

ANNUAL REPORT



St. Andrew's by-the-Sea 2023
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RECTOR'S REPORT



A Year Spent Loving

When I think of St. Andrew's in 2023, I picture us gathered in the meadow at Camp Stevens. The chapel had been damaged by weather, so we carried a folding table and our instruments down into the valley and set up church. We had what we needed - bread, wine, our voices, and each other.

When I think of St. Andrew's in 2023, I think of the rebel women Bible study. Through encountering our spiritual ancestors in scripture, we have met women who have inspired and taught us. We have gone deeper in conversation and in connection with each other. I think of the sessions this summer, when our children were out of school; the young daughters of some of our members joined us and listened intently to the story of Hagar's tenacity, about how she was the first person in the Bible to give God a name. What name will our daughter's give to God?

When I think of 2023, I think of the important, impossible questions we asked: why is my child sick - did I do something wrong? What does it mean to be an inclusive community? What does scripture have to say about gender, and what do those outside the gender binary have to teach us about God? What's the point of joining a church in this day and age? Is there a purpose to organized religion, or is spirituality enough for me?

I think of children asking questions in Godly Play. I think of our intergenerational book club that read *A Wrinkle in Time*. I think of the weddings and baptisms we celebrated, and the losses we mourned.



I think of the people who have discovered a sense of belonging in this church, especially those who have been hurt by the church in the past. Together, we are flinging wide the boundaries of who belongs in this church - this is the important, life-changing work we are doing at young adult brunches, as we stood at the boardwalk confessing the sins of the church against the LGBTQIA+ community, as we wrote letters to our Jewish and Muslim neighbors while the world exploded in violence.

In 2023 we made more connections with our neighbors than ever before. We welcomed yoga teachers and sound healers to use our sanctuary, knowing that those who've gone before us and gifted us this building wanted it to be a space of healing and peace for all. We welcomed Shoreline Community Services onto our campus, and rejoiced as our facilities held space for unhoused folks working with case workers. We renovated and opened up office space for parents of kids in our preschool who were looking for a place to work. 2023 was the year when we jumped into the vision of our campus being used for ministry and for revenue, and Kari, our operations manager, made a huge difference by focusing so much of her time on this.

Look around our church and you will see people growing in faith and in self-love, people making meaningful connections, people following Jesus's call to cross borders and serve. Our desire to serve has led us to new places - to the U.S./Mexico border, to welcoming asylum-seekers into our homes, to offering temporary shelter to those living on the street.



Along with all the vibrancy of our parish, we still face the reality that many churches and church schools are facing in a COVID-affected world, and in what is now the most expensive city in the country. While our giving has increased over the past four years, we continue to operate at a deficit budget. Our increased facilities rentals in 2023 made a big difference in the deficit, however. This was our plan at annual meeting last January, and I'm proud to say we have worked hard and achieved that goal.

We will continue to seek out solutions to our structural deficit in 2024. One exciting opportunity is to have a wireless company, DISH, rent space on the roof of our sanctuary for cellular equipment. We are also waiting for the city to approve the installation of over 40 solar panels on the roof of the sanctuary.

As we cast the vision of the next 90 years of St. Andrew's, our diocese is offering support in imagining how we can use our real estate to serve our community and create income streams for our church. We are praying for two to three St. Andrew's people to lead us in a process of listening to the needs of our community, and dreaming big about a potential future building project. Please let me know if you have interest in helping with this project.

The change in 2023 that I am most grateful for is my family's move into the rectory in Pacific Beach. It has been a huge gift to our family to be in the neighborhood with many of you. Plus, our eldest started kindergarten at PB Elementary, and we get to walk him to school. Not commuting has made so much more ministry possible for me this year.

As always, I'm grateful beyond measure to be praying, growing, serving, and dreaming alongside you.

Mother Mary Lynn, rector

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT



As we kick off 2024, I'm inspired by the multitude of ways God has blessed St. Andrew's. I'm sure all of you can think of a moment (maybe multiple moments) where you experienced God's love in this place. Perhaps it was at family camp, Hunger Supper, or our annual talent show. Or on any given Sunday while participating in worship.

We have so much to be thankful for, and St. Andrew's is thriving because of our collective energy. I'm forever grateful for the amazing work the vestry has been able to accomplish this last year as well as the work that is in the pipeline, for Mother Mary Lynn and her family moved into our church rectory this past summer and the improvements we made, which benefited both our church and preschool campus. I am also grateful for the amazing work that Kari Robinson does in keeping us all organized. The custodial team of Christopher and JT maintains our facilities, enabling programming to run smoothly.

Collectively, you all contribute to making St. Andrew's a reflection of Christ's love for all. I am inspired by our community, and from the hard work accomplished this past year, St. Andrew's will continue to thrive and grow in the years to come. Thank you for allowing me to serve you these past two years as senior warden, and I look forward to celebrating life and Christ's love alongside each of you whenever and wherever we gather.

Peace and Love,
J. David Carlson, senior warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". It's been a great personal honor to work with Mother Mary Lynn and the entire vestry team to serve our parish over the past 3 years. We have finally come out on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to grow and



thrive! We have maintained and expanded so many ministry offerings - the weekly hunger suppers, our programming for children and youth, our unique fellowship gatherings like the annual talent show, and more!

As I look back on my term of service with the vestry, I am very proud to have helped St. Andrew's formulate and document our parish Core Values - Joyful Authenticity, Radical Inclusion, Grounded Curiosity, and Loving Justice. These values provide a "north star" for our actions and reflect who we are as individuals and as a parish.

At St. Andrew's by the Sea, I am grateful for the Sunday morning beautiful music, the inspiring sermons, the friendly faces greeting each other during the peace, and the time for quiet reflection at the end of a busy week. We are a small but mighty community who genuinely care for each other and who are committed to care for our Pacific Beach community.

Thank each and every one of you for showing up as your authentic selves, for caring for our beautiful church home and for finding ways you can serve. I guarantee you will be grateful for serving and will grow more into your true self along the way!

Anne Cass, junior warden

FAMILY MINISTRIES

After many rocky years, navigating social distance, upheaval and change, I'm happy to say that my overall feeling this year of our Family Ministries is one of stability. Every week I am touched by the moments where I see and hear children participating and enjoying our worship service.

We continued to offer our annual Epiphany Book Club, this time reading *A Wrinkle in Time*. We had fun activities like building a tesseract, making cosmic art, writing about "dark and stormy nights" as well as some jello brain for added fun. The conversations between children and adults were rich and we leaned into a theme of deep listening through storytelling.



During the season of Lent, one of our youth, Ali Jones, participated in a longtime program in the making, our Diocesan Youth Confirmation: We Believe! This collaborative offering allowed for leaders and youth from across the diocese to participate and made it accessible for youth from small churches to have a cohort as well as a team of leaders each bringing different gifts to the table.

One of the highlights of the year for me is having our Easter Vigil on the Bay! There were a few children who were baptized, making it such a joyful celebration!

The Easter Egg Hunt was oversized with over 600 eggs hidden on the library lawn. In June, we celebrated our many high school graduates with gifts, a slide show and a happy reception, and then we all got to party at the 90th Anniversary celebration!

For the summer, we delved into a Lego curriculum called "Building Faith Brick by Brick", which was so fun and enjoyed by children of all ages. Then, we put together our first VBS in at least a decade, "Love Is..." We had a close-knit group of kids, silly adult participants, and the week was filled with joy, music, art and friendship! We are excited to offer this again this summer.

Another project years in the making gained momentum by reuniting our area churches to create our Beach Area Youth collaborative! We had our first parent presentation on "How to Talk so Your Teenagers Will Keep Talking to You" led by the counselors at Bishops, a service project packing up blessing bags, as well as a beach and ice cream outing. In 2024, we will continue to offer group outings and more parent support. We also have our youth participating in several different diocesan offerings, such as retreats at Camp Stevens, bay days, overnights and convention.



Our parish retreat at Camp Stevens and No Rehearsal Nativity Pageant always have top spots in my highlight reel, and God felt so present throughout both! We had a great turn out filling every room in two lodges for our retreat, with so many happy memories: playing, swimming, hiking, eating, singing, tie-dying and spending time in community. The pageant is sacred and silly, and so heartwarming to see the children take part in the holy retelling of the birth of Christ.

I set a goal to invite more families for dinner in my home, and I think that is my most favorite part of my job! I absolutely love spending time with your families and getting to know you better. Please let me know if your family would like to come over this year! We were able to sustain our Sunday School programs through the dedication and joyfulness of our team of volunteers: Helen, Alja, Laura, Massey, Bethany, Hans, Anne, and Ellen, as well as our nursery caregiver, Gina. I am so grateful for your contributions and connections with our children. Our children are active participants in our church ministries and we are so grateful to all of our child acolytes, lectors, greeters, singers, musicians, and all of the ways you share your gifts with our church!

Kari Robinson, family minister

WORSHIP & PRAYER

In June 2023 we celebrated St. Andrew's 90th anniversary, and the 60th anniversary of the sanctuary dedication. We used prayers that the community prayed in 1963, and celebrated Eucharist from the original altar. With a display of historical documents and photographs, we learned new stories about our past and celebrated where we've been.

A St. Andrew's member brought her passion for contemplative flower arranging to our space, bringing striking flower arrangements on Sundays. We made an adjustment to the altar to make it safer and more accessible, removing the platform it sat on. We plan to make a change to the lectern to make it safer and more accessible soon.

We thanked altar guild members for their dedicated ministry over decades. We continue to wonder where God is leading us next in this group who takes care of the sacred objects in our church and preserve so much of our history.

We gave thanks for our pets on the feast of St. Francis. We gave thanks for the cycles of life and death as we burned the palms from Palm Sunday to use as ashes on Ash Wednesday. We hosted a vigil of remembrance for those in our neighborhood who died this year while living on the street.



Our all-ages services continue to invite all of us - children and grownups alike - to worship with more wonder and more curiosity. We performed a skit to tell a biblical story. We added to the resources at the children's table in the front of the sanctuary. We continue to strive to have expansive language for God in our music and liturgy, and to be mindful of gendered language (ex: siblings instead of sisters and brothers). Our liturgical planning team prayed about each liturgical season and planned an agape meal for Maundy Thursday, and so many creative worship services.

We live out our values of inclusivity, authenticity, and curiosity every time we come together to pray and worship.

MUSIC REPORT



What a beautiful year of music! Our music team has had FUN this year, both while leading the congregation for Sunday services and gathering during the week to practice for events. But we also enjoyed connecting spiritually, especially collaborating together during our monthly contemplative services of 2023.

Our Talent Show for this year had an 80s theme for music, which provided some extra challenges for us as a house band but also brought so much joy and laughter while learning the music. We had too many favorite songs and not enough time, which just means we'll have to put on another 80s event sometime in the future. The band nailed it and the talents themselves were incredible. It was a beautiful night and we can't wait for next year's Talent Show!

This year we also brought back a long-time St. Andrew's by-the-Sea tradition of caroling in Pacific Beach during the Advent season. While the tradition used to have the music team caroling through the drunken bars of Pacific Beach, we decided to restart this tradition in a new way, by including all ages in the congregation in caroling at the Pacific Beach boardwalk. We passed out candy canes to passersby, wishing them Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and singing joyous music to our community. We had a great turnout and parishioners of all ages enjoyed singing carols together.

As we move into 2024, we look forward to the opening of Pacific Beach's first Community Choir held at St. Andrew's by-the-Sea twice a month on Tuesday nights, a Hymns night, and a possible 60's prom! Stay tuned! If you're interested in joining the new Community Choir, please reach out to me and I will keep you updated regarding music and rehearsals.



The community choir is currently open to treble voices of all ages, high-school or older. You do not need to read music. The only experience you need to have is singing in the shower or the car!

As for our regular Sundays, please know there is always an open invitation to join our music team on as many songs as you'd like for one Sunday, random Sundays, or every Sunday! There is no commitment necessary and you can feel total flexibility to pop in and out at your convenience. I send recordings and sheet music via email each week and if you'd like to show up early on Sundays to rehearse any of the music, I'll be around. Otherwise, pop in and join us! There is always a seat for you in our little music family. Please email me if you'd like to be added to our music email list. (katie@standrewspb.org).

Finally, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to all of those who offered their gifts in the music ministry this past year, to those who had the courage to showcase their talents to our community at the Talent Show, and to those who have encouraged our Music Team with your supportive comments. What a gift this community is! I am forever grateful.

Katie Cavallo Rhol, parish musician

PRESCHOOL REPORT

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Reflecting on 2023, it's been another challenging year. The biggest hurdle we continue to have is maintaining a fully staffed preschool. The children are here but it has been impossible to keep a consistent staff and that makes it difficult as an administrator. Daily, I receive emails and calls about wanting to enroll children here. Many of our current part-time families have requested more days or longer days because they love it here so much and families are getting back to full-time work and need more care. All of that is amazing but so hard to continue with a quality program when you are always seeking a new hire. This is an issue industry-wide among many preschools and childcare facilities. I have had to use the substitute agencies more frequently than usual due to staff being out sick, on vacation or not being fully staffed. I have found that the substitutes make more money per hour than my regular employees, they aren't always of good quality, and they don't always show up when they say they will. It has been a very difficult year on that end of the perspective. I continue to do my best to keep my staff motivated, healthy and engaged with our wonderful PB families. The vestry did vote to prioritize our staff and getting all teachers to at least \$20 per hour, which required the use of some money from our reserves. We continue to try to make the best decisions for our staff.

On a happier note, we had a lot of fun at the preschool last year with our children and families...we had an awesome foam party, Kona Shaved Ice, Bouncy houses, Church Preschool Family event, Fall Festival, Thanksgiving picnic, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and our wonderful Christmas pageant. It was so great being able to get all the families together and we had an amazing turn out for all events!

As always, thank you Mother Mary Lynn, the wardens, and the church vestry for your continued support for the preschool and for helping us provide a quality preschool program for the families in our PB community.

As I look into the New Year, I continue to feel blessed to work with some fantastic people who truly care about the well being of little people and I love St. Andrew's community of families, church employees and members along with the quality preschool program that we provide!

Blessings! Heather Gasner, preschool director

FACILITY RENTAL



One of the goals for 2023 was to better utilize the church facilities to meet the needs of the community and bring in more income.

We invited groups to use our Sanctuary space for educational purposes. We are providing access to the space for classes and meetings that are open to the community, donation-based, and in line with our mission and values. As a result, we have had many yoga classes, a few sound baths, and meditation classes.

After our Loft revamp last year, we now have a new 12 step group meeting there weekly, as well as a therapist using the space for appointments, hosting Shoreline meetings, and a new 11th Step Meditation group starting in the new year.

On our balcony, we reworked an unused office space into a co-working space as a way to serve remote working parents at our preschool. We received a mini-grant from Think Tank at VTS that allowed us to buy new furniture for this space, and the room is being used daily by 3 different parents. As an outgrowth of that, we also turned a closet area on the balcony into our "podcast room" which has been utilized by these preschool parents.

We also hosted 3 weddings, a vow renewal, a wellness festival, an ordination picnic and other meetings and events.

Our space is available for you to use, too- what kinds of classes or meetings would you like to bring to St. Andrew's? Let's plan it together.

Kari Robinson, operations manager

HUNGER SUPPER

I have been with Hunger Supper for nearly one year, and am happy to report our little operation is going well! Each Tuesday we serve a fresh dinner to 30-60 neighbors. Our cooks do a great job preparing plenty of food, never knowing how many guests will come. When there is extra, guests are delighted to eat until they are full and even take to-go boxes with them (these are our best nights!). When food stretches thin, everyone works together to make sure everyone is fed.



When I first started, I often felt the crunch of finding enough helpers for a given night—but we now have a large and reliable team and always have enough help for prep, service, and clean-up. In fact, one of the more challenging parts of this job has become getting too many inquiries about joining as a volunteer! Or having well-meaning church members tell interested folks to just show up on a Tuesday (without food handler cards, at that). While it's wonderful that so many in the community feel inspired to help, we simply can't accommodate more with our small operation. I wish we could!

We are so grateful for the support we've had through some challenges: the broken oven; the broken fridge; the second broken fridge; one of our lead cooks needing to take an indefinite leave of absence. All of these have been resolved through people's flexibility and willingness to cheerfully and patiently help.

At the moment, we have no pressing needs! Everything is running smoothly and any challenges that pop up are able to be resolved. I am making the kitchen and pantry cleaner and more organized. As the Food Safety Manager, I am authorized to train and certify food handlers, and our volunteers have kept up with that. We have minimal disruptions during dinners and a general feeling of goodwill that is shared amongst our team and neighbors—guests frequently thank us not only for the delicious food, but also for the fellowship and kindness. I am delighted in the neighborliness I see from both guests and volunteers. It's a beautiful ministry. I'm happy it's going well and to be a part of it. Thank you for your support!

Auburn Williams, volunteer coordinator

DEACON'S REPORT

This last year at our Tuesday night Hunger Suppers my role was pastoral. I have gotten to know a lot of the diners who are regulars and those who are just passing through. During these conversations, I am mainly listening but also help people understand how the Episcopal church works—as opposed to other denominations and religions—in America (our theologies whether that be sacramental or theological). According to my Letter of Agreement, I have been scheduled to preach once a month and I enjoy this part of my ministry because it allows me to follow the Spirit in the crafting of sermons and in their delivery. In terms of pastoral care, Mother Mary Lynn and I have divided and alternated the work: her seeing certain people and vice versa, as well as rotating visits. It feeds me bringing the Eucharist to those unable to attend on Sundays and I enjoy establishing rapport with the two people I've been seeing.

Periodically, I have met with a few congregants in what I call one-to-ones. In these exchanges I hear the challenges and joys people are currently experiencing. I like these times because it allows me to get to know the person I am with on a deeper level, while also becoming a voice of encouragement and hope. Lastly, I've been ministering to migrants in Jacumba and have advertised this ministry of handing out clothing to people who are refugees in California during the announcements on Sunday. There does seem to be an interest, but the visits await more of a structure and when that happens, I am hoping more may be able to participate.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Daniel McMillan, deacon



WHAT IS THE VESTRY?

The vestry of St. Andrew's by-the-Sea has the responsibility of advancing the mission of our parish. This group of elected St. Andrew's members are the spiritual leaders of the church, and along with the Rector, discern where God is calling us in ministry and mission.

The vestry is also the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. Vestry members are elected to serve a three-year term at the annual parish meeting.

The goal of the vestry is to be a committed community of learners who pray together, discern God's call for St. Andrew's, make decisions that align with our mission and values, and nurture the spiritual vitality of the congregation.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

HELEN DAVIES

I was raised in The Church of England and joined Saint Andrew's in the late 1990's. A longtime Godly Play mentor, I am looking forward to serving a second vestry term.



MIRIAM MORRIS

Miriam has spent much of her three plus decades of life moving cities, countries, and even continents. So, she's excited to have found her grounding in PB since moving from the SF Bay Area in 2021. During the day, she works with food and beverage brands to improve their raw material operations. Mostly though, she delights in communing with Mama O(cean) and surfing with her water friends daily. She married Ross Miller at St. Andrew's by-the-Sea in October 2023, and is looking forward to contributing to the St. Andrew's community through the vestry.



BARBARA RATCLIFFE



I was raised as a member of the Anglican Church, St George's, Stockport, Cheshire. United Kingdom. Upon settling in the USA, I joined the Episcopal community, St. Francis, Willow Glen, San Jose. I was fortunate to serve on the vestry there. Bruce and I relocated to San Diego in 2022 and we were fortunate to find and join St. Andrew's by- the-Sea. Since joining the church I have attended Bible class and the annual diocesan convention.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

REBEL WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Rebel Women Bible Study continued to explore stories of women in the Bible, and began reading The Meaning of Mary Magdalene this year. This has been a great place to explore our questions about the Bible - who decided what counted as biblical text? Why do we always hear certain stories in church instead of others? Was Mary Magdalene really the fallen woman she's been portrayed to be? We meet Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30am at the church. Email [Mary Lynn](#) to join.

SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In the season of Lent, a group of about 20 people shared a simple meal Wednesday nights. Then in small groups, we practiced deep listening as each shared their own spiritual autobiography: What have you experienced? What events have shaped who you are? Who are the people who have been important in your life? Where has God been in all of it? We were blown away with the deep connections, and will offer this again during Lent in 2024.

BOOK STUDIES

During Epiphany in 2023, we held an intergenerational book study of *A Wrinkle in Time*. A diverse group gathered to read parts of this story aloud and to discuss it. We saw ourselves in Meg, the one who feels different from everyone else. We wondered about good and evil, about "the evil powers which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God," which we talk about in our own baptismal covenant. We named aloud the people who fight the darkness by creating love and beauty. We tried liverwurst sandwiches and decided, surprisingly, they weren't that bad.

In the summer, a group read *Liturgy of the Ordinary*. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that the author does every day.

CATECHUMENATE

Twelve people joined the catechumenate course in the fall, mostly newcomers to St. Andrew's and many newcomers to the Episcopal tradition. We explored the history of the Anglican church, our liturgy, how our congregations and dioceses function, and so much more. Two participants were confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church at the bishop's visitation. We will offer this again fall 2024!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following families and individuals who have joined St. Andrew's in the past year:

Erika Kullberg, Leo, and Maddox Hollabaugh

Ross Miller & Miriam Morris

Maya Little-Sana & Joe Orellana

Rowan Albers

Gene & Ashley Krieger
Alex, Taylor, Charlotte & Nathan Milam-Samuel

Clara & Sean Hoverman

Margaret Tait

Masey & Selah Blakemore

Mary & Thea Goldin

Johanna, Maya, Ben & Luana Schnell

