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances:		
Due to Discretionary Fund	\$0	\$0
General Fund	90,482	91,037
Memorial Garden Fund	9,547	11,456
Flower Fund	556	453
Grounds Fund	1,674	266
Meal Ministry Fund	2,000	3,142
Theology of Space Fund	1,183	165
Duke Leadership Grant	244	0
St. Clare Fund	0	9,207
Joe Niemann Fund	0	2,196
Capital Improvement Fund	70,706	69,734
	<u>70,706</u>	<u>69,734</u>
	<u>\$176,392</u>	<u>\$188,771</u>

MINISTRIES OF LOVE

WITHIN OUR WALLS

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 gathered in August to reflect on the parable of the Good Shepherd and their role as caretakers of the St. Francis flock. They also worked to create lines of communication that allow us to care for each individual as we expand as a parish.



Our pastoral care team met in August. Shown, left to right: Laurie+, Jackie Selle, Rosie Benecke, Ann Widner, David Luckes, Sue Schmidt.

CARD MINISTRY

Ann Widner +Sue Schmidt

Cards: birthday, anniversary, sympathy cards are sent by Ann Widner and Sue Schmidt. We also work with our pastoral care team, to reach out to parishioners who might need a note or card to let them know they are being thought of. In addition to the cards, Bill Thompson has painted gorgeous bookmarks with crosses that go into each card. Thank you Ann, Sue and Bill for sharing your talents with all of us.

Ann Widner creates homemade cards from her photography. She donates these cards to St. Francis. She and Sue Schmidt ensure that parishioners receive words of celebration, healing, comfort and condolences at important moments of their lives.



A Light Shines in the Darkness

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY (LEM)

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 also become part of St. Francis' pastoral care team.

2023 reflected a full calendar year of the St. Francis' "rebooted" LEM program that was restarted in June 2022 following a break during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. As attendance has grown over 2023, we regularly utilize two Lay Eucharistic Volunteers per service.

Following Deacon David's ordination in June 2023, our Lay Eucharistic Ministers and David had the privilege of introducing a special communion liturgy to St. Francis in July 2023 when Laurie, our Vicar, was out of town. This Communion from Reserved Sacrament liturgy was designed by and authorized by our Bishop based on the guidance of the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Lay Eucharistic Ministers play a key role in the distribution of the elements in this "Liturgy of the Presanctified Gift" led by Deacon David that takes the place of the Eucharistic Prayer conducted by a priest.

Lay Eucharistic Victors (LEV) took communion to individuals who were homebound or in health care facilities complementing the visits Laurie, our Vicar, and David, our Deacon, made to bring communion to individuals like these. Fortunately, the number of visits where LEV were needed was few in 2023.

In 2023, we also restated a monthly LEV to parishioner Noel Choweller who has been homebound for a long time. These visits are prescheduled on the first Sunday of each month and have been covered by Deacon David and parishioner Jeff Veenstra, who has been an LEV and part of our outreach to Noel for many years. These visits allow parishioners who cannot be with us in person to share in the Sunday Eucharist. They reflect two foundational aspects of who we are as a Christian community; (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.

Additional training and educational opportunities for current volunteers as well as those interested in learning more about the ministry will be offered in 2024. Those interested in exploring whether this ministry might be a good fit for you are encouraged to reach out to David or Laurie.



LEM Leader David Luckes was ordained in June of 2023 and became our permanent deacon after serving as deacon-in-training.

MEAL CARE

Jackie Selle

This year many helping hands provided delicious meals as needed by parishioners and those around us. Volunteers prepared soups, casseroles, and entrees for friends who were homebound, welcoming new additions, or experiencing other major life events. We will continue to care for each other in this very basic but meaningful way in the new year.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Doris Schaefer

The gift of knitting and/or crocheting has been extended to the production of providing prayer shawls to anyone who needs comfort, thoughts and prayers for medical procedures, comfort after a loss, during bereavement, prayer or meditation, commitment or marriage ceremonies, birthing, nursing a baby, bridal showers, etc. There are endless possibilities for a need to receive a prayer shawl.

Anyone who needs or knows someone who would receive comfort from a gift of a prayer shawl needs only to contact the Vicar, Laurie Anzilotti.



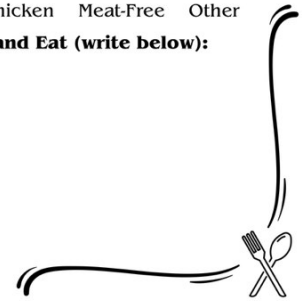
Freeze Date: _____

Dish Name: _____

Circle ONE: Beef Chicken Meat-Free Other

Directions to Reheat and Eat (write below):

Provided By: _____



Jackie created this tag to label meals provided to help those who need a meal.

STORIES OF LOVE

In the spring of 2023, Anna Mackey coordinated with June Goodson, a fitness instructor up at the Timbers, to begin teaching a seniors yoga and fitness class weekly here at St. Francis'. In 2023, the relationship we built with June was so strong that beginning in 2024, the classes she offers in our building will continue, with all of her labor donated at no cost to us. We could not be more grateful to June for this love!



STORIES OF LOVE

As part of our Forum series in early 2023, parishioners Barb Sacco and Linda Carter presented about work each of them do in local organizations. Barb works with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) helping foster children and Linda volunteers with the Agape House in Pacific, often supporting the operations in their thrift shop, and she became a board member in 2023.



QUILTING MINISTRY

Sally Hader

The quilting ministry continued this year and provided beautiful handcrafted memory quilts to parishioners in need, as well as in recognition of life events. Many hands helped with this important ministry as we care for those around us.

COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

The ministries that follow all strengthen our ties to one another in Christian community through intentional and ongoing fellowship.



CRAFTERS



CRAFTERS

Wednesday afternoons are some of the most consistently joyful periods during the course of a regular week here at St. Francis', due to the convening of the Crafters! Gathering to work each on their own projects (though sometimes on joint projects or even pivoting to help with work that the church needs done), these skilled workers also bring lunch, brew a nice pot of coffee, and enjoy one another's company for a couple of hours.

GAME NIGHT

Tim Booker

The eleven Game Nights of 2023 had a median attendance of 14, more than doubling the Game Nights' attendance of 2022. The highest attended Game Night was in August with 22 people, coming from many generations from Alpha to Boomer. Very popular games include Ticket to Ride (A board game brought by Tim Booker) and Sequence (A board and card game brought by Anna Mackey). Many board games and card games are brought to game Goals for the future is to keep Game Night going, and maintaining a consistent attendance rate for each event.



PREPPING FOR CHRISTMAS



HOSPITALITY

This was yet another year of growth in hospitality here at St. Francis! The kitchen and community room have been bustling places, with Sunday coffee service growing to also include a parishioner-sponsored continental breakfast a few times a year, several potlucks that spilled over in attendance in the narthex, and a new committee of Sunday hospitality hosts working under the leadership of Jackie Dear, after years of steady service from Kathleen O'Reilly.

MEN'S GROUP

The men's group reconvened a monthly dinner out in 2023, visiting a number of local restaurant. Additionally, the men's group served a tasty pancake meal on "Shrove Sunday," the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The group decided to move the traditional Shrove Tuesday celebration to Sunday so that more parishioners could participate.



PANCAKE TIME!



WOMEN'S GROUP

Sue Schmidt

We get together for socializing and dinner at various restaurants on the second Tuesday of each month. Our evenings have been a way for us to get to know each other better, to let newcomers know us, and to welcome women who might be considering St. Francis as their church. Our group is growing, which is awesome, and now my biggest problem is finding restaurants big enough to handle our group—which is a wonderful problem to have!



WOMEN'S GROUP

STORIES OF LOVE

For years, parishioner Max Starbuck has been setting up a nativity set that he made and makes improvements to each year. This year, Chuck Dougherty helped with the setup. Neighbors and friends get to see the story of the birth of Christ illuminated through the Christmas season.



STORIES OF LOVE

St. Francis' parishioners love to eat! Whether in our community room, at member's homes, or out in the community, gathering at the table is central to who we are. In 2023, we hosted many events where we convened to dine together. This love of feeding one another spills over into our service work as we gather to feed the community monthly through our meal ministry.



PERSONNEL

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

St. Francis was richly blessed in 2023 by its staff team.

For the first time since 2017, St. Francis had no staff changes in 2023!

Lynne Glickert completed her first year as a staff member in August. In only 16 months time, Lynne has transformed music in worship at St. Francis! She has lifted up the talents of our parishioners in a format that works for parishioners' lives through the creation of the St. Francis Singers (see Lynne's music report for more details). She has also brought to St. Francis a host of cantors and musicians who enrich our musical worship. It is a rare person who has not only the musical talent that Lynne has, but also the administrative and organizational talents to coordinate so many people and gifts from within and outside St. Francis.

In November, Leslie Heberlie marked three years as St. Francis' Administrative Director. Leslie's three main areas of concentration are the production of all worship materials, all financial recording and reporting, and communications including the newsletter and website. But as anyone who leads a ministry at St. Francis knows, Leslie does this and more! As financial contributions and membership expand, so does Leslie's task list. She currently works 25 hours a week and does not wish to expand her hours. Therefore, in 2024, St. Francis budgeted to hire a part-time Financial Assistant who can take the lead in financial accounting and reporting. Leslie's thoroughness and skill reflects itself in our bulletins, newsletters, giving statements and more. Our community benefits tremendously from Leslie's gifts.

David Luckes continued to serve at St. Francis and was ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in June of 2023. What a blessing for St. Francis! After David's ordination, he and I jointly decided that his priorities would be outreach, liturgy and pastoral care. As leader of outreach, he formed the Service and Justice Ministry Team. In liturgy, thanks to approval from Bishop Deon, David is able to preside at the Liturgy of the Word with Sacrament from the Reserve on Sundays when Laurie is away from church. He is a crucial part of the Pastoral Care Team and spread heads Eucharistic Visits to the ill and infirmed. In a recent conversation with Laurie, the Leadership Team noted that St. Francis could not have the reach it has into the community without David. We would not be who we are without him.

I lead a remarkable staff team. They are extraordinary not only because of the skills and accomplishments mentioned above, but because of their ability to set their own egos aside and to be truly supportive co-workers and collaborators across our parish and region. St. Francis is truly blessed by them.

STORIES OF LOVE

We were thrilled to welcome Jim Sparks, an intern discerning a path to ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. From February through May, Jim became an important part of our worship team.



STORIES OF LOVE

St. Francis could not operate without the relentless dedication of its parishioners. This dedication reveals itself in many forms. One manifestation comes in the summer months when young parishioners help in the office and around the building on Thursday afternoons. Special thanks to Tim Booker and Katie Jones who consistently provided assistance to the staff. We couldn't be St. Francis without you!



STEWARDSHIP

Brenda Russell and Jeff Rainbolt

This year, we endeavored to explore the diverse perspectives on contributing to St. Francis within the generational groups represented in our community. Despite the distinct motivations and varied responsibilities that each of us carries, we are united in our shared commitment to support our church, steadfast in our mission to Love, Worship, and Serve. Through our transparent messaging and well-defined objectives, or perhaps owing to this remarkable congregation, we witnessed an extraordinary level of engagement. There was also a healthy increase in the total pledged for the upcoming year. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their past support and their pledged support for 2024. With these pledges, the entire St. Francis community can continue in our mission to Love, Worship, and Serve.



DISTRIBUTING STEWARDSHIP PACKETS

MINISTRIES OF LOVE

OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

EVENTS

Janet Houseman and Sue Schmidt

Outdoor Concerts May 12th and 15th 2023 The concert team focused on the Mother's Day weekend to showcase Kindersong, and JMC-50 when meeting in March, April and May. Expenses included water bottles, snacks, flyers and signs, and a fee of \$300.00 for Brian and Terry Kinder. Total expenses were \$400. A bounce house was brought in for the kids and the program was held on the playground. The weather was extremely hot and our good friend Pat Shores was injured on the premises near Rockwood Arbor Drive. The Friday night Kindersong concert for children was not well attended. Only three families showed up for the fun program of music sing along. A favorite fan of the Kinders drove in for the event and it was a hit with her family and Brian and Terry. The weather was stormy and hot for the Sunday JMC-50 concert. At three o'clock, the decision was made to bring the musicians into the Sanctuary due high winds and rain. The concert was attended by 30-35 people from the Arbors and St. Francis members. The music was rather loud in the sanctuary and most folks liked to listen from the narthex. It was decided after the week-end that the team would not plan concerts for the remainder of the year. The sum of hot weather and the holiday week-end was cited for poor turn out. The ending of the pandemic gave folks many choices for entertainment and Spring family events drew less attendees.



STORIES OF LOVE

St. Francis' participates in tons of events out in the world or preparing for those events. Pictures show us out in the world or preparing for those events. Clockwise from top right: Arbors of Rockwood Fourth of July parade; preparing St. Clare for the Eureka Scarecrow Festival; parishioners with the Moms Demand Action diocese group; the Harvest Moon Run/Walk; preparing candy for the Eureka Days Parade; St. Louis Pride Parade.



SOCIAL MEDIA

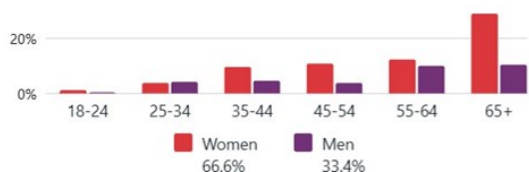
Della Thompson and Ruby Downs

The social media committee regularly posts to both Facebook and Instagram. We have 273 Facebook followers, up from 232 this time last year, and 91 Instagram followers, up from 80 last year.

Facebook followers ⓘ

273

Age & gender ⓘ

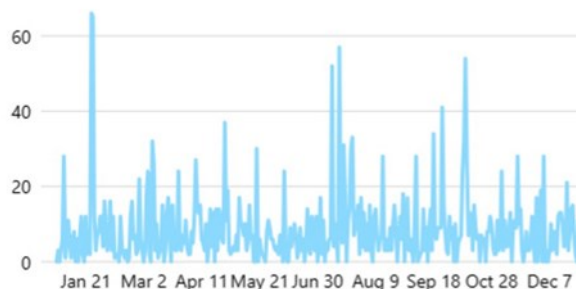


In the summer, we hosted a communicators lunch to assess how we’re doing with social media and to plan for the future.

Visits

Facebook visits ⓘ

3,118 ↑ 63.5%



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sue Schmidt

Chamber of commerce: we strive to have two St Francis representatives attend each monthly meeting. We announce any upcoming event that’s taking place with our church, and we have an opportunity to reach out to others in the Eureka, Pacific and Wildwood communities. At these meetings we have met other churches and various businesses who have partnered with us in our meal ministry. A highlight of the year came when St. Francis hosted the March Chamber of Commerce luncheon. We were able to share our Conversations Across Difference workshop with the entire Chamber. Facilitator Jenn Whitmer presented a mini-version of the workshop she had prepared for our congregation in May of 2022 and for Rockwood School District in October of 2022. At the March lunch, we also presented plaques of gratitude to each Eureka business who supports our Meal Ministry.



PRESENTING AT CHAMBER

MINISTRIES OF WORSHIP

FORMATION

GODLY PLAY

Barb Sacco

Godly Play instructors this year are Linda Doolittle, Doris Schaefer, Bethany Frost and Barb Sacco. The addition of Elaine Booker, Craig Anzilotti, Sylvia Ahmad and Adriane Tilton as helpers/door person has been great and we have seen between 2-7 children each Sunday!

SUNDAY FORUM

Michael Booker

The Sunday Forum schedule seeks to combine a balance of material that promotes biblical literacy, community awareness and sharing our own stories. We meet most Sundays between the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

Bible based topics in 2023 have included:

- Bible Study 101 and 102

- A four-part series looking at the book of Genesis

- And an exploration of the biblical concept of the Messiah

Community Awareness has included:

- Our third year of “Who Is My Neighbor?”

- A two-part examination of American Christian demographic trends

- And a series on social justice issues

Finally, “sharing our stories” has included:

- Celebrating David’s ordination as a Deacon

- Jerry Smith sharing her trip to India

- Michael Booker sharing his trip to Israel

- And an Annual Report celebrating Telling Our Story

SPIRITUAL CAFE

Skip Moreland

Under the thoughtful leadership of Skip and Patti Moreland, we launch a monthly “deep dive” discussion group in 2023. The Spiritual Café is a small group study at St. Francis where we will come together on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss what it means to be Christian and how we might live more fully into the love of Jesus Christ. Think of it as a big ole breakfast table where friends and family sit down to talk about the Bible and how it relates to current topics in our lives. If you would like a safe-place to share your ideas and thoughts on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church, or anything else spiritually related, then this is the place for you!

FORUM



SPIRITUAL CAFE

YOUTH + FAMILIES

Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

St. Francis youth are full and active members of our church community!

Children and teens serve as vital members of our worship ministries. In May of 2023, the entire liturgy was lead by the youth of St. Francis. They served as ushers, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and parishioner Katie Jones, a 12th grader at Eureka High School, was the preacher for the service. Their leadership, as well as the second year of our Godly Play Children's Formation Program, were celebrated by the entire congregation during this Pentecost, youth-led liturgy.

During summer of 2023, our Thursday afternoon teen-crew came to assist around the church and build community with one another. This is the second summer that teens have gathered on Thursdays to serve and enjoy each other's company.

In the second half of 2023, St. Francis' began monthly Youth and Family activities. In September, the Donathan-Tilton family hosted a lunch for parishioners with children and for young adults. In October, there was a chili-cook off with the Arbors Neighborhood that particularly catered to families. In November, the GROW conference sponsored by the Diocese offered parents an opportunity to reflect on parenting in the context of faith. Finally, our Christmas Eve service was led in large part by the youth and children of the parish. These monthly offerings will continue into 2024.



STORIES OF WORSHIP

Advent was as short as it could possibly be in 2023 with the fourth Sunday of Advent falling on Christmas Eve! This meant the season was three weeks, not four. Instead of hosting a weekly Advent reflection time on weekday evenings, St. Francis held a morning retreat on December 2 for people of all ages.



Rev. Mary Haggerty led an “adults only” experience of Advent prayer and reflection. She invited participants to step away for a few hours into the quiet corners of their souls and listen to where God speaks to them.



At the same time, Rev. Laurie led an intergenerational experience called Messy Church. Messy Church allows all generations to come together to learn about Advent through games, crafts, music, and storytelling about the Annunciation.



Messy Church is highly interactive and relational. Look for more Messy Church experiences for all generations in 2024!



WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday Eucharist

The 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.



In 2023, two important shifts took place in the Noon Eucharist. In the Easter season, this space became a "liturgical lab." I brought two new liturgies from the communities in Iona, Scotland. The group participated in these table-centered liturgies, and reflected on the experience, language and setting. These conversations resulted in recommendations from the group for future liturgies. Many elements from these liturgies appeared in the Sunday liturgies in Pentecost. We held another "liturgical lab" in Advent. From this experimentation and my own absence due to illness in the Spring, came another important shift. Parishioners Linda Carter and Ruby Downs began to lead Noon Prayer in Laurie's absence. Their leadership ensures that the St. Francis' community can gather for prayer and reflection whether I am present or not! It drives home the message that "we are the church!" with or without a priest to preside.

The Wednesday Eucharist 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!

Morning Prayer

Linda Carter

We meet via Zoom almost every Monday and Friday Mornings. Usually 3-4 of us join in prayer. Once in a while, Simeon from the Mideast will join us. He has visited our church when he is in the US. Plans to share morning prayer on Facebook Live are in the works. Had to wait as I had cataract surgery and was awaiting prescription glasses.

STORIES OF WORSHIP

St. Francis' parishioners live from Pacific to Clayton, Lake St. Louis to Festus, Washington to Arnold and everywhere in between! It can be difficult, with this wide radius, to gather for in-person programs for reflection and spiritual growth. The Marco Polo video app allows parishioners to connect for reflection and prayer led by Laurie+ at the time and place of their choosing. They can then share a video of their thoughts and prayers back to the group. While nothing can replace the intimacy of being together in-person, Marco Polo provides a private space for flexible formation!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ACOLYTES

Jeff Veestra

Once an ordained order of clergy, the acolytes of Saint Francis still provide a key role in assisting our clergy during worship. Whether working as a crucifer, server, thurifer, torch bearer or book bearer (and often multiple roles), the acolytes serve to create an enriched worship experience for everyone. Thank you to our great group of acolytes for their service this past year: Noelle Donathan, Abby Jones, Rich Mayfield, Jude McCart, Tatum McCart, Jerry Smith, Jeff Veenstra and Madeleine Whaley. Also, please welcome our newest acolyte, George William Baskin.



ACOLYTES



ALTAR GUILD

Jerry Smith

Each Sunday the Altar Guild is charged with creating an environment in which all people can experience God's love and be renewed. The Altar Guild cares for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the church and prepares the sanctuary for services and cleans up afterwards. This work maintains the altar and sanctuary space for worship. We also decorate the sanctuary for liturgical holidays and events.

STORIES OF WORSHIP

The impact of St. Francis' Wired Worship Ministry is often unseen, but stories of its influence filter back to the clergy. A few examples of its reach include:

- A parishioner who talks with her mother many weeks after services to discuss the sermon . . . even though her mom lives in Florida
- Two parishioners who are with us every Sunday because of Wired Worship—even when tending to their shared 7 kids and 18 grandkids all over MO!
- Parishioners who are sick and infirmed, but still connected to us weekly through Sunday worship
- Newcomers who check out worship from the safety of their home screens
- Lynne who reviews the music post-service and uses the recordings to make changes and improvements

Wired Worship makes us a more vibrant community spreading the Gospel into places it could not otherwise be!



GREETERS

Sue Schmidt

Our team of greeters has expanded and every person who comes to our church service is met with a smile and a welcome. If it's a new person arriving, our greeter walks them to the ushers, indicating where coffee, restrooms, etc. are located.

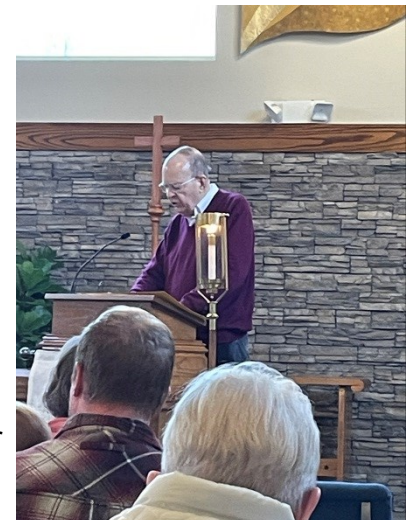
LECTORS/INTERCESSORS

By Laurie+ for Sheila McCart

Proclaiming the Word is central to liturgy! This year we had a fine team of lectors who read from the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament Epistles during our liturgies. We had another team of intercessors who lift our common prayers to God in the Prayers of the People.

With two concerted efforts to recruit more parishioners into liturgical participation, the number of lectors and intercessors blossomed this year. Our roster of readers is beginning to reflect St. Francis' generational diversity. Our lectors range in age from teens to eighties!

Thanks to all who prepare and proclaim during our liturgies!



ST. FRANCIS' SINGERS

Lynne Glickert

The music department at St. Francis has had an exciting 2023. We implemented a guest cantor program during the summer months, which proved so successful, we received anonymous donations to continue the program through the end of 2023. Our cantors are guests as well as parishioners. What was evident very quickly was how much more the congregation participated in singing by having a strong song leader in front of them. I listen each week to our You Tube worship recordings and what now comes through is a congregation fully participating in song. We also started a new singing group to reflect our current reality with busy, busy households that require fewer rehearsals in order to participate. The St. Francis Singers was born and sang their first anthem in September. They sing monthly anthems, with two rehearsals a month. The singers are multi-generational, the youngest being seven years old. This model so far is doing what I had hoped. Allows for more singers to participate and being able to choose month by 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 worshipped while I am here. I am grateful to God who has led me to this place.



STORIES OF WORSHIP

After a variety of office and common space shifting in the fall of 2023, Altar Guild chair, Jerry Smith, hung all of our smaller liturgical banners in the Vesting Room which provides a bright vibrancy in the windowless space. The banners, which all come from St. Francis' nomadic days in a variety of worship spaces, serve as decoration as they are stored to be used in the narthex during the appropriate season. Talk about a win-win-win!



STORIES OF WORSHIP

Faith develops in children through play, story, song, and participation. This is what our liturgy provides the youth of St. Francis. The Children's Liturgical Area in the sanctuary immerses our smallest worshippers in the colors, symbols and stories of the Christian life through toys, storybooks, and art activities. In the late pre-K and elementary years, Godly Play and quarterly children's sermons present biblical language in an accessible way. Children then wonder aloud about the stories. As children blossom into the middle school years, they serve as lectors, ushers and acolytes. No matter the age and stage, children and youth belong at St. Francis! As 1-year old Wyatt says in liturgy, "Amen!"



TELLERS

Suzanne Jones

Do you know what being a teller for St. Francis means? This is a commitment of once a month or so to volunteer 20-30 minutes after the 10:30 worship service to document the contributions of parishioners, friends, and supporters collected in the previous week. Working with another teller makes the time go quickly as you prepare the weekly bank deposit and it's a great way to keep your math and basic bookkeeping skills sharp (don't worry, we use the help of a calculator, of course!). We are always open to additional volunteers so feel free to contact Suzanne or Leslie if you are interested in joining this small but essential ministry.

USHERS

Bob Smith

I would like to thank all the members of the usher team, new and old, and welcome everyone who would like to join this ministry. Ushers make worship flow! They welcome congregants with a bulletin, pass the offering plate, direct people to communion, ensure the smooth flow to the communion table, and leave the church in good condition for the next service.

STORIES OF WORSHIP

From parishioners who design our banners, to bread that is baked, and behind-the-scenes preparations of lectors and vocalists, every liturgy at St. Francis takes the creative efforts of a team of people. These pictures of transforming the sanctuary during the Advent season give a window into this work. Altering our Advent seating arrangement takes the know-how and input of Wired Worship to adjust microphones and cameras. We hang banners, move the baptismal font and more. All of this adds to our sense that the season of Advent is something different, a time to be spiritually attuned to the changes around us in preparation for Christmas.



WIRED WORSHIP

Paul Jokerst

2023 was another great year for the Wired Worship Ministry. We continue to hear good comments from those who join our congregation via our YouTube Channel. Luke 8:1 (NRSV) says; “Soon afterward he went on through one town and village after another, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. Thanks to the financial support of our congregation, as well as the Wired Worship Family, we are able to do exactly what you read in Luke.

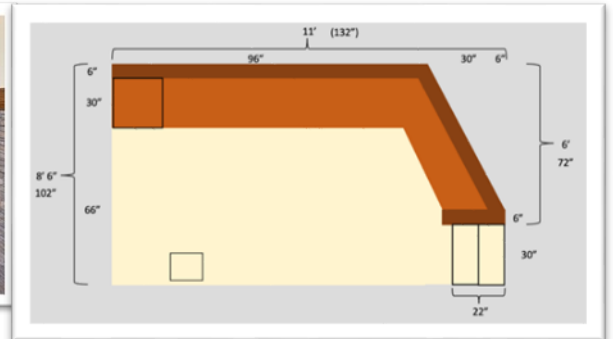
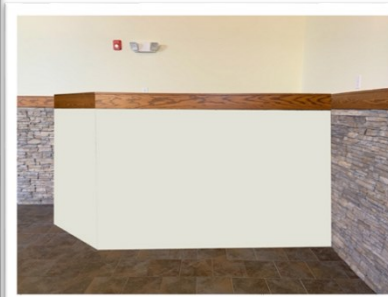
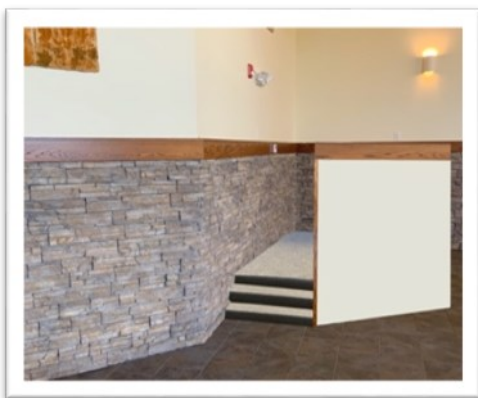


The Leadership Committee recently approved some new changes for the Wired Worship Ministry. Some of these changes include new camera's which can now be seen mounted on the back walls; under the old speaker boxes as well at the feet of St. Francis himself. These new cameras have greatly improved the quality of our live stream to include in lower lighting conditions... such as Christmas Eve.

The next big project that was approved by the Leadership Committee was the construction of a permanent sound-booth area for our expanding new technology. While the funding still has not been worked out, the project itself has, so that we can continue to move forward as funds become available. The images to the right will give you an idea of what has been approved.

The success of the Wired Worship Ministry would not happen if it were not for the wonderful financial support of our St. Francis family. I would also like to thank the members of the Wired Worship Ministry; Michael Booker, Phil Davis, Jeff Rainbolt, and Jackie Selle.

I would like to end this year's report with some good news... our YouTube Channel subscriber numbers continue to grow. My 2022 report mentioned that we had 112 subscribers, we currently now have 159 subscribers to our channel and in December alone, our videos were viewed over 600 times.



MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

SERVICE + JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

Deacon David Luckes

After David Luckes was ordained Deacon in June of 2023, Vicar Anzilotti worked with David on transitioning the focus of his ministry at St. Francis from his role as Deacon in Training to his role as Deacon. In line with David's vocation, it was decided that David would focus, roughly, 50% of his ministry time coordinating St. Francis' Service and Justice Ministries. The remaining 50% of David's ministry time was divided 35% to his role in St. Francis' worship life and 15% assisting with pastoral care, with an emphasis on coordinating St. Francis' Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors.

Vicar Anzilotti and David agreed to begin St. Francis' collective reflection on the future of our Service and Justice Ministries with a Sunday Forum on August 20, 2023. This forum provided an opportunity to reflect on the deep roots of St Francis' service ministries that go back decades as well as imagine their future. Our parish's divine purpose was a touchstone throughout our conversation – "We believe that God loves all people, and that love compels us to worship and to serve as Jesus did. We express this in the short form LOVE. WORSHIP. SERVE."

In addition to the Forum, David helped establish a Service & Justice Ministry Team composed of the individuals currently playing a leadership role in various service ministries. The group's first meeting was on September 2, 2023. It included ministry leaders, Arlene Underwood, Janet Housemen, Anna Mackey, and Donna Bernert. The agenda addressed the Team's purpose, membership, priorities, and meeting schedule through 2023. It also included an opportunity to share in biblical reflection on Christian service through the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) along with shared prayer.

The Team's top priority was drafting a set of Service & Justice Ministry Principles that embraced St. Francis' decades of service work and provided a framework to carry that work forward. These principles were also intended to help us focus our commitments in ways that would enable us to deepen how we serve and incorporate justice work into our service. We worked on these principles in two meetings; September 2nd and September 9th. At this second meeting, the team also spent time reflecting on the role justice plays in our commitment to serve by discussing *The Kingdom of God: The Heart of Justice* (Chapter 7, *The Heart of Christianity*, Marcus J. Borg). The draft principles we then shared with the parish Leadership Team (Bishop's Committee) on September 17th before they were released for comment and feedback to the whole parish. The finalized principles were made available in October 2023. A copy is attached to this report.

On November 12, 2023, the Service & Justice Team offered its second Sunday Forum. This Forum introduced our two Service & Justice focus areas, Hunger and Education, with an opportunity to discuss Education in detail. Team member Anna Mackey shared how her volunteer work as one of our service leaders was deepening her faith. She also updated us on our growing relationship with Meramec Valley R-III School District/Pacific High School, including the Kathleen McDonald Memorial Scholarship and their Indian Closet.

In December 2023, the Service & Justice Team meet held its final 2023 meeting with two primary agenda items; (1) Hearing an update on the work Katie Jones was doing to plan St. Francis' second Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day at Camp Wyman; and (2) Planning the 2024 Who is our Neighbor Forum 4.0 Series. The series will address our focus areas of Hunger and Education plus provide a program that explores the Biblical imperative to consider Justice as an important aspect of Christian Discipleship and Service.

SERVICE AND JUSTICE: EDUCATION

Anna Mackey

Our service and justice goals wore many hats in 2023. We continued to support the snack program at Eureka Elementary. These snacks were provided to students who were unable to bring or forgot snacks from home. 3 EE families requested help for holiday gifts, we hosted the EE blood drive and gave veterans magnets at the EE Veterans Day breakfast. We hosted the class of 2036 ice cream party. After discussing with EE staff, it was decided to donate this years school bus of supplies to the Pacific school district. This project allowed Meramec School District to decide which schools had the greatest need, making our donations used broadly. We also donated hats, scarves and sweaters to The Indian Closet located in Pacific High School. Our new outreach was a scholarship established in the name of Kathleen McDonald at PHS. This scholarship is intended for students who have been judged at risk by PHS staff. They have potential but due to homelessness or transient life styles, they have fallen in the cracks. In the neighborhood, we opened our doors to weekly senior exercise classes and handed out slap bracelets at the neighborhood July 4th parade.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



MAKING CHRISTMAS

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Kathleen O'Reilly + Anna Mackey

This year we adopted 3 families from Eureka Elementary and 5 from the Pacific Adopt A Family. This year we provided games and clothes to the children, clothes to the parents and also cleaning supplies. The cleaning supplies were a new addition to the wish list. Not sure this will be included for next year. Kathleen and I both agree the money should go more towards the kids. We did run short on time for the Eureka families and will request an earlier date for wish lists. Kathleen was able to deliver the Pacific gifts. One family in particular was a foster grandma. Our gifts allowed them to have a Christmas beyond their expectations.

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Rev. Laurie Anzilotti

St. Francis' built on its relationship with Eureka Elementary and the Rockwood School District in 2023.

Eureka Elementary opened next door to our church in 2019. In four short years, we have collaborated for the benefit of both the school and wider community. We spread gratitude through small gifts and notes distributed to staff during the pandemic and to veterans each Veteran's Day. We serve the marginalized as our parish works with the school social worker to provide snacks, school supplies and Christmas gifts as well as pay the lunch balance for students in need. As school security concerns did not allow the PTO to host a Red Cross Blood Drive this year, the school asked to use our facility. We will co-host the first "Eureka Elementary-St. Francis Blood Drive" in our sanctuary on November 15, 2023.

In addition, St. Francis' has a close working relationship with the district at large. This year, St. Francis worked with the Communications Office to increase participation and diversify representation in the District clergy gatherings. The District also asked that I participate in their Dignity and Belonging Community Cohort in November. This learning will flow back to St. Francis' parishioners in the coming year.

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. This trust enables us to move into deeper relationship to serve the community more fully. I look forward to seeing where we go together!



DIGNITY + BELONGING



SERVING STUDENTS



BLOOD DRIVE

EUREKA FOOD PANTRY

Arlene Underwood

As you enter the red door from the parking lot it is convenient to spot the red wagon - sometimes empty, sometimes full. . . . but always a nice smooove-wheeling helper - contributed by our beloved Kathleen McDonald several years ago. The generous donations of non-perishable food items, along with soaps and toilet paper are transported to the Eureka Food Pantry located at The River Church on Central Ave. These gifts are so important for the people in and near our community who need these extras to help them get through each month. This program is assisted by volunteers who sort incoming items and fill their large wagons as full as possible to bring them to the "neighbor's" vehicles. St. Francis Church has been contributing for at least 25 years since this program was organized in Eureka. Your generous items - so easy to just set in the wagon - are all used and greatly appreciated. Thank you. If you have any questions about this program feel free to ask Arlene Underwood.

MEAL MINISTRY

Donna Bernert

This is the second year St. Francis Meal Ministry has been successfully functioning. A total of 1,638 free hot meals have been served to our guests January through November 2023 at the Eureka Community Center. This is quite an increase from our first year of 2022 where we served 582 meals. We have served 561 dine in meals, 772 take home meals and 305 meals have been distributed to Victorian Gardens and Hilltop Manor senior centers.

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, Buren Chapel AME Church, Michelle's American Bistro & Catering, Most Sacred Heart Family Volunteer Ministry, Eureka Police and Fire Department, Super Smokers and Culver's Restaurants, The Knights of Columbus and The VFW Auxiliary Eureka #5468. Our goal is to have an interfaith and interracial mix reflecting the idea that we are all one people here on God's earth helping one another. We are working on having an LGBTQAI group serving our guests next year!

Invitations to our guests in need are distributed at these locations: The School Districts of Rockwood and Meramec Valley, The Giving Box located outside the Eureka Police station, 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, Catawissa, 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 \$1,200.00, Walmart has donated \$1,500.00 and St. Francis has designated \$1,400.00. We have also added several generous donations from individuals. The money donated from the Trivia night put together by Jackie Selle and Lori Scissors has been phenomenal! These donations have allowed St. Francis Meal Ministry to 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 guests.

Over the last two years St. Francis has gotten to know our guests by name, taking time to talk with them as they became part of our St. Francis Meal Ministry family.

Next year will present new challenges. We have learned that the Eureka Community Center will no longer be available to us as of March 2024. It will be used as a concession center for all the ball fields to be built in the surrounding area. Several locations are being considered for the future site of the meal ministry. Updates will be available as they become known. Please send prayers for us to locate a new venue.

The St. Francis Meal Ministry has new leadership this year as we go forward. Deacon David Luckes has added his knowledge and skills to helping improve and move forward with God's ministry to serving those less fortunate. Also, part of the St. Francis Meal Ministry committee is: Mary Ann Kinder, Jackie Dear, Anna Mackey, Sally Hader and Ruby Downs. Nothing can be accomplished by a single person; it takes a team! We are blessed to have this wonderful, tireless group to bring about the success St. Francis Meal Ministry has experienced the last two years. With God's help we will continue His work through 2024!

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!

PARTNERS



2A Eureka Leader



Serving
Eureka church's Meal Ministry provides more than 500 meals

By Tony Krausz
For the Leader

St. Francis' Episcopal Church in Eureka will continue its Meal Ministry, Sunday, April 30.

It will be the fourth time this year the church has served free, hot meals to those in need and anyone else who wants one.

The church partnered with numerous groups last year to serve 582 meals through its Meal Ministry, said Donna Bernert, the church's coordinator of service and justice.

The ministry provides meals from 3-3 p.m. on the fourth Sundays in January through October and from 2-3 p.m. the third Sundays in November and December at the Wm. F. "Bud" Weber Community Center, 333 Bald Hill Road, Legion Park.

The ministry served meals at the area commonly known as The Spur off South Central Avenue last year before moving to the community center.

Bernert said when the first meals were served in January 2022, only 14 were handed out. However, that number grew to 47 meals in June and peaked at 100 in November.

She said the ministry distributed 208 meals in the first three months of this year. "It is wonderful," Bernert said. "As the ministry was coming together, I would

Sally Hader, left, Doris Schaefer and Sue Schmidt serve chicken during a St. Francis' Episcopal Church's Meal Ministry event.

people in need in our town. We have met our neighbors and have gotten to know them and their needs.

"With God's help we have been helping to fulfill one aspect of their needs by offering them a free hot meal once a month. We will continue this work in the coming year of 2023, building our

community, God's community."

Bernert said the church partners with a different business or organization each month to get 100 meals to hand out during the Meal Ministry. She said if all 100 meals are not served at the community

center, the food is given to the Gardens and Hill communities in Eureka.

Bernert said that many groups agree to serve meals for the Hindu Temple Inn, American Tourist, LaSalle Recreation Center, YMCA, Buren Middle School, Michelle's American Home, Most Sacred Heart Ministry, Eureka Fire Department, Eureka Fire Pro-Smokers, Culver's and Knights of Columbus.

She said many people helped during the event.

"People are always willing to want to help," Bernert said. "We are a committee of people who get a hot meal to help people to help people to help people who help somebody else."

Bernert said the ministry has been successful in fulfilling its mission.

"Our goal is to work together to serve and help each other," Bernert said. "It is inter-faith and inter-racial. It does not matter what race we are or what god we pray to; we are all here to help each other."



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Bill Thompson

We resumed the blood pressure screenings (after Covid) on the second Sunday of each month, when possible. The participation with the parishioners has been good with at least 10 people getting regular pressures completed. Education is provided and our records are available to them upon request. We have been getting the best success in the narthex in between services. We are there from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Please stop by with any questions you may have.



DAYCARE

Bill Thompson

This past year has seen a lot of activity with Bright Big Beginnings Daycare. Adjusting the building and classrooms were a daunting task taken on by Admira Osmanovic, but she was able to receive her state certification. We do not know her current census as it is her business, not ours. She is able to make her monthly rent payments which is appreciated by St. Francis. The wifi and phone have been an issue at times requiring a reboot of the church system. Jeff Veenstra and Leslie Heberlie have been instrumental with correcting this. Every fall we have uninvited guests (crickets) make their presence known as the temperatures turn cold. Bugs Be Gone, out of Washington, MO, was able to rectify this with the least effect on the surrounding area. We look forward to helping Admira have another successful year.

STORIES OF SERVICE

We hosted an enormously fun trivia night to raise funds for local schools. Under the leadership of Jackie Selle, Caitlin Selle and Lori Scissors, we filled the Community Room with people eager to both have a great evening and support education. In 2024, we will host the trivia night again, though with a different fundraising goal: to collect funds to support the newly-launched Kathleen McDonald Memorial Scholarship, which benefits unhoused students at Pacific High School.



EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION

Janet Houseman

Episcopal City Mission 2023 St. Francis continues to support the juveniles in detention in St. Louis centers this year through three events. In August, Chaplin Deborah Burris celebrated with us at the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services. Loose plate collection was given to her and the intergenerational card making activity provided bundle of encouraging messages to the youth. The annual gala “A Moment in Time” on October 19th at Forest Park Golf Club was hosted by ECM. Four members of St. Francis donated a large quilt, two pieces of acrylic art and two pieces of photographic art for the silent auction. The “in kind” donation was estimated at \$300. Rev. Laurie and Janet attended this very special event. The Holiday Gift Card Collection for ECM, contributed additional funds for the staff to use in gift giving. The holiday wrapping party was December 18th and attended by Sylvia and Barb and Janet. The amount donated through this outreach was \$380.00.



Parishioners attended the party to wrap gifts collected for youth served by ECM.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Becky Hall

The Grounds Committee is composed of Becky Hall, Paul Becker, and Bob Smith. This year saw many changes to the Grounds, namely, the building of an ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting our two primary worship spaces—the building and the Memorial Garden.

Constructing the sidewalk took years of planning. The first step came in 2021 when Marsha Smith led the Storm Sewer Outflow Project. Installing a storm drain for run-off was essential before constructing the sidewalk. After this was complete and the ground had time to settle, Grounds Committee Chair Becky Hall began the work for the sidewalk. She spoke with civil engineers and contractors to draw plans, stake potential paths, and secure bids. Finally, she used all of this information to write a grant to the Diocese. The Diocese awarded St. Francis a grant in June of 2023. Construction began shortly thereafter. The sidewalk was blessed on a blistering hot day, August 20. The sidewalk provided the simple access needed for the interment of ashes of Lee Pruitt and Cindy Dougherty in October and for our All Saints liturgy on November 5.

While we were fortunate this year to begin to hire a landscaping company to routinely weed the Memorial Garden beds and lay down mulch, the entire parish was still needed to keep our grounds looking sharp! During the Spring and Summer months, parishioners volunteered to weed and water a particular flower bed on the church grounds. In the Spring and Fall, the Grounds Committee also spearheaded clean up days. A handful of parishioners helped to complete projects to maintain our trees and beds.



Many thanks to the Grounds Committee of Becky Hall, Paul Becker and Bob Smith for coordinating this work and to all who volunteered! As 2023 came to a close, Becky Hall stepped down as Chair of the committee. She accomplished so much in her two years of leadership. Thank you, Becky! Paul Becker also plans to move to North Carolina in January, 2024. St. Francis is seeking new leaders for this important ministry.

**KEEPING OUR GROUNDS
BEAUTIFUL**



MEMORIAL GARDEN

Barb Sacco

Wayne Hoover is the newest member of the committee, joining Arlene Underwood, Doris Schaefer and Barb Sacco. Following the committee's thorough review of current and future projected costs for the Memorial Garden the Bishops Committee voted to approve our recommendation for an increase to \$1400 to be included in the Memorial Garden effective mid December 2023 and a 2 percent increase per year starting in 2025. The congregation was given the opportunity to purchase inclusion at the original \$1,000 cost until early December. The committee will be looking for a new member in January 2024 to replace Barb Sacco.



NEW ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALK



MLK SERVICE DAY

Katie Jones

On January 16th, 2023, parishioners from St. Francis' along with volunteers from LaSalle Springs National Junior Honor Society and Eureka High School National Honor Society spent the day at Camp Wyman in Eureka to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's legacy of service. Approximately sixty volunteers spent several hours assisting with repair projects around the camp to prepare for Wyman's summer program, which aims to empower teens from economically disadvantaged circumstances in leading successful lives and building strong communities. The event was a success as it served to further develop our partnership with the Wyman Center, and many volunteers plan to return for the upcoming 2024 service day.





FACES OF ST. FRANCIS'