



2021
ANNUAL REPORT

52 GOULD ROAD
PO BOX 294

NEW LONDON, NH

603-526-6344

office@standrewsnl.org

www.standrewsnl.org

Report from the Rector

Submitted by Jay MacLeod

I began 2021 with two incredibly gifted colleagues, but we lost Aaron Jenkyn as Missioner at Pentecost and Jack Barben as Musical Director before the Feast of the Transfiguration in early August. But the Holy Spirit continues to animate our worship and mission, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church continues to shine with Christ's love. As with all losses, Jesus has a way of transfiguring despair into hope, and the first Pentecost is experienced anew as the Holy Spirit showers us with blessings whenever we gather for worship.

From our online Epiphany Pageant coordinated by Nicole Densmore on 3 January to Midday Prayer on 31 December on the cusp of the new year, our worship in 2021 fed, inspired and energized us, and there were moments when our liturgy lifted us to the very gates of heaven. Reviewing our 2021 worship posted on YouTube and leafing through the worship register in church, it now seems incredible that a given week could have included in-person, online and hybrid worship and encompassed both deeply traditional and radically innovative styles. Story Walks and Stations of the Cross (beautifully illustrated by church members) on church grounds enabled the public and church members to connect with the saving work of Jesus in creative ways. There were also seasonal liturgies to celebrate the spring equinox and summer solstice that drew into divine worship people who would seldom darken a church door. I am hugely grateful to all the contributors to our worship, many of whom did not just read a bible passage or lead a prayer but had to film themselves doing so! It was delightful to worship outdoors on our beautiful grounds on Easter Sunday and then throughout the Spring and Summer. But it also feels very good to be back in our sanctuary. Advent was enriched by the new altar frontal and lectern fall and the church has been beautifully decorated for Christmastide. Thanks also to our Verger, Altar Guild and Choir and to those who enrich our worship by reading and leading the Prayers of the People. I am also grateful to those who enable others, sometimes on different continents, to worship with us via our live-streamed liturgies.

William Ögmundson is a wonderful addition to our staff team as Director of Music. A pianist in a class of his own, Will has also excelled on the organ bench and as choir director. Postludes in recent weeks have evolved into joyous jam sessions that involve not just Nicole on her flute but choir members playing a whole array of instruments. Scripture invites us to "make a joyful noise unto the LORD" (Psalm 100), and if this carries on, the recessional will involve the rector dancing down the aisle!

In addition to William and Nicole, Shelly Boucher and Kelly Parker round out our paid staff team as parish administrator and cleaner, and it's a pleasure to have such good colleagues. Our volunteers are too numerous to mention, but they are the ones who keep the St. Andrew's show on the road. Special mention must be made of Mike Quinn, George Jamieson, Alison Seward, Bill Sloan, Nonie Reynders, Charlie Forbes and John Tilley who labored to achieve a much-needed milestone that eluded us for many decades: getting a planned giving program in place at St. Andrew's.

In terms of Christian education and formation, Faith & Issues continues to thrive on Zoom under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner. Novel & Reel Theology met monthly to discuss books and films but decided to take a break as of September. Many church members heard the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak's groundbreaking lectures on the "kingdom of God within." In addition to Katrina and Kathleen, I am grateful to "retired" clergy in our midst who offer support in all sorts of unsung ways: Caroline Fairless, Lucretia Jevne, Jim Ransom, Alice Roberts and Leslie Smith. We wish the Rev'd Pat Harris and her husband John well after their move to Florida.

The Thrift Shop continues to thrive under the leadership of Jackie Thompson and its many faithful volunteers. In a staggering measure of your generosity, our Last Sunday Outreach Offerings raised nearly \$94,000 for the Friendly Kitchen in Concord, the Episcopal Church of Navajoland, a water system for St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti, Episcopal Chaplaincy at DHMC, the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande and its Borderland Ministries, Got Lunch Newport, Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, a scholarship for a Senior at Voorhees College, Haiti earthquake relief, Willing Hands in the Upper Valley, and El Hogar in Honduras. Special thanks to Elizabeth Lowell and all the members of the Outreach Commission. The Vestry also supported several N.H. summer camps, Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries (KREM), Clinique Saint Esprit in Haiti, and Epiphany Church in Newport for a total in excess of \$12,000 from our core outreach budget. Our relationship with Epiphany has been attenuated, and I suspect that some of you grieve that loss as much as I, but when we emerge from the pandemic and as Epiphany benefits from being a diocesan missional community, it may be that new and reciprocal forms of partnership will emerge.

The generosity of parishioners was also evident in our 2021 stewardship effort. Faced with so many ministerial challenges and quite exhausted, the Vestry opted again for a low-key campaign. As in 2020, you responded by exceeding our \$400,000 target! The Vestry and I are hugely grateful that we didn't need to expend large amounts of time and energy on a full-fledged stewardship campaign. Unable to hold our Saint Nicholas or Summer Fairs, St. Andrew's staged a Harvest Festival in mid-September that was great fun and raised nearly \$7,000.

After two terms as church warden, Marni Eaton retires from the Vestry, as does Barbara Smith and Lisa Kelly who both served two three-year terms. We shall miss their wisdom, energy and commitment.

Diocesan Convention in 2020 charged every N.H. parish to wrestle with the legacy and current reality of racism in 2021. We ran not one but three Sacred Ground conversation and study circles, and I'm grateful to everyone who signed up and persevered with the challenging curriculum but especially to leaders Lucretia Jevne and Susan Schweizer. I'm hoping to offer another Sacred Ground circle in 2022 that includes those who are skeptical about "structural racism."

Not for the first time, our high school youth group led the way in 2021, especially when it came to commemorating those who have died of Covid-19 in New Hampshire. Supported by many parishioners and members of the public, teenagers spent countless hours creating individual prayer flags with uplifting images and words. I remember gathering with some of the young people and their leaders in the February cold by our labyrinth to ask God's blessing on the prayer flags. In a year that saw the loss of many beloved church members, that prayer under the fluttering flags provides a fitting end to this report:

*Gracious God,
you brought us to birth and in your arms we die.
So that their death is not an empty data point
on the grim graph of COVID fatalities in New Hampshire,
bless these prayer flags to remind us of those who have died,
those who cared for them, and those who mourn their passing.
Whether or not we have directly experienced the pain of loss,
hear our heart's cry for the death of those
who will never be mere numbers to us.
They are fellow Granite Staters, beloved in your sight.*

*As these flags flutter in the wind, comfort us by your Holy Spirit.
We give thanks for your unfailing presence in times of uncertainty and loss.
Enkindle in us the fire of your love,
give us strength and courage and hope,
and use us, O God, to help bring your healing and wholeness
to our neighborhoods, our state, our nation and our world,
that we and your whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Wardens' Report

Submitted by Marni Eaton & Joe Daly

In one very distinct way, 2021 was a great disappointment! After being locked down for most of 2020, we all looked forward to 2021 when the Covid vaccines finally arrived and all of us expected that with the vaccines, life would soon return to normal. However, even with the vaccines becoming available in February, we then saw the summer Covid surge, then the emergence of the Delta Variant, and in late fall the Omicron variant made its appearance. We ended the year much as it began: masking, social distancing, and wondering what happened to the light at the end of the tunnel.

In contrast, the light of spiritual life at St. Andrew's burned brightly in 2021. From mid-April through October Padre Jay presided during outdoor services at both 8 and 10am. Those services, as well as the indoor services beginning in November were broadcast on our YouTube Channel to significant audiences. Jay's family (Sally, Asher and Toby) have put in countless hours filming the services, operating the video and audio feeds and other technical duties we lack the ability to accurately describe. We are truly blessed by Jay's creativity and sermons, and it was so delightful, at the end of the year, to worship indoors with the beautiful music of our new Music Director, Will, Nicole, Jennifer, and the choir! And, in spite of the pandemic, we have seen quite a few new members connect with us, our finances are strong - due to your continued generosity in the 2021 Stewardship effort - and our parish community continues to thrive!

A few years ago, the Wardens' Report described St. Andrew's as "A place of worship that welcomes all of God's Children." Our mission statement on the wall in the entrance hallway reads, "With Saint Andrew and all our companions in faith, we are learning to follow Jesus in the way of love." Marni and I invite you, both long-time parishioners and new members, to enhance your journey on that way by participating in worship as a lector, prayer leader, serving as ushers, volunteering in the thrift shop, serving food at the Friendly Kitchen, helping out during the annual fairs, to name just a few of the ways in which we can strengthen the bonds of our parish community beyond Sunday worship alone.

Music at St. Andrew's Part I

Submitted by Nicole Densmore & Jay MacLeod

Moving, meaningful, and inspiring on-line worship services were created through the brilliant and dedicated perseverance of our Music Director, Jack Barben, before his move to Washington state in August. Jack helped create monthly InSpirit liturgies and collaborated with local musicians for the very special Summer Solstice celebration on the town green complete with dancers, props and readings. Jack's on-line rehearsals required background reading (Victor Wooten's *The Music Lesson* and W. A. Matthieu's *Harmonic Experience*), and we were

introduced to concepts such as music entrainment and harmonic lattice as well as music theory. As a parting farewell, Jack chose fifteen of the choir's recordings from his time in NH and paired them with Peter Bloch's sublime videography. You can find the playlist here: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXFnWwjB3StDAAtJmm19yP4p_9qTI2EL8. The playlist showcases Jack's creative and technical skills as well as the Choir's abilities, and we are grateful for Jack's ministry.

Music at St. Andrew's Part II

Submitted by William Ogmundson, Music Director

I joined the Saint Andrews community in October 2021, and we resumed live choir rehearsals (masked and in the sanctuary). We were fortunate to acquire a new baby grand piano (courtesy of Tyler Harwell) for the choir room, and the choir performed several lovely anthems, particularly on All Saints' Day and Christmas Eve. The quality of musicianship at St. Andrew's is exceptional. The choir confidently leads the hymns and sings featured anthems. Soloists augment the worship services with special offerings. The congregation willingly joins in with full voice to complete the whole group ensemble, all being supported by brilliant accompaniment from the instrumentalists.

An instrumental musical group has been formed, in addition to the choir, called the "Joyful Noise Makers", where participants can discover new musical instruments, enjoy one another's company, and practice/perform in a positive setting. This group numbers anywhere from 5-10 on any given day and performs regularly during the service. New instruments used include xylophones, marimba (thanks to Susan and Russ Potter), autoharps, and various percussion instruments. We are hoping to build on our recent success and continue to grow the music program both in size and scope.

Youth Music at St. Andrew's

Submitted by Nicole Densmore

"Music is the great uniter, an incredible force, something that people who differ on everything and anything else can have in common." - Sarah Dessen

At the beginning of the year 2021, we were continuing to gather together with the aid of the digital world. I tried my hand at video and sound editing to put together the Epiphany pageant which included forty-nine people from Epiphany, St. Andrew's and the Kearsarge School District. It was multi-generational, profound and comical at the same time.

In collaboration with Jack Barben, many area children had an opportunity to participate in creating songs that were used in the on-line worship services. Jack composed the instrumental accompaniments to engage the older students who used their skills to create the backing track. Then the younger students sang along to the music.

New families came to experience worship at St. Andrew's through support of their children's musical endeavors. For the Christmas Eve service, a handful (to keep numbers and exposure low) of talented UpBeat vocalists were selected to sing for the in-person service at 4:00 accompanied by Will Ogmundson.

The music we select for worship serves as a valuable tool for teaching God's love. It's also a way for area children to experience the accepting community of St. Andrew's Church, as we all

are learning to follow Jesus in the way of love. It is a privilege and a blessing to lead the youth music ministry at St. Andrew's.

Buildings and Grounds

Submitted by Chris Heyl

1. Repairs to the leaking exterior church office flat roof and interior office ceiling requiring 2 coats of plastering, 2 coats of sealer. As well as office walls repaired and painted.
2. New London Fire Department performed an inspection this past spring and found several code compliance issues. All electrical including signage, emergency lighting and other issues were brought up to code.
3. Installation of 9 new programmable thermostats throughout the church will help oversee our heating needs efficiently while conserving our energy usage.
4. The repair/replacement of the church bell controller is in the works with updated pricing quotes coming thanks to Harvey Best.
5. Currently talking with the Green Committee on possible new projects that need our attention going forward.
6. Repair to crown of Parish Hall chimney and new stainless steel full cover rain cap.

Landscape & Garden Committee

Submitted by Mary Eysenbach

Six new evergreens were planted along the border by the Inn's backside and parking lot. They should grow tall enough to soften the visual impact of this unattractive area. Two new deciduous trees - one sugar maple and one swamp oak – were planted near the labyrinth. The existing trees there are showing signs of their age.

Wonderful volunteers again spread the work around. But we need some newcomers for 2022. Especial thanks to Ed Hoyt & Gene Hall for watering the new trees throughout the summer. And to Chris Heyl for his support with jobs which require extra muscle or expertise.

Green Committee

Submitted by Ed Hoyt

For years the church has benefitted from having a programmable thermostat in the sanctuary. Programmable thermostats enhance comfort by having rooms reach "room temperature" before people arrive. And they conserve energy by ensuring the heat is turned down for the many hours that rooms are unoccupied.

In 2021, the Building Committee and Green Committee collaborated on installing eleven programmable thermostats throughout the church. These "7-day" thermostats have been programmed according to scheduled room use for each day of the week.

Altar Guild

Submitted by Judy Ackroyd & JoAnn Hicks

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to prepare the sanctuary for services. Following the services members clean up. This includes caring for the altar linens, vessels, vestments and helping Jay prepare for special services. We also deliver altar flowers. Members are assigned to one of 4 teams and each team serves two weeks at a time. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in serving St. Andrew's in a quiet way, speak to a current member or after a service stop in the sacristy to see what we are doing.

Current members are Rosie Best, Judy Brown, Diane Caldwell, Marni Eaton, Sue Eslick, Janet Miller Haines, Chris Major, Fifi Mitchell, Pam Morland, Claire Pace, Marilyn Paradis, Alice Perry, Lin and Emmy Potter, Noni Reynders, Becky Rylander, Joanne Schuyler, Wendy Sloan, Barbara Smith, JoAnn Hicks, and Judy Ackroyd

Eucharistic Service Ministers

Lectors, Intercessors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, and Acolytes

Submitted by Anne Hall, Verger

Because of COVID recommendations, the ministries of Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes have been suspended. Your Verger serves as acolyte for the services. The licenses of the Eucharistic Ministers have been kept active with the Vestry approving renewals and forwarding them to the bishop's office.

Lectors and Intercessors contributed remotely to our online services earlier this year. As some restrictions were lifted outdoor services began. I conducted a canvas to discover who would be comfortable reading or leading prayers outdoors and respect the decision of some not to participate. I thank Harvey Best, Suza Bowser, Missy Carroll, Jody Cooper Rubin, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Nancy Fleming, Ginny & Randy Foose, Ayla & Kylin Frenkiewich, Tina Helm, Gail Goddard, JoAnn Hicks, Christine & Mark Kellett, Elizabeth Lowell, Julie & Peter Machen, Emmy Potter, Alice Perry, Russ Potter, Nina Rogers, Nancy Rollins, Becky Rylander, Susan Schweizer, Karen Floyd Shepherd, Leslie Smith, Jackie Thompson, Katrina Wagner, Loa Winter, Katina Wagner and Ellen Yenawine for agreeing to serve. All have continued to serve since the services have moved indoors.

The duties of ushers and greeters were combined when our services began outdoors. Those willing to serve from each group have continued to do so when the services moved indoors. Parishioners are greeted and asked to mask up and maintain social distancing. The ushers/greeters make sure the windows are open, monitor the collection plates, take a count of those in attendance, take the bread to the Presider, and direct the traffic for those receiving communion so that social distancing is maintained. They assist Altar Guild after each service by checking the pews for forgotten articles and straightening the hymnals and prayer books. My thanks are extended to Jeanine & Bill Berger, Rosie & Harvey Best, Marni Eaton, Mary Eysenbach, Diane Caldwell, Pat & Gene Hall, Tina & Bill Helm, JoAnn Hicks, Janet & Chris Heyl, Christine & Mark Kellett, Lisa & Billy Kelly, Marilyn Paradis, Alice Perry, Susan Schweizer, Jackie Thompson, Janie Webster, and Ellen & Gardner Yenawine.

If anyone is interested in serving as an Usher/Greeter or Lector/Intercessor, please contact me. My thanks again to all who serve St. Andrew's as readers or ushers.

Craft Group (aka Crafty Critters)

Submitted by Barbara Smith

This year was much as it was last year for the Craft Group due to the ongoing covid pandemic. Again, in the warmer weather we grabbed our chairs and met on the church grounds to check on each other, catch up and work on our crafts. There was a church fair in September which was well-attended and the “Craft Tables” were quite full. We did very well in sales. It was very good to be able to have a fair at St. Andrew’s – for us and the community.

Members include Judy Ackroyd, Mary Bayerl, Clare Bennett, Rosie Best, Judy Brown, Peg Daly, Leni Gillespie, Gail Goddard, Janet Heyl, JoAnn Lyon, Pam Morland, Alice Perry, Gwen Place, Nina Rogers, Becky Rylander, Joanne Schuyler, Wendy Sloan, Barbara Smith, Jackie Thompson, Alison Vernon

St. Andrew’s High School Youth Group

Submitted by Lisa Kelly

Due to Covid, our usual youth group activities were put on hold throughout 2021, with two poignant exceptions...

In August we gathered to bid farewell and best of luck to two of the founding members of the Youth Group – Erin Wheeler and Emmy Potter. Though we miss them something fierce, we are also super excited for them as they begin this next chapter.

Throughout the year, we continued our labor of love on the Covid Prayer Flag Memorial which was covered in a news story on WMUR and commemorated in a beautiful video sponsored by the Center for the Arts and produced by St. A’s very own Suza Lambert Bowser. You can see the video on the St. Andrew’s H.S. Youth Group website here: <http://www.standrewsnl.org/high-school-youth-group.html>

St. Andrew’s is most definitely blessed with a group of inspiring and deeply compassionate young folks who consistently seek to promote justice and serve others. The youth group is open to any and all HS students in grades 9-12. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, please contact Lisa Kelly @ lisankelly@att.net

Youth on Main

Submitted by Ellen Yenawine

Our partnership with Youth on Main (YOM) has now ended. YOM had to cancel all activities during the pandemic and has now confirmed that they are suspending all activities and dissolving the program, at least for the time being. They have returned our current donations, as well as donations from the First Baptist and Our Lady of Fatima churches, with checks designated for the missions activities of each church.

Last Sunday Outreach

Submitted by Elizabeth Lowell

St. Andrew's parishioners generously contributed \$48,507 to Outreach recipients in 2021. Every offering was then matched, thereby doubling the value to \$97,014. Additionally, the Vestry allocated another \$12,000 to deserving beneficiaries.

Here is a recap, month by month (we don't collect an offering in December), of our 2021 recipients:

January	Friendly Kitchen	\$4,640
February	Navajoland	\$6,975
March	St. Vincent's, Haiti (potable water)	\$8,840
April	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Chaplaincy	\$1,570
May	Border Ministries (Rio Grande)	\$4,134
June	Got Lunch, Newport	\$3,515
July	AFEDJ (Gaza Hospital)	\$3,684
August	Voorhees College	\$3,819
September	Haiti Earthquake Relief	\$6,175
October	Willing Hands	\$1,610
November	El Hogar	\$3,545

Outreach Commission members rigorously research suggested recipients - **all** suggestions are considered - to ensure that they actually actively pursue their stated missions and are financially accountable. Commission members then write articles for both the Parish newsletter and the weekly Sunday bulletins to inform congregants about the work of the selected recipient.

St. Andrew's reach is broad - both international and domestic. There are many personal connections between recipients and the Parish. And **every** gift relieves suffering and improves lives.

Gratefully submitted to St. Andrew's Annual Report by The Outreach Committee: Janet Heyl, Christine Kellett, Elizabeth Lowell, Russ Potter, Tom Rubin, Becky Rylander, Karen Zurheide

OUTREACH

Submitted by Becky Rylander

During 2021, most of our outreach took the form of financial support because of the COVID pandemic, most significantly via our Last Sunday donations. (Please see the report from Elizabeth Lowell for a recap of those donations.) In addition, our contributions for Thanksgiving food baskets and the Community Christmas Project for needy families relied on monetary donations instead of the usual mix of food and gifts.

Although many of our in-person outreach activities remained on hold because of the pandemic, several continued on with little or no break: the Thrift Shop (see attached report); the Friendly Kitchen, a soup kitchen in Concord, where we served dinner once every other month to about 75 people; and more. Please see the attached chart for the full list. If you have questions about any, please contact the person in charge and think about how you might be able to help.

We also sent \$12,000 from our budget to KREM, Epiphany Newport for Upbeat Newport, the clinic in Haiti, and to several local camps for tuition assistance.

We look forward in 2022 with hope that we will be able to resume some of the activities that have been on hold. We have remained in touch with our friends in the Episcopal Church of Navajoland and will be planning a pilgrimage/service trip to St. Christopher's in Bluff, Utah, hoping that the COVID pandemic will abate enough to allow that to happen later this year.

Outreach at St. Andrew's – helping others in our parish, our community, and the world.

(01/12/2022)

Project	What it is	What is needed	St. Andrew's Contact
<i>In our parish:</i>			
Meals to the Rescue	Provides meals for parishioners who are ill or otherwise in need of help.	Help with cooking and delivering meals.	Linda Potter Sharon Blain
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Provides prayer shawls to parishioners or community members for whom we are praying.	Knitting or crocheting. See www.prayershawlministry.com for sample patterns and come work with the Craft Group.	Craft Group & others
Loafers	Welcome for newcomers.	Deliver fresh bread and information to new members. Answer any questions.	Marilyn Paradis
<i>In our community:</i>			
Thrift Shop	Sells used clothing and uses the proceeds to benefit St. Andrew's outreach and many local philanthropic organizations.	Clean, gently used clothing appropriate to the season. Volunteer time working in the shop.	Jackie Thompson
KREM (Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries)	A consortium of local churches providing emergency assistance.	Prayerful support of our two representatives and donations at ecumenical services and events.	Susan Eslick Froncie Quinn
Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry	Provides food to needy in the area via a food pantry located at the First Baptist Church.	Food, funds, & time. Non-perishable food, especially peanut butter, tuna fish, and other protein items. A collection box is located in the hall. Also \$\$ and volunteer time.	Gail Goddard
Veterans' Support (on hold during pandemic)	Support of veterans with health problems.	Donations of toiletries for VA hospice in Tilton.	Sally Asher
Thanksgiving Food Baskets	Collection of seasonal food during November for distribution—a joint effort with other churches.	Food and \$\$ when requested in November. Also help organizing. (\$\$ during pandemic)	Mark & Christine Kellett
The Giving Tree	Community Christmas Project for needy families.	Christmas gifts matched to identified wishes following instructions provided in Nov by LSRVNA. (\$\$ for gift cards during pandemic)	Judy Wheeler
Music and Memory (on hold during pandemic)	Singing sessions for those suffering from dementia and their caregivers.	Volunteers to sing and make people feel welcome on Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 in the Parish Hall.	Sally Asher
Thursday Tots (on hold during pandemic)	A play session for babies and toddlers with their parents, grandparents, or caregivers.	Volunteers to help set up and coordinate sessions from 10:00 – 11:30 on Thursdays.	Sally Asher
Pocket Crosses	Pocket-size crosses available in the hall in exchange for a free will gift to benefit LSR Food Bank, KREM, and the Friendly Kitchen.	Buy a cross or two and/or lend woodworking help.	Harvey Best

In our state and beyond:

The Friendly Kitchen	Provides dinner bimonthly for 100-120 homeless and needy in Concord.	\$\$ and help preparing and serving food on the fourth Friday of every other month.	Janet and Chris Heyl
ChiPs –Toys for Children of Incarcerated (on hold during pandemic)	A collection of toys for incarcerated parents to give their children for Christmas.	Unwrapped toys collected in October and delivered to Diocesan Convention in early November.	Volunteers
Phillips Brooks Partnership (on hold during pandemic)	Outdoor experiences for inner city children.	Volunteers and equipment for hiking, camping, swimming, tubing, sailing and cooking out	The Rev'd Jay MacLeod Nola Jordan
Souper Bowl Sunday (not done in 2021)	A collection taken up by the youth of St. Andrew's on Super Bowl Sunday to benefit the hungry.	\$\$ for the collection, usually split between KLS Community Food Pantry and the Friendly Kitchen.	Shelly Boucher Becky Rylander Theresa Quinn
The Seamen's Church Institute	The Institute provides spiritual, social services, and professional support to seafarers and river mariners.	Knitted hats and scarves, For patterns and info see website or Becky, Judy, or Shelly: www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-atsea	Becky Rylander Judy Ackroyd Shelly Boucher
Annual Crop Walk	Regional, intergenerational walk around Pleasant Lake to raise funds for hunger relief. First Sunday in October.	Walk and/or donate \$\$.	TBD

In the world:

Clinique Saint Esprit, Haiti	Funding of a pediatrician's salary for a project to save infant lives.	\$\$ from Last Sunday donations and other	Becky Rylander
El Hogar	A residential school in Honduras that equips very poor kids to succeed.	\$\$, support for a possible service trip, and becoming familiar with their programs..	Becky Rylander
Navajoland	Support work of Episcopal Church in Navajoland	\$\$ and possible participation on service teams. Learning about Navajo traditions.	Lisa Kelly, & Becky Rylander

THRIFT SHOP

Submitted by Jackie Thompson, Manager

Again, the thrift shop had another unusual year. Because of Covid-19, we remained closed inside until late April. However, we held some yard sales in our parking lot in early April. Once open inside the shop, we were able to remain open the rest of the year, and our customers returned and our sales were good. Although we were only open five days a week for three hours a day, we exceeded our expectations regarding sales.

Our volunteers and substitute volunteers remained steady and always ready to help with anything. We have the best volunteers who keep the thrift shop open and thriving. JoAnn Lyon has become my Co-Manager and is a fabulous asset to the thrift shop with her knowledge and background in retail sales. We work as a great team, and I am eternally grateful for her assistance.

We partnered with the Colby Sawyer Career Closet project at the college. If they cannot provide needed "professional attire" for their students, they know that they can come into the thrift shop and pick out a complete outfit for that important presentation or interview. We also offer students

a 20% discount in the shop. It's been fun to meet the students who come in on foot and on bicycles!

In May we held bag sales which are always very popular. We also tried BOGO sales on pants and shirts (Buy one at the regular price and take home a second for free.) During the Christmas season we displayed multiple shelves of ornaments and decorations at very low prices. Our selection of winter coats for the entire family far exceeded what we could ever have imagined. JoAnn is also very involved in the Food Pantry in town. She suggested handing out vouchers for free purchases in the thrift shop to the families who frequent the food pantry. This was a brilliant idea, and we provided \$250 in clothing to those families during the year. We are proud of this donation to those who might not have come into the shop. We also assisted Wish List NH when they had a critical need for items for local families in need. And we provided an outfit to a New London Hospital patient who did not have clothing to wear when she was discharged. We met our goal for a \$9,000 donation to St. Andrew's Church. We also were able to provide \$300 donations to the School Nurses Emergency Health Fund in each of the five local elementary schools. The nurses use the funds to provide needed clothing for children who might arrive at school without the proper clothing. And we also donated \$1,000 to KREM, which our Rector Jay doubled for a total of \$3,000 to this worthy cause.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH	\$9,000
SCHOOL NURSES EMERGENCY FUND	\$1,500
KREM	<u>\$1,000</u>
TOTAL FOR 2021:	\$11,500

Network Newsletter

Submitted by Alice Perry, Editor

In this second year of pandemic and physical distancing, I am happy to say that one aspect of church life unaffected by the virus has been St. Andrew's newsletter, *The Network*.

Published bi-monthly, it regularly includes Messages from the Rector, Wardens and the Director of Music, parish updates such as marriage, memorial service and baptism, and birthdays. Committee updates from all of the groups represented in this annual report, highlights and photos of recent activities plus announcement of future events, an occasional "lay contemplation" piece, items of community interest and suggestions for community service and outreach are all featured as well.

Each issue is posted on our website at www.standrewsnl.org under the Inform tab in advance of the first day of the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November) with notification arriving within a standard parish email. (Please be sure the office has your current email address.) A limited number of printed hard copies is available on the narthex shelf. Please check it out if you haven't already.

The newsletter welcomes your submissions. In order to ensure timeliness, the deadline is the 20th of every even-numbered month (February, April, June, August, October and December) – but don't wait! As soon as you have something of interest to share with our parish community, please do so. You can send text (Word format) and/or photos (jpg) electronically to the editor at perry46@tds.net. Please continue to send ideas or items that keep the church community informed of our mission, our programs, our people, our service: all that constitutes the life of the church. – Alice Perry, Editor

Faith and Issues

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

Faith and Issues held its first meeting in one of the Sunday school rooms on March 4, 2017. However, when the Covid crisis descended upon us in 2020, we could no longer meet in person and quickly adapted to relying on Zoom. Being together via Zoom has turned out to be a significant blessing & a wonderful tool to keep us together thanks to the miracle of video, deeply listening to each other and sharing our insights. Presently, there are seventeen members, most of whom regularly attend our meetings each Sat. A.M. 9-10:30 (excepting occasional breaks). New members are always welcome! Generally, each month we alternate a Faith based book with an Issue based book. Two Faith books that we particularly enjoyed in 2021 were *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus* by The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, *Choctaw*, and *The Great Emergence - How Christianity is Changing and Why* by Phyllis Tickle. Two Issue books that impressed us were *The Tyranny of Merit - What's Become of The Common Good* by Michael J. Sandel, and *The Sum of Us - What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. A number of our books have been placed in the library in the Parish Hall. St. Andrew's website under Learn posts our current reading. Please be in touch with me at krbyers@tds.net if you'd like more information.

St. Andrew's Art Committee

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

Friends, eight of us first met via Zoom back in the fall of 2020 to begin evaluating the aesthetics of the artistic footprint of the church, and to talk about what we might do to make each of the spaces less cluttered and more appealing.

We made some headway in the Parish Hall and entrance by removing many out-dated items on various bulletin boards, removing old photos and notices and clearing the Narthex desks and putting in new coat hangers

The upstairs bathrooms were painted and a Tree of Life painting by Alison Vernon and a copy of Picasso's *Hands with Flowers* now hang. Becky Rylander provided a lovely embroidery Navajo Tree of Life she created that hangs in the entry.

Our committee met regularly and talked earnestly about how we might set up rotating displays of varying kinds of art throughout the church. We've been wondering what to keep in place - what to move or what to retire and what new pieces we should be looking for, as well as trying to establish guidelines for visiting artists and our own expectations.

Then, honestly, we got bogged down. I think that by mid-2021 we soon all realized after a couple of the most stalwart members of the committee Greg Vogt and Alison Vernon moved on- for various reasons- most of the rest of our dreams would need to be put on hold for another time - beyond Covid. Members are Shelly Boucher, Suza Lambert Bowser, Marni Eaton, Mary Eysenbach, Alice Perry and Katrina Wagner. We'll plan to stay tuned, and hope you'll stay in touch, because we need your input!

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 31 January 2021

With about 50 parishioners present on Zoom and representing a quorum, Jay opened the meeting with words of welcome and a prayer.

***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2020 as written and received.*

***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Annual Report of 2020 as written and received.*

Jay thanked outgoing Warden Bruce Avery for his wisdom, commitment, patience and competence, noting he had added richness to our leadership team even during these nearly two years of ongoing cancer treatment. Applause followed. He also thanked Bruce's wife Shirley for her sharing Bruce with us.

The slate of candidates for election was presented as follows:

- Joe Daly to a two-year term as Warden
- Nonie Reynders to complete Joe Daly's term of office on the Vestry (two years)
- Linda Potter, Morris Edwards and Alice Perry to serve second three-year terms on the Vestry;
- Karen Shepherd to serve a second two-year term as Convention Delegate
- Nancy Fleming and Anne Hall to serve two-year terms as Alternates to Convention

There being no nominations from the floor, ***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted (with one abstention) to approve the slate.*

Treasurer Mike Quinn reviewed the 2021 budget that had been approved by the Vestry in December, and open to parishioners for close review and discussion via Zoom earlier this month. ***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted (with one abstention) to receive the proposed budget for 2021.*

A slide show prepared by Bruce Avery offered "the year in review" in pictures. Response was very positive with special compliments to Upbeat's (Newport and New London) additions to our online worship music and also to Peter Bloch's aerial work (drone photography) as an inspirational element to our virtual worship.

Opening the meeting to questions and comments, Becky Rylander asked if the year in review just viewed would be shared on our website. Jay responded in the affirmative, also thanking Mary Eysenbach whose efforts as landscaper and as webmaster give visitors their first impressions of St. Andrew's in two ways.

Theresa Quinn asked about our fragile members who are hard to keep in touch with during the pandemic. Jay described his pastoral efforts whether over the phone, in a driveway meeting, rare hospital visits and hand-written notes and cards. Due to confidentiality particular individuals were not named. Jay also reminded us of the work Jim Ransom does as Chaplain at DHMC and stressed the importance of identifying yourself as Episcopalian when registering as a hospital patient.

Froncie Quinn reminded us that when concern is loneliness rather than illness and death, KREM and KNP have volunteers willing to call and check in with someone as long as that person knows they have been referred to either organization (“no cold calls”). Both Froncie and Sue Eslick are members of the KREM board.

In a related reminder Anne Hall said the prayer list can be found at the end of the weekly bulletin (online). St. Andrew’s prays for those individuals each Thursday during midday prayer and the list is available for others’ use at any time.

Becky Rylander reminded us that today is “Last Sunday” and donations for that outreach to The Friendly Kitchen as well as donations to Souper Bowl Sunday are welcome. Jay added that an anonymous donation of \$1000 to The Friendly Kitchen was received yesterday, and also noted our record-breaking giving in 2020 in spite of fewer Last Sunday opportunities. Before long the matching fund will need replenishing, he said, thanking the Last Sunday commission and everyone for their generosity.

In reply to Elizabeth Lowell’s question about Shelly’s new puppy, Jay assured her the puppy would be welcome in the office as company for Shelly.

Jay took a poll of attendees to gauge interest in Sacred Ground curriculum. At least 11 people indicated they would like to participate in the social justice program that is video-based, with readings and group discussion.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM with a prayer led by Aaron Jenkyn.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Perry, Clerk