

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2023 Annual Meeting
January 21, 2024

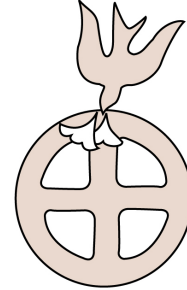


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING
2-5	RECTOR'S REPORT
6-7	SR. WARDEN'S REPORT
8	STEWARDSHIP
	WORSHIP COMMITTEE
	altar guild
9	WORSHIP COMMITTEE
	music
	flower guild
10	ST. GREGORY'S DREAM GROUP
	LABYRINTH GUILD
11	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
	children
12	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
	youth
13	ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION
14	BLINDSPOT
15	PARISH LIFE
	WELCOMING COMMITTEE
16	BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
17	GROUNDS
	OUTREACH COMMITTEE
18	OUTREACH COMMITTEE (CONT)
	LIFE OF OUR PARISH
19	PASTORAL CARE
20-25	TREASURER'S REPORT /BUDGET
	Addendum
	NEW VESTRY BIOS

OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO ORDER

ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES - see addendum

ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

NEW SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT - Les House

BUDGET PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC PLAN

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
Saint Gregory the Great
January 15, 2023

Opening Prayer & Welcome

Mother Nikki led an opening prayer and welcome to all in attendance. She called the in-person Annual Meeting to order at 12:15 pm and made welcoming remarks.

Election of New Vestry Members

Jane Hudson read the vestry eligibility requirements. The proposed vestry slate for the January 2023-January 2026 term was introduced and bios were available in the agenda. The slate includes Kate Avinger, John Barrett, and Shelby Welch. The new Clerk of Vestry appointed will be Anna Thornton. Mother Nikki recognized and thanked those outgoing, Eddie Bennett, Jane Hudson, and Caley Ross. The proposed slate was approved by unanimous vote. Mother Nikki welcomed Kate, John, Shelby as new Vestry members and Anna as the new Clerk of Vestry.

REPORTS

Rector's Report

Mother Nikki highlighted her written report which was presented in light of the Nourish, Grow, and Go Strategic Plan. Nikki recognized individuals noted in her report and shared that in our growth as a parish, Saint Gregory has grown a priest every single year of its existence. Our ministry continues to expand in diversity and in community with programs like Sacred Ground and a native land statement. In continued online and live-streamed worship, three new families have viewed each week to grow an online audience of up to 100 households. Nikki recognized several individuals who are spearheading our many ministries. Nikki emphasized the importance of growing our mission and our community through generosity of spirit and of pocket, and recognizing what it takes to run the church versus what it takes to be the church.

Financial Report

Les House highlighted the Treasurer's Report and provided a review of 2022 which resulted in actual revenue of \$429,207 and actual expenses of \$425,207 to total a surplus of \$3,855. The proposed 2023 budget has a deficit of \$36,008. Local outreach and all parish programs were cut to different degrees compared to the requested amount. The proposed cuts did include a six percent cost-of-living adjustment, and no positions were eliminated.

Budget Presentation & Discussion

The proposed budget was reviewed line by line and discussion was had with explanations from Les House and Mother Nikki. Mother Nikki extended a thank-you to Les House and Jeff Welch for their tireless work on the budget along with the Finance Committee.

Strategic Plan

The implementation of our Strategic Plan had to be suspended to a certain degree because of distancing during the Pandemic. Moving forward we should revisit our stated goals in terms of the activities that generate the most traction in our congregation: music, art, clergy formation and adult spiritual formation.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Thornton

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear St. Gregory the Great, y'all Incredible, Wonderful Beloveds!

This year has been such a blessing, our moving together as a parish family, into the future as God leads. Thank you for yet another year of coming together to do love, as you always do, in our parish, in our community, in the Diocese, and the TEC worldwide.

God has done so much in and through us, as we continued to Nourish, Grow, and Go. As you may remember, NOURISH, GROW, and GO is what we as a parish discerned God was calling us to do, as we came together in prayer, holy listening, and sharing with one another in 2019, reaffirmed throughout the pandemic with changes as needed, and then re-invigorated 2022 to now. We began the process in 2019 with more than 70 parishioners participating in the visioning focus groups, more than 100 in the CAT, and then over 2019-2020 more than 20 on work committees, and more than 30 provided feedback on draft strategic plan. We nourish God's people in the parish, and in the community. Together we Grow spiritually, and grow as a church as God allows, for God's glory and the future of St. Gregory the Great. We GO outward, proclaiming the Good News by sharing our stories of God's goodness, and doing love.

Nourish:

Our excellent **staff** has continued to do the work of God here as we praise God and nourish one another through our worship, both in person online through YouTube. Our Deacon, the Rev. Christina Dondero has continued to be stellar clergy, and a beautiful source of pastoral care. Joe Napoli and Jonathan Klein, continue to serve with excellence in their ministries of music. Joe's skill and devotion carried many in the choir to Carnegie Hall this year, and Jonathan, as always, joyfully performed extra and new duties, so that online services continued for regular services and funerals. Sadly, this year, 2024, we will be without Joe as choir director as he steps down, (but he will continue singing in the choir). WE will miss you, as choir director Joe! Thank you, Jonathan for taking on yet another task, taking point with choir as we work toward hiring a new choir director. Bless you both!

As most of you already know, ever since the Rev. Doug Adkins, former director of Children's Ministries, went to his new call in Kentucky, we have been without a head minister in that area. Many thanks to Kate Avenger, Jenifer Borg, Jenifer Marquardt, and all our other volunteers in Children's Ministries who have held down the fort so admirably and put on such a beautiful Christmas pageant. They also continue Children's Sunday School and Children's Church at this moment as we look for the next Children's Ministry Director. Continued thanks to Jude Red-Bear, our nursery director, and Missy Hamlin, providing fantastic nursery care for our littlest ones, pleasing parents and wee ones alike, and hiring new nursery staff so that the nursery can always be staffed as needed. Wade McGlammery, our Youth Formation Minister and Blind Spot Coordinator, has had great success with formation visits for our youth to other houses of faith, as those field trips have been quite popular. He also continues to hold other fun EYC field trips to hiking spots and Six Flags. Adult Formation chairs, Ron Hudson and the Rev. Ellen Richarson, have continued running the fabulous programs of Sacred Ground, regular Bible Study, and a beautiful in-person Advent series this past year. And Les House has carried on the wonderful traditional Sunday School class on the weekly Lectionary readings. Thank you all!

continued on next page...

Mark Hein continues to extend excellent care for our grounds for which we are extremely grateful! Mark Reinberger has provided stellar building care for our campus this past year, just as he has for so many years prior. Sadly, he has stepped down from Buildings effective the beginning of this year. We will miss him and his expertise. Thank you, both Marks!

While we don't have a singular sexton, we're still receiving service from the Peachy Green Clean Co-op company. Many thanks to their owner and employees who have worked hard to keep our buildings clean.

Many thanks to our Coffee Host, extraordinaire, the ever popular Danielle Vogt. (Whoever offers coffee in the morning is most certainly popular!) She does set up, serving and clean-up for the coffee hour after our two Sunday services. As we have experienced on too many Sundays in 2022, without her, there would be no coffee hour thank you, Danielle!

Of course, Kendall Kookogey, who does double duty as Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper, (and other duties as assigned) continues to be an amazing asset to me and to the entire church, keeping things running so smoothly. Thank you so much!

And there is absolutely NO WAY we could have continued worship online without the work of Anthony Barkdoll, Livestream Coordinator, with all his volunteers. And our parish community wouldn't be complete without our online congregation. And we couldn't minister to this part of our congregation without the phenomenal Terri Tillman, Webmaster and Livechat Moderator. Thank you to each and every one of you.

The ministries of all these exceptional people form the firm foundation upon which the spiritual nourishment of our congregation rests. God is active in our church family through you all. Thank you!

The **Vestry** has accomplished so much this year, (see the stellar Sr. Warden report)! I hate to say goodbye and I have to say thank you to our three outgoing vestry members: John Bray, Anna Hiers, and last, but not at all, least, our spectacular Senior Warden, LeeAnne Krause, for their excellent service in the ministry of leadership. A special thank you also to Anna Thornton, Clerk of the Vestry.

Part of what nourishes us is this beautiful campus that is a reflection of God's glory in nature and we've been good stewards of that with

- Folks continue to serve in their ministries with generosity and good will, continue a mixture of online and in person gatherings, most notably: the Men's Group, the Book Group, Stewardship, Threads of Prayer, the Dream Group, a Let's Chat Group for the women of the parish, Bible Study/Lectionary Discussion.
- So many groups had to continue to grow membership, after starting from scratch post-pandemic. Many thanks to Anna Hiers to continue heading up, assembling and training ushers this year; Barbara Dean, leading and training altar guild both new and old; Lane Norton continuing to lead the absolutely gorgeous work of the Flower Guild and the Labyrinth Ministry, and Alice Mohor who continues to lead the Greeters with open hospitality. She also lead the Stewardship Committee this past year, but she is stepping down 2024. All of these folks have continued their work in maintaining sacred beauty and function for our services of worship, with faithfulness, grace and more than a little elbow grease and sweat. Thank you!!

continued on next page...

Grow:

- Our Average Sunday Attendance (not counting online) began with an average of 120 and ended this year with an average of 147, with the majority of Sundays for the last 6 months reaching 135-156 or more (again, not counting online). Online, our average is 70 views per week. That is a spectacular renewal in this age of uncertainty and decline in national church attendance in general. Bottom line, what happened online and in person last year, is now happening in person this year, with online growing as well...we are still growing in numbers and in spiritual maturity, and for that, I thank God and you.

Also, I include here our growth in our relationship with God through giving, as a church body. Budgets are holy documents that help determine how much and how well we can do the work God has given us to do here and in the world. Even in a time of financial uncertainty and, for some, financial difficulty, St. Gregory the Great has continued to give! Thank you to Les House, our Treasurer, Jeff Welch, chair of the Finance Committee, and Anna Thornton, Reconciler for all the hard work done to maintain our financial records! They do a stellar job!

And due to that financial difficulty and uncertainty that so many are experiencing, we did not receive enough in pledges this year to meet our ministry goals, while also paying employees and meeting our monthly utility and service obligations. Thank you to those who have already given in terms of pledging, because of you we can do some of what God is calling us to do. Thank you to those who wish to pledge and cannot. God and your family at church understand. God loves us from the tops of our heads to the tips of our toes whether we give or don't give.

For those who have the ability to give and are possibly still deciding how to give and how much, please consider pledging so that we can increase our budget to at least meet our minimum costs. And in the end, please pray for the vestry as we make hard decisions about this year's budget, making cuts to programming and ministry costs so that we may pay our employees a fair wage and meet our outreach and formation goals.

Go:

This is loving others through mission: giving in practical ways and sharing the good news out in the world:

- The Rector's Discretionary Fund has been used for aid with rent, food, heat, medicine, and camp scholarships. On the worldwide scale, this fund has also made donations to charitable organizations, such as Athens Reparation Association and the Episcopal Church in Ghana. The Discretionary fund has given \$1,451.71 in inreach, 1,754.67 in community outreach, and \$300 in direct giving to institutions.
- Through our diocesan assessment (roughly half of which goes to outreach...so, around 18,000) we assist with Emmaus House (serving the impoverished in inner city Atlanta), The Friendship Center at Holy Comforter (serving those with moderate to severe mental and physical disabilities in Atlanta), The Church of the Common Ground (church without walls serving those suffering homelessness in Atlanta), Chattahooche Valley Episcopal Ministry (household essentials, transportation, medical needs, children's ministries, etc to the impoverished in the Chattahoochee Valley area), and the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing

continued on next page...

- We also lend our campus buildings at low or no cost to AA, Joy Village Camp, Yoga Class, a ministry run by our own Anna Hiers, and a local Tai Chi class.

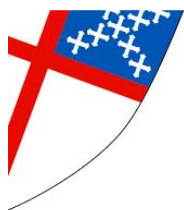
All of this is over and above the excellent work done by our Mission and Outreach Committee (please see their report), Pastoral Care (they don't just do inreach, but care for those who are not members or attendees here), and those done by other ministries in our body (please see the Ministries Booklet, done by our very own Katheryn Musholt).

This means that more than 10% of our budget goes to outreach. And it is my intention that we keep growing in our monetary AND hands on commitment to GOING into the world, giving in love to the glory of God.

I have not highlighted everything we have experienced and done in the past year, simply because I can't. Jesus has been busy in this place, through all of us, in the power of the Holy Spirit! And I am so blessed as a rector to be able to be say that! I love my church family here, so much more than you know! Thank you for an absolutely blessing-filled fourth full year (and some) in this church. I pray I'm blessed to experience many, many more!

In abounding love and great joy, to the Glory of God!

Mo. Nikki+



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

At the Annual Parish Meeting, held in person on January 15, 2023, parishioners elected three new Vestry members for a three-year term: Kate Avinger, John Barrett, and Shelby Welch.

At its February Vestry meeting the Vestry elected LeeAnne Krause as Senior Warden and Mark Richardson as its Junior Warden for 2023.

The 2023 budget was presented to the Vestry by the Finance Committee at its February Vestry meeting and was passed unanimously. Given the overall budget deficit for 2023, the Finance Committee recommended that no new expenditures be made by any committees or ministries beyond what is already in their budget. A motion was approved to that effect by the Vestry.

The Parish Life Committee resumed programming after having been suspended during COVID distancing. Two Vestry members, Shelby Welch and Maggie Reinberger, served as co-liaisons to reestablish the committee and recruit members. Danielle Vogt was hired to serve as part-time Coffee Host.

An ad-hoc Capital Improvements Campaign Committee was formed for the purpose of planning for a campaign to begin in 2024. Two Vestry members served as co-liaisons to this committee, Mark Richardson and Stacie Court.

An ad-hoc Parish Security Committee was formed for the purpose of establishing standard operating procedures for emergencies such as extreme weather events, medical emergencies, an active shooter event, etc.

The Endowment Committee was reestablished after a period of not meeting. George Krause accepted the position of Chair of this committee. Other members include Chrissy Moffett, Marge Massey, Jeb Byers and Logan Sawyer.

Doug Adkins continued as our Director of Children's Ministries, first in an interim role, then as a Deacon, then as an Associate Rector, ending in November 2023 when he accepted a call to serve as Director of Congregational Life at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mother Nikki Mathis took a three month sabbatical, May through July, 2023. During this time the Vestry continued to meet at its normal times, with Senior Warden Krause presiding. The weekly newsletters during this period featured bios of the Vestry members as well as our Clerk and Treasurer. Mo. Carol (Schwenke) Flenniken, Mo. Ellen Richardson, and Fr. Bob Dendtler, assisted by Fr. Doug Adkins, celebrated the Eucharist, held Wednesday healing services, hospital visits, etc during Nikki's sabbatical.

Our parish underwent a routine full financial audit. No problems were discovered, other than that the value of our assets is outdated. As a result, the Finance Committee plans to undertake an inventory of church assets in 2024.

Several repairs to buildings were necessary in 2023, over and above routine repairs made by the Buildings & Grounds Committee:

* The roof of the Education Building needed to be replaced (paid with 2022 bequest)

* Various repairs were made to the Nursery playground, including replacing the fence, laying a cement walkway, and installing gutter for the Nursery roof (paid with 2022 bequest)

- * The parking lot was patched and underlying drainage problems repaired (paid with committee funds and 2022 bequest)
- * Repairs were made to the Nursery roof and the Christian Education HVAC following an electrical storm (paid by insurance)
- * The Parish Hall HVAC and the sacristy HVAC both required replacing (paid with 2022 bequest)
- * The water heater in the sanctuary was replaced with an on-demand water heater (paid by insurance)

The following lay delegates attended the Diocese Annual Council, held at St. Philips Cathedral, Atlanta: LeeAnne Krause, Karen Brill, and Anna Thornton.

In January 2024, there will be four vacancies in the Vestry: LeeAnne Krause, Anna Hiers and John Bray will all reach the end of their terms, Blaine Everson having resigned earlier in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnne Krause, Senior Warden

STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship committee members were Alice Mohor, Anna Hiers, Jo Benton, Judith DeJoy, Karen Hankins, Barbara Kuhn, Marge Massey, and Berni McCranie. Our lay speakers were Alice Mohor, Wade McGlamery, Clare Reid Baeckeroot, Amanda and Garvin Aycock, and Terri Tillman. Our vestry liaison was Anna Hiers. Our parish administrator/bookkeeper/newsletter editor, Kendall Kookogey, provided invaluable help and expertise.

Our annual pledge campaign included lay speaker messages, a parish-wide emailing, newsletter messages and poems, and announcements before worship services.

Six lay parishioners shared their personal reasons for contributing to further God's mission at our church at both worship services on six consecutive Sundays.

Stewardship messages and poems appeared in 8 consecutive weekly parish email newsletters.

A parish-wide email letter was sent to every church parishioner or family. The email included a request for an estimate of giving pledge and a checklist of ministry interests.

Paper estimate of giving pledge forms and ministry interest checklists forms were available in the nave and on-line. Completed estimate of giving pledge forms were recorded by the parish administrator/bookkeeper and acknowledged in hand-written thank you notes mailed to participating individuals and families. Completed ministry interest checklists were collated and passed to each ministry vestry liaison by the junior warden.

Submitted by Alice Mohor, chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is always looking for new members. The Altar Guild prepares the altar for each Sunday service, as well as special services such as funerals, weddings, baptisms, and holiday services. We also care for altar furnishings and linens. Altar Guild members typically serve for one weekend each month, but we are flexible. Previous Altar Guild experience is not necessary; all training will be provided. If you think you may be interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please contact Barbara Dean at bdean70020@gmail.com or 706-354-4269.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

MUSIC

The music program at St Gregory's is honored to have provided music each and every week for worship this past year regardless of size, season, or service type. The choir continues to offer up their time and talents each week on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings and we are so fortunate to have their devoted voices among us all year long. Our singers are the real reason this all is possible! It is our hope that this ministry has provided a soundtrack for fellow Gregorians to stay connected to their faith (and each other) through music and lyrics.

This year we've also held memorial services for our beloved ones, hosted concerts, recitals, and provided a space that celebrates God's gift of music to us all. Highlights include hosting the Spring & Fall concerts for the UGA Chamber Music Society, weekly rehearsals for the Athens Master Chorale, numerous private studio recitals, and continuing to be the musical home of 21 years to the Athens Music Teachers Association's "Sonata & Sonatina Festival" (of which our church has provided space for learning and growth to over 2,500 pre-college piano students during its two-decades in residence)!

We were also treated to the amazing sound of the the "Trey Clegg Singers" in Spring (Easter 2) this past year and were fortunate to have them bless us with their music during worship. Additional thanks Vicky and Mark Tavernier for their music and leadership with volunteer the Band of Believers during the 5pm Christmas Eve service. This is our most popular and attended service of the year and we are grateful for all the help and talent from our volunteers and leaders.

Finally, the choir and I would like to thank Joe Napoli for his 9 years of service as choir director. Joe has led our choir with his faithful, hard working, and insightful gifts over these many years. Under Joe's leadership St. Gregory's has come to work with many types of chamber music ensembles including brass quartets, string quartets, and woodwind groups. He helped stage a full production of Randall Thompson's liturgical opera "The Nativity According to St. Luke" and Joe oversaw (and underwrote) our 50th anniversary commissioned choral work from composer Lloyd Larson called "Living Christ, Our Rock and Foundation". Recently, Joe spearheaded a ministry to help college musicians at UGA who are struggling with food scarcity by providing a large pantry of food & goods available for free to all musicians at the school of music. Joe, you are one of a kind, and thank you for your faith, your fellowship, and for caring for us all these years. Your contributions and growth to the culture of the choir program will live on in our church music.

We look forward to making music in ALL of its forms this upcoming year. If you've ever thought about singing or making music at St. Gregory's please consider joining the choir and music ministry here at St. Gregory's. Everyone is welcome join in the fun, work, and fellowship of serving God and his people through music.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jonathan Klein & Joseph Napoli

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

FLOWER GUILD

For 42 weeks of the calendar year, the Flower guild comes together to provide a ministry of seasonal flowers. The remaining 10 weeks consist of 6 weeks of Lenten and 4 weeks of Advent display. The current 6 member team divide the duties up, accordingly, with the full team coming together for Easter, Advent and Christmas.

Each individual is responsible for providing flowers and arranging them. Purchased flowers are reimbursed by the church.

We honor dedications requested by parishioners and quite often extend our ministry to parish funerals and special receptions.

Lane Norton

ST. GREGORY'S DREAM GROUP

... is for beginners to dreamwork, but also for those who already know and experience this reality and need the support, encouragement, and wisdom of the dream community. It is important for participants to already be doing their own inner work through reading about dreamwork and by keeping a regular dream journal. A suggested reading list is available and the church library has a nice selection of books on the subject.

We meet Wednesday mornings from 10am-12am in the Library at St. Gregory's. Lane Norton, graduate of the Haden Institute, facilitates. We have been meeting regularly for the past 13 years and currently have 9 regular attendees.

Call or e-mail Lane Norton for more information before you come to your first group meeting; nortonlane@bellsouth.net, 706-338-3071 Introductory information is available in the church office.

Lane Norton

LABYRINTH GUILD

The canvas labyrinth that St. Gregory's purchased in 2001 as a replacement for the permanent Labyrinth which was displaced by the building of the sanctuary, was a joint acquisition made possible by parishioner donation and the Trinity grant.

Because of its size, 32 ft. diameter, it is only possible to lay it out in the Parish Hall. In 2023, this was done for a few days in Holy week and a few days around All Saint's. It is very difficult to find times that do not interfere with other activities in the Parish Hall.

The labyrinth guild has been investigating possibilities for a new outdoor, permanent labyrinth. Location, size, and building materials are all being considered.

An especially exciting possible design is based on the Reconciliation Labyrinth built in Cape Town, South Africa. Unlike the Chartres or Classical labyrinth, participants may enter via 2 separate entrances, walk their own path to the center, meet, and walk out of the center together.

Lane Norton

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN

Children's Ministries Annual Report for 2023
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church, Athens, Georgia

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH

2023 Annual Report- Youth (grades 6-12)

St Gregory the Great Episcopal Church

The youth program has been one of the slowest to recover following the pandemic - not just here at St Gregory's but across the Church as a whole. Many congregations, including ours, saw a majority of their most active youth members graduate during COVID, leaving a small age gap. There is a slow, but steady, trickle of students aging up into the program from the Children's program and I, as well as many youth workers, hope that 2024 and 2025 will see our programs move from the 5-10 student average and get closer to the 10-15 range. The number of active students at St Gregory's has increased slightly this school year from about 3-6 to about 5-8, and shows signs of growing even more in the 2024/2025 school year.

The Spring semester in 2023 was a continuation of what we started in the Autumn of 2022 - Sunday school classes hosted twice a month and two Sundays set aside for field trips. We have maintained this formula for Autumn 2023, with the only change being that Sunday school is now only offered on the first Sunday of each month, due to low attendance.

With more students joining the program, priorities for this school year and the entirety of 2024 include:

- **More EYC events.** So far this year we have taken a group of students to Six Flags, taken a hike and picnic in the mountains, and as we have multiple students interested in Dungeons and Dragons we have a DnD Night scheduled that we hope will become a regular event.
- **Youth leadership.** After consulting with Mother Nikki and a couple of vestry members, we are working to add one or two youth representatives to the vestry. These students would not be allowed to vote but would be allowed to fully participate in meetings otherwise, hearing updates from committees, participating in conversations about goal setting for our parish, and ultimately making their voices heard on all issues so that the adult members can take the youth's perspective into account when making short and long term decisions. As Bishop Wright has said - "the youth are not only the future of our church, they are the present of our church."
- **Participation in worship.** Youth members continue to serve as acolytes at the 10:30 service. Mother Nikki and I have a goal of hosting a Youth Sunday, where worship is fully led by youth members, updates on when this will occur will be sent out as they become available. Otherwise, we are also working toward having young musicians play and sing during services. We have multiple youth members that play a variety of instruments and they are keen to share their talents with the congregation as soon as possible.

The members of this parish continue to be supportive of our youth members, always eager to help out where they can, whether it be giving a ride to students on trips, offering their time to chaperone events, and otherwise making space to give our youth opportunities to fully participate in the life of our parish. Thank you for your support and, as always, feel free to reach out if you ever have any questions.

-Respectfully submitted by Wade Mcglamery

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Regular committee members are Ron Balthazor, Ellen Richardson, Wade McGlamery and LeeAnne Krause. Vestry Liaison was John Bray.

Sunday Morning Bible Discussion Group meets from 9:15 - 10:15 in the Parish Hall. The group has completed the Gospel of Luke, the Book of Acts and most recently finishing the Gospel of John. Average attendance is around 12 to 14.

Seasonal Programming for Lent and Advent:

Wednesday evenings in Lent 2023, LeeAnne Krause presented a program called "Seven Deadly Sins in Media" It included discussions of the disciplines of reflection and repentance, and exploring the nature of sin through the fictitious characters from film and TV clips. Each evening began with a simple meal and included about 12-15 participants.

On three Sunday afternoons during Advent 2023, Matt Rogers, a drama therapist led discussions and guided imaginative expressions of characters based on the book, A Psalm for the Wild Built by Becky Chambers. There were about 15 participants who attended at least one of the 3 hour sessions on Sunday afternoons in December 2023.

Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful and challenging 10 week program of learning and group conversations created by The Episcopal Church to promote transformative dialogue circles on race and racism. Readings and films are provided online for registered participants to review weekly before meeting together to process and discuss as a group. Groups met via Zoom in 2021 and began in person in Fall, 2022. In the Fall of 2023, St. Gregory members and facilitators met in two separate groups combined with members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Ron Balthazor co-facilitated a group on Sunday afternoons and Ellen Richardson co-facilitated a group which met on Thursday evenings. A final gathering for these groups is scheduled for late January 2024 and will include former participants of Sacred Ground Groups.

Hebrew Class (off site)

Hebrew Reading, as its name indicates, meets every other Tuesday for the purpose of reading Biblical Hebrew. The focus is on reading a Hebrew passage aloud and then translating said passage into modern English. Since we started this group, we have read through Genesis, Exodus, many Psalms, and other passages. This group is meant to provide an opportunity for persons who have studied Elementary Hebrew to hone their skills through direct encounter with the Hebrew Bible. The group is led by Dr. Joel H. Hunt, retired professor of Hebrew and Cognate Languages.

Lectionary Class

The Lectionary Class led by Les House meets Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Library in the Education Building to discuss the assigned readings, exploring their meanings and pondering connections between and among scriptural readings.

Parish Library

The Library committee is planning a regrouping meeting in January 2024 to appoint a new chair and set some goals.

THE BLINDSPOT

How it started

The ministry for our members in their 20's and 30's has been active since March 2022. At our first meeting we were discussing a name for our new group since we had decided that we did not want to carry the typical monikers of "Young Adults, Young Professionals, etc." We decided that we needed a name that would highlight what we felt is a largely ignored age group. It was our perception that the Church typically did not prioritize or offer interesting programming for a group of people that were too old for campus ministry and had not yet had children of their own. We agreed that we were, in fact, the Church's "blindspot" and the name stuck.

How it's going

It began with us meeting occasionally for dinner or drinks at a local restaurant, trips to the movies, game nights, and occasionally at each other's homes just to talk and enjoy each other's company. As the group stayed consistently active we added a monthly dinner and small group meeting, hosted on the last Thursday evening of each month and almost exclusively taking place in the parish hall with a box of pizza for dinner. We started with a curriculum published by the Episcopal Church entitled "Living the Way of Love in Community." While studying through this 9 session long program the group grew from 3 to the 8 that are now active in the group. We have also moved from meeting in the parish hall each month to meeting in member's homes, where we typically enjoy a home cooked meal. After finishing the Way of Love curriculum we moved on to a study of "The Spiritual Journey as told by *Avatar: The Last Airbender*." The group has enjoyed rewatching what was, for many of us, a childhood favorite and using the story as a jumping off point for spiritual exploration and discussion. The Blindspot has also continued meeting on a regular basis for dinner and drinks, at the movies, and at a bar for game nights.

In November 2023 the group decided that one meeting a month was not enough and, as of January 2024, we have added a second small group meeting on the second Sunday evening of each month.

Plans for the future

We will continue to host small group meetings, providing a specialized formation opportunity for members in their 20's and 30's. We plan on continued growth in our membership and in the programming offered. It is my goal to provide an opportunity for all Blindspot members to travel together in 2024, whether to a conference, a private retreat, a pilgrimage, etc. Details on this will be sent out as they become available. Our members continue to seek out ways that they can serve this parish and we enjoy helping them in any way we can to find the right place in our community.

I'd like to thank Clare and Austin Baeckeroot and Tristen Webb for opening their homes to us this year., and an extra special thanks to Clare for cooking every month.

-Respectfully submitted by Wade McGlamery

PARISH LIFE

In July, Karen Brill and Jill Crandall agreed to be Co-chairman of the parish life committee. We formed a committee with vestry liaisons Shelby Welch and Maggie Reinberger with Anna Thornton, Sheila Collins, Lois Alworth, Marlaine Barnes Marge Massey, Annette Bates, Stacey Court, Shirley Bethune, Gail Eilers, Amelia Ross and Lane Norton.

Our first order of business was cleaning out and reorganizing the closet in the education building and trying to sort priorities for reorganizing the kitchen and a calendar for future events.

In addition to several funeral receptions, we hosted several special coffee hour events, (welcoming back Nikki+ from sabbatical, saying goodbye to Doug+, welcoming the newly baptized...), Easter and Pentecost receptions organized by Shelby and Lois, a parish lunch, and Christmas eve receptions. We still have hopes to host a game night and chili cook-off in the near future.

We have also been helping the building committee to sort out options for a new stove which we will hopefully see near fruition soon.

Submitted by Jill Crandall

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Every Sunday, church members welcomed and introduced themselves to visitors, newcomers, and other church members in the live-chat during streamed worship services and before and after in-person worship services.

Our parish web-master, Terri Tillman, welcomed visitors, newcomers, and members to Sunday worship services in the live-chat during our live-streamed worship services.

Our greeter, Alice Mohor, welcomed visitors, newcomers, and members to our 10:30 in-person Sunday worship services.

In email newsletter announcements and in announcements made before in-person worship services, everyone was encouraged to join our church mailing list and wear a name tag when attending in-person worship services.

Our parish administrator, Kendall Kookogy, supplied printed name tags to every parishioner that requested one.

Handwritten thank you notes were mailed to every visitor that completed a welcoming card.

Volunteer parishioners greeted over 500 visitors to our church's welcoming booth at Athens' Second Annual Pride Parade celebration in June. In a WUGA-FM taped interview during the celebration, Alice Mohor explained that everyone is welcome at St. Gregory's. The interview was broadcast for several days following the celebration.

Various volunteer greeters welcomed visitors, newcomers and members while our greeter recovered from knee replacement surgery.

Submitted by Alice Mohor, chair

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Report of the Buildings Committee, for 2023

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church

Athens, GA

2023 was a very busy year for Buildings.

Major projects completed included:

- Replacing Christian Education roof.
- Replacing Office/Nursery HVAC system.
- Major repairs to Christian Ed HVAC system.
- Renovations to Nursery and its playground.
- Replacement of HVAC to Sacristy.
- Repair of Main Parking lot.

More minor items included:

- Replacement of Library windows.
- Repair to woodwork of Sanctuary.
- Various painting jobs around the property, courtesy of Paul Davis.
- Removal of old freezer and range from Kitchen.
- Replacement of light switches in Parish Hall and Sanctuary building.
- Replacement of hardware in Sanctuary building.
- Replacement of thermostat in Sanctuary with remotely activated one.
- Installation of new lighting in Sanctuary.
- Replacement of water heater for Sanctuary and repair of water damage to ceiling.
- Repair of water heater in Sacristy.
- Contracting for repair of Sanctuary front overhand (work to be done in January 2024).
- Various other plumbing and electrical repairs around the property.
- Removal of yellow jackets from front wall of Narthex.

Thanks to Mark Hein, Kelly Black, Austin Baeckeroot, Jonathan Klein, Andrew Majsztrik and Paul Davis for help with projects.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Reinberger, Chair of Buildings

GROUNDS

Maintenance of the grounds continues year-round with a lot of mowing and blowing that occur each week. A new sun sail was installed over the patio and a number of new plantings were made in the front. Pine straw is added regularly to the Memorial Garden. Several storms necessitated extra clean up and some sign repair. The old nursery fence was removed to allow the beautiful new fence to be installed.

Many thanks to David Lowe and Evan Powell for their continued regular work on the grounds. It is substantial help, and it is much appreciated by all of us.

Mark Hein
Grounds

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee began the year under the chairmanship and leadership of Susanne Burton with the able assistance of John Barrett, Vestry Liaison and Cheryl Copeland as secretary. Susanne helped found Saint Gregory the Great Episcopal Church and brought a sense of continuity, humor, perspective and wisdom to the Outreach Committee. The only source of continuing bafflement to her were emails and technology struggles.

During 2023, the Outreach Committee has continued to follow a systematic approach to determine disbursements. It has set its priorities on four critical needs of the community: food insecurity and housing, health, education and immigration.

In line with this guideline, the committee has made the following donations to area governmental and non-profit organizations.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank	\$1,000.00
Little Red Wagon (food donations)	(in kind)
Athens Area Community Foundation	
Empty Stocking Fund (to help families in our community, who need assistance paying for housing, utilities, medical bills and emergency car repairs)	300.00
ACCA Meals on Wheels	1,000.00
Athens Clarke County School District	
Backpacks and binders collection – district wide	(in-kind)
Barnett Shoals ES – after school program	500.00
Gaines School ES – after school program	500.00
Whit Davis ES – after school program	500.00
Barnet Shoals ES – teacher appreciation breakfast	250.00
Barnet Soals ES – clothes closet collection	(in-kind)

continued on next page...

Bethlehem Ministries (sponsorship of student scholarship in Haitian school)	300.00
Books for Keeps (to donate free books through schools to school age children in Athens)	400.00
Casa de Amistad (provides GED and ESL classes to Hispanic/Latino community)	2,000.00
Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County	
Church collection of gifts for children	(in kind)
Energy assistance	300.00
Downtown Ministries – Our Daily Bread (serves breakfast & lunch to needy)	1,200.00
Family Promise (provides shelter and assistance to families)	1,200.00
FEAST (to feed Athens unhoused families)	1,600.00
Jubilee Partners (to welcome and introduce refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants from other countries who fled violence and persecution to the US and provide language and financial instruction)	1,000.00
The Ark (delivers emergency financial assistance to neighbors for rental assistance and utilities)	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$14,050.00

With her untimely and probably illness-denying passing in December, Susanne will be great missed. Cheryl Copeland, a veteran of the committee, will assume the responsibilities as chairperson.

Cheryl Copeland, Chairperson

John Barrett, Vestry Liaison to Outreach Committee

Life of our Parish

Baptisms in 2023: Eloise Paige Streeter-Lowe

Marriages in 2023: Clare Reid & Austin Baeckeroot

Deaths in 2023: Robert Gomez, Lief Carter, Peter Dondero, Mary Katherine Allen Pedersen, Eric Agner, Roger Swagler, Henry Daniels Minor, Jane Armistead, Sybil Lott, Olivia Carlisle, Sandra House, Susanne Burton

PASTORAL CARE

The mission of Pastoral Care is to provide a compassionate response to the spiritual needs of our parishioners. During 2023, Pastoral Care focused our work on (1) continuing existing ministries; expanding programs in accordance with St. Gregory's Strategic Plan, (2) identifying and sending notes to parishioner households whom we miss seeing in our church community, and (3) identifying and reaching out to homebound parishioners. Pastoral Care has 22 members who bring myriad gifts in providing care and compassion to our parishioners.

(1) In support of the clergy, Pastoral Care members served and cared for our fellow parishioners through existing ministries.

- Card Ministry. 342 cards were sent for birthdays, bereavement, and illness.
- Checking In. 69 contacts were made through phone calls, emails, texts, or visits.
- Let's Chat. 171 contacts were made through this weekly online Zoom opportunity for women of the parish to discuss a variety of topics.
- Meal Train. 26 meal trains were offered to individuals/families in our parish and 11 meal trains were provided. Meal trains can last for a week or two, or longer if the recipient needs more sustained assistance.
- Men's Group. 357 contacts were made through this weekly opportunity for men of the parish to discuss a variety of topics.
- Threads of Prayer. 38 knitted and crocheted items were offered to parishioners in need of healing and comfort and 14 were provided.
- Transportation. 86 round trips were made. **Pastoral Care provides transportation for current members of St. Gregory the Great who need rides to church, church-related events, and medical appointments. Currently, we do not have resources to accommodate other requests.**

(2) In support of the clergy, Pastoral Care members identified and sent notes to 47 parishioner households who we missed seeing in our church community.

(3) In support of the clergy, Pastoral Care members identified a list of homebound parishioners for more regular contact including home communion. Easter goodies were baked, packaged, and delivered to 26 homebound parishioners. Christmas goodies were baked, packaged, and delivered to 28 homebound parishioners.

(4) In accordance with St. Gregory's Strategic Plan, Pastoral Care identified, organized, and implemented Brown Bag programs to complement the usual Sunday offerings and to meet parishioner interests and needs. Pastoral Care organized and implemented the following Brown Bag Lunch Presentations during 2023.

- 24 parishioners participated in "Healthy Brain-Healthy Body" presented by UGA faculty and staff in February.
- 22 parishioners participated in the Diocese's curriculum, "Keep Watch: Suicide, Christ, and Community" in August.
- 28 parishioners participated "Athens Reparations Action" in November.
- 32 parishioners participated in "Grief and the Holidays" in December.

Submitted By:

Rhonda Packer, Chair

Lane Norton, Vestry Liaison

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

This report was prepared on January 12, 2024, which was before the January Finance Committee and Vestry meetings. Included in this report are the following items in listed order for the year ended December 31, 2023:

- Treasurer's comments
- Parish financial statements and information:
 - Calendar year 2023: **Analysis of Revenues & Expenditures – Budget- 2023.**
 - **Balance Sheet – ALL FUNDS 12/31/2023** (this reflects the financial position of the parish and shows the cash balances for all the funds)
 - **2023 Preliminary Budget.** The Finance Committee is planning on adjusting the Preliminary Budget and present a balanced Proposed Budget to the Vestry.

Treasurer's comments:

Background: Operating Fund

The **Operating Fund** is used to record the day-to-day operations of the parish. Parish revenues such as pledges and other non-specific contributions made to the parish are recorded in the Operating Fund. The Operating Fund also records operating expenses of the parish such as employee payroll, utility bills, program expenses such education and youth, music, local outreach, etc.

Two notes of importance to the reader:

- The **Revenue and Expenditure** report is a detailed analysis of the budgeted operations. When you review the **Revenue and Expenditure** report, you are reviewing the *Operating Fund* budget.
- Our financial statements are prepared on a "cash basis." This means they show what we collect and what we spend in a given month and year.

Comments on the 2023 results:

- 2023 Approved Budget called for revenues of \$418,003, and expenses of \$454,011.
- The actual revenue was \$452,177, which is \$34,174 more than budgeted.
- The actual expenses were \$454,872, which is \$861 more than budgeted.
- The deficit was \$2,696.
- The total local outreach expenditures for 2023 was \$13,620 (budget=\$11,000 & designated=\$2,620).
- Please read the financial statements for the details.
- I am always happy to answer any questions you have.

Comments on 2024 Preliminary Budget:

- Funds all committees at the budget that was requested.
 - Includes a 3% cost of living increase for all employees.
 - Has total projected expenses of \$488,500.
 - The current projected revenue is \$400,414.
 - Plate: \$ 4,200
 - Non-Pledge: \$ 27,000
 - Other: \$ 720
 - Building Use: \$ 2,700
 - Current Pledge: \$365,794
 - The current shortfall is \$88,086.
 - Measures will be need to be taken to balance the 2024 budget.
-

Date : 01/08/2024
Time : 2:34:09 PM

St Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Budget - FY2023
January to December 2023

Page : 1

Accounts	YTD Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)
Revenues			
INCOME			
001751 - LOOSE PLATE OFFERINGS	\$4,765.89	\$1,015.00	\$3,750.89
001752 - GENERAL PLEDGE PAYMENTS	\$376,993.04	\$372,268.00	\$4,725.04
001753 - NON PLEDGE TREND	\$65,415.20	\$41,000.00	\$24,415.20
001760 - OTHER	\$2,234.43	\$720.00	\$1,514.43
02762A - Building Use	\$2,767.97	\$3,000.00	(\$232.03)
Total INCOME	<u>\$452,176.53</u>	<u>\$418,003.00</u>	<u>\$34,173.53</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$452,176.53</u>	<u>\$418,003.00</u>	<u>\$34,173.53</u>
Expenses			
EXPENDITURES			
OUTREACH			
001864 - DIOCESAN PROGRAM	\$41,739.00	\$41,739.00	\$0.00
001866 - LOCAL OUTREACH	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$0.00
001867 - RECTOR'S DISC. FUND	\$1,191.48	\$500.00	(\$691.48)
01865A - Deacon - Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
01865B - Deacon - Travel & Professional exp	\$483.86	\$1,000.00	\$516.14
01866B - Priest Discernment	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Total OUTREACH	<u>\$54,664.34</u>	<u>\$55,739.00</u>	<u>\$1,074.66</u>
PARISH PROGRAMS			
001868 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$1,886.05	\$2,500.00	\$613.95
001871 - STEWARDSHIP	\$77.22	\$250.00	\$172.78
001872 - WELCOMING	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
001873 - WORSHIP	\$15.37	\$200.00	\$184.63
001874 - MUSIC	\$8,432.35	\$6,000.00	(\$2,432.35)
001876 - ALTAR GUILD	\$1,030.74	\$1,200.00	\$169.26
001877 - PARISH LIFE	\$1,248.12	\$1,200.00	(\$48.12)
001878 - Pastoral Care	\$565.54	\$200.00	(\$365.54)
001879 - VESTRY RETREATS/DIOCESAN	\$299.81	\$250.00	(\$49.81)
01868A - YOUTH GROUPS	\$2,487.32	\$2,400.00	(\$87.32)
01868E - Chr. Ed. Dir. Cont. Ed.	\$1,221.33	\$1,250.00	\$28.67
01873B - Adult Christian Ed.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
01874B - ORGANIST CONTINUING EDUC.	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$0.00
01878D - COMMUNICATIONS/PUBS.	\$396.99	\$250.00	(\$146.99)
01878E - Nursery	\$316.69	\$250.00	(\$66.69)
Total PARISH PROGRAMS	<u>\$20,177.53</u>	<u>\$18,150.00</u>	<u>(\$2,027.53)</u>
CLERGY			
001881 - CLERGY SALARY	\$64,715.04	\$64,715.00	(\$0.04)
001882 - HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$24,999.84	\$25,000.00	\$0.16
001883 - PENSION/CLERGY	\$16,148.76	\$16,149.00	\$0.24
001884 - INSURANCE/CLERGY	\$37,383.00	\$38,874.00	\$1,491.00
001885 - CLERGY CONTINUING EDUC	\$989.66	\$1,000.00	\$10.34
001886 - SUPPLY CLERGY	\$3,122.17	\$2,700.00	(\$422.17)
008831 - Sabbatical Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
01881B - DEACON STIPEND	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
01881C - Assoc. Rector Salary	\$2,480.90	\$0.00	(\$2,480.90)
01882C - Assoc Rector Housing Allowance	\$7,437.50	\$0.00	(\$7,437.50)
01883C - Assoc. Rector Pension	\$3,786.41	\$0.00	(\$3,786.41)
01885A - CLERGY TRAVEL & PROF EXP	\$3,803.46	\$3,000.00	(\$803.46)
01885B - CLERGY MOBILE PHONE	\$694.54	\$672.00	(\$22.54)
01885C - Assoc. Rector Trav & Prof Exp	\$220.74	\$0.00	(\$220.74)
01885D - Assoc. Rector Phone	\$189.45	\$0.00	(\$189.45)

Date : 01/08/2024
Time : 2:34:09 PM

St Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Budget - FY2023
January to December 2023

Page : 2

Accounts	YTD Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)
Total CLERGY	\$167,071.47	\$153,210.00	(\$13,861.47)
ADMINISTRATIVE			
001887 - SALARY/ALL LAY EMPLOYEES	\$117,944.12	\$127,200.00	\$9,255.88
001888 - FICA EMPLOYER	\$9,206.32	\$9,731.00	\$524.68
001889 - Parish Administrator Pension	\$2,288.16	\$2,289.00	\$0.84
001890 - SERVICE CONTRACTS	\$22,447.88	\$18,000.00	(\$4,447.88)
001891 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$3,140.23	\$2,900.00	(\$240.23)
001892 - POSTAGE	\$361.62	\$400.00	\$38.38
001893 - TELEPHONE	\$4,129.40	\$4,020.00	(\$109.40)
001894 - MISCELLANEOUS ADMIN.	\$981.91	\$1,560.00	\$578.09
01887G - SUPPLY ORGANIST	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00
01888A - WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$1,021.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,379.00
01888B - Commercial Insurance	\$9,002.00	\$8,200.00	(\$802.00)
01889B - Parish Admin. Health Insurance	\$624.00	\$624.00	\$0.00
01889D - CHRISTIAN ED DIR PENSION	\$0.00	\$1,990.00	\$1,990.00
01889E - ORGANIST PENSION	\$1,740.36	\$1,741.00	\$0.64
01889F - Staff Christmas Bonuses	\$2,160.00	\$0.00	(\$2,160.00)
01889G - Annual Council	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
01894A - Audit Expenses	\$10,500.00	\$10,000.00	(\$500.00)
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	<u>\$187,597.00</u>	<u>\$193,105.00</u>	<u>\$5,508.00</u>
BUILDING AND GROUNDS			
001895 - UTILITIES	\$16,644.18	\$17,000.00	\$355.82
001897 - DEBT SERVICE	\$2,007.36	\$2,007.36	\$0.00
001898 - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$6,062.31	\$10,000.00	\$3,937.69
01898A - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$648.27	\$1,300.00	\$651.73
01899B - Capital replacement	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	<u>\$25,362.12</u>	<u>\$33,807.36</u>	<u>\$8,445.24</u>
Total EXPENDITURES	<u>\$454,872.46</u>	<u>\$454,011.36</u>	<u>(\$861.10)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$454,872.46</u>	<u>\$454,011.36</u>	<u>(\$861.10)</u>
Net Total	(\$2,695.93)	(\$36,008.36)	\$33,312.43

Date : 01/08/2024
Time : 3:14:09 PM

St Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
(ACSDATA) Balance Sheet all funds
Funds: Brotherhood Fund, Building Fund, Designated Gifts, J2A Trip Fund, Memorial
Escrow, Memorial Fund, OPERATING FUND, REAL ESTATE, Rector's Discretionary
Fund, endowment fund
December 2023

Page : 1

Accounts

Assets		
CASH IN BANKS		
001001 - CASH - OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$37,940.30	
001003 - Cash - J2A trip fund	\$11,152.49	
001006 - CASH - DESIGNATED FUND	\$27,137.38	
001010 - Cash - Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$116.12	
001090 - Endowment fund cash	\$475.00	
002001 - CASH - MEMORIAL FUND	\$7,727.94	
002002 - CASH - BROTHERHOOD	\$963.27	
002003 - CASH MEMORIAL Escrow	<u>\$19,829.81</u>	
Total CASH IN BANKS		\$105,342.31
INVESTMENTS		
001103 - CASH EQUIVALENT FUND (Vanguard)	\$74,074.66	
002101 - Endowment Fund (Chas. Schwab)	<u>\$89,917.57</u>	
Total INVESTMENTS		\$163,992.23
OTHER ASSETS		
001301 - FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT	\$20,004.04	
001302 - Piano	\$26,492.92	
001303 - Furn & equip new sanctuar	<u>\$64,432.71</u>	
Total OTHER ASSETS		\$110,929.67
REAL ESTATE		
004401 - LAND	\$84,920.00	
004404 - 2001/2002 Sanctuary	\$1,602,000.00	
004405 - Christian Education Building	\$1,170,600.00	
004406 - Office/Parish Hall Building	\$978,800.00	
004407 - MEMORIAL WALL	<u>\$5,653.22</u>	
Total REAL ESTATE		\$3,841,973.22
Total Assets		\$4,222,237.43
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		
Liabilities		
LIABILITIES		
001560 - PREPAID PLEDGES	\$10,550.00	
004580 - MORTGAGE to Diocese	<u>\$19,568.15</u>	
Total LIABILITIES		\$30,118.15
FUND BALANCES		
001401 - Investment in equipment	\$110,929.67	
001602 - Operating Fund Contingency Reserve	<u>\$40,000.00</u>	
Total FUND BALANCES		\$150,929.67
Total Liabilities		\$181,047.82
Fund Principal		
001601 - OPERATING FUND CAPITAL RESERVE	\$61,464.96	
001603 - MEMORIAL Escrow FUND BALANC	\$19,829.81	
001604 - J2A Trip - Fund Balance	\$11,152.49	
001606 - DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	\$27,137.38	
001610 - Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance	\$116.12	
002601 - MEMORIAL FUND BALANCE	\$7,727.94	
002602 - BROTHERHOOD FUND BALANCE	\$963.27	
002604 - Endowment Fund Balance	\$90,392.57	
004630 - Real Estate Net of Loans	<u>\$3,822,405.07</u>	
Total Fund Principal		\$4,041,189.61
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		\$4,222,237.43

2024 Preliminary Budget	Wage and Hiring Freeze	
	Reduction	New

Revenues

001751 - LOOSE PLATE OFFERINGS	\$4,200
001752 - Current Pledge	\$365,794
001753 - NON PLEDGE TREND	\$27,000
001760 - OTHER	\$720
02762A - Building Use	\$2,700
Total Revenues	\$400,414

Expenses

OUTREACH			
001864 - DIOCESAN PROGRAM	\$44,793		
001866 - LOCAL OUTREACH	\$15,000		
001867 - RECTOR'S DISC. FUND	\$500		
01865A - Deacon - Continuing Education	\$1,000		
01865B - Deacon - Travel & Professional exp	\$1,000		
01866B - Priest Discerment	\$500		
Total OUTREACH	\$62,793		
PARISH PROGRAMS			
001868 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$2,500		
001871 - STEWARDSHIP	\$280		
001872 - WELCOMING	\$100		
001873 - WORSHIP	\$250		
001874 - MUSIC	\$6,000		
001875 - ACOLYTES	\$0		
001876 - ALTAR GUILD	\$1,200		
001877 - PARISH LIFE	\$2,000		
001878 - Pastoral Care	\$200		
001879 - VESTRY RETREATS/DIOCESAN	\$250		
01868A - YOUTH GROUPS	\$2,400		
01868E - Chr. Ed. Dir. Cont. Ed.	\$0		
01873B - Adult Christian Ed.	\$500		
01874B - ORGANIST CONTINUING EDUC.	\$1,750		
01878C - Library	\$200		
01878D - COMMUNICATIONS/PUBS.	\$1,750		
01878E - Nursery	\$585		
Blindspot	\$8,000		
Total PARISH PROGRAMS	\$27,965		
CLERGY			
001881 - CLERGY SALARY	\$66,657	\$1,941	\$64,716
001882 - HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$25,750	\$750	\$25,000
001883 - PENSION/CLERGY	\$16,633	\$484	\$16,149
001884 - INSURANCE/CLERGY	\$40,260		
001885 - CLERGY CONTINUING EDUC	\$1,000		
001886 - SUPPLY CLERGY	\$2,700		
008831 - Sabbatical Expenses	\$750		
01881B - DEACON STIPEND	\$618	\$18.00	\$600
01881C - Assoc Rector Salary	\$6,133	\$6,133	\$0
01882C - Assoc Rector Housing Allowance	\$18,392	\$18,392	\$0
01883C - Assoc Rector Pension	\$4,416	\$4,416	\$0

	2024 Preliminary Budget	Wage and Hiring Freeze	
		Reduction	New
01885A - CLERGY TRAVEL & PROF EXP	\$3,000		
01885B - CLERGY MOBILE PHONE	\$672		
01885C - Assoc. Rector Travel & Prof Exp.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
01885D - Assoc. Rector Mobile Phone	\$672	\$672	\$0
01885E - Assoc. Rector Continuing Ed.	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Total CLERGY	\$191,653		
ADMINISTRATIVE			
001887 - SALARY/ALL LAY EMPLOYEES	\$108,238	\$15,510	\$92,728
001888 - FICA EMPLOYER	\$8,280	\$1,094	\$7,186
001889 - Parish Administrator Pension	\$2,358	\$69	\$2,289
001890 - SERVICE CONTRACTS	\$24,000		
001891 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$3,000		
001892 - POSTAGE	\$600		
001893 - TELEPHONE	\$4,044		
001894 - MISCELLANEOUS ADMIN.	\$1,320		
01887G - SUPPLY ORGANIST	\$1,050		
01888A - WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$1,200		
01888B - Commercial Insurance	\$9,025		
01889A - PA RETREAT/DUES/WORKSHOP	\$0		
01889B - Parish Admin. Health Insurance	\$624		
01889D - CHRISTIAN ED DIR PENSION	\$0		
01889E - ORGANIST PENSION	\$1,793	\$52	\$1,741
01889G - Annual Council	\$1,000		
01894A - Audit Expenses (AUP)	\$4,000		
Endowment Committee	\$750		
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$171,282		
BUILDING AND GROUNDS			
001895 - UTILITIES	\$17,000		
001897 - DEBT SERVICE	\$2,007		
001898 - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$11,000		
01898A - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	\$1,300		
01899B - Capital replacement	\$3,500		
Total BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$34,807		
Total Expenses	\$488,500	\$53,531	\$434,969
Net Total	-\$88,086		-\$34,555

Vestry Bios

Amanda Aycock

Pat Conroy once said in an interview “A Military Brat can’t tell you where they are from - nor, where they will be buried.” That pretty much sums up the first 13 years of my life - with my Dad in the Navy - and our “waiting for orders” - as well as the Mayflower moving truck - every two years. I’ll be honest - I am honestly amazed at anyone that has lived in the same place ALL of their life. My family traveled up and down the Eastern Seaboard - had the good fortune to meet some amazing people - and, not so amazing - from the Chesapeake Bay Area to Key West. Then, my Dad retired and the family settled in Decatur, Georgia. My Mom and Dad both were from South Georgia/North Florida and never had any desire to move back there. My Mom was the religious misfit in her family. Most of her folks were either Baptist or Methodist - very, very traditional. Then - in Starke, Florida - she discovered the Episcopal Church and was confirmed there when she was 17. In all of our travels, she became involved with the Episcopal Church which served us well. It gave us a sense of continuity and belonging wherever we settled. She demanded that I become involved with the Church - and, I did while at Holy Trinity in Decatur - serving on the Altar Guild and helping with Sunday School.

This last 30-some odd years, my husband, Garvin, and I maintained a farm east of here in Wilkes County...until we sold the farm three years ago - then moved to Athens. We tried raising cattle - and, thankfully got out of that and turned to raising pine trees. Both of us were very active in the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Washington, Georgia. I had to “convert” Garvin - he was raised Roman Catholic. Both of us served on the Mediator Vestry - if he rotated off - then, I got on. Because the congregation was so small, it was a matter of necessity - if you had a pulse and you could walk a straight line (mostly) - you served in some capacity. I served as our Church treasurer, served on the Altar Guild and tried desperately not to embarrass myself by arranging flowers. Both Garvin and I served as Junior Warden - which was not easy. The building - which is beautiful - was old. The roofed leaked - constantly fought honey bees that were trying to live under the siding, plumbing that had a mind of its own and a hot water heater that worked when it felt like it. While I was with the Mediator - I was asked to represent the Congregation in the election of a new Bishop - that was in 2012. I’ll never forget meeting the Rev. Robert C. Wright - for the first time - and, thinking - can this be the one? And...he was. For me, this is when our Church made a commitment - a REAL commitment - to welcome all to God’s table. That commitment is important to maintain. And, that is what has drawn Garvin and myself to St. Gregory’s - the commitment to serving all in our Community.

Berni McCranie

Even though I was born in Pittsburgh, PA, I consider myself a true Southerner who bleeds Red and Black. My family moved several times due to my father’s job as an engineer for Westinghouse. After living in 4 other states, I landed in Athens in 1974. I met my first husband here and we raised our son and daughter in Athens. I attended the University of Georgia and taught elementary school in Clarke County for 27 ½ years. I retired (a little early) in 2015 to help care for my elderly mother.

I was raised in the Catholic church, but after marrying, my husband and I attended First Baptist (his home church), where I taught high school aged Sunday School and helped chaperone youth group trips. Sadly, my husband passed away in 2004 and I discovered that the Baptist church no longer felt like home. I began a search for a true church family, which I was blessed to find when I began attending services here at St. Gregory’s. Everyone here was so friendly and genuinely welcoming. I think it was the “Sharing of the Peace” that really hooked me! After attending for several years, I was formally received into the church in September, 2021. I now serve on the Altar Guild and teach Sunday School. I look forward to more opportunities for service within the church and the greater community.

A happy note side: In 2014, I reconnected with an old classmate who was in my high school homeroom and we were married in 2016. Our blended family includes 4 children and their spouses and 12 grandchildren. My biological children live in New York and Los Angeles, so I travel often to visit them. When I’m not traveling, I enjoy volunteering at St. Mary’s

Hospital, where I serve on the auxiliary board. I also serve on the board of trustees for the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education. My hobbies include camping, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Our daughter, Stacy, and her husband, Carl, live in Tucker. Their son, David, is a freshman at North Georgia Technical College in Clarksville. Our son, Lee, lives in Athens, and his daughters, Elle and Carson, attend Morgan County High School.

Vicky Tavernier

I'm a cradle-to-grave Episcopalian yet my history with the Episcopal Church looks like Swiss cheese. I've attended other denominations when there was no Episcopal church to attend. I've subbed as an organist at churches that did not use our liturgy or book of Common Prayer. Every time I came running back to my Episcopal roots. I feel accepted here. I feel like I belong. It's okay to sit in the pew and cry or hug someone who looks like they need it or laugh when something is funny. It's ok to question everything. It's okay to be myself.

In my daily life, I've been a music teacher for 50 years. I currently teach private lessons at home and at Waseca Montessori. Music has saved my soul many times.

My husband, Mark has been on the vestry. This is my second time answering the call. I'm honored to be part of this group!

Paul Welch

I was raised in the Church of Christ, but became dissatisfied as I experienced the world. I was "Episco-curious" for many years - the history, liturgy, and traditions were fascinating strangers to me - until my very first day at St. Gregory's in 2001. That first day was Gloria Bowden's last day back when the parish hall was our sanctuary. Between her dynamic farewell sermon and the dragon in our mural, I was hooked. As I continued to attend, I participated in the Peace that seemingly goes on forever and I loved it. When I heard "No matter who you are or where you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome to the bread and wine made holy" I knew I was home. The courage of that statement made by our rectors over all the years I have been here resonates with me. God is for All! I find the liturgy, the BCP, and the traditions of the worship expressed in the Episcopal Church comforting. Especially in the context of St. Gregory's openness, curiosity, and acceptance and love for others. Naturally enough, I was received into the church in 2005.

Our parish is home to the most important milestones of my life: Rebecca and I were married here in 2003. We have two sons: Porter, 14 and Walker, 11, both of whom were baptized at St. Gregory's. While we participate in the life of the parish as much as possible - Porter and Walker serve as acolytes on many Sundays & Rebecca is a regular at Adult Sunday School - my most significant engagement is service on the parish nominating committee for a rector in 2017-2018.

We live in Oconee County with two cats, two horses, and various other wildlife who come and go. I grew up in Baytown, Texas but spent many summers with my maternal grandparents in Macon County, Georgia where my parents now live. I graduated from Lamar University in 1994. After graduation, I spent two years in Sweden working menial jobs and being a bum. I arrived in Athens in 1998, earned a M.Ed. from UGA in 2000 and started working there as an academic advisor (with several fellow Gregorians, in fact). My day job is Director of Student Affairs in the School of Public and International Affairs at UGA and Rebecca is managing pharmacist at Athens Infusion Pharmacy. We bleed red and black.
