



# St. Cross

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · [www.stcross.org](http://www.stcross.org)

**114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
January 28, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.



St. Cross Church, Christmas Eve 2023

## Current Vestry Members

with the number of years remaining for their term of office

Lavinia Henley 2

John McBane 2

Michelle Weissenberg 2

Joe Desparte 1

Larry Johnson 1

Lori Schreier 1

Jack Tedford 1

Greg Bellavia 0

Jessica Gregg 0

Dennis Ittner 0

Lizabeth Thompson 0



# Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Appointment by the Rector of the Clerk of the meeting
- Approval of the Minutes, January 29, 2023
- Report of the Nominating Committee
- Introduction of Nominees
- Nominations from the floor
- Election of Vestry persons, Delegates to Diocesan Convention, and Endowment Committee
- Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members
- Rector's Report
- Review of the 2023 Budget and Presentation of 2024 Budget
- Outgoing Senior Warden's Report
- Parish Reports
- Announcement of 2024 Vestry
- Closing Benediction



## Minutes of the 113th Annual Meeting - January 29, 2023

The 113th Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:32 am by the Reverend Dr. Rachel Nyback. Reverend Rachel gave the opening prayer. Anne Tittle was appointed clerk for the meeting. Approval of the January 30, 2022 Minutes was moved by Scott Crowell and seconded by Patsy Brierley. The motion was passed unanimously.

### Nominating Committee - Vestry

Nominated for three-year terms are Scott Crowell, Lavinia Henley, John McBane, and Michelle Weissenberg. There were no nominations from the floor. Cameron Johnson moved to close the slate, Charlotte Lesser seconded. Motion to close the slate passed unanimously. As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate passed unanimously.

### Diocesan Convention

Nominations were taken from the floor for delegates. There were no nominations from the floor.

Those nominated were: Susan Tsutsumi, Cameron Johnson, Lizabeth Thompson, and Patsy Brierley with Anne Tittle as alternate. Scott Crowell moved to close the slate, and Bill Soper seconded. The slate of delegates passed unanimously.

### Endowment Committee

Patsy Brierley will be returning to the committee and Seth Barnes will be joining. Since there were no nominations from the floor, the slate as stated was passed unanimously. Amy Hanrahan moved, and Carol Reznichuk seconded.

Rev. Dr. Rachel Nyback thanked the four outgoing Vestry members.

### Rector's Report

Rev. Dr. Rachel reviewed plans for her upcoming sabbatical. She invited questions regarding the written report that was shared. She highlighted that Britt is the new communications coordinator. Christian Education expenses will go up to correct the decline that happened in 2021. She reviewed parish property expenses, building and grounds was below budget but expenses are upcoming, particularly related to the kitchen stove in Parker Hall (line 143). The women's bathroom in the church building will also be remodeled. She answered questions about Art of the Possible and made remarks about planned giving. She verbally thanked Jim Sullivan and Jack Tedford for helping the church end the year so well, adding that rental properties have done well, staying at 100% occupancy with a 6% rent increase coming in August. She added that Janine Johnson has been phenomenal at managing the properties. There is a \$67,000 surplus at year's end, with a \$92,000 deficit planned for 2023.

## Minutes of the 113th Annual Meeting (Continued)

### Treasurer's Report – Jim Sullivan

Treasurer Jim Sullivan invited questions about the budget and written report.

Malinda Difley asked if the Art of the Possible Budget was included and Jim answered yes, at \$50,000. Line 23 of the budget includes this amount.

Bill Soper asked that line item numbers be shared during verbal reports.

Scott Crowell thanked the Vestry for a balanced budget and asked why the Youth Choir director's salary is doubling. Jim answered that she was underpaid. Seth added that some large increases reflect things that came back online post COVID.

Amy Hanrahan asked if line 71 is related to Art of the Possible, and Jim explained that this is the Church Re-Imagined consultant's fee.

Rev. Rachel added that many churches are projecting deficits in 2023. She thanked Mary, Jim, and Seth with the addition of Jack to the finance committee.

### Senior Warden's Report

Seth Barnes gave an overview of the year and explained how the Vestry shifted to the formation of committees.

Rev. Rachel asked if there were questions for the Senior Warden, and there were none.

### Closing Prayer:

Reverend Josh Paget offered a closing prayer.

Links to documents were shared in the chat for an additional time. The 113th Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Tittle, Outgoing Vestry Clerk



**Reports by  
Senior Warden  
and  
Clergy**



## Senior Warden

Two years ago, Rev. Rachel asked me to do another 3-year tour on the Vestry so that I could work with my predecessor (Seth Barnes) for a year before stepping into the role of Senior Warden in 2023, when Rev. Rachel would go on sabbatical. In the months leading up to her leave, Rev. Rachel spent countless hours with me, Seth, Rev. Stephen, Rev. Josh and others to plan ahead and make sure that St. Cross would not miss a beat. She created flip-charts galore, detailing who would be responsible for the needs of the church, congregation and community while she was out. Thanks not only to her, but also to St. Cross's dedicated staff, clergy and parishioners, St. Cross ably continued its mission to be a community serving others as a sign of God's love.

At last year's Vestry retreat, we focused on a number of practical, as well as big picture, items. We talked about a vision for restoration and growth, as we continue to emerge from and adjust to life after the pandemic, and look for opportunities to expand our services to the congregation and the community. We discussed roles of vestries in the Episcopal Church: to be fiduciaries; to help formulate a strategic vision for the parish; and to be generative as the vestry and parish collectively remain open to the nudging of the Holy Spirit.

On the practical side, we talked about the most pressing work and issues we expected to face in 2023 – particularly while Rev. Rachel was on sabbatical – and how to approach them. We identified some goals that we wanted to achieve. We created lists of things that the Vestry would do, and things that the Vestry would not do, in Rev. Rachel's absence. Ironically, though mostly in jest, number one on the list of things the Vestry would not do was "sell any property."

A few years ago, the Hermosa Beach City Council adopted a "Housing Element" in which, among other things, the City needed to identify properties that have capacity for the development of low-income housing units. St. Cross's parcels were included in the "site inventory" because we indicated an interest in building additional affordable and market-rate units on our residential properties. In response to comments by the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"), the City prepared a revised Housing Element. On June 20, 2023, the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the City Council adopt the revised Housing Element. On August 8, 2023, the City Council adopted the revised Housing Element, making some changes to address concerns raised by some who opposed re-zoning all of St. Cross's parcels as R-3 (multiple-family residential). Specifically, the Housing Element proposed the creation of a new zone, called R-2A (medium density residential), for substantially all of the parcels owned by St. Cross. Most recently, on October 27, 2023, the HCD advised the City that it needs to make further revisions to the Housing Element in order to comply with state law. As a result, it appears that the City will again need to go through the process of preparing a revised Housing Element and submitting it to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval. We will continue to monitor this process.

I cannot express enough thanks to Rev. Josh and Trudy Bush, as well as other clergy and staff, who worked with me to learn about the history and content of the proposed Housing Element, and to try to thoughtfully and patiently address concerns raised by neighbors and others who dropped by, called, emailed, texted, distributed flyers, made petitions, and put up lawn signs expressing concerns and/or opposition. As the City further revises the Housing Element to try to address the HCD's most recent comments, please feel free to reach out to Rev. Rachel and me with any questions or concerns that you have. We will do our best to keep you apprised of developments when we know about them.

I'd like to thank Junior Warden Lizabeth Thompson, Treasurer Michelle Weissenberg, Secretary Lori Schreier, and other Vestry members – Greg Bellavia, Joe DesParte, Jess Gregg, Lavinia Henley, Dennis Ittner, Larry Johnson and John McBane – for their steadfast leadership and devotion. I especially want to thank Dennis, who agreed to be appointed to finish the term of a prior Vestry member and is now being nominated for a full 3-year term.

A special thanks also goes out to our dedicated staff for carrying out the day-to-day business of St. Cross – Trudy Bush, Judi Kelly, Cameron Johnson, Sean O'Neal and Britt Swain. A particularly big shout out to our facilities manager and honorary Coffee Crew member Robin Chatfield, who I especially appreciate because she helps us set up coffee and tea on Sunday mornings.

And of course, a very special thank you to Rev. Rachel, Rev. Josh, Rev. Stephen, and Rev. Patti for continually shepherding us as we pursue our purpose of being a community that serves others as a sign of God's love!

Jack Tedford, Senior Warden

## Rector Report

When I look back at this year, I am a bit stunned at how much has happened in twelve months. We have baptized and buried. We have prayed and studied. We have traveled and discerned. We have gathered for worship, encouraged deeper discipleship and grown our faith. We have been disciplined about stewardship and have worked towards being more generous with our outreach. We have continued to serve others as a sign of God's love.

In the early part of the year after the annual meeting, the Vestry went on retreat to Camp Stevens. There we worked with our consultant, The Very Rev. Jennifer McKenzie to further our call to discipleship, restoration and growth, while understanding the key roles and responsibilities of the Vestry. We set expectations for me and for the Vestry as we prepared for my sabbatical. In January, Rev. Stephen also started his parental leave with the birth of his son, Bruce.

In February, a pilgrimage group from St. Cross and St. Dunstan's, Carmel Valley went to the Holy Land. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is always an eye-opening experience no matter what sites you visit, where you pray, or who you meet. We were privileged to worship at St. Andrew's in Ramallah, the church where my colleague Fr. Fadi Diab is the rector. As always, it is a profound experience to celebrate the Eucharist at this altar and I thank him for that opportunity. Our pilgrims returned wanting to help Palestinian artists. So, they organized a "Christmas in July" sale of Palestinian handmade items, with all the proceeds going to St. Andrew's school in Ramallah. Additionally, even though I was on sabbatical/family leave, Fr. Fadi and his family were in Southern California and Fr. Fadi preached on the same Sunday as the sale. At the time of our pilgrimage, we clearly had no idea of the events that would follow in October of this year between Hamas and Israel. We continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, holding onto hope in very dark times.

For Lent, we did a Lenten study online with the Rev. Julie Beals and Christ Church/St. Andrews in Redondo Beach. We also shared in walking/praying the Stations of the Cross Friday evenings at many of the South Bay Episcopal churches. During Lent we sponsored the Concert for the Human Family which has been touring the US, put on by The Episcopal Church. Easter Sunday was a joyful day with Easter Egg hunts, baptisms and a packed house.

Before leaving on Sabbatical I wanted to introduce the concept of planned giving to some members of our congregation. Kathy Shinkle and Charlotte Lesser agreed to help me in this endeavor. We invited members of our congregation to a dinner at Tin Roof. It wasn't a complete failure, but I should have listened to my instincts, rather than what the professionals recommend. I did not follow up with members after the dinner. I want to clarify the need and purpose for planned giving to St. Cross, and why it is important to support our endowments for the continued mission and ministry in years to come. And I hope to revisit this challenge with greater clarity and compassion this coming year.

We also continued to have our Discernment Study Year intern, Michael Allen, who came to us from St. Luke's, Long Beach. Michael spent his time with us serving in various capacities in worship, outreach and education. He was a great, cheerful support, willing to try anything and to learn all that he could in his time with us. While his time should have concluded in June, he extended a bit (we started a bit late also) to experience as much of mission and ministry at St. Cross as possible.



## Rector Report (Continued)

I am exceedingly thankful for the work of our Buildings and Grounds Committee, led by Bruce Difley. This committee keeps our plant running smoothly and safely with the help of our facilities manager Robin Chatfield. They fully renovated the women's restroom. Additionally, along with the help of Sarah Ferris and Kathy Shinkle, they submitted a grant to FEMA to upgrade the security around our campus. This has been a concern for some time for a multiplicity of reasons, including the fact that we host a Jewish Temple and antisemitism is on the rise.

I left for sabbatical in May. I was about two weeks in when my aunt and uncle in Idaho had significant health problems. This resulted in my uncle being in a nursing facility for seven months, and my aunt dying in June. I am their medical and legal power of attorney, and my sabbatical was spent caring for them in all areas of their life. Thus, it was not a sabbatical at all. In speaking with the Senior Warden and associates, I requested to end sabbatical to save the time for 2024 and return to work. However, with the Vestry's approval, they graciously told me to take the time I needed as family leave, and we would work out additional time off in the year to come. I am deeply grateful for this gift of time to care for my family who have no one else to care for them.

Which brings me to our Senior Warden, Jack Tedford, and our two associates Rev. Stephen and Rev. Josh. Wow! Just Wow! While out during the summer, the housing element for the city of Hermosa Beach, as mandated by the state, was under review. Due to a few misconceptions, St. Cross was put front and center, and neighbors were told (erroneously) that we were going to tear down all our buildings and build five story apartment buildings. Rest assured this was NEVER St. Cross's plan. These three leaders, plus the Vestry and staff went to many City Council meetings, wrote updates to the parish, worked with the city, listened to concerned citizens and neighbors. It was a lot to do, and they did it with dignity and grace every step of the way.

The Vestry authorized a group called the Art of the Possible several years back. This committee continues to discern what is possible for redevelopment on our rental properties and how we can best use them to meet the needs of our community given the statewide housing crisis. The committee has spoken with land use consultants and an architect; however, we have come to no definitive conclusions. We are/were waiting to see not only what the city would allow us to do in the new housing element, but also to see what laws were passed by the state pertaining to churches building on their properties (SB4). This discernment group continues to be active, and to gather information to lead us down the path to discern the most faithful use of the riches of property that we have.

The Finance Committee, which was formalized during 2020, has continued to meet monthly, tracking our income and expenditures, discussing larger expenditures to rental property and our church plant. We were concerned coming into the year with a projected \$92k deficit. Though, through careful management and one committee not spending what they thought they might, we ended the year with a \$45k surplus. Another recommendation from our auditor, which the finance committee recommended to the Vestry (and was passed by the Vestry), was to be more transparent about our Special Repair Fund. That fund was originally established over 15 years ago when I became rector and is funded by monies from years when we have had a surplus. However, the Vestry has occasionally wanted and needed to use the money for building up our mission and ministry, especially after the COVID-19 lockdown years. Thus, we divided the fund into two funds: one remaining the Special Repair Fund, and a second now named the Ministry Development Fund.

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## Rector Report (Continued)

One area where the finance committee has long wanted to strengthen our resources was with our investment portfolio. Our investments are reported upon monthly in the financial statements for the Vestry (to which anyone is welcome to request a copy). Malinda Difley has unfailingly and generously tracked our investments and taken care of incoming stock gifts and liquidation through her wider group at Wells Fargo. She has come to endowment and finance committee meetings to report. The Endowment Committee has focused more on disbursement than investment policy and choices. The Finance Committee hasn't always had the dedicated time to review the portfolio, thought not for a lack of effort on Malinda's part. After consulting other parishes with significant endowments, we learned that the best practice is to have a separate Investment Committee whose sole purpose is to regularly review our investments, make suggestions as the market shifts, seek professional advice, and also review investment firms as an act of due diligence. While the Vestry voted to form this committee and to authorize a possible move of our investments IF the Investment Committee so recommended, this committee was not able to come together in 2023. And they will meet in January of 2024 to formalize their purpose, goals, and set a regular meeting time to review our portfolio.

We began the new program year with a wonderful St. Cross Day celebration with a pizza truck. You honored my fiancé and me with a generous, fun, wedding shower. Most attended our Consecration Sunday luncheon. We had a special coffee hour when Bishop Taylor came for his visit in early October, when he confirmed ten members of our congregation. Clearly, a highlight of my year was celebrating my marriage to Chad Druten with all of you gathered on October 28. Thank you to everyone who helped, prayed, participated, and watched online. While I thought the love in the room was palpable only to me, person after person has remarked that they felt the same power of love, and have said what an amazing parish all of you are, hospitable and welcoming. Thank you for the gift of being present on that beautiful, love-filled day.

It is an honor to continue to serve as your rector. I thank the Vestry, clergy and staff for their tireless work, on behalf of our parish. I look forward to our continued growth, development of our faith through discipleship, and discerning what we are called to do with our rental properties. I look forward to a faith filled 2024 with all of you.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Rachel+

## Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development

Whether it is hard times or hopeful times, with you it is always a holy time, and it is a privilege to share this faithful journey with you and everyone at St. Cross.

Pastoral Care at St. Cross has a wide variety of expressions. From flowers, prayer shawls, hot meals sent to homes. To visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and offering home blessings. And services like Blue Christmas and the Requiem concert. Pastoral care can be individual and corporate, practical and spiritual.

Community development includes managing outreach ministries and also representing St. Cross in our civic life. Part of my duties concerning community development is to oversee outreach ministries. Most of which have their own reports also appearing in this annual report. I am continually inspired and impressed by the commitment of St. Cross to reach out to people with care and grace, offering food, clean clothes, a place to stay, and a warm community. Please read about these outreach ministries. I encourage you to become more involved with outreach. It's likely your outreach experience will bring new life to your faith.

Participating in the civic life of our community, through this role, is a real treat for me. I love that St. Cross is asked to bless the Christmas trees, volunteers and employees at the Kiwanis Christmas tree lot. I was also honored to give an invocation at the city's 9/11 Memorial Service. This year, we had a new civic opportunity: blessing the weiner dogs before the weiner dog races. This event may seem a bit silly, but anytime I can be out in the community in my collar to call attention to the goodness of creation and the moments we share in it, I am happy and honored to do so. Being engaged in the community in this manner throughout the year, makes it more meaningful when we are involved with the gatherings that are tense or heartbreaking. As clergy, we also participated in the housing element conversation at city council. I represented St Cross, along with other members and clergy of the church, in the difficult and important conversation about the rezoning of our property. When misinformation circulated and members of the community were worried, it was part of my role as Associate in Community Develop to maintain relationship and communication about our hopes and intentions regarding housing on our property. Additionally, our clergy participated in the candlelight vigil on the pier after the Oct 7th attack on Israel. We show up for the city when it is heartwarming or heavy hearted.

Throughout the year we gathered for SACK Lunch. This lunch and learn type of event offers a mid-week moment to gather as a community for spiritual reflection, relationship building and community engagement. We had a diverse group of speakers: Artists and activists, educators and entertainers. It is inspiring to be a part of a faith group that continues to learn and grow deeper relationships within the church and with the community. Throughout the year we also gathered for Adult Ed, and Bible Bites. I am grateful for the insights and experiences shared as we study Scripture together.

St. Cross clergy were involved in a number of funerals at St. Cross and other venues this Spring and Summer. We believe that in death life has changed, not ended. That change is filled with such sadness that we want to offer space and relationships for grief to be held tenderly.

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## Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development (Cont.)

During Lent, we again offered the Stations of the Cross, a wonderful, collaborative art installation on the themes of Holy Week. We had original paintings, collage, compositions, experiential pieces, knitting, and drawing. The project shows off creative talent from all ages in the congregation. And more importantly, it invites us into the spirituality of Holy Week in a meaningful and experiential way. During Lent, we also partnered with other Episcopal churches to combine and collaborate on services. There is much to share and learn from our neighboring Episcopal communities and I look forward to further developing shared ministry with those congregations.

During the Summer, I was once again excited to participate in our VBS. It is so fun and affirming to be a witness to the transformation of our older youth as they step into leadership roles as camp counselors and station leaders. And of course equally affirming to watch the excitement of the younger kids as campers as they learn about the Bible and begin asking probing questions about our beliefs. Also this Summer, led by our youth, we expressed our support of the LGBTQ community by painting a display in our front windows.

Our music programs have also been an integral part of our community development. In the beginning of the year we hosted a program called "The Concert for the Human Family." The program designed by the church at large, created an evening of music with a message of reconciliation. Later in the year we hosted two events designed by our own Sean O'neal. An evening of remembrance which featured the choir's performance of John Rutter's Requiem, with some poetry readings on grief. And of course The Messiah is an annual tradition which ushers in the Christmas season for the whole community.

Another great joy of this ministry has been to work with Rev. Stephen on developing the Faith @ 5 service. I am grateful for his vision for the service and his inviting me to collaborate with him. I love seeing the families together, getting to know each other and sharing their faith in worship, conversation and fellowship. Thank you to all the families who have journeyed with us, helping with set up, design, food, and liturgy.

I am grateful to be serving at St. Cross where ministry is diverse and rewarding. Thank you to everyone who supported projects and services throughout the year.

In Christ, Rev. Josh

## Associate for Christian Formation

In addition to my normal priestly duties, a good chunk of my time this past year, besides trying wrangle a newborn, was spent thinking about how Christian Formation is changing. Coming out of the pandemic, churches across the county have struggled with how to do Christian Formation during a time in which the models for church programming are no longer as effective as they were thirty or forty years ago. At St. Cross, we have begun addressing some of these issues by holding meetings with parents and Sunday School Teachers and also by creating committees to discuss the ways in which the Holy Spirit is moving in our church. Throughout this process, we have gotten a bit of clarity on **why** we do Christian Formation in the first place and how that **“why”** can guide the kind of programming we hope to offer at St. Cross moving forward. We identified the longstanding St. Cross programs that are near and dear to the hearts of many parishioners and we have also been gifted to opportunity to be creative and develop new ministries.

This year a number of our beloved St. Cross formation ministries continued to offer folks a space to grow closer to God and one another. Sunday School continued at 9am every Sunday and provided programming for preschoolers all the way through high school. In addition to Sunday School, our Adult Education group explored a wide range of topics on Sunday morning. Vacation Bible School (VBS), a week-long day camp for elementary school children, was a hit over the summer. It drew in both children from St. Cross and from around the South Bay. This year's Christmas Pageant was beautiful and used the same script that St. Cross has used for the past fifty or so years. After months of preparation, a group of St. Cross teenagers were confirmed by Bishop John Taylor in September. St. Cross continued to offer a number of meaningful formation programs to all ages over the course of this last year.

This year we thought creatively about how we as a church do Christian Formation. We introduced a new family-focused service called Faith@5 that is held monthly at 5pm. The service provides a space for worship and fellowship, but it's also designed to be a space for families of all ages to practice faith in ways similar to how they might at home. Faith@5 takes place in the Parish Hall, where folks sit at round tables to share a meal, and the sermon is a discussion between parishioners of all ages at the tables. We also reorganized our Sunday School program by creating an Upper Elementary School class and combining our middle school and high school classes to create a youth group. The intent of reorganizing the classes was to provide the children and the adults with more of an opportunity to build relationships with each other.

It's the building of relationships, which I think St. Cross does so well, that gives me hope for the future of the Christian Formation ministries during a somewhat uncertain time. Our formation programs are led by a group of oh-so-talented volunteers. Their dedication to providing a safe and loving place for the children, youth, and adults at St. Cross to grow deeper in their faith is incredible. Christian Formation at this church wouldn't be possible without them.

Peace,  
Stephen

## Reports by Groups and Guilds

### Core Values:

- *Enjoy a casual atmosphere with a traditional setting*
- *Nurture spiritual development of all generations*
- *Express Christ's love through hospitality and play*
- *Glorify God through serving others*
  - *A sacred space to be you*



## Acolytes

The Acolyte Ministry has for generations provided a path of spiritual growth and service for the youth of St. Cross Church. This important ministry continues to serve our parish by providing an opportunity for our youth to grow in their faith, directly participating in services. We are always looking for new members to join the Acolyte teams. If you have questions about the Acolyte program or have a child that may be interested in participating, please reach out to Chad Druten or Brett Tittle for more information. A huge thank you to the 15 youth who serve so enthusiastically, including a big shout out to Adam Tittle who dedicates his time working so hard with them, and thanks to all the parents who support them!

Chad Druten, Brett Tittle

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild works closely with the parish clergy and staff and if there is a Eucharist, Baptism, Funeral or Wedding, you can guess that an Altar Guild member had a hand in the preparation. Our members serve on one of four teams which rotate each week. On Saturday mornings for an hour or so they tidy the church and set-up for the services that will take place the next day. On Sunday, team members are distributed between the two services for a quick set-up or clean-up. They also prepare any other services that may come up during that week and maintain the sacred items that are used during worship. As Easter and Christmas approach we make the church extra beautiful.

**Altar Guild members during 2023:** Donna Cheslick, Bea Floyd, Laura Geisel, Kathy Gonzalez, Virginia Green, Barbara Harris-Holdrege, Sharon Isaac, Megan Ittner, Ruth Krusic, Kim Larsen, Diane Loughbom, Marge Lyons, Andrea Miller, Bonnie McNaughton, Lenora Nicholls, Judy Soper, Judy Spragg, Lizabeth Thompson, Susan Tsutsumi, and Patricia Woolley. Cyd Thornton serves as a substitute when needed.

Sub-groups offer additional time and talent:

The **Sewing Guild** meets regularly to mend linens and vestments or create new ones.

The **Wedding Guild** headed up by Marge Lyons coordinates details leading up to the rehearsal and on the big day.

Members of the **Flower Ministry** come together to make small bouquets from the flowers that you see in church on Sunday. They make fresh bouquets for the niches in the Columbarium, for the sick, the homebound, the celebrating, and for people who have done extraordinary things for the church. In 2023 we delivered more than 250 bouquets of fresh flowers to members and friends of St. Cross. It is a fantastically rewarding ministry for all of them. You can help. We are always in need of vases of all sizes. We need people to do Sunday Flower Dedications and need names of people to receive our bouquets. Current members are Judy Soper, Sarah Ferris, Katherine Crockett, Mary Malone, and Elizabeth Carfrae but there is room for more.

While many activities traditionally done by our Altar Guild could be easily seen as “housework” to an outsider, I’m certain that each member would give you a different reason why they participate in this ministry of service. Some find the work centering or find greater meaning in the Eucharist, others develop longtime friendships, and some like knowing that they have prepared the church to be beautiful and welcoming to all. I cherish the quiet moments when I’m working in the church alone. Altar Guild is definitely a behind the scenes ministry but it is one that is important and appreciated.

If this ministry is of interest to you – please contact me! We would love new members and I think you will love us as well.

Susan Tsutsumi, Altar Guild Directress

## Art of the Possible

The Art of the Possible Committee continues to examine just that. What is possible for development of our rental properties. This year we continued conversations with an architect, not for any definite plan, but about what might be possible with and without a developer. We had a \$50k budget for the year, but only spent a small portion in our request for an environmental soil sample test, which will help us determine what might be able to be built on the different parcels.

In the Summer of 2023, St. Cross became the focal point of the housing conversation taking place in Hermosa Beach and in every city across the state.

A group of neighbors expressed concern about the potential for development including excessive height, increased traffic, increased demand on utilities, and diminished views. They organized a campaign against the housing element, specifically the number of units the city proposed be built on the St. Cross site.

In the absence of our rector who was away on sabbatical and family leave, Senior Warden Jack Tedford and Associate Rector Rev. Josh organized the church's response and community engagement. The church emphasized that the rezoning was the work of the city and that we were amicable to the change. The people of St. Cross have always sought to serve the community around us and we recognize that housing is a critical need for communities across the state, including here in Hermosa Beach. We conveyed this position through a series of public comments at city council hearings, social media posts, and open letters to the community sent to our email list.

Ultimately, the city decided to decrease the amount of development allowed on the St. Cross property, as compared to what the city originally proposed to allow, and pursued zone changes elsewhere in the city to fulfill the rest of the State of California's mandate. The city passed the plan in August. It was rejected by the state in October. We anticipate the housing conversation will continue into 2024.

We are glad that the city and community are addressing the issue of housing even though the conversations can be tense. We care about our community and we care about housing stability throughout the region. We are glad to be included in the conversation and hope to help produce practical results.

If you would like to be a part of the conversation, contact Rev. Rachel or Rev. Josh about how you can become more educated and engaged in this issue.

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Anne Nyback, Rector

## Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee provides services to the St. Cross Church Parishioners, Vestry, and Staff. It serves as an advisory board to the Facilities Staff, and it actively participates in many of the necessary activities required to maintain and repair campus buildings and grounds. The Committee also advises on budgets, yearly maintenance, and provides expert help to oversee projects, and/or renovations. The Committee Membership provides an opportunity for parishioners to use their skills and experiences in the building trades to support Christ's love by helping the organization and sharing hospitality.

With the Facilities Manager reporting to the Building and Grounds Committee, we were able to provide oversight to many maintenance and improvement projects during the 2023 year. With the help of several external advisors, the Ladies Restroom in the Church was renovated with new flooring, lighting, and wash counters. Thank you to Sarah Ferris, Malinda Difley, and Laura Geisel. They were assisted by Committee Members Brian Wilcox and Dave Garrett. In a separate project, Dave Garrett completed the repair and rebuild of the stained-glass windows in the Guild Room and the Rector's Office.

We also had several unexpected repair projects that Facilities Manager, Robin Chatfield, managed effectively. This included a very leaky roof in Parker Hall, and a clogged drainpipe which required floor removal and replacement in Parker Hall.

The Committee also assisted with the Landscape sub-Committee on upgrades to the Church Grounds.

We very much mourn the passage of St. Cross Church's first Facilities Manager, Dave Dawson, who passed away on April 15, 2023.

Thank you to Robin Chatfield, Committee Members, and all Vestry Members for their support and interest. The Building and Grounds Committee stands ready to work with the Vestry, Clergy and the Congregation to maintain and cherish the church campus.

Submitted by Bruce Difley for the Building and Grounds Committee

## Chapel Columbarium

In 1993, the chapel of St. Cross received the gift of a 32 niche columbarium, the gift of Sara (Sally) Zana Reznichuk, in memory of her late husband, Dr. Cyrus G. Reznichuk. Armento Liturgical Arts in Buffalo, New York was chosen to construct the interior. Upon receipt of the internal structures and exterior solid bronze plates, Ralph Colbert began to assemble the niche frames. Upon completion of the framework, Ralph proceeded to finish the exterior in vertical oak paneling. Sally's gift also included the hanging Perpetual Light lamp, a bronze flower urn and the black marble shelf. The columbarium was dedicated on November 30, 1993.

In February 1994, The Alpha and Omega section, with an additional 64 spaces was dedicated by Suffragan Bishop Chester Talton. In 1998, Ralph again shared his expertise with the St. Cross parishioners by placing The Chi Rho Addition (also called the PAX addition), containing 48 niches on the chapel west wall. Ralph then continued by placing another set of 48 niches beneath the stained glass on the chapel north wall. The newest additions to the columbarium were dedicated, which brought the total to 192 columbarium niches.

As of December 31, 2023, the Original Legacy Section, the Alpha & Omega Addition, and the PAX addition are completely committed (reserved or inurned). Jesus in the Carpenter's Shop has 2 available spaces (not side-by-side). The Parker Memorial Addition has 3 available spaces (1 single; 2 side-by-side). Jesus in the Temple Addition has 6 available spaces (all can be side-by-side at this time). The total number of niches available for purchase is 11. The current price per niche remains at \$2,550.00 for parishioners and \$4,050.00 for non-parishioners.

Because the columbarium is fast approaching capacity, a committee has been formed to consider the feasibility of expanding the columbarium. The members of that committee are The Rev. Rachel Nyback; The Rev. Canon Paul Lawson; The Rev. Patti Angelo, and Bruce Difley.

In 2023, the following parishioners were inurned:

Richard Holliday McCurdy

Sonia Tallerup McCoy

Maureen Patricia O'Connell Husted

Charles Warren Bruley, Jr.

Mary Margaret Johnson

Leonard William Maisch

It is with sadness that I announce the retirement of Steve Miller from this committee. For the last several years, Steve has acted as co-chair. He has been responsible for opening and closing all niches (not an easy task!) and having name plates engraved when someone has died. I am deeply grateful for his quick response when called upon, and his faithfulness to this ministry. He is already missed! However, I am overjoyed to announce that Bruce Difley has graciously agreed to be a part of this committee, taking over from Steve.

It is an honor and privilege for this committee to serve the St. Cross community.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Patti Angelo, Columbarium Chair

Steve Miller, Columbarium Co-Chair Emeritus

## Christian Formation - Adult Ed

The core of our Adult Education takes place on Sunday mornings at 9am. The clergy lead these classes, which are based on topics from a book called *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*. The class journeys through parts of the *Book of Common Prayer*, the Christian life, the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and teachings of the Anglican Christianity.

Rev. Stephen Smith, Associate for Christian Formation



## Christian Formation - Children and Youth

The core of our Christian Formation program takes place at 9 am on Sunday mornings. We have four classrooms that offer Sunday School for children and youth, ranging from Pre-K to high school. There are also special events like the Christmas pageant, youth outings, and the MLK Youth Retreat -- all geared toward deepening our children's and youth's sense of spirituality.

### Godly Play

Our five Godly play teachers are amazing and dedicated to teaching the Godly Play curriculum. There are two Godly Play classes at St. Cross: Atrium 1 (3 year old – kindergarten) and Atrium 2 (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade). Godly Play is based on Montessori principles and helps children explore their faith through hearing and responding to bible stories. Children are invited to wonder, ask questions, and be creative using props from the story, art, or play to express their *own* ideas.

### Upper Elementary

Upper Elementary offers Sunday School education to our children 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Two awesome and dedicated teachers volunteer with this group, working off of a curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit. The curriculum follows the daily lectionary and encourages children to engage with the Bible, ask questions, and express themselves.

### Youth Group

We combined our middle school and high school class this year to form a youth group. The group meets during the 9am hour. They use a curriculum called the Living Compass to guide their classes and they also cover information relevant to the pilgrimage the group will go on in 2025. We have four experienced teachers who lead the youth group.

### Confirmation and Confirm not Conform (CNC)

CNC is a curriculum that helps the older high school youth (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders) explore the core faith of the church, as well as other faiths. We used it this year to prepare a group of six teens for Confirmation in September.

### Vacation Bible School

Thanks to the dedicated and creative adult and youth volunteers, the children had a wonderful VBS experience that included music and dancing, Bible stories, crafts, science projects, and even time to interact with Super Meer, the puppet! The theme was "Hero Hotline" and featured the passage from Romans 14:19, "So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things the build each other up." We had fifteen adult volunteers, twenty-three youth volunteers, and forty children participate.

*Continues on next page*

## **Christian Formation - Children and Youth (Continued)**

### **Christmas Pageant**

Our wonderful children, youth, and adult volunteers helped to put on a beautiful performance in December. Forty young people and thirty-five adult volunteers made the production possible. A special thanks to Michelle Weissenberg and Jess Gregg for leading the efforts in organizing this year's pageant.

### **Thank you to our volunteer Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders!**

Samantha Barnes, Eugenie Baumann, Cecily Bray, Patsy Brierley, Vicki Fahrenholz, Erica Lynett, Kimberly Konis, Mary Malone, Eileen Mathews, Bonnie McNaughton, Holly Milburn-Smith, Corinne Sanchez, Anne Tittle, Brett Tittle, and Michelle Weissenberg, and Emma Siegfried.

Rev. Stephen Smith, Associate for Christian Formation

## Communications Coordinator

I would first like to thank the Staff, Clergy, Vestry and Parishioners at St. Cross for working with me, collaborating with me, and supporting me throughout 2023. My first full year at St. Cross was full of transitioning, training, and learning. Your patience and well wishes have been greatly appreciated.

One big project this past year was taking on an unexpected privacy update with our online contact system, OnRealm. With this update, I had to get feedback from all parishioners on their personal information. Although this was a huge task, it allowed me to get one on one time with practically all the parishioners, as well as staff at St. Cross. It ended up being a great experience for me getting to speak to so many of you, seeing your faces, and getting to know you better. I'm usually in the Control Room before, during, and after services on Sundays, so many of you had not even seen me until then. (Feel free to stop by and say Hello). Through that project I was able to experience the truly wonderful, caring, thoughtful community of people we have at St. Cross. I'm looking forward to getting to know the St. Cross community more in 2024 and beyond!

I definitely cannot reflect on 2023 without shouting out Matt Welch. I've said it before, and I'll say it again...I would not be able to do this without him. He is always there for me when I need back up on Sundays or other events that require live streaming/filming. He cares deeply about the work and St. Cross, and I'm so happy to have Matt's support. Thanks so much Matt, you're awesome!

I would also like to give a special thanks to Trudy Bush, our Parish Administrator. She was always willing to jump in and lend me a helping hand with so many big projects I was tasked with this past year. From mailings, to scanning through lists of hundreds of names, to printing, I could go on and on. She was a tremendous help to me and was so supportive all year long. Thank you Trudy! Your kindness and hard work do not go unnoticed. You're amazing!

I look forward to this new year at St. Cross. We have big plans of upgrading our website and continuing to expand our social media presence and reaching people within and beyond our community. I am excited to continue working with our amazing clergy and staff this year and serving the community at St. Cross.

Britt Swain, Communications Coordinator

## Community Garden

Just recently the name of the Hermosa Beach Community Garden at South Park was changed to Jeff Duclos Community Garden. At the ceremony, Former Mayor Duclos thanked St. Cross for its involvement in the beginnings of the Garden and its continuing support in its day to day operation. We are down to just a few volunteers, but we continue to grow food for people who need it by giving weekly to the food bank at the House of Yahweh. The fresh organic produce is greatly appreciated.

This years contribution to food for the needy was:

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Artichokes      | 2 lb.   |
| Assorted Greens | 18 lb.  |
| Celery          | 9 lb.   |
| Chard           | 9 lb.   |
| Fava Beans      | 5 lb.   |
| Green Beans     | 4 lb.   |
| Kale            | 22 lb.  |
| Leeks           | 28 lb.  |
| Onions          | 2 lb.   |
| Peas            | 7 lb.   |
| Peppers         | 4 lb.   |
| Potatoes        | 30 lb.  |
| Radishes        | 1/2 lb. |
| Strawberries    | 2 lb.   |
| Tomatoes        | 21 lb.  |
| Zucchini Squash | 4 lb.   |



This is such an important ministry!

To volunteer please see Judy Soper, Cyd Thornton, or Sarah Ferris.

## Connection Coordinator

This past year was my sixth full year as the St. Cross Connection Coordinator.

2022 was filled with many joyful events as we strove to regain our delight in being together in community in person. In my basic duties as Connection Coordinator, my goal is to contact all visitors who have either signed the Guest Register Book or completed the online Newcomer and Visitor card. From January to December 2022, I contacted 35 individuals or families. They were contacted either by email, personal note, or text.

One of my duties at St. Cross is to serve as staff liaison to the Vestry's Hospitality and Integration committee. As the liaison, it is my responsibility to recognize upcoming events where a hospitality and/or integration presence is warranted, plan and hold meetings for the committee, and help execute the committee's plans for events. In January, along with members of the Parent Group, the Hospitality committee helped plan a baby shower for Rev. Stephen and Holly right before they welcomed baby Bruce into their lives. I was unfortunately unable to help with the Mardi Gras event in February as I traveled with our pilgrimage group to the Holy Land. In March, we jumped back into our community visibility with an entry in the Hermosa Beach St. Patrick's Day parade. Although it was a drizzly, gloomy day, everyone had a great time decorating the truck, riding and walking along, and handing out some St. Cross swag.

In May we hosted a Connection Cafe. Through these informal Cafes I hope to help connect newcomers to the leaders of ministries to which they expressed an interest. Thank you to the ministry leaders who graciously invited and welcomed those who were new to St. Cross. Because of these efforts, we have been able to welcome and connect several individuals and families that are now regular members. As we move into 2023, we are looking for new ways to help connect and integrate newcomers in addition to periodic Cafes.

While Rev. Rachel was out on sabbatical, I wrote a piece for the weekly email which recounted my experience visiting another Episcopal church. It was an exhortation to make sure to warmly welcome everyone who enters our doors. As we transitioned to one service during the summer months, I once again helped implement a "get-to-know-you" game with question cards during coffee hour. This helped congregants meet others who might normally attend a different service.

The summer and fall months were very busy with planning and execution for the Hospitality and Integration committee. We hosted refreshments at the second Beach Service and served water, donuts and Starbucks coffee on the sand. In addition we planned the September and October events such as fun food and activities for St. Cross Day, the wedding shower for Rev. Rachel and Chad, and the bishop's visit for confirmations. All with help from the myriad of wonderful St. Cross volunteers who help make each event special.

In addition to these events, this year I continued helping to periodically lead the online Compline service on the St. Cross Facebook page. I participated in an online Zoom webinar with ideas on how to promote Blessing of the Animals. I helped with the Blessing of the Backpacks mid-week event, as well as being present at our booth at Hermosa's first annual Oktoberfest, and judging the yodeling contest with my husband Bob, and fellow choir member, Christine Hansen. I attended several city council meetings to support our clergy and staff in regards to the new housing element in Hermosa Beach. I planned a "staff day out" with a foodie tour in downtown Los Angeles after having been encouraged by Rev. Rachel to have fun as a staff while she was on sabbatical.

I continue to feel blessed to be part of a community that is doing God's work in the world. I appreciate the support of the Vestry, clergy, and all the volunteers that help make a visit to St. Cross feel like an inviting door that one is eager to enter; to be enfolded by these warm members in this special place. I hope that my efforts on behalf of the St. Cross community will continue to be fruitful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cameron Johnson

## Ecclesiastical Sewing Group

As the Ecclesiastical Sewing Group at St. Cross we meet weekly to keep the church linens and vestments in good condition, but we do so much more than that!

In addition to our official work we also do personal knitting, sewing, and other needlework. But undoubtedly the best part of our time together is enjoying tea and snacks around noon with each other and members of the church staff and other drop-ins, along with lots of conversation about the church, the world, our lives and more.

So if you are available on any Tuesday morning from 10am to 1pm, come check us out. Bring your own needlework or help us with church pieces, or just come to participate in the conversation. Let one of us or the office know, or just show up. You are welcome to join us in room 4 of the Education Building.

Bea Floyd, Laurel Geisel, and Patsy Brierley



## Education for Ministry

Another year has come and gone for this life-changing ministry and I'm pleased to report that 2023 brought the graduation of one participant, Lavinia Henley. Her EfM experience prompted her to volunteer to be the preacher at the diocesan-wide graduation Festival Eucharist, where she even wowed Bishop Taylor with her message. She made St. Cross very proud and has now joined our alumni ranks. When I say life-changing, do not take it lightly, as after completion of EfM, Lavinia took on the fall stewardship campaign as a new vestry member!

This year's amazing group has six participants, one year 1s, three year 2s, and two year 3s. Each Monday night has brought a rigorous discussion of the biblical or other reading and a thoughtful and insightful reflection examining where God is in our diverse and busy lives. These participants have continued to study, consider, and pray about how scripture and tradition have affected their lives and informed their beliefs and ministry. We've also had a couple of drop-in guests who have enriched the group with their contributions.

The EfM program, Education for Ministry, was developed by the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a place for people to work through questions and learn to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion. In the Diocese of Los Angeles, EfM is considered one of the cornerstones of our adult Christian Formation and Education Programs. St. Cross is the host of one of the many active groups in our Diocese.

St. Cross is fortunate to have a rich history of lay-led ministries. EfM is one path to ponder God's call to us in ministry. To assist in this process, participants in the EfM program study the entire sweep of the Christian tradition from the earliest period to the present. Participants learn the disciplines of biblical exegesis and interpretation, systematic theology, church history, ethics, and liturgics. Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. St. Cross has been the beneficiary of EfM graduates leading or being active members in a multitude of ministries, even counting a few who were called to ordained ministry!

The EfM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." All baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. New ministries have developed as a result of our changing world due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many St. Cross EfM graduates can be seen at the forefront of these ministries and continue to be the faces of the Church in the world.

EfM is a four-year curriculum. Each "year" is a nine-month cycle of study. Students enroll for one cycle at a time. Alumni can now enroll to take any year. If you are interested in learning more about this dynamic and life-changing ministry of EfM, there will be spots available in the fall, please let Susan Tucker or one of the clergy know of your interest!

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Tucker, mentor

## Endowment Fund

St. Cross has two endowment funds: the Mission Endowment to enhance the parish's mission outreach and the General Endowment to ensure the continued operation and maintenance of the parish and its properties by supplementing the church budget as needed. Both are funded by gifts, primarily bequests. Donors are recognized by membership in the Sarah Alice Beane Legacy Society.

Distributions each year are limited to one-half of the annual income. The Mission Endowment is invested in a conservative growth and income portfolio and the General Endowment, in a moderate growth and income portfolio. The principal is not touched.

The General Endowment contained \$294,347 at the start of 2023 and \$345,407 on December 31. During the year, it received \$12,014 in gifts and had an investment return of 13.2 percent. In 2023, \$7,006 was available for grants, but none were made. That sum has been rolled over to 2024, so \$13,707 is available this coming year (\$6,701—half of the fund's 2023 income—plus the rollover).

The Mission Endowment grew from \$465,091 on January 1, 2023, to \$505,298 on December 31. During the year, it received \$1,500 in gifts and had an investment return of 11.1 percent.

In 2023, the Mission Endowment Fund made seven grants totaling \$10,000 and awarded two scholarships totaling \$2,000. They were:

Camp Stevens: \$2,500 for a pool cover.

St. Michael the Archangel Church, El Segundo: \$2,150 for renovation of the sacristy.

Christmas in July: \$2,000 for purchase of items from Palestinian artisans to sell at St. Cross with proceeds going to St. Andrew's Church, Ramallah.

I Can and DaVinci Schools: \$1,500 to begin construction of a coffee cart to provide training and jobs for persons with special needs.

Iguana Creek School, Selena, Belize: \$1,100 for white boards, printers and supplies.

Virginia Green: \$1,000 scholarship for Mental Health First Aid Instructor training.

Emma Siegfried : \$1,000 scholarship for expenses associated with PhD program at the University of Connecticut.

St. Cross Sacred Ground Program: \$500 for follow-up to the 2022 program.

St. Luke's Shower Ministry: \$250 for supplies.

For 2024, the Mission Endowment Fund has \$9,897 available for mission projects and scholarships, including grants to St. Cross' graduating high school seniors. Preference will be given to new initiatives, local projects offering opportunities for hands-on participation by parishioners and activities not included in the regular church budget. Applications will be available shortly.

Kathy Shinkle, chair

Julie Spore, scribe

Patsy Brierley, financial secretary

Susan Tucker

Seth Barnes

Lenora Nicholls

## Giving Tree

In 2023, The Giving Tree proudly served children from 47 different families. The deserving parents and kids came from the communities of Willowbrook, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach, as well as from the Salvation Army. We were thrilled to again partner with 1736 Family Crisis Center, where we helped six moms and their children. In addition, we were able to fill backpacks with essential supplies for kids and teens coming through 1736's youth shelter.

As we've done in recent years, the Willowbrook children all received one gift each. The Redondo, Hermosa, Salvation Army and 1736 kids all received at least 2 gifts. We had a local Hermosa Girl Scout troop that pitched in to give the 1736 families additional gifts. We also gave the three Hermosa Beach City School District nurses each \$150 in Target gift cards.

Once again, one of our biggest sources of support was from Jen Minich, the Redondo Beach teacher who has an annual charity event. She donated a whopping \$7400!!! Some of her friends even brought their kids to St. Cross one Sunday to help with wrapping and stuffing of the 1736 backpacks.

The Giving Tree team is extremely grateful to be able to do so much good on behalf of St. Cross. We thank everyone for their generosity!

Courtney Shott  
Jennifer Salem  
Dana Thomas  
Kelly & Bob Johnson  
Robin Spence  
Michael Stull

## History Committee

Your St. Cross History Committee is at a Cross Roads!

The original members of the History Committee compiled the first 100+ years of our history in albums of photographs and articles, poster boards, and specialty books on our softball program, the Belize Ministry, Christmas pageants, pilgrimages, COVID, and more that are kept in cupboards.

Now we are chronicling St. Cross life for future generations. In this digital age that may take many forms and we welcome new ideas and voices.

So-o-o-o-o if you are a history buff, a creator of picture books, a St. Cross aficionado, or just looking for a new ministry ---

Talk to one of us ... let the office know ... give your name to one of our clergy.

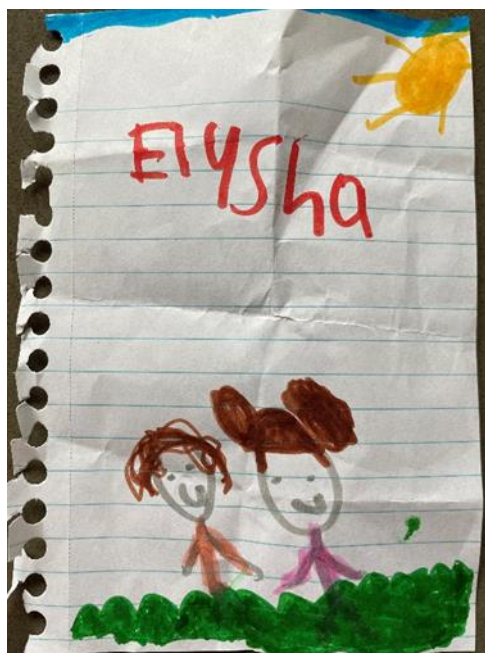
Submitted by,

Patsy Brierley, Carol Reznichak, Marilyn Young, Pat Woolley, Kathy Shinkle

## Laundry Love

Laundry Love is hands-on ministry which acknowledges a visible need in our community. When people have clean clothes, people treat them like human beings. Volunteers from St. Cross meet at Wash N Go Laundry once a month to supply detergent, dryer sheets, and the funds necessary to clean the clothes and bedding of people who are living in the streets, their cars, in low income housing and simply anyone who needs help. The activity also offers time to tune in with our guests, to listen and take a step back. Most evenings are busy and hectic, and not without drama, but at the end of the night we have all been fed. As the Rev. Jimmy Bartz puts it, "it is modern day foot washing".

Since February 2015 we have grown our ministry and have created a robust accounting system, learned that clean trash bags are needed to carry clothes home in, kids still like crayons and markers, and everyone loves Costco pizza. Our volunteers come from various circles within St. Cross and increasingly include community members who hear about us via the internet or word of mouth. New friendships have developed as we interact with each other and those we serve. The community we nurture is a transient one, but we know many of our guests' names and their stories. We have seen a few at church, spot others around town, and worry about "regulars" that are absent on laundry night.



Our relationship with Kiwanis continues. They prepare 50 sack lunches for us every month, Angela Oliver picks them up, and delivers them to the laundromat. The lunches supplement pizza that we serve most nights.

Laundry Love began over 20 years ago in Ventura, California (learn more at [Laundrylove.org](http://Laundrylove.org)) and it's a growing community of compassion with new locations established across the country every year. About a dozen volunteers from St. Cross are regularly involved with Laundry Love which takes place at Wash N Go Laundry - 2301 Artesia Blvd, Redondo Beach on the last Wednesday of the month. Come join us. The first shift begins at 5:45PM and the late shift is from 8 to 9:30PM. We can always use new volunteers and graciously accept donations of cash, dryer sheets and powdered detergent. You can also find us on Facebook at **Laundry Love South Bay**.

We spend between \$600-800 a month depending on the number of guests served (last month there were 40) and the time of year. Winter brings cold and wet weather and thus more blankets to wash. As in all corners of our lives, expenses have gone up over the last 9 years due to price increases.

With love,

Shane Mathews, David Charlton, Jim Sullivan, and Susan Tsutsumi

## Music Department

The music department fondly looks back on another great year of music and liturgy in our worship services. The Chancel Choir, Handbells and Youth Choir continue to provide musical support for the Sunday worship services, as well as a variety of other special musical services and events throughout the year.

There were many highlights in last year's series of musical events, including:

- A concert of remembrance – Rutter's Requiem performed by the St. Cross Chancel Choir and instrumentalists, on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5th.
- Messiah, which happened on the first Sunday of December, with full orchestra, choir, and guest soloist to an almost capacity audience of over 225 people (the largest crowd for this event, to date).
- Summer Choir – in July, a drop-in group of singers, who are not necessarily involved in music at St. Cross, sang simple anthems on four Sundays in July. This was designed to give those who are not able to join the chancel choir regularly a chance to experience the thrill of singing in church in an ensemble situation. It will happen again this coming summer.

Our Christmas Eve services featured beautiful musical offerings by our Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Handbells, and included a variety of favored seasonal hymns and choral works. We look forward to a series of chamber music concerts early in the year, including the following:

Chamber Music Concert – April 2024

Vivaldi Gloria and Baroque Concerto Concert – Late Spring 2024

We eagerly look forward to this new New Year. The congregation's support and encouragement are very much appreciated. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:15pm, and the Chancel Choir from 7:30 to 9pm. Anyone interested in participating in any of the music groups at St. Cross is encouraged to contact me, or any of the other members of the music program.

Sean O'Neal

Director of Music



## Music Department: Youth Choir

The St. Cross Youth Choir is for singers in third through ninth grades. The choir provides a musical offering at the 10:00am church service several times a year. Rehearsals are weekly on Sundays after church, 11:15am-Noon. Our mission is to expand choir members' musical skills, and experience a sense of community and service to the church through music.

On the technical side, we work on vocal technique, ensemble singing, harmony, basic music theory, ear training and sight-singing. We also work on building community within the choir and using song to express God's love in our lives.

None of this would be possible without the support of the amazing parents. They work with their singers on the songs, arrange for them to be at rehearsals, and encourage their singing.

We had twelve incredible singers participate in 2023, and are looking forward to having more join us this year. If you are a singer or you know someone who would like to participate in choir, you're welcome to contact me at [candaceford1@mac.com](mailto:candaceford1@mac.com) or grab me at church.

We sing a wide variety of musical genres. All are welcome, including friends who are not yet members of the church. Registration forms are available in the church office. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,  
Candace Ford, Youth Choir Director

## Neighbor to Neighbor

St. Cross' Neighbor to Neighbor outreach ministry program has taken on a new concept since the South Bay Journey Church closed its doors during Covid.

Since January 2023, we are coordinated with St. Paul's Methodist Church Project Needs program preparing and cooking a monthly take out dinner. St. Paul's location is 2600 Nelson Street, Redondo Beach. We meet at St. Paul's on the fourth Tuesday of each month to prep and cook. We assemble 55 meals including baked cookies that are supplied by St. Cross' volunteers. There's about 7-8 committed volunteers that meet from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. at St. Paul's kitchen. Serving the guests outdoors takes place later in the day by Project Needs volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering with Neighbor to Neighbor we would love to have you. You can contact Angela Oliver at 912 398 1277 or Marilyn Young at 310 748 9690.

Submitted by Angela Oliver

## Outreach Committee

The purpose of the outreach committee is to assist current ministries, develop new outreach ministries, and integrate our outreach ministries and experience with our worship and community life at St. Cross.

In 2023 the outreach committee consisted of Greg Bellavia, John McBane, Jim Sullivan and Rev. Josh.

Early in 2023, the outreach committee helped relaunch Neighbor to Neighbor. This ministry meets monthly to prepare and serve a hot meal in to-go containers to guests at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

During the rest of the year, the committee explored opportunities to partner with Habitat for Humanity. None of the opportunities explored have been a good fit for St. Cross, but we remain optimistic that we will find the right HfH project in 2024.

The outreach committee organized a blessing of outreach ministries during our Sunday morning worship on a Sunday in November. The committee also organized a town hall presentation with ministry leaders presenting about their ministries to the congregation after the 10am service.

The committee also organized a charity fair following the Messiah concert. The charity fair showcased the fantastic local charities we have in the South Bay at a reception which followed the choir's magnificent performance of Handel's Messiah.

We would welcome new members and new ideas. At St. Cross we are seeking to expand our outreach ministries, to make them more accessible, more influential and more central to our formation as Christians. The outreach committee is always reviewing and assessing what service opportunities we are creating for the church community. If you would like to share an insight or join the committee please contact Rev. Josh or one of the other committee members: Greg Bellavia, John McBane, Jim Sullivan.

The Rev. Josh Paget  
Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development

## Pathways

The purpose of Pathways is to build connections with the local community outside of the church. We do this by organizing church participation in community events, and by creating opportunities for the community to enjoy the many gifts of St. Cross.

In 2023, the committee struggled a bit to find its footing after losing key members mid year. We would love for you to join us if you are interested in this kind of ministry. Below is a brief list of highlights from the year from this ministry.

**Hermosa Pride Teen Event.** - Partnering with Hermosa Pride, we were able to create a safe space that was alcohol-free and substance-free, for teens.

**Pet Blessings** - At the Hermosa Oktoberfest we offered pet blessings (it was the same weekend as the Feast of St. Francis). We also got invited to give a blessing over the weiner dogs at the weiner dog races that were a part of Oktoberfest. Offering prayers in the middle of the line for the beer garden felt a little..ironic. But for many people this was a delightful surprise: here is a church group that affirms me and my pet. Quite the contrast to other Christians who were at Oktoberfest preaching damnation. We showed that we are loving and caring and that we know how to have fun. Rev. Josh won the pretzel eating contest, and members of the church choir used their music expertise to serve as judges for the yodeling contest.

**Tree Lighting Event** - Over 300 kids came through our booth at the Hermosa for the Holidays Pier Plaza Tree lighting ceremony. The offering was simple: an opportunity to decorate ornaments. But this setting created so many powerful moments of respite, healing, and connection. Between parents and kids, between church members and non church members.

**Advent Market** - We had 14 local artists and small businesses come to our church to showcase their wares. Church members were able to shop and meet the local artisans. Again, just a great message for St Cross: we are a church that cares about the local economy, the local artists, and we create ways to support them.

**Glow Ride** - January 6th is the feast of the epiphany. We decorate our bikes with lights and ride along The Strand. Again a beautiful way to message that we love our community, we delight in the beauty of the sunset, the beach, the community here. And we like to get out and be active in nature.

The Rev. Josh Paget  
Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development

## Prayer Shawl

In 2023, the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to provide tangible symbols of God's love to members of our church and the wider community.

Our talented crafters knit, crochet, weave, and bead to create the prayer shawls and Anglican prayer bead strands that are available to everyone in the chapel. Each piece represents a significant investment of time, love, and care. Prayer is built into every stitch and every bead.

Our members were honored to contribute collaborative pieces to the Stations of the Cross service during Holy Week. This was the second year that our group's work has been featured, and the experience of creating and sharing that work as a form of art has been deeply meaningful.

Members also responded to a special request for shawls for a clergy retreat. The knitters who answered that call went above-and-beyond, meeting this need on an expedited basis with beautiful shawls.

Everyone who has ever participated in a prayer shawl blessing, given a shawl, or received one is an integral part of this ministry. We are grateful for the support of the St. Cross community, and especially for the encouragement of Rev. Josh.

Mary Tedford

## Readers for Life

St. Cross Readers for Life celebrated 20 years of ministry in 2023, and that means as a group we have read a total of about 180 books over the years! It has been quite an adventure and this year was no exception.

We strive to include only books with a spiritual or social justice theme, but every so often a novel creeps into the selections. Our 2023 books included:

- \* The Relic Master - described as 'Indiana Jones gone medieval',
- \* West With Giraffes - a tale of how the original giraffes got to the San Diego Zoo (one of those pesky novels)
- \* Cooked Hallelujah - a story centered on a Cherokee family
- \* Waking Up White - focusing on racism
- \* His Truth is Marching On - about the career of John Lewis and the power of hope
- \* The Secret Chord - historical fiction about King David

And to close out the year we celebrated Christmas with our usual potluck and a book exchange game.

We meet on the third Friday of the month for a potluck and book discussion, from 5:30 pm to about 8:30pm in room 4 of the Education Building. Join us!

Laura Geisel



## SACK Lunch

On Wednesdays we gather for a time of sharing. Sharing a meal, sharing spiritual reflection, and sharing stories of our community. Each luncheon features a guest speaker from the local community, who informs and inspires us with the good work they are doing. The lunches have hosted artists, designers, architects, social workers, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and filmmakers.

Come join us on Wednesdays for SACK Lunch. SACK Lunch stand for Spirituality, Advocacy, Community and Kindness.

Twice a month on Wednesdays, we feature a guest speaker from the local community.

This year at SACK lunch we continued to build relationships with one another while building relationships with leaders in the local community and within the Church.

In 2023, we heard from




**2023**  
**Guest Speakers**

|   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Ramon Rendon</b><br><i>Social Worker,</i><br>Redondo Beach                       | <b>Michele Nadeau</b><br><i>Outreach Coordinator,</i><br>1736 House                 | <b>Pilgrimage Team</b><br><i>St. Cross</i><br><i>Episcopal Church</i>                | <b>Neal Payton</b><br><i>Urban Designer</i><br>PATH Southgate                         | <b>Helen Denis</b><br><i>Author &amp; Columnist</i><br>Successful Aging               |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Christine Mirasy-Glasco</b><br><i>Executive Director,</i><br>Upward Bound House  | <b>Booker Pearson</b><br><i>Commissioner,</i><br>LA County Social Services          | <b>Donna Quirk</b><br><i>Executive Director</i><br>House of Yahweh                   | <b>Kate Varley</b><br><i>Board Member,</i><br>Bishop's Commission on Climate Change   | <b>Brian Ide,</b><br><i>Filmmaker</i><br>"A Case for Love"                            |

Thank you to all who attended these lunches. Our hope is that they inspired you to see God at work in all the world around us.

The Rev. Josh Paget  
Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development

## Saint Luke's Shower Ministry

I gave someone a cookie and they cried.

I was at St. Luke's in Long Beach with our St Cross team passing out lunches, soup, and coffee. I offered one of the guests a cookie that was clearly homemade and loosely wrapped.

The guest observed "that looks homemade." I confirmed "that's right, someone from the church made this for you." That's when tears started to well up in their eyes. "They made it for me?" They were touched by the thoughtfulness and care, that is, the love, with which the cookie was offered. For this gentleman, it had been a long time since he had a homemade cookie. And the idea that someone baked this in their home and gave it to be given to him, was a meaningful kind of connection, and it moved him to tears.

It would be easier for us to buy cookies. Easier and cheaper and more convenient. But the difference we offer in our acts of service is the love with which we give. It is the love of Christ. That is in our mission statement at St Cross: We Serve as a sign of Christ's love. With love at the heart of our service, we are doing something radically more dynamic than simply feeding hungry stomachs. We are feeding hungry hearts. (as our Bishop likes to say).

Four times in 2023, teams of volunteers stepped up to bake cookies and banana bread, make soup, make sandwiches, and pass out lunches and hot coffee down in Long Beach. Our guests are the guests of their shower program. We offer a simple meal but with great love.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Rev. Josh or one of the ministry leaders:

Soup team: Sherry Graham, Pati Johnson, Janan Johnson

Sandwich team: Greg Bellavia, Michael Stull

Serving team: Lizabeth Thompson, Sarah Miskowicz

Thank you to all the people who contributed to this program in big and small ways. Every offering makes a difference.



The Rev. Josh Paget  
Associate for Pastoral Care and Community Development

## Saint Monica's Guild

We share God's love with warm welcomes and hospitality. All women are most welcome to join us as we gather to celebrate joyous occasions as well as to honor and remember the lives of loved ones. We meet in March, June, September, and December; we love to welcome new members!

We wrapped up the year with our Christmas party/gift exchange. We kicked off the evening with several gingerbread houses to assemble and decorate; each group showed great creativity and had lots of laughs!

Bitsy Lutton and Carol Grimes

## Softball

The last day of the 2023 SBCAL season came to a close last Saturday with a thrilling doubleheader. In the first game, St. Cross beat Good Community Church 20-5 to advance to the title game. St. Cross applied pressure early and often to see off the team from Torrance with little trouble, thanks to some stellar defensive work. Two amazing heads-up double plays were made by two different tandems – Sean McCue (.556, 5-2) and Danielle Samayoa (.739) worked together to catch someone off of first base, and Rev. Stephen Smith (.773) and Adam Tittle (.375) doubled up at second and third base. There were also three great catches from Adam, season debutant Kana McCue (.167), and a tremendous leaping catch from Ryan Santos (.652, 1-2) at shortstop. Offensive standouts included Ryan finishing a home run short of the cycle, 3 runs for both Stephen and Danielle, a huge 3-RBI game for rookie Britt Swain (.316), and a great effort from head coach Bruce Difley (.600) to run around the horn for a triple.

In the lower division championship, a tight back-and-forth affair between St. Cross and the combined team of Lighthouse Community (Torrance) and Bible Baptist (Gardena) ended in a tough 11-10 walkoff loss for St. Cross. 3 lead changes in the last 3 innings highlight just how close the game was on all sides of the ball. Defensively, Sean led the way with 3 strikeouts on the mound, with a great catch by Tobie Ogar (.300) in the outfield and a big double play between Ryan, Danielle, and Shannon Shannon (.545) all helping out. At the plate, it was Clement Ogar (.619) who stepped up, going 3-for-3 with 3 RBIs and a triple. Other standout performances included Brett Tittle (.609, 2 doubles including a ground rule double which would've been a home run), and Rev. Stephen (single and double with 2 RBIs).

St. Cross finishes the year at 8-4 in 2nd place in the lower division, while Nova Community Church of Torrance took home the Welch Cup (upper division championship named in honor of former St. Cross Manager Mike Welch) with a resounding 24-9 victory over Gethsemane Baptist of Long Beach. I want to thank everyone who came out to support us this summer through thick and thin, the 29 different people who stepped up to the plate over the course of this season, and of course, our irreplaceable manager Bruce Difley for keeping the ship running. We'll see you all next June!

-Matthew Welch, assistant manager/scorekeeper/beat reporter



## Stewardship Committee

The Vestry formed a Stewardship Committee consisting of members from the Vestry (Lavinia Henley, Jack Tedford), the parish at large (Marilyn Young, Seth Barnes) and a member of the clergy (Rev. Rachel Nyback). This year we implemented Herb Miller's Consecration Sunday program, which had been done previously at St. Cross. This program is very proscriptive in terms of the content of member communications, and the timeline of those communications. This was beneficial because much of the preparation time was concurrent with Reverend Rachel's Sabbatical/Family Leave.

Rather than focusing on the parish's need for funds to "pay the bills," Miller's program "asks people to grow spiritually by giving a percentage of their income to the Lord's work through their congregation." Through mailings, the weekly email and lectern announcements, we asked the members of St. Cross to ask themselves, "what percentage of my income is God calling me to Give?"

We also started a new tradition this year by convening a prayer team, led by Marilyn Young. This group of congregants, of all ages and backgrounds, met during the summer to write a prayer that could be prayed by the team members individually, in preparation for Consecration Sunday. The prayer was also printed and inserted with the first congregational mailing, so that we could all use it for guidance in determining our pledge amount for 2024.

Consecration Sunday took place on October 15, 2023 with Reverend Bill Dunn as our guest speaker. Reverend Dunn is the rector at Trinity, Redlands and leads a team ministry with Beaumont and Yucaipa.

Our Stewardship program for 2024 was very successful. We received \$672,859 in pledges from 154 pledging units. For reference, In 2022 for 2023 we received \$617,197 in pledges from 138 pledging units, and in 2021 for 2022 we received \$673,268 in pledges from 156 pledging units.

We thank each of you for your ongoing support of God's Grace in Action at St. Cross, in the South Bay, and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lavinia Henley, Stewardship Committee Chair

## Ushers

Ushers express Christ’s love through hospitality and glorifying God by serving others. Ushering is an important ministry at St. Cross Episcopal Church. Ushers greet, provide assistance and make everyone feel welcome in a sacred space. Ushering is a great way to get to know everyone in the parish and assist with the service. Ushers also assist at weddings, funerals, concerts, the pageant and all the special services. We welcome our new ushers: Lori Kuperstock and Maggie Switek. It is with a heavy heart that we honor our long serving usher and sage, Pat Woolley. Thank you Pat for your faithful service to St Cross.

Thank you St. Cross Ushers for hosting Christmas in July Summer breakfast, it was filled with delicious food and “Usher Hospitality”!! Shout out to our volunteer ushers Alison Edwards, Shane Matthew and Marika Gonzalez that helped this year!!! Your ministry at St. Cross is so appreciated and we are grateful to all ushers for their time, hospitality and love for the people of St. Cross.

If you would like to become an usher please let us know which Sunday works best for you.

Submitted by Lee Spivey and Marilyn Young





## Women's Bible Study

The women attending Bible Study spent most of 2023 reading and discussing the gospel for our Sunday services. During Lent we joined the rest of the church studying *The Way of Love* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. After a summer break we continued reading the gospel and also the Old Testament lesson. We read from several translations/versions of the Bible and our discussions wandered from the scripture to family to St. Cross to society and more. The time spent together each week has created a real bond among us.

We welcome any and all women who can come in person or online to join us. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9am in room 4 and online. Interested? Let the office know your email address so you can receive our emails.

Submitted by,  
Patsy Brierley and the Women's Bible Study attendees

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is appointed by the Vestry and reports to the Vestry. Membership is comprised of the Rector, the Vestry Treasurer, Senior Warden, and other parishioners recommended by the Rector to the Vestry. Currently the committee members are Rev. Rachel Nyback, Michelle Weissenberg (Treasurer), Jack Tedford (Senior Warden), Mary Pierson and Lavinia Henley.

### 2023 ACTIVITIES

The Committee met monthly to review year-to-date actual results compared to the 2023 Budget, and evaluated the outlook for the full year cash flow in order to make adjustments to spending if needed. We also discussed and reviewed the Verizon Cell Tower contract and receipts, a potential grant that could pay for an updated security system, insurance coverage on our various properties, the potential for the Employee Retention Credit, as well as other financial items that came up during the year.

Other activities in which the Committee was involved included the recommendation to the Vestry to create an Investment Committee. The Vestry approved the recommendation. The new Investment Committee will be charged with creating an Investment Policy. The committee will also be responsible for evaluating our current investments, making recommendations to the Vestry and periodic reviews of our investment partnerships as a matter of due diligence.

### BUDGET REVIEW & OUTCOMES

The Budget assumed a modest decrease in pledge revenues vs the 2022 budget, and through November, pledge collections were slightly below Budget (immaterial at ~1%). Regular and plate were about 20% below the Budget. However, by the end of December our pledges and non-pledges caught up to budgeted amounts.

Overall, the net deficit budgeted for the year was not realized. Due to various capital expenditures for the buildings and grounds being less than projected, as well as the property redevelopment being paused (see notes to come regarding Art of the Possible), the year's expenses are less than budgeted, resulting in net income for the year.

In 2022, the Committee recommended to the Vestry that our clergy and church staff receive a COLA adjustment to their salaries. This COLA was approved for 2023 and was continued when budgeting for 2024 salaries and wages.

### RENTAL PROPERTIES

Rental income for the year was lower than budgeted due to various vacancies during the year. However, rental expenses were much less than budgeted due to not acting on budgeted / expected property redevelopment (see notes to come regarding Art of the Possible). The net rental income was therefore more than the 2023 budget.

### ART OF THE POSSIBLE / PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT

The property redevelopment as part of the Art of the Possible was put on hold for most of the year in part due to community concerns and City of Hermosa Beach zoning issues. As such, the amount budgeted was not fully realized. The 2023 budget anticipated that we would spend \$50,000 during the year on Art of the Possible projects, but we ultimately spent only \$11,900 (relating to a soil sample report that has been commissioned as part of our due diligence process). However, in 2024 we plan to start moving forward with redevelopment discussions. The amount budgeted for 2024 is \$25,000.

### OUTLOOK FOR 2024

St. Cross exceeded its budgeted 2023 net income due to lower than projected expenditures. The 2024 budget carefully and thoughtfully took these reductions into consideration when creating the 2024 budget and as such we expect a lower deficit in 2024 than was budgeted for 2023.

Submitted by Michelle Weissenberg

## Treasurer's Report - Receipts & Disbursements Statement

|    |   | 2023<br>Totals | 2023<br>Budget | 2023<br>Difference | 2024<br>Budget |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
|    | <b>RECEIPTS:</b>                            |                |                |                    |                |
| 1  | For General Operations:                     |                |                |                    |                |
| 2  | Pledge Offering                             | 649,865        | 620,000        | 29,865             | 660,000        |
| 3  | Regular Offering - Non-Pledgers             | 67,528         | 80,000         | (12,472)           | 50,000         |
| 4  | Pledge Payments - Previous Year             | 1,020          | -              | 1,020              |                |
| 5  | Plate Offering/Special Occasion             | 36,073         | 20,000         | 16,073             | 20,000         |
| 6  | Interest and Dividends                      | 19,636         | 3,000          | 16,636             | 3,000          |
| 7  | Capital Gains & Losses                      | 31,358         |                | 31,358             | -              |
| 8  | <b>Total Operating Income</b>               | \$ 805,480     | \$ 723,000     | 82,480             | \$ 733,000     |
| 9  | For Specifically Designated Funds:          |                |                |                    |                |
| 10 |   |                |                |                    |                |
| 11 | VBS   | 1,930          | 250            | 1,680              | 1,500          |
| 12 | <b>Remittances</b>                          | -              |                | -                  |                |
| 13 | Summer Breakfast: Collections               | 286            | -              | 286                | 250            |
| 14 | <b>Remittances</b>                          | -              |                | -                  |                |
| 15 | Episcopal Relief & Dev. Fund: Collections   | 5,235          | -              | 5,235              |                |
| 16 | <b>Remittances</b>                          | (5,235)        |                | (5,235)            |                |
| 17 | Good Friday Offering: Collections           | 812            | -              | 812                |                |
| 18 | <b>Remittances</b>                          | (812)          |                | (812)              |                |
| 19 |   |                |                |                    |                |
| 20 |   |                |                |                    |                |
| 21 |   |                | -              |                    |                |
| 22 | <b>Total Designated Funds' Net Receipts</b> | \$ 2,216       | \$ 250         | 1,966              | \$ 1,750       |
| 23 | Net Rental Income:                          |                |                |                    |                |
| 24 | Rental Income                               | 559,475        | 586,788        | (27,313)           | 604,395        |
| 25 | Rental Expenses                             | (213,631)      | (249,054)      | 35,423             | (212,680)      |
| 26 | Lease Income (Cellular Antenna)             | 53,041         | 45,514         | 7,527              | 47,604         |
| 27 | Organizations                               | 47,710         | 40,000         | 7,710              | 45,000         |
| 28 | <b>Net Rental Income</b>                    | \$ 446,594     | \$ 423,248     | 23,346             | \$ 484,319     |
| 29 | <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                       | \$ 1,254,291   | \$ 1,146,498   | 107,793            | \$ 1,219,069   |
| 30 | <b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>                       |                |                |                    |                |
| 31 | Missions:                                   |                |                |                    |                |
| 32 | Diocesan Commitment                         | 154,092        | 142,300        | 11,792             | 141,757        |
| 33 | Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program                | 1,141          | 5,000          | (3,859)            | 1,800          |
| 34 | Habitat for Humanity                        | 5,235          | 750            | 4,485              | 5,000          |
| 35 | Campus Ministries/Seminary                  | 192            | 1,800          | (1,608)            | 1,800          |
| 36 | Camp Stevens                                | -              | 500            | (500)              | 500            |
| 37 | Theological Education Support               | -              | 900            | (900)              | 900            |
| 38 | Laundry Love                                | 597            | 500            | 97                 | 500            |
| 39 | Community Garden                            | 178            | 500            | (322)              | 500            |
| 40 | St. Luke's Shower Ministry                  | 1,182          | 2,000          | (818)              | 2,000          |
| 41 | Navajoland                                  |                | 1,500          | (1,500)            | -              |
| 42 | Outreach - Vestry Cmte                      | 812            | 2,750          | (1,938)            | 1,500          |
| 43 | Education for Ministry                      |                | 600            | (600)              | 600            |
| 44 | Pathways - Vestry Cmte                      | 253            | 2,000          | (1,747)            | 2,000          |
| 45 | Discretionary Funds-Clergy                  | 1,956          | 2,700          | (744)              | 2,700          |
| 46 | <b>Total Missions</b>                       | 165,640        | 163,800        | 1,840              | 161,557        |

## Treasurer's Report - Receipts & Disbursements Statement

|    |  | 2023<br>Totals    | 2023<br>Budget    | 2023<br>Difference | 2024<br>Budget    |
|----|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 47 | Pastoral Ministries:                                       |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 48 | Rector: Salary & Housing                                   | 130,640           | 131,040           | (400)              | 136,282           |
| 49 | Rector: SECA Allowance                                     | 19,988            | 20,049            | (61)               | 20,851            |
| 50 | Rector: Insurance  | 13,934            | 13,212            | 722                | 28,113            |
| 51 | Rector: Pension  | 35,248            | 35,355            | (107)              | 36,769            |
| 52 | Rector: Conference/Business                                | 8,887             | 5,000             | 3,887              | 5,000             |
| 53 | Rector: Reimbursable Contract Expenses                     | -                 | 5,000             | (5,000)            | 5,000             |
| 54 | Rector: Continuing Education                               | 324               | 3,000             | (2,676)            | 3,000             |
| 55 | Rector: Housing Fund                                       | 4,519             | 4,533             | (14)               | 4,714             |
| 56 | Assoc for Christian Form: Salary & Housing                 | 81,028            | 81,900            | (872)              | 82,098            |
| 57 | Assoc for Christian Form: SECA Allowance                   | 6,482             | 6,265             | 217                | 6,280             |
| 58 | Assoc for Christian Form: Insurance                        | 10,592            | 10,020            | 572                | 11,132            |
| 59 | Assoc for Christian Form: Pension                          | 15,752            | 15,870            | (118)              | 15,908            |
| 60 | Assoc for Christian Form: Continuing Education             | -                 | 1,000             | (1,000)            | 1,000             |
| 61 | Assoc for Christian Form: Conference/Business              | 1,031             | 1,000             | 31                 | 1,000             |
| 62 | Assoc for Christian Form: Mileage/Moving/Reimbursable Exp. | -                 | 500               | (500)              | 500               |
| 63 | Pastoral Associate: Salary & Housing                       | 75,451            | 76,440            | (989)              | 85,176            |
| 64 | Pastoral Associate: SECA Allowance                         | 6,036             | 5,848             | 188                | 6,516             |
| 65 | Pastoral Associate: Insurance                              | 18,388            | 10,020            | 8,368              | 11,132            |
| 66 | Pastoral Associate: Pension                                | 14,668            | 14,812            | (144)              | 16,505            |
| 67 | Pastoral Associate: Continuing Education                   | -                 | 1,000             | (1,000)            | 1,000             |
| 68 | Pastoral Associate: Conference/Business                    | 721               | 1,000             | (279)              | 1,000             |
| 69 | Pastoral Associate: Mileage/Moving/Reimbursable Exp.       | -                 | 500               | (500)              | 500               |
| 70 | Deacon Salary  | 10,920            | 10,920            | -                  | 11,357            |
| 71 | Deacon PR Taxes/SECA Allowance                             | 826               | 835               | (9)                | 869               |
| 72 | Deacon Pension   | 1,966             | 1,966             | (0)                | 2,044             |
| 73 | Consultants  | 7,084             | 8,000             | (916)              | 8,000             |
| 74 | Sabbatical for Clergy                                      | 11,589            | 900               | 10,689             | 900               |
| 75 | <b>Total Pastoral Ministry</b>                             | <b>\$ 476,073</b> | <b>\$ 465,985</b> | <b>10,088</b>      | <b>\$ 502,646</b> |
| 76 | Parish Ministry  |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 77 | Altar Supplies   | 1,584             | 2,500             | (916)              | 2,500             |
| 78 | Books & Tracts   | 1,119             | 900               | 219                | 900               |
| 79 | Parish Life/Hosp&Memb/Connections                          | 25,131            | 22,000            | 3,131              | 22,000            |
| 80 | Pastoral Care & Wellness Program                           | 614               | 3,000             | (2,386)            | 3,000             |
| 81 | Sanctuary Expense & Liturgy                                | 697               | 2,000             | (1,303)            | 2,000             |
| 82 | Faith @ 5  | 1,090             | 5,000             | (3,911)            | 1,500             |
| 83 | Vestry Expenses  | 3,567             | 2,500             | 1,067              | 2,500             |
| 84 | Convention Expenses  | 1,235             | 675               | 560                | 1,500             |
| 85 | Stewardship/SACK Lunch - Vestry Cmte                       | 5,636             | 3,000             | 2,636              | 3,000             |
| 86 | Senior Programming   | 130               | 3,000             | (2,870)            | 2,000             |
| 87 | History Committee  | 77                | 200               | (123)              | 200               |
| 88 |  |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 89 |  |                   |                   |                    |                   |
| 90 | <b>Total Parish Ministry</b>                               | <b>\$ 40,881</b>  | <b>\$ 44,775</b>  | <b>(3,894)</b>     | <b>\$ 41,100</b>  |

## Treasurer's Report - Receipts & Disbursements Statement

|     |  | 2023<br>Totals | 2023<br>Budget | 2023<br>Difference | 2024<br>Budget |
|-----|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 91  | Administrative Expenses:               |                |                |                    |                |
| 92  | Lay Personnel Salary                   | 145,926        | 150,722        | (4,796)            | 158,171        |
| 93  | Lay Personnel Overtime                 | 408            | 500            | (92)               | 500            |
| 94  | Lay Personnel: Payroll Taxes           | 11,357         | 9,621          | 1,736              | 12,180         |
| 95  | Lay Personnel: Pension                 | 9,849          | 8,385          | 1,464              | 11,190         |
| 96  | Lay Personnel: Insurance               | 34,065         | 28,356         | 5,709              | 32,860         |
| 97  | Advertising/Bulletins                  | 4,550          | 4,000          | 550                | 5,000          |
| 98  | Copier & Lease Exp                     | 8,490          | 10,000         | (1,510)            | 10,000         |
| 99  | Dues                                   | 930            | 1,000          | (70)               | 1,000          |
| 100 | Insurance (Liab/WC/Business/Umbrella)  | 26,642         | 29,500         | (2,858)            | 30,700         |
| 101 | Office Supplies & Expenses             | 11,360         | 9,500          | 1,860              | 9,500          |
| 102 | Office Maintenance                     | 1,486          | 2,000          | (514)              | 2,000          |
| 103 | Website Maintenance/Realm Maintenance  | 1,188          | 2,400          | (1,212)            | 2,400          |
| 104 | Office Replacements                    | -              | 4,000          | (4,000)            | 4,000          |
| 105 | Postage                                | 1,231          | 2,500          | (1,269)            | 2,500          |
| 106 | Telephone                              | 7,582          | 6,000          | 1,582              | 6,000          |
| 107 | Staff Gifts                            | 4,420          | 3,000          | 1,420              | 3,000          |
| 108 | Staff Development Day                  | 971            | 1,000          | (29)               | 1,000          |
| 109 | Bank Charges                           | 3,327          | 3,500          | (173)              | 3,000          |
| 110 | Multimedia/Video Streaming             | 2,884          | -              | 2,884              | 3,000          |
| 111 |  |                |                |                    |                |
| 112 |  |                |                |                    |                |
| 113 | <b>Total Administrative Expense</b>    | \$ 276,664     | \$ 275,984     | 680                | \$ 298,001     |
| 114 | Education Ministry:                    |                |                |                    |                |
| 115 | Ch. Ed. Curriculum                     | 1,288          | 2,000          | (712)              | 1,500          |
| 116 | Ch. Ed. Training                       | 15             | 2,000          | (1,985)            | 1,500          |
| 117 | Ch. Ed. Projects & Materials           | 981            | 2,000          | (1,019)            | 2,000          |
| 118 | Ch. Ed. Supplies                       | 626            | 2,000          | (1,374)            | 2,000          |
| 119 | Child Care                             | 6,270          | 5,000          | 1,270              | 7,000          |
| 120 | Youth Ministries: Senior & Junior High | 374            | 4,000          | (3,626)            | 4,000          |
| 121 | Vacation Bible School                  | 3,319          | 2,000          | 1,319              | 2,000          |
| 122 | J2A Pilgrimage                         | 704            | 1,000          | (296)              | 1,000          |
| 123 | Acolytes - LEM                         | 99             | 200            | (101)              | 200            |
| 124 | Adult Education & Forum                | -              | 1,000          | (1,000)            | 1,000          |
| 125 | <b>Total Education Expenses</b>        | \$ 13,677      | \$ 21,200      | (7,523)            | \$ 22,200      |

## Treasurer's Report - Receipts & Disbursements Statement

|     |  | 2023<br>Totals     | 2023<br>Budget | 2023<br>Difference | 2024<br>Budget |
|-----|--|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 126 | Music Ministry                                 |                    |                |                    |                |
| 127 | Choir Director: Salary                         | 34,398             | 34,395         | 3                  | 35,771         |
| 128 | Choir Director: Payroll Taxes                  | 2,631              | 2,631          | 0                  | 2,736          |
| 129 | Choir Director: Pension                        | 3,096              | 3,096          | (0)                | 3,219          |
| 130 | Youth Choir Director                           | 10,000             | 10,000         | -                  | 10,400         |
| 131 | Substitute Organists                           | -                  | 1,200          | (1,200)            | 1,200          |
| 132 | Section Leaders                                | 33,175             | 30,000         | 3,175              | 34,000         |
| 133 | Music Program Expenses/Contract Musicians      | 7,611              | 2,600          | 5,011              | 4,000          |
| 134 | Messiah Fund/Exp                               | 1,461              | 5,000          | (3,539)            | 5,000          |
| 135 |  |                    |                |                    |                |
| 136 | <b>Total Music Expenses</b>                    | \$ 92,373          | \$ 88,922      | 3,451              | \$ 96,326      |
| 137 | Parish Property Expenses:                      |                    |                |                    |                |
| 138 | Parish Property Insurance                      | 20,465             | 20,000         | 465                | 21,760         |
| 139 | Parish Property Taxes                          | 3,924              | 4,100          | (176)              | 4,005          |
| 140 | Parish Trash Removal                           | 4,995              | 3,000          | 1,995              | 4,800          |
| 141 | Parish Utilities                               | 21,462             | 16,000         | 5,462              | 23,000         |
| 142 | Parish Contract Facility Maintenance           | 26,904             | 25,000         | 1,904              | 25,000         |
| 143 | Landscaping/General Grounds clean up           | 16,432             | 11,000         | 5,432              | 20,000         |
| 144 | Parish General Repairs & Maintenance/Landscape | 42,699             | 57,000         | (14,301)           | 28,900         |
| 145 | Stove Repairs/Replacements                     | 5,076              | 12,000         | (6,924)            | -              |
| 146 | Guild Rm Windows Repair                        | 1,100              | 5,000          | (3,900)            | -              |
| 147 | Parking Lot Fence Repair                       | -                  | 10,000         | (10,000)           | -              |
| 148 | Rector's Windows Repair                        | 4,779              | 5,000          | (221)              | -              |
| 149 | Remodel Women's Restroom/B&G Projects          | 10,389             | 10,000         | 389                | 14,000         |
| 150 |  |                    |                |                    |                |
| 151 | <b>Total Parish Property Expenses</b>          | 158,224            | 178,100        | (19,876)           | 141,465        |
| 152 | Transfers/Adjustments to Ministry Development  |                    |                |                    |                |
| 153 | Ministry Development                           | 30,761             |                | 30,761             |                |
| 154 |  |                    |                |                    |                |
| 155 | <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>                     | \$ 1,254,291       | \$ 1,238,766   | \$ 15,526          | \$ 1,263,295   |
| 156 | <b>NET CHURCH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>            | \$ (0)             | \$ (92,268)    | \$ 92,267          | \$ (44,226)    |
| 157 |  |                    |                |                    |                |
| 158 | <b>SCHEDULE OF CASH ASSETS:</b>                | <b>Opening Bal</b> |                | <b>Ending Bal</b>  |                |
| 159 | Cash - Checking Accounts                       | \$ 171,554         |                | \$ 250,195         |                |
| 160 | Cash/Equivalents                               | \$ 14,714          |                | \$ 29,062          |                |
| 161 | Investments @ Market                           | \$ 1,629,665       |                | \$ 1,738,610       |                |
| 162 | <b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>            | \$ 1,815,933       |                | \$ 2,017,867       |                |



St. Cross Episcopal Church  
A community that serves others  
as a sign of God's love.