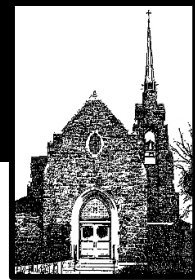


ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 21, 2024

The Call to Order	The Chapter Report
The Opening Prayer	The Membership, Attendance & Services Report
The Passages	The Treasurer's Report
The Preliminaries	The 2023 Budget
Review voter eligibility	The Stewardship Report
Eligible voting members sign-in	The Capital Campaign Report
Appoint clerk	The Endowment Report
Appoint parliamentarian	The Ministry Reports
Approve 2021 Annual meeting minutes	The Dean's Report
The Chapter Nominations & Election	The Blessing
The Convention Delegate Nominations & Election	The Adjournment
The Bishop's Report	

THE CALL TO ORDER

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson
Dean and Rector, St. Peters Cathedral

THE OPENING PRAYER

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

THE 2023 PASSAGES

Faithful Departed

Carlee Buckley
Charles "Chuck" Johnson
Jean Youngs
Cynthia Hustad

Don Bishop
James "Jim" Brown
Dora Butler
Victoria Marion
Vivian Johnson

Imogene Gail Hewitt
Barry Anderson
Holy Baptism
Peter Alexander Driggers

THE PRELIMINARIES

Voting Eligibility at the Annual Meeting

In accordance with The Episcopal Church Canon Law and St. Peter's Cathedral By-Laws:

1.1 Qualifications of Voting Members

Any person who is a communicant of St. Peter's Cathedral, duly listed in the Cathedral Register, in good standing, and sixteen years of age or older shall automatically be a voting member of the corporation. All members voting at meetings shall sign an attendance form, which shall be attached to the official minutes of that meeting.

Approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting was called to order by Dean Scott Anderson at 10:45 a.m.

Laura Brown will serve as Clerk for this meeting. The minutes from 2022 were approved as corrected.

Introduction of the present Chapter members and they were thanked for their service. Candidates for election to the Chapter were; Sam Gilbert (two yr. Term) and Scott Leak, Melinda Schell, Vicki Tiberi and Ray Paige will serve 3 yr. terms. Chuck Johnson moved that the slate be elected and Lizzy Carlson Thompson seconded it. The motion was passed.

Convention delegates were elected as follows. Charlotte Eskildsen, Chas Elliott, Melinda Schell, Kathy Johnson, and Jenny Eckwortzel. Jean O'Connor and Janet Kirkland will serve as alternates. Bishop Marty Stebbins gave a report on the General Convention and also on the Lambeth Conference.

Budget: Kurt Fuehrer reviewed the budget for 2022 and current assets. Rick Johnson reviewed Stewardship and stated the last year pledging was 100%. The amount pledged for this year has met our goal. Jenny Eckwortzel moved that the budget be accepted and Ron Gumbert seconded it. It was passed.

Endowment; Charlie Briggs reported that the endowment had a decrease of 11% due to the economy, but it received several donations which offset this decrease. The church budget will receive \$17,000 from interest generated this year.

Ministry Reports; Laura Brown presented the Martha Veach Volunteer of the year award to Phillip Witkamp for his outstanding work. The Bargain Basement gave over \$39,000.00 to the church this past year. Social Concerns supports 9 different causes throughout the year. Donna Church thanked the church for the support given to Family Promise.

Fr. Scott said this is A Year For Our Voice to Be Heard. The Next 100 Years Capital Campaign begins now. The goal is to raise 1 million dollars. It is for planning for the future. Jim brown gave a History of the St. Peters and then Dan Carlson Thompson gave us an overview of what is needed: The rest of the roof replacement, ramps, Security and Fire protection, elevator, ventilation system, and a contingency fund. The campaign has already received over \$500,000 towards our goal and a matching 1-for-1 donation of \$100,000.00 for pledges coming in after this kick off date. Please make checks out to St. Peter's with the memo Capital Campaign.

Meeting was closed with the blessing at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura G. Brown

Acting Clerk

Those in attendance at the Annual Meeting held Sunday, 1.23.2022

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jane Anderson | 15.Loy Chvilicek | 29. Ron Gumbert |
| 2. The Very Rev. Scott Anderson | 16.Mike Cuffe | 30. Sandra Gumbert |
| 3. Marsha Baumeister | 17.Caleb Dalton | 31. Fred Harper |
| 4. Karyl M. Beattie | 18.George Day | 32. Gretchen Hibbard |
| 5. Robin Biffle (virtual) | 19.Loretta Day | 33. Mary Hibbard |
| 6. Mark Bouse | 20.Ann Dooling | 34. Scott Hibbard |
| 7. Susan Bouse | 21.Jennie K.P. Eckwortzel | 35. Tyrell Hibbard |
| 8. Charlie Briggs | 22.Charles Elliott | 36. Barbara Hoag |
| 9. James B. Brown | 23. Robin Ericksen | 37. Manny Hoag |
| 10.Joyce Brown | 24. Charlotte Eskildsen | 38. Hank Hudson |
| 11.Laura G Brown | 25. Sarah Page Fox | 39. Keri Jaynes |
| 12.Dan Carlson-Thompson | 26. Dave Gallik | 40. Ingrid Jaynes |
| 13.Lizzie Carlson-Thompson | 27. Sam Gilbert | 41. Mari Jaynes |
| 14.Donna Church | 28. Bob Grudier | 42. Matthew Jaynes |

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 43. Nick Jaynes | 56. Robin McHugh | 69. Melinda Schell |
| 44. Chuck Johnson | 57. Sarah McHugh | 70. Darien Scott |
| 45. Kathleen Johnson | 58. Sara Medley | 71. Terry Spear |
| 46. Rick Johnson | 59. Roberta Migdal | 72. Bobbi Spilker |
| 47. Sara Johnson | 60. John Moran | 73. The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins |
| 48. Jeannine Juhnke | 61. Sharon Moran | 74. Blake Thomas |
| 49. Janet Kirkland | 62. Gail Nickel-Kailing | 75. Saumya Thomas |
| 50. Kim Kuderna | 63. Jen O'Conner | 76. Vicky Tiberi |
| 51. Lydia Kuderna | 64. Ray Paige | 77. David Torgersen |
| 52. Scott Leak | 65. George Powell | 78. Phillip M. Witkamp |
| 53. Jesse Mackin | 66. Lesley Powell | |
| 54. William Mackin | 67. Roger Reynolds | |
| 55. Ruth Ann Massey | 68. Tammy Reynolds | |

THE ST. PETER’S CATHEDRAL CHAPTER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

Senior Class (Rotate off January 2024)

Freshman Class (Rotate off January 2026)

- George Day
- Beth Demmons
- Scott Hibbard

- Scott Leak
- Ray Paige
- Melinda Schell
- Vicky Tiberi

Middler Class (Rotate off January 2025)

The Candidates for Election (3-year term)

- Sam Gilbert
- Janet Kirkland
- Aubrey Curtis

- Manny Hoag
- Nick Jaynes

THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES NOMINATIONS & ELECTION

Five delegates and two alternates will be elected for the 2023 Diocesan Convention to be held in Helena October 4-6, 2024.

THE BISHOP’S REPORT

The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins
Bishop of Diocese of Montana

THE CHAPTER REPORT

George Day
Senior Warden

This past year the members of Chapter have endeavored to manage our church’s business affairs as well as provide guidance and support for Father Scott.

2023 was a financially challenging year as expenses, as in previous years, exceeded the church’s income. However, because St. Peter’s is blessed to have, in my view, considerable assets, all of the financial requirements necessary to maintain the operation of the church were met. In addition, as the Capital Campaign continues to generate additional interest and funding, the Chapter has carefully considered the use of those funds to ensure that those funds are and will be utilized appropriately.

Serving on Chapter with the other elected members has been a joyful and positive experience, an Experience which I would recommend to all parishioners to consider doing.

THE MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE AND SERVICES REPORTThe Rev. Rick Johnson
*Bookkeeper**(These numbers are reported on the annual Parochial Report which goes to the Diocese and National Church.)*

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Members reported:	504	482	482	477
Increase	3	13	15	10
Decrease	9	26	20	15
Total Active Baptized Members	498	482	477	472
Average Sunday Attendance	133*	79**	99	99
Average Sunday Attendance including online participation		199	101	160
Easter Sunday Attendance (in-person)		153	207	199
Christmas/Christmas Eve Attendance (in person)				275
Total Sunday & Saturday Eve. Eucharists	109	120	123	121
Total Weekday Services	41	52	48	52
Total Private Eucharists	12	15	0	0
Daily Offices- Morning Prayer, etc.(online from 2021)	207	349	303	229
Marriages Conducted	0	0	0	0
Burials Conducted	6	11	6	11
Baptisms 16 years and older	0	0	0	0
Baptisms under 16 years	0	2	5	1
Confirmation 16 years and older	0	1	1	0
Confirmation under 16 years	0	0	0	0
Received by the Bishop	0	0	1	0
Re-Affirmed by the Bishop	0	0	0	0
Total Church School Students & Youth Group	27	26	21	26
# of adults engaged in religious education or spiritual formation	74	75	36	36

* *Average Sunday Attendance was calculated from January 1 – March 31, 2020.*** *Average Sunday attendance was calculated only in person attendance. 4014 in person divided 51 Sundays in 2021.***THE TREASURER'S REPORT**Kurt Fuehrer
*Treasurer**Please see Insert***THE 2024 BUDGET**

Kurt Fuehrer, and Rick Johnson

Please see Insert

THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Rev. Rick Johnson

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
Pledging Units	127	\$279,915	113	\$280,472	109	\$263,791	97	\$247,017
New pledges	11	\$ 10,780	6	\$ 6,380	12	\$ 13,320	8	\$ 8,760
Lost pledges	3	\$ 5,120	5	\$ 9,417	11	\$ 25,828	12	\$ 26,820
Increased pledges	36	\$ 13,037	44	\$ 22,074	47	\$ 19,273	37	\$ 13,852
Decreased pledges	11	\$ 6,243	14	\$ 11,442	11	\$ 22,544	9	\$ 6,366
Pledges staying the same	69		47		39		43	

Please note: The 2024 pledge year is current as of 1/17/24

Thank you to Sam Gilbert for being the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee. Thank you to all stewardship callers and volunteers for your hard work on the 2024 stewardship campaign.

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Dan Carlson-Thompson
Chairman

The Next One Hundred Years Campaign: Preserving the past, planning for the Future

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We can't do the capital campaign without you. St Peter's continues to be committed to the Helena community and beyond. On April 11, 2024 at the Helena Civic Center, St Peter's Episcopal Cathedral along with several Helena area nonprofits will be sponsoring a community art event. The Heart of Helena Art Show and Auction will be held to support and serve the Helena community. Proceeds raised from the auction will go to the community agencies your social concerns dollars support.

We began the planning for the campaign in late 2020; we had the kick off campaign at our 2022 Annual meeting. With your generous giving, we have raised over \$800,000, to date. This includes \$45,000 in grant awards. We will continue to explore grant opportunities. If you know of any grant opportunities, please contact someone on the Capital Committee.

Objectives of the Campaign

1. New Roof. A roof replacement has been accomplished over the church space. An additional portion of the original building is still in need of replacement.
2. Accessibility. An elevator combined with other structural adaptations need to be incorporated into our 90-year-old building so that all people can have easy and functional access to all parts of the building. We will be completing the ramp construction for this project by Easter of 2024.
3. Updated Ventilation System. In order to assure that the church provides a healthy environment, significant repairs are needed to our air handling system.
4. Other Important Projects: Fire & Security System, Solar Panels, Kitchen Upgrades & Repairs, Bathroom Modernization, Parking Lot & Other Delayed Maintenance and Repairs.
5. Re-establish a perpetual maintenance fund in order to be able to have an ongoing capacity to maintain our structure and equipment.
6. Supporting and serving the Helena Community and beyond.
7. Throughout local & national history, St Peter's Episcopal Cathedral has consistently been a place where the community gathered to respond to events of their day, such as The Great Depression, A World at War, and many natural disasters through conversation,

worship, and meeting basic needs. Archbishop Desmond Tutu came to SPEC in 1990 to help support Native American and South African Children.

Please consider donating and/or attending the Heart of Helena Art Show and Auction, April 11, 2024 at the Helena Civic Center. You can also get to know some of the community agencies your Social Concerns Committee at St Peter's supports. These include:

- Family Promise Rocky HeadStart
- Helena Food Share YWCA
- God's Love Good Samaritan
- Intermountain Florence Crittenton Home
- Friendship Center Habitat for Humanity
- Episcopal Relief & Development

Please find a Heart of Helena donation form inserted into the annual report

THE ENDOWMENT REPORT

Charlie Briggs
President

St. Peter's Parish Endowment Fund begins 2024 with a balance of \$475,510, which is a net positive change in value of \$50,301 since January 1, 2023, with \$425,209 the fund balance.

Early in 2023, the Parish Endowment Board finalized and approved its Endowment Investment Policy. In addition, the board changed its investment management from Allstate managed endowment assets, to Stockman's Wealth Management, for managing St. Peter's portfolio. This change is positive from a number of standpoints. The board is now working with a local, Helena Stockman's team, who attend the Board's quarterly meetings. Also, the Board was able to negotiate less management fees than before. Stockman's also manages the Diocesan Endowment portfolio. In February, as required by its bylaws, the Board contributed to the Chapter \$16,952 in annual dividends generated in 2022. Those funds are intended to assist with ongoing financial operations of the parish. Donations to the Endowment in 2023 were \$2,100.

Parishioners who donate money, stocks, bonds or funds from their estate are able to lower their tax liability, as well as other potential benefits. Also, donations to the Endowment remain gifts to benefit St. Peter's Church in perpetuity, without touching its principal.

Endowment Board members are: Charlie Briggs, president; Rachel Robison, treasurer; Mark Kelley, secretary; Vicki Rauser, Ruth Ann Shuler, and Dean Scott Anderson. The Board meets quarterly.

THE MINISTRY REPORTS

Acolytes & Crucifers

Vicky Tiberi

No report submitted.

Altar Guild

Janet Kirkland, Jean Smith, Edie Landry, and Marlene Campbell
Co-Chairs

Members: 16

Meetings: 3

Altar Guild ministry: The Altar Guild works directly with the clergy. The members of Altar Guild prepare the Altar for scheduled services, weddings, and funerals. We take care of the sacramental vessels, candles, altar linens and decorating the Church for all special occasions. There are 16 dedicated members who serve one week per month with 2 additional members on a reserve list.

We typically meet three times a year. Twice for cleaning and polishing the altar and sacramental vessels and once for an appreciation luncheon. We would like to thank those who come in each week to do these important duties and we welcome all persons interested in serving this quiet ministry.

Bargain Basement

Jackie Brehe
BB consignment bookkeeper

The Bargain Basement (affectionately known as the BB) was started as a ministry in 1983 by Martha Lee Veatch (mother of Gail Hewitt and mother-in-law of Dean Arch Hewitt) with the purpose of providing the Helena community with "gently used items at an affordable price." Originally located in the basement of the church, the BB moved to the bottom level of Wilson Hall in 2013.

This year, we have provided the Cathedral with \$46,814, which is 20% higher than what was given last year. We could not have done this without the donations we receive, our dedicated volunteers, or our loyal customers. We have become a vital part of the Helena community. Forty percent of our volunteers are not members of our congregation, but they volunteer because they believe in our mission. Most of our donations also come from outside the parish.

The BB accepts donations of clothing (adult and children), shoes, household items, books, jewelry, decorative items, framed art, tools, games/puzzles, bedding, lamps, and small pieces of furniture such as chairs, end tables, and bookcases. (We cannot accept electronics, sports equipment or luggage.)

Our ministry depends on volunteers, and we can always use more, both men and women. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura Brown at 406-431-1253 to schedule a training session. Volunteers always work in pairs so you would be paired with an experienced volunteer when you started. You can choose to work one day a week, once a month, or be a substitute.

Please consider supporting this important ministry by volunteering, by donating or coming by to shop.

Bible Study

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Christian Formation

Sarah Fox
Sunday School Coordinator

No report submitted.

Coffee Hour

Jeannine Juhnke

A heartfelt thank you to each of you for participating in our fellowship times after each service during the past year, especially for those who provided refreshments or cleaned up afterwards. That being said, we are always looking for volunteers on the Sundays not covered by the Flippers (first Sunday of the month except summer) and the Comfort and Care Ministry (third Sunday of the month). If you are interested there is a signup sheet hanging on the wall outside the kitchen.

Folks are happy with any kind of snack you provide. You do NOT have to spend hours slaving away in your kitchen. If you need some ideas or want more information about what is entailed, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Comfort and Care is a ministry devoted to pastoral care of our church community. We all play a role in pastoral care by taking care of each other. There are many facets to this ministry.

- Birthday card ministry – we have 12 wonderful persons who write birthday cards to members of the church monthly.
- Altar Flower distribution – we are delivering our Altar flowers each week to church members and to Touchmark services.
- An expansion of the card ministry to include Anniversaries, Sympathy, Words of Encouragement and Welcoming.
- Providing the comfort of food and/or companionship to those who maybe in need. (Home from the hospital, recovering from surgery or celebrating a new birth)
- prayer chain
- Celebration Sunday – the third Sunday of each month we provide/serve cake and snacks at both coffee hours

All persons are welcome to participate in this ministry. Please contact the office if you would like to join us or if you may have a need for these services.

Communications

The Rev. Robin Biffle

At the tail end of 2023, your Cathedral Chapter assembled a working group to look at ways to improve St. Peter’s communications—initially between the Cathedral “nerve center,” (i.e., the admin office) and the congregation.

Aubrey Curtis stepped up as the Chapter liaison, and member Mo. Robin Biffle volunteered to assist. In an early meeting with Cathedral Administrator Chas Elliott and Dean Scott, the four of us identified some early steps we could take—around our online presence, monthly newsletter, weekly “Happenings” and the parish directory—and we got to work.

In just the first month, we’ve been heartened at your enthusiastic response to our first efforts and plan to roll out more tweaks as we “up our game!” If we’ve piqued your interest and you have ideas, suggestions, or time-and-talent to help ... be in touch with us.

Aubrey Curtis	aubreyjon406@gmail.com
Robin Biffle	robin.biffle@gmail.com
Chas Elliott	admin@spchelena.org

Cursillo

Kathy Johnson

Back in March 2023 a planning Ultreya was held at Camp Marshall to see about jump starting the Montana Cursillo, which has been absent for a long time in this diocese. Cursillo is a way to strengthen your faith walk. It is not a cult or a replacement for regular attendance at church.

It originally began in the late 1940’s in Spain in the Roman Catholic Church and then found it’s way to the United States in 1957. The first Episcopal Cursillo weekend was held in 1970 with the help of the Roman Catholic Church. A Cursillo weekend is either 2 or 3 days and is filled with love, study, prayer, devotions and songs not to mention lots of good food.

After one has attended a weekend, one attends Ultreyas which are kind of like a mini weekend. Ultreyas are also open to who are interested in attending one. All Cursillistas are encouraged to actively gather in small groups called a 4th day group. Think of a 4th day group as something that helps keep you on track in your spiritual growth and renewal.

So at that initial Ultreya in March, the Secretariat was formed. The Secretariat is like a board which helps guide Montana Cursillo with the Bishop's help. I said I'd be on the Secretariat for at least 2 years. We've had several Zoom meetings since that time as we live all over the state.

One of the things we set as a goal was to see if some of us could be on the team for a Cursillo weekend somewhere and take some candidates with us. We finally had an opportunity to do so in October for the women's Cursillo #254 in Los Angeles. We had three team members: Ruth Ann Massey and myself from St. Peters and Nancy Shively from St Andrews in Polson. Plus we had three Candidates: Susan Jensen from St. Andrews and Heather & Skeeter Lingle from St. John's in Butte.

That was an awesome experience for all involved, not to mention it was a lot warmer than it was back here in Montana. Nancy & I were the primary source of music for the weekend, Nancy & Ruth Ann were table leaders and I also helped in the kitchen. One comes away tired but renewed. You feel recharged.

The next step for those of us in Montana is to hold Ultreyas and get 4th day groups started/restarted. And then the Secretariat hopes to hold a Cursillo weekend sometime this year. All this is part of what Bishop Curry calls the "Jesus Movement." You can find a video from him about Cursillo on the National Episcopal website: <https://www.episcopalcursilloministry.org/>. We also have a Cursillio webpage on the Montana Diocesan website but it's a work in process. Keep checking on it as we improve it. Ideas are always welcome.

St. Peters is holding the first Ultreya on February 10th in the undercroft starting at 10:30 am and ending about 2 pm. We will hold the reunion portion first followed by communion and then a potluck lunch. St. Peters will provide the meat, rolls and potatoes and beverages. So attendees can bring salads, sides and desserts. If you can make your dish gluten free, that would be nice as some folks are gluten intolerant.

If you play an instrument, please let me know so I can get music to you ahead of time and then bring it along. Oh and if any of you have bright table decorations and Roosters or Chicken statues, bring those.

Contact me if you have any questions.

De Colores!

Kathy Johnson

406-459-7984

katzgarden4me@gmail.com

ECW/St. Anne's Guild

Darien Scott

Treasurer, ECW/St. Anne's Guild

ECW hosted their annual Lenten Luncheons going back to serving soup, bread cookies and coffee and tea, as was done prior to Covid 19. Our speakers included Kathy Bramer talking about her mission trip to South America; Dean Scott, who filled in at the last minute due to the untimely death of Chuck Johnson; Scott Hibbard, who talked about his book, "Rio Gila"; Jean O'Connor,

who spoke about her book, “Remarkable Cause” and Diane Evans, who talked about her book and her efforts to establish the Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington, D.C.

St. Anne’s only hosted 4 funeral receptions this year: Carlee Buckley’s in February, Jean Carlson’s in April; Don Bishop’s in June and Gail Hewitt’s in November.

In June ECW donated \$1,500.00 to Camp Marshall and \$500 to Family Promise.

In July the ECW hosted the Capital Campaign celebration and update.

In December, ECW hosted a Christmas Party with stockings, gifts and games for 23 children at the YWCA. The ECW also hosted a reception following the Lessons and Carols service.

ECW did not have a fund raiser this year but is hoping to do one in 2024.

Our balance on hand on December 31, 2023 was \$2,407.77.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Hank Hudson
ERD Representative

Social Concerns contributed \$100 a month to ERD. Beyond that no ERD activities took place in 2023. We are interested in ideas on how to proceed.

Eucharistic Ministers

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Eucharistic Visitors

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Evangelism and Church Life

Beth Demmons

No report submitted.

Family Promise

Maggie Stockwell & Donna Church
Co-Chairs

No report submitted.

Flipper Club

Dwight Bernard and Tom Morrison

No report submitted.

Flower Committee

Tammy Reynolds

Thank you to all the parishioners who have donated money for flowers during the last year. On Sundays, except during Lent, we have 2 arrangements of flowers behind the altar. They may be given as a Memorial or in Thanksgiving for friends or family members. The flowers cost \$40.00 per arrangement. Some people donate for one arrangement and some people donate for both arrangements. I currently have a list of people that donate money for flowers each year. However, we have lost some of our past donors. We can use more donors at this time. The arrangements are delivered to church by the florist and lovingly placed in our containers by members of the Altar Guild. Sometimes the flowers go to Touchmark for our service there during the week. Sometimes they are sent home with someone who needs an extra bit of cheer. If you wish to give flowers in memory or thanksgiving, you may call the church office at 406-442-5175 or myself at 503-341-2561. You may also make a general donation to the flower fund. The money is sent to the church at: St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral P.O. Box 819 Helena, MT 59624. The church then pays the florist. Please consider donating for the altar flowers in Memory or Thanksgiving of loved ones.

Foyers

Darien Scott

We only have 3 groups for Foyers this year, with 6 people in each group. By having such small groups, it enables the hostess or host to invite one or two more people into their group. It is a great way to welcome newcomers.

The object of Foyers is to have fun and to get to know one another in an informal setting. The host usually plans the meal and fixes the main course, with the others contributing salads or desserts. The groups can meet monthly or every other month...it is up to each group. They can have dinner, brunch or lunch or go to a restaurant...it is a group choice or effort.

God & Grog

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Holy Hikes and Wonderful Walks

The Rev. Robin Biffle

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...”

—*Ecclesiastes 3:1 [NIV]*

And the “season” of 2023, was not a season for the activities we call “Wonder-Full Walks” (with reflection and prayer) and “Holy Hikes” (with Holy Communion). But take heart ... things look more hopeful in the new year.

Please plan in 2024, to join others from St. Peter’s (and beyond!) to share the delights of walking, hiking, reflecting, and praying together under God’s Big Sky.

We may be deterred for a time by frigid temps, stifling heat, or suffocating smoke, but when we can, let’s get out there this year. Let’s remind God and one another—with our feet, our hearts, our health, and our love for one another—how thankful we are for our piece of this beautiful, bounteous planet.

Since the pandemic summer of 2020, we’ve been out there! Sometimes the walks draw a handful, sometimes a dozen or more. We’re usually out for about 90 minutes at an easy pace—sometimes on paved trails and sometimes on a single-track that embraces the shoulders of Mount Helena or the gentle wider trails at the Regulating Reservoir. We also enjoy “urban” walks through Helena’s neighborhoods, or on the central rail- trail—and enjoy bakery-treats afterward!

If you’d like to join this ministry of body-prayer and receive reminders of up-coming walks, or if you have questions, or would like more information, please be in touch: robin.biffle@gmail.com or 208-310-0895.

Junior Warden’ Report

Sam Gilbert

Chapter Junior Warden

Sara and Tim Johnson sponsor a contract with The Little Lawn Guys for Spring power raking, weekly mowing, fence and sidewalk trimming and blowing off the sidewalks on Friday afternoons. Sara also keeps the shrubbery in top shape. Spieker Sprinkler Systems keeps the lawn irrigation system going and Nitro Green does the seasonal fertilizer applications. This keeps our grounds looking very nice. Our previous snow plower dropped us because of his workload, but a new contractor has been hired that did a good job following the early November snow storm. The spruce trees on the south end of Wilson Hall were checked for rot and dead branches that could be reached with a pole saw were removed.

Our church sexton, Bill Eyman, keeps our facilities clean and orderly.

Clarks Plumbing & Heating and Eagle Electric have helped with maintenance issues such as replacing the water shutoff valve to Wilson Hall, installing new regulators on the furnace boiler, fixing difficult leaking fixtures and correcting or replacing electrical problems. A continuing problem is the partially plugged sink in the sacristy. Chemical cleaners cannot be used in it and corners in the line have prevented a roto-rooter from being effective. We might have to open some walls to change those angles. The light sockets in the nave portion of the church are of an old design and we are getting down to the last of the bulbs that will fit them. We will have to replace those sockets in the next couple of years. A parish member has purchased motion-activated light switches that can be placed in areas of the church where lights frequently get left on. A major project was repainting the inside of the nave and portions of the undercroft by Big Sky Finishes. Paint was peeling because of leakage from the roof. They also repainted the outside of the front door of the church. It faces west and thus is exposed to direct rays from the sun. Also, rain splashes up on it and the paint was starting to peel.

Replacing steps with ramps, installing an elevator and replacing at least the flat portions of the roof on the remainder of the building will be some of the items to be funded by the Capital Campaign.

A volunteer effort is being organized to clean and re-stain the woodwork in the nave area of the Cathedral. We will also be working on a volunteer Saturday in the Spring to spruce up the grounds.

Lectors

Charles Elliott

Lay persons trained in reading scripture who are appointed by the Dean to read lessons or lead the prayers of the people. There is no license required for this lay ministry. Currently the Cathedral has a roster of 18 lay persons who serve as lectors. Anyone interested in joining the roster should contact the Cathedral office.

Memorial Garden

Laura Brown

When making your final wishes known, consider being interred in our lovely Memorial Garden. The cost is per niche is \$500.00 for parishioners, \$750.00 for non-parishioners, and \$250.00 for common internment. You may reserve your niche by contacting Laura Brown at 406-431-1253

Men's Fellowship

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Morning Prayer

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Music

Charles Elliott

Director of Music

As we continue to rebuild the music program at the Cathedral, a new vocal ensemble has been added to the roster. The Cathedral Schola joins the Cathedral Choir, the St. Cecilia Choir, and the Parish Choir. The choir programs will be restructured in early 2024.

The Cathedral's three pianos have been tuned and improved by Elizabeth Heppler from Heppler Pianos in Manhattan, MT. Rose City Organ Builders from Portland, OR continues to tune and maintain our pipe organ. Although updated in 2006, our organ needs some major work to correct errors made during the that update. The solo trumpets in the rear of the Nave were disconnected in the spring of 2022 due to rodent damage and the installation of used equipment that had not been refurbished. The Cathedral possesses one of the two finest pipe organs in Helena, and discussions

continue to bring it back to full capacity and maintain its quality. Further research must be done to discover how to fund this major project.

We have expanded our resources for music materials. In addition to the *1982 Hymnal*, hymns are chosen from the Episcopal hymnals *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, *Voices Found*, *My Heart Sings Out*, and *Worship, Love, and Praise*. We are also authorized to use *Gather*, 2nd edition, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America hymnals. Additional materials are obtained using annual subscriptions to St. James Music Press, Prelude Music Planner, and Concordia Publishing House. Chanting the Psalms was reintroduced at several services in 2023 and will continue in 2024. Chants are selected from several sources to compliment each season of the Church Year. Additional Mass settings have also been added and are rotated by season.

The piano in the Nave has joined the organ as an important part of our musical worship. It is used exclusively on Sundays following the Day of Pentecost through Rally Sunday in early September, and once each month during the academic year. Throughout the year Cathedral members have provided additional musical offerings on a variety of instruments.

Besides the two regular Sunday services and festival services, the Cathedral music program contributes to the annual Service of Lessons and Carols, Sunday afternoon Taizé services during Advent and Lent, and occasional Touchmark services.

Nursery

Lesley Powell

No report submitted.

Performing Arts

Charles Elliott

Musikanten Montana under the direction of Kerry Krebill is in residence at the Cathedral. The choir rehearses on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the Undercroft. The Cathedral hosted the Helena Choral Festival in June 2023, bringing international musicians to perform for local audiences. Musikanten Montana provided two Evensong services for the Cathedral in early 2023. The 2023-2024 season includes three Evensong services, an All Souls Concert, an Epiphany Concert, a Tenebrae concert for Holy Week, the Montana Early Music Festival, and the Musikanten Montana 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Grandstreet Theatre continues to use space at the Cathedral for its Summer Theatre School classes and performances, as well as for rehearsals for its annual Christmas Show.

June Lee and Chas Elliott provide private music instruction to local musicians in the Imogene Peek Room and in the Choir Room.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Laura Harden

Prayer shawls provide the gifts of comfort, hope and peace. These shawls can be crocheted or knitted. If you knit or crochet, please join us the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 am in Wilson Hall to share in the fellowship of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Social Concerns Committee

Hank Hudson & Kim Wilson
Co-chair

The Social Concerns Commission had an active 2023. We continued with our monthly meetings and financial support of local organizations and, also provided opportunities for parish members to participate in community service.

Funding for Social Concerns includes a monthly appropriation from the Chapter budget, Flipper Sunday revenue, the plate offerings from Christmas and Easter, and individual contributions. A special thanks to those who buy and sell chocolate to support our efforts. Our resources are limited and sometimes our funding runs low. For that reason, we are pursuing other funding with the Heart of Helena Art sale and a consignment account at the Bargain Basement future possibilities.

Social Concerns has been making \$100 a month, payments to ten local organizations in 2023. These include God's Love, YWCA, Helena Food Share, Friendship Center, Salvation Army, Head Start, Family Promise, Florence Crittenton, Good Samaritan, and the Personal Needs Pantry. In addition, we are able to provide additional food and personal hygiene items thanks to the generous contributions deposited in the back of the Church. This year we collected 427 pounds of food. The personal hygiene items are provided to the Personal Needs Pantry through a working relationship with GFWC Helena Women's Club. Episcopal Relief and Development also receives a \$100 per month contribution which reflects our concern and commitment for the great needs of people around the world.

In addition to the contributions Social Concerns also provides opportunities to participate in community activities. During 2023 we were involved with Helena Food Share, Family Promise and Meals on Wheels. One meal was provided at God's Love. The Social Concerns Commission thanks all who have supported us and invite any church member to come join us.

Taizé

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Togendowagan Society

Darcy O'Dell

No report submitted.

Touchmark Ministry

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

United Thank Offering

No report submitted.

Ushers

Margaret Bowles

Ushers and greeters serve at the front door of the Cathedral for each service. Duties include welcoming members and visitors, distributing worship materials, collecting the offering, and tidying up the church after a service. We have sixteen ushers for the 8:00 A.M. service and ten ushers for the 10:15 service. Please contact the office if you would like to participate in this ministry.

Virtual Center

Scott Leak
MEVO Coordinator

No report submitted.

Wonderful Wednesdays

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson

No report submitted.

Youth Group Report

Vicky Tiberi

No report submitted.

THE DEAN'S REPORT

The Very Rev. Scott Anderson
Dean and Rector, St. Peter's Cathedral

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

NOTES

NOTES