

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church

# Annual Meeting

## January 23, 2022

Father Wes Shields, Rector

Barbara Maher, Financial Administrator

Barbara McGowan, Communications Specialist

Dana Clearwater, Receptionist

Gary Attanasio, Sexton

## The Vestry

Charles Covarrubias, Senior Warden

Steve Connell, Junior Warden and Treasurer

Clarence Clarke, Nancy Hernandez, Guy McKenzie,

Sharon Rayner, Tony Tulumello, Cris Vaccaro



ST.  
AUGUSTINE  
of CANTERBURY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
[www.staugustinevero.com](http://www.staugustinevero.com)

475 43rd Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32968 772-770-3494



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## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 2021

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic last year's meeting was held via ZOOM and no formal meeting minutes were written. Please use the following link if you would like to view last year's meeting.

<https://vimeo.com/509951098>



# **Agenda for Annual Meeting 2022**

## **St. Augustine of Canterbury**

**Prayer**

**Senior Warden Report**

**Junior Warden Report**

**Finance Report**

**Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members**

Chuck Covarrubius, Guy McKenzie, Sharon Rayner

**Election of New Vestry Members**

**Vestry Nominations:**

Karen McIntyre, Richard Calkins, Russ Kratz

**Additional Nominations from the floor**

**Vote on New Vestry Members**

**Vestry Appointments**

Tony Tulumello - Senior Warden, Steve Connell- Junior Warden,  
Dana Clearwater– Clerk

**Nominations for Delegates to 2023 Diocesan Convention**

Tony Tulumello, Chris Vaccaro, Marianne Rowan, Alternate- David Rowan

**Vote on Delegates**

**Request for additional Business to brought before the congregation**

**State of the Church address:**

**Concluding Prayer and Adjournment**



# Senior Warden's Message - 2021

## Senior Warden: Chuck Covarrubias

The past years of 2020 and 2021 have to be reviewed in the same context since each defines the status of St. Augustine of Canterbury. March and April of 2020 preceded major changes to our Church. Father Mike announced his retirement, and we were beginning to feel the very real impact of Covid-19. We established a Search Committee and began the process of recruitment and discernment leading to selection of our new Church leader.

2021 saw an expanding threat of Covid-19, its mutations, uncertainty regarding the efficacy of vaccines. Our search for our new Rector, his election by the Vestry and call to serve was completed. Father Wes Shields became our new Rector. My thanks to the Search Committee for their hard work and dedication.

We experienced the loss of our Musical Director/Choir Master, Dr Jason Hobratschk. The retirement of Pastor Denise and changes/losses in our office staff.

Our Church has always been a place of social interaction, community and support. Covid-19 forced social restraint and for some Parishioners isolation and fear of an unknown assailant.

Your Vestry, acted in response to each of these challenges. We expanded "live stream" broadcast of services, video conferencing, and reached out to parishioners via telephone and email.

To summarize, the greatest challenge was maintaining our connection to God, our Church and our Parish community.

Thank you for your support and May God continue to bless St. Augustine of Canterbury.

Chuck Covarrubias  
Senior Warden



# Junior Warden's Report - 2021

Junior Warden: Steve Connell

Our main building is now over 30 yrs old and the Goldberg Hall and expansion is now 10 years old. We continue to experience the effects of aging for both the buildings and systems but are maintaining our property to provide a welcoming place to come and worship.

Listed below are the major projects/repairs we have undertaken this year. Do to the uncertainty of our operations this year, we have held off any major expense renovations while still addressing items to mitigate any deterioration or system failures. In this category of deferred projects is the need to repair and reseal our asphalt paving which is planned for 2022 at a cost of \$6,500, repainting the north wall and the entrance doors and stained glass window sills for the church and the education wing (estimated \$750), and adding gravel behind the new columbarium to prevent ground erosion (estimated \$500). Additionally, we have nine air conditioning systems which require ongoing maintenance and are subject to normal aging repairs and replacement. We have an ongoing preventative maintenance program and filter change schedule to minimize problems to the extent possible. (Thank you Guy McKenzie).

## Projects completed in 2021

1. Wooden fence bordering the fire station has been removed  
(Thank you Shields family!)
2. Replaced old rusty Sunday School signs and replaced worn Episcopal flag
3. Additional bronze memorial wall plaque installed in the Memorial Garden
4. Ongoing irrigation and well repair and maintenance with the assistance of Brian McIntyre. Still some issues with the front system being addressed
5. Removed the carpet from the choir risers to improve the quality of the sound transmission under the guidance of Jason.



## Junior Warden's Report (con't)

6. Obtained bids to change out the LED lighting in the Sanctuary and paint the interior a warmer white to improve the broadcast quality. Cost to do both was \$7,500 so it was deferred for further review in 2022
7. Repaired/replaced circuit boards for the alarm panels.
8. Repainted the east exterior wall of the church after determining there was no moisture issues, merely paint fading.
9. Replaced asphalt roof shingles and repaired flashing after storm damage
10. Kitchen A/C evaporator coil replaced
11. Replaced condenser coil in one of the large A/Cs for Goldberg Hall
12. Repaired plumbing leaks in ceiling above lady's restroom in narthex and above old kitchen.
13. Painted hallways, school rooms, and adjoining areas.
14. Painted monument sign fronting 43 Ave to give a fresh look.  
(Thank you Fr. Wes!)
15. Repaired opening in exterior wall at roof peak light fixture on north wall.
16. Cleared condensate floor drain which was flooding sanctuary carpet near rear door
17. Installed new programmable A/C thermostats in sanctuary  
(Thank you Guy McKenzie!)
18. Installed new mini blinds in front windows of church
19. Replace door sill bolts in the education wing entrance
20. Re-cabled rear speaker chamber for new organ and provide for an additional rear speaker for the clergy microphones
21. Ongoing pressure cleaning of walkways, fencing, facias.
22. Purchased new pressure cleaner.



# Treasurer's Report - 2021

**Treasurer: Steve Connell**

We entered 2021 with the uncertainty of searching for a Rector, and the Covid based challenges of providing a safe place to worship and provide for the pastoral needs of our parish. Despite these challenges, we ended the year in much better financial shape than we had originally anticipated.

**Income was \$707,635 which was \$8,038 higher than budgeted.** Contributions were over budget by \$20,063 due to a favorable variance of \$40,482 in Pledge income, while non pledge income was under budget by \$20,570. Other income was under budget by \$12,052, which accounted for the rest of the variance.

**Our operating expenses, totaling \$650,644, were under budget by \$131,289.** The bulk of the expense savings was in Personnel, which was under budget \$104,140 for the year.

**As a result, we had an operating surplus of \$56,990 for the year.**

**Our ending cash was \$142,260** so we are well situated as we begin the new year. Our approved budget for 2022 projects a small surplus of \$46,456, predicated on our revenues remaining the same as we had budgeted for at the start of 2021. Upon the completion of our 2022 Stewardship campaign, we will revise the budget accordingly.

**Our Investment Fund ended the year with a balance of \$ 1,848,589. This represented an increase of \$93,689 for the year.**

I am very pleased and grateful to acknowledge receipt of a bequest of \$503,000 from the estate of a parishioner this year which has boosted the fund to a balance in excess of \$2,300,000.

As a reminder, this fund is intended to provide an ongoing resource for the furtherance of our ministry at St. Augustine. Funds are to be used for Ministry growth, capital needs, and for emergency uses. In order to preserve and grow our Endowment, we are fortunate to have the guidance of our **Investment and Finance committee** consisting of Olin Melchionna, Kenneth McPartlin, and chaired by Brian McIntyre. We have a challenging year ahead of us with changing positions by the Fed to combat inflation but are fortunate to have the guidance of the Investment Committee to keep us in good shape.

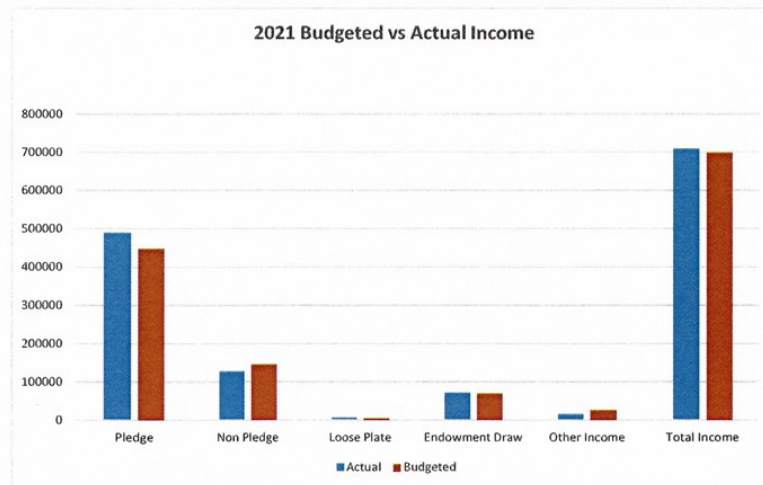
Please see the enclosed Fund performance review for further information.



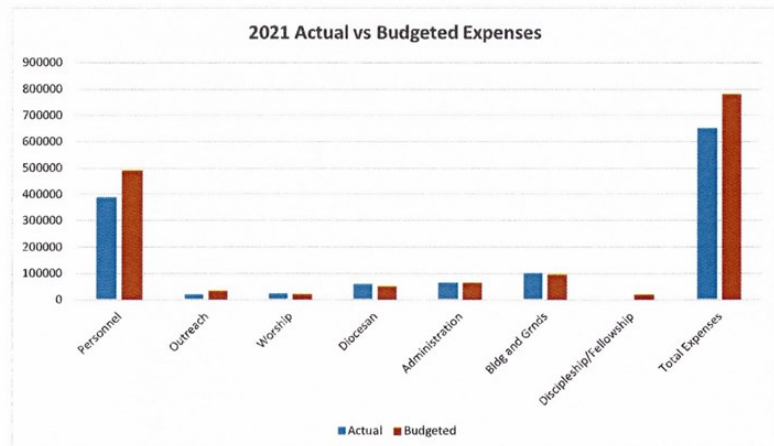
# Treasurer's Report - 2021 (con't)

## 2021 Actual vs Budgeted Results

	Actual	Budgeted
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledge	488908	448427
Non Pledge	126779	147349
Loose Plate	5651	5500
Endowment Draw	70622	70622
Other Income	15673	27699
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>707633</b>	<b>699597</b>



	Actual	Budgeted
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel	386748	490888
Outreach	18798	34200
Worship	22757	21600
Diocesan	58370	52240
Administration	62527	66240
Bldg and Grnds	99693	96365
Discipleship/Fellows	1752	20400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>650645</b>	<b>781933</b>





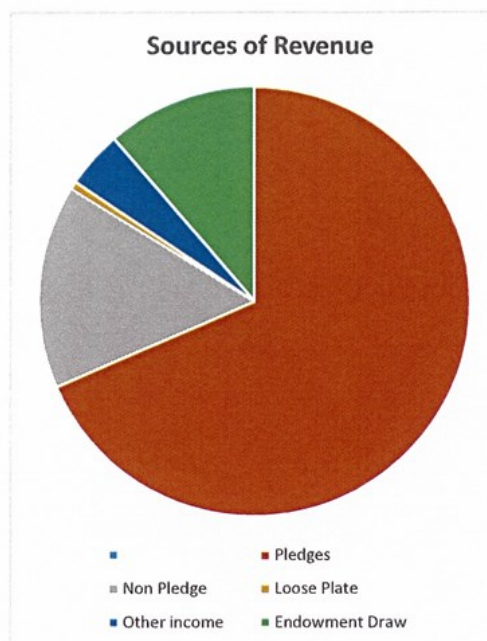


# Treasurer's Report - 2021 (con't)

## 2022 Budget

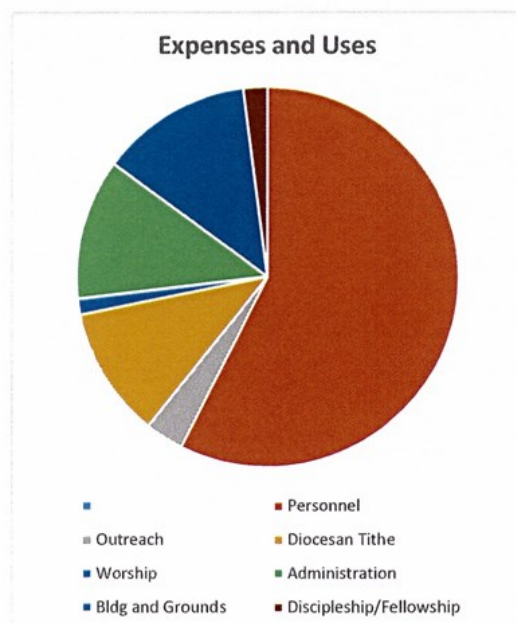
### Sources of Revenue

Pledges	\$ 448,250.00
Non Pledge	\$ 100,400.00
Loose Plate	\$ 4,000.00
Other income	\$ 28,000.00
Endowment Draw	\$ 74,000.00
<b>Total Projected Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 654,650.00</b>



### Expenses and Uses

Personnel	\$ 349,241.00
Outreach	\$ 20,000.00
Diocesan Tithe	\$ 67,311.00
Worship	\$ 8,294.00
Administration	\$ 72,608.00
Bldg and Grounds	\$ 78,120.00
Discipleship/Fellowsh	\$ 12,620.00
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 608,194.00</b>





# Finance and Investment Committee 2021 Year-end Report

to the Vestry of Saint Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
and 2022 Annual Meeting report

Saint Augustine's Vanguard Investment Fund balance on January 1, 2021 was \$1,755,286.33 which was reduced by the \$112,500.00 new organ deposit withdrawal in February to \$1,639,326.31. The 2021 ending balance including a \$10,000.00 parishioner gift was \$1,848,588.87, a gain from February of \$209,262.56.

The Finance and Investment Committee had been dormant through 2020 as covid raged through the world. A call for volunteers placed in our Sunday bulletins led to a re-start of meetings on June 1, 2021. Father Rob Goodridge conducted a commissioning rite, appointing prior members and new volunteers to a one year term on the committee. At the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Brian McIntyre was nominated committee chairperson by Steve Connell, the vestry treasurer. The committee, which meets most months on the third Tuesday at 10am, has been reviewing established procedures including investment guidelines and is balancing investments to meet those guidelines. The committee plans to submit suggestions to the Vestry to define, consolidate, and update financial procedures. The 2021 rate of return is 11.8%. The funds 10 year annual rate of return is 10.7%.

Short term changes to the fund have been to rebalance fixed and equity assets to align with the guidelines of 75% equity and 25% fixed, established by the vestry and reviewed with Father Wes Shields. The rebalance is being done with six monthly transfers from fixed to equity holdings.

The committee is reviewing a slight increase to the number of holdings above the current five to diversify away from the risk that the typical S&P index fund has with the top 10 stocks representing too much of the total fund value. This places too much trust in a few companies. Additional long term changes facing the funds are the Federal Reserve's planned moves to control inflation by reducing bond purchases and raising interest rates in 2022. Those moves present an unknown challenge to the equities market.



# Outreach Committee and POPS Fund Annual Report

## Co-Chairs- Tony Tulumello & Judy Covarrubias

**Committee Members:** Karen Bodine, Carol Davis, Jo-An Smukala, Jackie Davis, Burke Neely, Carol Paris, Fr. Wes Shields

### Outreach Report

Annual Budget Allocation \$ 30,000

Needless to say, 2021 continued to be a difficult year due to Covid restrictions. Many of our usual grant recipients had to curtail services or partially shut down.

Many changes occurred which impacted the committee, beginning with the retirement of Fr. Michael in June of 2020 and Pastor Denise in September 2021. Sadly, we dealt another major blow in January with the death of Bunny Frey, a major leader and supporter of the POPS Fund and Outreach programs for many years. Her absence is surely missed by all, especially by those who had the opportunity to collaborate with her on many levels, and in her work with El Hogar. May her shining spirit, generosity, laughter, and wonderful example continue to inspire us for many years to come!

It is with great joy that we welcomed Fr. Wes this past year and look forward to his direction, new ideas, and leadership in the years ahead.

The committee met seven times from March to November and presented grant requests to the Vestry totaling **\$20,176**, and were approved as follows:

<b>El Hogar-</b> student sponsorship	\$2,500.
<b>Childcare Resources-</b> playground mulch	2,880.
<b>United Against Poverty-</b> training program sponsorships ( 4-clients)	4,000.
<b>Haiti Clinic-</b> healthcare services	2,000.
<b>Gifford Youth Center-</b> summer program sponsorship	1,000.
<b>El Ocotillo-</b> scholarship program	2,000.
<b>Way of Faith Ministries-</b> food distribution for 2 months	608.
<b>Samaritan Center-</b> Soup Bowl fundraiser donation	1,000.
<b>Glendale School-</b> education appreciation gift cards	350.
<b>Our Fathers Table-</b> HOME program for the homebound	2,800.
<b>Feed the Lambs-</b> after school program supplies	388.
<b>Angel Tree Project-</b> supplemental donation	650.



## Outreach Committee and POPS Fund Annual Report (con't)

### POPS Fund Report

Beginning Balance \$21, 300. (\$15,000 by anonymous donor, balance by parishioners)  
Grants totaling **\$ 12,094** were requested by the committee and approved by the Vestry as follows:

<b>Gifford Youth Center-</b> outdoor lighting	\$ 2,360.
<b>Childcare Resources-</b> children's nap mats	1,090.
<b>Samaritan Center-</b> shelving and bins for food pantry	404.
<b>Camp Haven-</b> 1-clothes dryer / 2-washers	2,697.
<b>Feed the Lambs-</b> equipment for children's summer program	579.
<b>Women's Refuge Center-</b> replacement freezer	866.
<b>RCMA-</b> replacement equipment required for pre-school program	4,098.

### Ending Balance earmarked for 2022- **\$9,206**

Many thanks to the Parishioners who contributed to the POPS Fund and helped us exceed our matching grant of \$5,000. As always, we are very grateful for the Donor's generosity in funding this great program. I would like to add a word of thanks to Judy Covarrubias, this Committee co-chair who unfortunately had to relocate out of State in December. She was a hardworking, dedicated colleague for the last several years, and a firm believer in the Outreach Ministry. She will surely be missed! Best of luck to her and Chuck. God bless them both for their many contributions to St. Augustine's Parish.

### Special Projects:

**Site Visitations-** Judy and I had planned to visit at least one of our grant recipients per month. We did get to visit Camp Haven in April and Whispering Pines Child Development Center (RCMA) in June. It was very helpful to make personal contact with the site Directors and tour the facilities. However, COVID restrictions quickly put an end to this and hopefully it can be revisited in 2022.



## Outreach Committee and POPS Fund Annual Report (con't)

**The Angel Tree Project-** Would like to report that the Angel Tree Project, which was spearheaded by Karen Bodine, with assistance from Jackie Davis was a huge success. This program was managed through the Salvation Army. They provided us with 54 requests for needed and wanted items by children of low-income families who had no means for providing these items for Christmas. The request tags were placed on a Christmas Tree in the Narthex and parishioners took the tags, registered with Karen or Jackie, and were required to turn in the items within two weeks in the bag that was provided. The response was outstanding, and all 54 tickets were given out by the end of the first Saturday and Sunday services. The parishioners' generosity was impressive. The room used to store the items was filled to capacity and there were at least 15 bicycles and almost every child received all their needed and most of their wanted gifts! A huge thank you to Karen and Jackie for their work in administering this project. We will surely do this again in 2022!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Tulumello



# Health and Wellness Report

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Health & Wellness Team was formed in October 2019 to support and strengthen the mind, body and spirit of our congregation and the community. The Team provides health education, health screening and lifestyle wellness along with supportive care programming and is composed of health professionals and spiritual leaders.

In the first 6 months of 2021, COVID prevented us from holding programming or screenings but we were able to reinstitute our monthly blood pressure checks in September on the last Sunday of the month.

We participated in the October Craft Fair by offering COVID educational information, blood pressure checks and information and distributed Vial of Life packets.

Monthly articles were written for the Canterbury Tales newsletter by our various professionals covering a wide variety of topics.

Medical resource and educational materials along with Mini Prayer Squares were provided on our Health Table located in Goldberg Hall.

A mini survey was personally conducted by Phillippa Norman asking our parish members areas of interest and once reviewed will determine our 2022 programming.

A Caregiver Support Group is being formed and will be led by Brother Rick Lorino beginning the last Tuesday in January. Sally Munson will assist.

Thank you to Father Wes and the following team members for their support:

Br. Rick Lorino, BSG	Tony Tulumello, Vestry
Carol Paris, ECW President and DOK	Clarence Clarke, Vestry
Marolyn Findlay, RN	Yvonne Tso, Spiritual Companion/Director
Jay Brown, RN	Gayle Twombly, Prayer Shawl Ministry, DOK
Phillippa Norman, Dietician	Heatherrae Bennett, Licensed Massage Therapist
Genie Bushell, RN and DOK	Lifestyle Health and Wellness Coach

We look forward to 2022 and all the possibilities for growth.

If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact me.

Blessings,

Sally Munson, RN

Health & Wellness Team Coordinator



# Pastoral Care Committee Annual Report 2021

***"We are one Body, one Spirit under our Lord Jesus Christ."***

In September 2021, The Pastoral Care Committee was formed in an effort to reach out to those who would benefit from a little support spiritually and emotionally through sharing fellowship, prayer, or Communion.

Lay Eucharistic Visitation is an integral part of this ministry. Russ Kratz, Coordinator, along with LEM's Inge Curcio, Sally Munson, and Tony Tulumello, assisted Father Wes by bringing Communion at least once a month to those who were in the hospital, rehabilitation and nursing facilities or to those confined to their homes. In addition to conducting Communion, they have kept parishioners abreast of what is happening at St. Augustine and helped maintain their connection to parish life.

New prayer cards were created along with supplemental offerings to share with those we visited and procedures were created to improve documentation/reporting.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers also assisted Father Wes, along with Br. Rick Lorino, at the 10 a.m. Wednesday and Sunday services as needed. Welcome to Jay Brown who will be joining us in January.

Br. Rick Lorino will be spearheading a caregiver's support group which will meet the last Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. beginning January 2022. Sally Munson will assist with this effort.

It is our hope that this ministry will expand in scope in the coming year. Thank you to Russ Kratz for organizing the LEM's and to all those who participated in this worthwhile ministry.

Sally Munson, RN

Pastoral Care Committee





# Daughters of the King

## St. Michael the Archangel Chapter

### St. Augustine of Canterbury Church

The mission of our Order is to spread the word of Christ, through Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We are an International Order and our Diocese is the largest in the country! We meet on the fourth Saturday of the month where we pray and keep abreast of our projects.

**Prayer** - We pray daily for people in need. There is a locked box in the Narthex with our name on it. Everyone is invited to fill out a blue card and place it in the box. Yours will be added to our daily prayers. This information is shared only with our Chapter.

**Service** - Coffee Hour on the first Sunday of the month

#### **Supporting our Order on Mission Projects**

This year our mission is for the Canterbury Retreat Center in Oviedo.

Our Chapter project is "Feed the Lambs" here in Indian River County.

#### **Evangelism**

We wear our Daughters cross at all times to show and share our faith with others.

Members of our Chapter attend Assemblies and meetings throughout Florida.

We have four major fund projects - Nancy Kelly is the Fund Chairperson for the Central Florida Diocese

Self-Denial Fund: used for missionaries wherever needed

Endowment Fund: used to support the International Development and National Enrichment programs.

Master's Fund scholarships: used for continuing religious education – seminaries.

Alpha Fund: used to develop and support Junior Daughter Ministries.

All of these funds are from donations by the Daughters at our meetings. We are not a fund-raising group, but donations to our Service Projects are always welcome.



Again, we are here to pray for you.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Eagan, President





# St. Augustine of Canterbury ECW Annual Report

For year ending December 31, 2021



President: Carol Paris

Vice President: Donna Sherwood

Secretary: Nancy Eagan

Treasurer: Gayle Twombly

Number of members: All women of the Church

Number of Meetings Held: 8

Due to the restrictions regarding meetings in our Church, our annual ECW meetings and fundraisers were limited in 2021.

2/26 – ECW Emergency meeting to appoint new Treasurer

5/15 – SE Deanery Diocesan ECW Meeting by Zoom

6/19 – Welcome Back Holy Eucharist & Luncheon

8/17 – Luncheon Meeting at Mr. Manatee's Restaurant

9/11 – New Season Holy Eucharist & Luncheon Meeting

10/15 – Annual Arts & Craft Show

10/23 – Annual Diocesan ECW Meeting by Zoom

12/12 – Annual Ladies Christmas Tea

The checkbook balance as of 01/01/2021 -	\$ 677.37
Income	
Arts & Crafts Event	\$1490.50
Expenses	
ECW & Hospitality Guild Meetings	\$ 653.28
Donations to church events & gifts	\$ 498.62
Arts & Craft Event Expense	\$ 219.09
Office Expense	\$ 104.93
Total Expenses	\$1475.92
Checkbook balance on 01/01/2022	\$ 691.95



# Lectors, Chalice Bearer and Servers

## Chair: Clarence Clarke—Report 2022

These ministries consist of permanent and part-time parishioners of St. Augustine of Canterbury. Participating parishioners are trained in the parish. They assist the clergy as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors/Lay Readers, Servers or Chalice Bearers.

They serve at four main services; 8 AM and 10 AM on Sundays, 5:30 PM on Saturdays and 10 AM on Wednesdays as well as other special services: i.e. on Ash Wednesday, during Holy week and Easter Week, on Thanksgiving Day, Christmastide, Evensong, Weddings, memorials and funerals. They serve on a rotating schedule, as much as possible, and provide coverage for each other since some participate in multiple ministries.

We've had many parishioners assisting our clergy with masses, Evensong and other special services. We've had scheduling meetings as well as individual and group coaching sessions. We have also had new parishioners join these ministries. With the emergence and continuation of COVID there has been a reduction in our active number of participants.

Participants have served as:

**Lectors:** In the Liturgy of the Word, lectors read the lessons that precede the gospel at all masses, lead the Prayers of the People and lead the reading of the psalm at all masses except the Sunday 10 AM and other special masses when the psalm is either sung or chanted. Lectors are also known as readers.

**Chalice Bearers:** Chalice Bearers (also known as Lay Eucharistic Ministers) administer the consecrated elements at celebrations of the Eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of priests and/or deacons to assist the celebrant. Chalice Bearers usually vest for service at the altar.

**Servers:** In the absence of acolytes, Servers light the appropriate candles; participate in the processions and recessions as crucifer and torch bearers, assist the celebrant with setting the altar for communion, receiving the sacraments as well as the collection plates, ringing the bells at the appropriate times and extinguishing the altar candles at the end of the mass.

If you would like to serve in these ministries, please see me, Clarence Clarke, or Fr Wes. I am listed in the Parish Directory.



## Altar Guild Annual Report 2022

For year ending December 31, 2021

**Directress: Mary Strahosky**

Number of Members:	15	<b>Special Projects:</b>
Meetings:	3	Sunday Flowers
Sunday Services:	198	Christmas Flowers
Weekday services:	55	Easter Flowers
Baptisms:	0	Mother's Day Flowers
Weddings:	2	Veil Crosses
Memorials/Funerals:	16	Decorate for Easter
		Altar of Repose
		Decorate for Christmas



## Garden Angels Annual Report 2022

For year ending December 31, 2021

**Committee Chair: Mary Strahosky**

**Members:** 3

**Meetings:** Every Tuesday morning

**Special Event:** Plant Sale at Arts and Craft Bazaar

**Weekly Projects:** Water urns in breezeway and front doors of Church. Water the rest of the gardens (sprinkler system is being repaired.) Water plants in the Narthex if needed.

Clean birdbaths and fill with fresh water. Trimming and weeding as needed.

The urns at the church entrance are changed to reflect the Church seasons.

Memorial plants or trees are purchased and planted if requested.

Take time to walk through the gardens – touch a leaf, hug a tree, smell the flowers, listen to the birds. Feel the gift of peace and joy!



# Music Ministry Annual Report 2022

For year ending December 31, 2021

By: Dana Clearwater, Receptionist and Music Ministry Liaison

Total number of members: 28

Regular Choir Members actively singing: 22

Schola Cantorum Members: 7 (up until July 2021)

Music Search Committee Members: 6 + Father Wes

Number of Meetings: Twice a week - Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings

Special Services: 3 Sunday afternoon Evensong services sung by Voces Vero; an ensemble comprised of Schola Cantorum members plus other outside professional musicians in the community.

Choir Special services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter and Christmas Eve.

Summary:

This has been a year full of change for our music ministry as we have had to embrace singing in a pandemic as well as experience the loss of our Organist and Choirmaster, Jason Hobratchk, whose last Sunday was Sunday, July 11, 2021.

Fortunately, several months before his departure, Jason had initiated the process of purchasing a brand-new organ for the Parish when the old one had ceased to operate properly despite previous repairs to remedy the issues. The Vestry voted and approved the \$150,000 expenditure. As a result, we received our brand-new Rodgers Infinity 361 Series Hybrid Digital Organ which was installed on August 20, 2021. Many, many thanks go out to all those who so very generously contributed to the Organ Fund Campaign for a total of \$90,490 - defraying the cost of the organ by well over half. Many thanks also go out to the people who served on the Organ Fund Campaign Committee by reaching out writing personal notes and mailing letters for those donations.

While it is somewhat bittersweet that Jason himself was never able to play this beautiful instrument, we have been blessed all the way through this challenging time with



## Music Ministry Annual Report (con't)

extremely competent musical leadership from Judith Taylor (playing/ conducting July 18 – November 28, 2021) and our very own Don Ingram (December 12, 2021 – January 30, 2022); Brother Rick Lorino (December 25) and Becky Barkett (January 16 & 23, 2022); as well as guest organist Michael Murray who assisted us on December 5 & 24, 2021. Janie Gould has also blessed us with many lovely piano preludes at the 10am service throughout 2021. We are all so very grateful for these wonderful people who stepped up to help when we needed it most.

I would be remiss however, not to mention all the hard work done by Father Wes and our Music Search Committee who toiled quietly behind the scenes to find us a new Music Director during the latter half of the year. In December, Father Wes called Organist Tom Hall to be our new Music Director. Tom will arrive in Vero in late January and his first Sunday here with us will be on February 6, 2022. Thank you Father Wes and Music Search Committee!

Most of all, the people I most need to thank are our own beloved choir members without whom this ministry would not be possible. They have persevered to come out and sing in not so ideal conditions – in a mask during a pandemic, and also amid the general uncertainty and inevitable chaos that comes with the absence of an “official” leader. Everyone has been very helpful, accommodating, and flexible through it all. Special thanks go out to Carol Paris who has helped to put away choir music every week and also for organizing our choir vestments with help from Carol Davis. I thank ALL OF YOU from the bottom of my heart! Here’s looking forward to a new beginning for our Music Ministry in 2022.

### **Choir Members:**

Martha Britt  
Lisa Cherry  
Dana Clearwater  
Nell Cook  
Carol Davis  
Louise Duncan  
Marolyn Findlay  
Stephanie Hurtt

Don Ingram  
Deb Kavenagh  
Lala Maresi  
Gerry McHugh  
Larry Minner  
Carol Paris  
Grace Perry  
Elinor Silveira  
Al Smukala  
Jo-An Smukala

Mary Strahosky  
Gene Tobey  
Tony Tulumello  
Joann Tuttolomondo  
Gayle Twombly  
Sunny Uttley  
Carol Volpini  
Carol Waldner  
Daniel Waltrip  
Doug Williams

### **Music Search Committee:**

Marolyn Findlay  
Don Ingram  
Brother Rick Lorino  
Lala Maresi  
Sally Munson  
Al Smukala  
Father Wes