



St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2022

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin
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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

Mark 4:26-29

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last year at this time I was incredibly excited about the year ahead. We had just had our pandemic restrictions and mask mandates lifted, and there was incredible enthusiasm for regathering and reenergizing as a faith community. Then we faced Delta and then Omicron! Within a matter of weeks, we went from thinking we were almost back to “normal” to another full program year of uncertainties and creative flexibility.

And yet, over the last year, we have (re)discovered ways to gather, worship, and be of service to one another and the world around us. It was like the slow growth Jesus mentions in the scripture above. Even amidst of our uncertainty the Holy Spirit has been supporting and inspiring us. The stories gathered here are beautiful expressions of how we have continued to lean into the Holy Spirit and continue to receive the love of God and bear Christ’s grace into the world. I am deeply grateful for each and every person who participate in all these various ministries. Thank you!! Please take the time to read about all the love and grace that has been made manifest through our common work together in Christ’s name.

While we still have challenges and uncertainties ahead, I am comforted, excited even, that we are all in this together, and that the Holy Spirit, moving mysteriously in our midst, makes Her presence known in and through our lives.

Gratitude, Grace, and Peace,

The Rev. David Erickson
Rector



A LETTER FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

We have had a year of excellent singing from the Children's, Youth, and Parish Choirs at St. Mary's. I have been greatly moved by the resilience of these singers. Immediately when we were permitted to sing together in the church last summer, we saw an enthusiastic return to choral singing. Since then, despite the challenges of the Pandemic, our participation has been high and our commitment has been strong.

I am deeply grateful for the participation from our students from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the Parish Choir: Shelby, Jacob, Andrew, Mia, Kieran, and Jeremy. We look forward to a continued relationship with SFCM and hope to attract more students to our music program.

Our music ministry would not be possible without the support of our Clergy, especially Fr. David, and the dedication of our Music Associate, Marla Perkins. Our staff singers not only offer us their talents as singers, but have a real leadership and pastoral role in our community. Finally, our music library would not be in order without Susan Barber.

I look forward to our continued work together for the remainder of this year!

Eric Choate
Director of Music



SWEEPS VESTRY PORTFOLIOS

Community Ministries

Georgia Burke Lu, Vestry Member

Lynne Dombrowski, Vestry Member

Margaret Stafford and David Crosson, Lay Coordinators

The Revs. Tim Smith and Nancy Bryan, Clergy Coordinators

Community ministries are an integral part of life at St. Mary's. Involvement with community ministries is an important way that we live out our baptismal covenant, both to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves," and to "strive for justice and peace among all peoples and respect the dignity of every human being." Below, are 2021 highlights from some of our many community ministries. Our *Ministries Brochure* provides a comprehensive list of the variety of ways to become engaged in community ministries at St. Mary's. Please join us in this fulfilling and life-giving work!

San Francisco/Marin Food Bank: Delivering food to those in need throughout our city

St. Mary's has been responding to the evolving needs of the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank weekly home delivery program since January 2016. The pandemic led to many changes in how the Food Bank operates and also impacted how St. Mary's participates. In the last year, a dedicated team of six St. Mary's volunteers delivered food to 11 households every Thursday, bringing fresh groceries directly to isolated people who can still cook but who are physically unable to pick up food from a store or distribution center. In addition, St. Mary's parishioners have routinely taken shifts packaging food at the Illinois Street warehouse and taken on delivery routes as needed. Currently, St. Mary's food delivery program is in transition, with the team having recently decided to shift away from weekly deliveries, as the post-pandemic landscape changes once again. Opportunities to serve continue. If God is calling you to *feed the hungry*, the Food Bank Pantry at Home program offers opportunities to deliver food, staff pop-up food pantries or assemble food bags at the warehouse, go to: <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/volunteer/>

St. Mary's Justice Ministries

St. Mary's Justice Ministries strive to recognize the incarnate Christ in everyone by living God's justice into *this world, today*.

Current Justice Ministries' efforts center largely on migrant accompaniment. Since March 2020, we have partnered with Congregation Sherith Israel in the first interfaith Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT) in the Bay Area. Sponsored by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI), NEAT accompanies and supports migrants for three to six months as they forge self-sufficient lives in their new homes. Although not officially designated as such, St. Mary's is doing all the work of an asylum church.

Since June 2021, St. Mary's-Sherith Israel NEAT has accompanied five individuals/families seeking asylum in the United States. (Names may be omitted or attenuated to protect privacy.) A

transgender Mexican woman has received asylum. A mother who brought her daughter to San Francisco for life-saving clinical trials has returned successfully to Argentina. Rodnoel José Arangueren-Flores, a young Venezuelan, just turned 26, is working and living independently, and will attend his first asylum hearing in June.

After some painful personal struggles, an Afghan family of three (now four) has moved out of an apartment hosted by a St. Mary's couple for seven months. M gave birth to a beautiful and healthy second daughter on June 10th. Most recently, Katya and Alex fled Ukraine and are living in a short-term apartment while they seek work permits and assistance with the tech start-up they began in Kharkiv. Read more about all these accompaniments on St. Mary's webpage at <https://www.smvsf.org/justice-ministries/>.

The parish and parishioners of St. Mary's continue to respond to every call for assistance: budgeted and donated funds; a \$5,000 grant from Episcopal Impact Fund; over \$2,500 in gift cards; furniture, furnishings, and clothing; and the equipment and young strength needed for moving households. Most importantly, we provide the ministry of presence and welcome that every migrant, from and to any country, seeks. Thank you, St. Mary's, for welcoming the sojourner among us and for responding to God's call for justice in this way.

Your St. Mary's accompaniment team: Anne Williams, Barbara Marré, Georgene Keeler, Greer Hopkins, Marcony Grijalva, Mari Coates, David Crosson, and Nancy Clark



Top Left: Marcony Grijalva (L), who was first introduced to San Francisco at Twin Peaks, with Rodnoel

Top Right: A tradition continues: (L to R) Janet Parker (Sherith Israel), Ukrainians Kateryna & Alex, Greer Hopkins at Twin Peaks



Bottom Left: (L to R) Dr. Mikiko Huang (Sherith Israel) celebrating Andrea & Nicoles' imminent return home

Bottom Right: Baby Sofiya, a very new U.S. citizen, born on May 10th

Annual Fundraiser and Grant Program

This past year *Tidings of Comfort and Joy* made digital and personal appeals to raise funds for small, local non-profit organizations where our grants make a difference. Thank you to all who contributed! The total donation of \$23,679 was distributed among thirteen organizations: The Brainstorm Program/Pomeroy, Eldergivers, Family House UCSF, Oakes Children Center, School for Deacons, SF Night Ministry, Sojourn Chaplaincy, Village Project, St. Dorothy's Rest Hospital Camps, City Hope San Francisco, St. Francis Living Room, Support Families with Disabilities, and St. Mary's Sherith Israel NEAT.

Edward II Residential Supportive Housing (affiliated with Larkin Street Youth Services)

Edward II (at Lombard and Scott St.) provides 25 apartment units of supportive housing to "Transitional Aged Youth", aged 18-24, who are at risk of homelessness, including youth who have aged out of the foster care system. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, members of SMV cooked and shared a Sunday dinner, once a month, with the Edward II residents. SMV members also provided extra treats to the residents for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Although, the Edward II residents have been prevented from gathering for community meals due to the pandemic, SMV parishioners have been creative in finding ways to continue to be supportive of those youth living at Edward II. At Christmas, SMV members, led by Georgene Keeler, delivered loads of baked goodies and other treats, including gift cards, to the residents and staff. At Easter this year, Ruth Tatum took it on herself to make sure each resident received a gift card and treats.

From its inception, Marta Johnson has been the SMV organizer and contact person for our ministry to the residents of Edward II. We are praying that restrictions will soon be lifted and that we will be able to resume our monthly Sunday suppers with the residents of Edward II sometime this year.

Gubbio Project

On a sunny day in early June, Amy Nachman and Nancy Clark delivered a carload of donations to the Gubbio Project, now housed at St. John's Episcopal Church in the Mission District. What constitutes "a carload"? Visualize 23 huge bags filled with blankets, pillows, socks, shoes and an array of hygiene supplies. Top that off with 56 jars of peanut butter, a specific request made by the Gubbio director when she heard that our Sunday school children had raised \$235 dollars from their Lenten Courtyard Commerce sale. To jog your memory, the Gubbio blanket drive was the Sunday school's Lenten outreach project this year as it has been in two pre-pandemic years. Parishioners responded by donating more than 35 blankets of all sizes and styles. Here's a little background information. Not surprisingly, Covid precautions seriously limited the work of the Gubbio Project for a year and a half, but now at St. John's, with its lovely courtyard and sleeping spaces inside the church itself, activities are once again in full swing and in fact are expanding. Because donations of much needed blankets and other supplies come primarily during the holiday season, our carload of assorted necessities was gratefully and enthusiastically received. The following thank you from a Gubbio staff member conveys their gratitude:

"We were thrilled to receive such a needed donation today: blankets, pillows, peanut butter and hygiene supplies. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and our guests will be warmer and better served with your support."

The need for more blankets and other supplies is on-going. Visit smvsf.org for more news about the expanding work of the Gubbio Project at St. John's and the ways our parish can help with this important service to the unhoused in our city.



Worship Ministries

*Ava Eichler, Vestry Member & liaison to worship
Natalie Hala, Liturgist & Verger, Worship liaison to
Vestry*

*Liturgy Committee: Revs. David Erickson,
Tim Smith, & Nancy Bryan
Mike Stafford, Eric Choate, Ashley Ryan &
Natalie Hala*

*“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all
together in one place” (Acts 2:1).*



Wherever God is, there is sanctuary.



So begins the account of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church in the Acts of the Apostles. In liturgical year 2022, St. Mary’s moved closer to being “all together in one place” yet holding fast to our expanded definition of “being together,” the melding of the in-person and the virtual world technologies. While some of us felt comfortable returning to in-person, others chose to worship at home.

Trusting in God’s love, we continued to shape our worship to transcend all spaces and distances with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In fall 2021, we introduced a 9:00 a.m. courtyard family service, administered Baptisms in the courtyard (later indoors) and reintroduced Holy Communion. We marked the rhythms of the liturgical season by returning to many familiar rituals and traditions with a full complement of Advent traditions, Christmas services, and Ash Wednesday/Holy Week observances indoors while, continuing to stream services to offer the broadest opportunities to worship together as One Body of Christ.

Many thanks to those in the worship ministries who with much grace reactivated several worship ministries that had paused during the pandemic. Heartfelt gratitude to those in the altar guild, flower committee, crucifers, youth acolytes, scripture readers, prayer leaders and usher ministries who have make our Sunday gatherings such a deeply spiritual expression of communal worship. And also a loving farewell and Godspeed to Manny Gabiana, sexton extraordinaire, who was always there to cheerfully assist us on Sunday mornings.

The “common” in Common Prayer is the connective powers of this strong thread have historically sought to make possible for people to pray together regardless of circumstances. Our worship reminds us of the promise of our faith—that God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit will continue to connects us with believers near and far as we forge ahead. We can take comfort and inspiration from the example of the earliest Christians, who “spent much time together in the temple” *and* “broke bread at home ...with glad and generous hearts” (Acts 2:46). Regardless of location, time or distance, may we rejoice in the power of the spirit that brings us together and propels us forward into our next chapter.

Natalie Hala, Parish liturgist & worship ministries coordinator

Education Ministries

Gloria Galindo, Vestry Member

Sandy Stadtfeld, Lay Coordinator

Nancy Clark, Sunday School

Phil Woodworth, Youth Confirmation

Mike Stafford, Youth Minister & Interim Associate Minister

Adult Formation

This year saw several Adult Formation courses, with more planned for the summer. Lisa Reynolds facilitated St. Mary's fifth Sacred Ground course, even involving some parishioners from St. Francis Episcopal Church. The group met bi-weekly, and had meaningful and challenging discussions about race in America, the church, and their lives.

Our Lenten series, "Pandemic as Teacher: Emerging truths about our faith, our society, and ourselves," was held on Zoom and was well attended. The Rev. David Erickson presented biblical examples of tumultuous upheaval, and how the people of God struggled and learned and grew from those experiences, and Sandy Stadtfeld presented on the Rule of Benedict and the practices and disciplines that have sustained us through the pandemic. We are looking forward to a summer series that can be held in person.

(Adult Formation Team: Georgia Lu Burke, Sandy Stadtfeld, Mike Stafford)

Sunday School

In spite of all the Covid obstacles and constraints, the Sunday school program stayed up and running through the 2021-22 school year. At the outset we met as a group in the Great room. But as the year progressed and attendance increased, we divided the group with older children meeting in the Vestry room and younger children in one of our well-stocked classrooms. Thanks to our corps of every-loyal Sunday school teachers, we were able to offer an array of lessons and activities including a successful Lenten outreach project benefiting The Gubbio Project.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class was successfully conducted approximately twice per month through May. Seven of the 8 confirmands were confirmed on June 4 at Grace Cathedral with Father David, Phil Woodworth and Michael Stafford presenting them to the Bishop.

Youth Confirmation Class of 2022:

Cecilie Brady
Sanders Bell
William Henry Minick
Keaton Boszhardt
Lucy Linnenbach
Thorton Wyman
Gloria Anne Cebrian
Flora Adair



Youth Group

We have had a phenomenal year in Youth Group. The group changed its meeting time from Sunday evening to Sunday afternoon to allow more flexibility with outdoor space, considering COVID precautions. We had a fairly consistent group show up, mainly from high schoolers; there were fewer middle school youth, but those who came loved it. Activities included weekly conversation and games, and also monthly adventures that included bowling, House of Air, and a North Beach/Chinatown treasure hunt. The Youth Group worked in joint ministry with the Youth Group of St. James Episcopal Church on California Street. We are looking forward to further collaboration between our groups next year as well.

The Youth Group was particularly happy this year to welcome Corinne Sigmund as a volunteer leader; her love, enthusiasm, and prior experience as an SMV Youth Grouper have been a huge boon to the group.

(Youth Ministry Team: Riley Haggin, Mark Nelson, Mike Stafford)

Pastoral Care

Susan Barber, Chair, Pastoral Care Team
David Crosson, Co-Facilitator of Justice Ministries
Georgene Keeler, Vestry Member

We are a team of eight parishioners whose ministry is to connect with other parishioners who are unable to attend church on a regular basis or who have requested assistance for a limited time following an illness or hospitalization. We make appointments for visits, make regular phone calls, send personal notes of support, deliver special gift bags during the holidays. We offer compassionate and spiritual support as needs arise.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact the church office at office@smvsf.org. Our current members are: Susan Barber, Deacon Nancy Bryan, Georgene Keeler, Jeanne Lacy, Robert Manette, Pam Sauer, Anna Sylvester and Anne Turnbull.

Stephen Ministry



Even Jesus needed others in his time of trial. *“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he . . . said to them . . . remain here and stay awake with me.”* (Mathew (26:36-46))

Fortunately, St. Mary’s Stephen Ministers are here for you in *your* times of trial. Over the past year, eight Stephen Ministers have provided hundreds of hours of pastoral care to nine people, both inside and outside the parish. The team also has reorganized to share responsibilities more broadly for referral, peer support, ministry recruitment, and parish promotion.

Contact clergy or a Stephen Minister if you would like someone to accompany you or if you are interested in joining the Steven Minister team. 2021-22 Stephen Ministers: Christine Wardell, Ruth Tatum, Nancy Svendsen, Arthur Perkins, Josie McGann, Gerald George, David Crosson, and Hal Cranston.

Parish Life

*Steve Gamboa, Vestry Member
Amy & Christian Cebrian, Olivia Gamboa, Lay Coordinators
Mike Stafford, Interim Associate Minister*

Affinity Groups

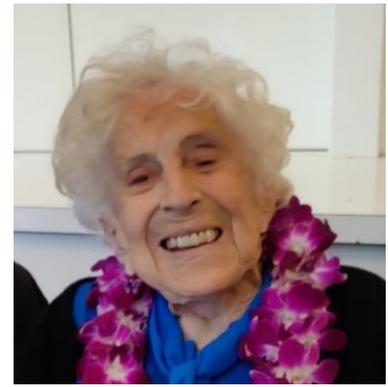
These are small groups of parishioners who gather around a specific passion, demographic, or issue:

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is a National Order for women who undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program dedicated to the spread of Christ’s Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. The chapter at St. Mary the Virgin meets once each month after the last morning service.

Currently we have no Chaplain but look forward to a time when we have an Associate Rector. Our Chapter did not have our Quiet Day this year because of Covid restrictions.

We continued our meetings by Zoom. We are grateful for Natalie Hala and Betty Hood-Gibson for their support with this process.



It is with great sadness that we express the loss of Jan Bolles as she died this spring just after her 95th birthday.

We communicate regularly with the Pastoral Care Committee and pray each day for those who need prayers and communicate by email to keep up with additional prayer requests.

Members of the St. Mary's Chapter

Malaney Wood Johnides, President
Gloria Powell, Vice-President
Catherine Secour, Secretary
Anna Sylvester, Treasurer
Alisa Quint Fisher
Betty Hood-Gibson



St. Mary's Columbarium Committee

The Columbarium at St. Mary's is a place where the remains of parishioners and of their loved ones may repose in the tranquil atmosphere of our inner courtyard. This is a unique ministry in San Francisco, as there are very few cemeteries within the City, and few columbaria located out of doors. Designed by parishioner Bruce Prescott, AIA, the Columbarium incorporates 145 niches, each sized to accommodate up to two urns containing cremated remains, depending on their size and shape.

The Columbarium was conceived and constructed through the efforts of an ad hoc lay committee and was dedicated in 2007. Since then, the Columbarium's 'operation' - including niche reservations, preparations for interments, and final sealing have all been performed by Parish staff. Henceforth, we plan to reconstitute the Columbarium Committee, and perpetuate the history, intention, standards, and practices we've established to date, including the physical process of interment. We invite parishioners to inquire about this vital ministry and to join us in continuing our service to the community of St. Mary's.

Building & Grounds Report

Arthur Perkins, Building and Grounds Chair

Lauren MacDonald, Matt Spitzer and Russell Fudge, Vestry Members

Manny Gabiana, Sexton

St. Mary's Buildings & Grounds are in good shape and operating properly. The Vestry over time has set aside a capital reserve fund out of long-term investments to defray the cost of major repairs, replacements and acquisitions. The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund as of May 31, 2022 was approximately: \$528,000. Over the past year, St. Mary's Campus has experienced a number of repairs, replacements and improvements under the supervision of our sexton, Manny Gabiana, the Building & Grounds Committee and the Vestry. The major items are detailed below.

- Electrical and lighting system throughout the church, Pixley House and Fowler Hall was repaired, upgraded, and where possible converted to LED.
- Plumbing: Burst pipe in church basement was replaced and a shut-off valve for Pixley House was installed.
- Elevator pit was waterproofed by a licensed waterproofing company following removal of mold, drainage of water and disinfecting the pit.
- Heater by the Choir Room was repaired by Allied Heating, which in addition to maintaining the other heaters has recommended replacing the furnace in the church basement.
- Refrigerator in Great Room Kitchen was replaced.
- Roof repairs were made to Pixley House and Fowler Hall to patch leaks in both buildings.
- Sprinkler fire suppression backflow valve leak was stopped and the backflow valve is to be replaced soon.

Open items include:

- Resolving the water seepage in the south wall of the chapel.
- Cleaning the fountain pond and, more importantly, the mosaic tiles.
- Making the doorbell to the church offices more robust.

Finance Ministries

The finances of St. Mary’s are managed by a team of staff members and volunteers.

Title:	Accountant	Chair of Finance Committee	Treasurer
2022 title holder:	Vicki Turk	John Adair	Betty Hood-Gibson Ellen McLean, Asst.
Type of Position:	Paid staff position; reports to the Rector; supervised by the Treasurer	Vestry member who serves up to three years; voted to the vestry by the parish; appointed to the position of Finance Chair by the Rector.	Volunteers who serve an unrestricted term voted or affirmed by the vestry each year
Job Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Manages day to day finances of the church ⊗ Prepares bills for payment (does not sign checks) ⊗ Administers payroll processing and HR compliance with diocesan guidelines ⊗ Records & tracks pledges including reports and donor acknowledgements ⊗ Prepares monthly financial statements for Finance Committee; Rector; vestry ⊗ Prepares required filings for all government agencies ⊗ Works with Treasurers on annual diocesan audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Chair of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses, and advises vestry on financial decisions ⊗ Chair of the Legacy and Endowment Board which oversees the church’s investment accounts ⊗ Reports on monthly actual vs. budget for vestry ⊗ Communicates and gives direction to State Street Global Advisors, our investment manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Officer of the Corporation responsible for insuring best practices for all our financial decisions ⊗ Primary bank officer for bank accounts (signatory on main operating account and investment accounts) ⊗ Reviews and signs off on the Parochial Report to the diocese, IRS filings, Tax Records—all official documents ⊗ Members of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses and advises vestry on financial decisions ⊗ Organizes and supervises team of accountants who count plate money and record donations

2022 Finance Committee Members: John Adair (Chair), David Erickson (Rector) Gloria Galindo (Senior Warden) Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Ellen McLean (Assistant Treasurer), Matt Spitzer, Elizabeth Falcon, Arthur Perkins.

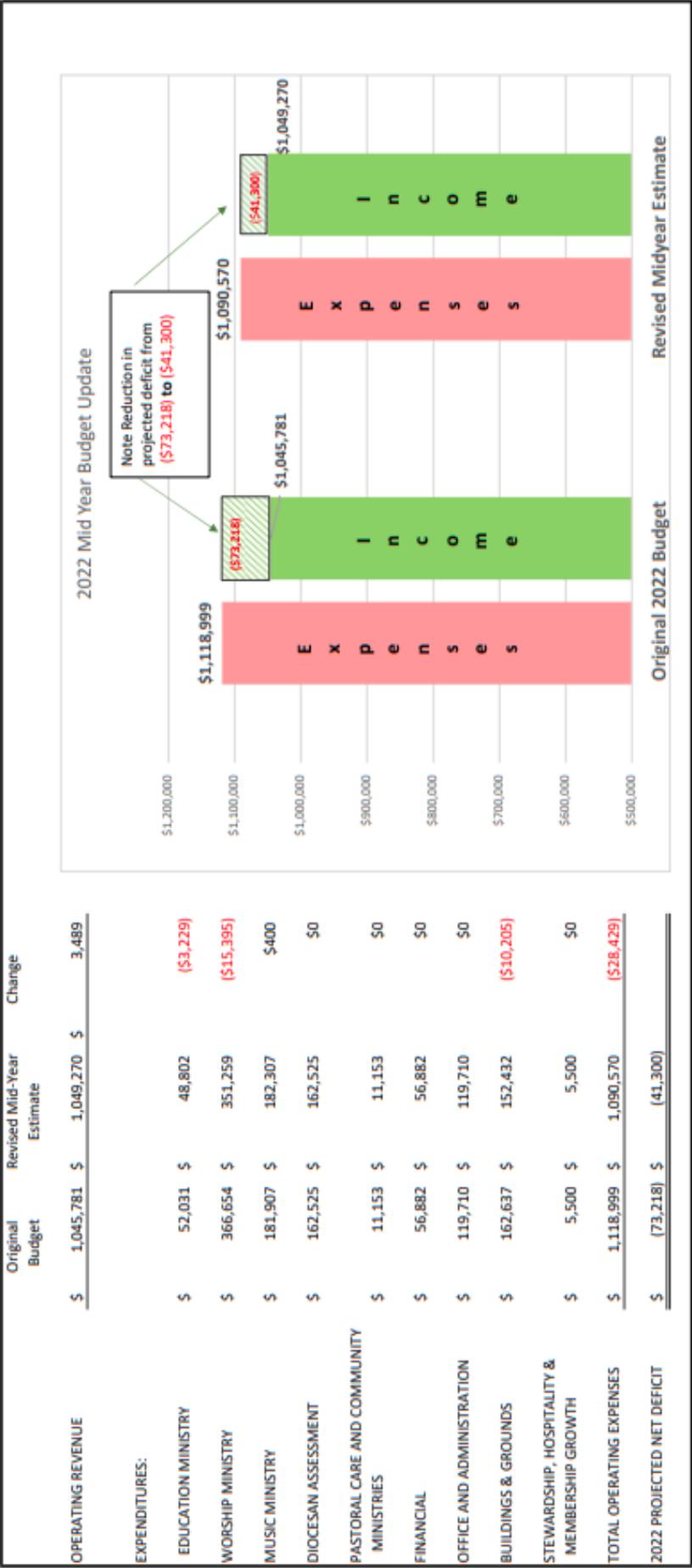
2022 Legacy and Endowment Board Members: John Adair Chair), David Erickson (ex-officio as Rector), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Jim Griffith, Eric Alt, Jeff Landry, Ashley Clark. *Note --1 position to be filled*

2022 Accounting Team: Ellen McLean (Supervisor) Nel Ellwein, Betty Hood-Gibson, Kim Regan, Debbie Veatch, Carol Harris

2022 MID-YEAR FINANCE UPDATE

- 2022 Original Budget had a (\$73,218) Deficit
- With estimated increase in income of \$3,489 and an estimated (\$28,429) in expenditure reductions, the mid-year deficit has been reduced to (\$41,300).
- Reduced expenditures are from personnel changes to the budget:
 - 1) Manny Gabiana's retirement and hiring of a part time sexton
 - 2) New Associate Rector is expected to start in the fall instead of the summer
- Two significant expense increases are also expected:
 - 1) Significantly higher utilities costs
 - 2) Higher than expected building repair costs.
- **No further expense reductions are anticipated: The gap will need to be closed with increased support from the parish.**

2022 Mid-Year Budget Update



Photos of Our Common Life This Past Year



Notes

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