



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



2023 Annual Report

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ANNUAL MEETING DOCKET

February 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary and Zoom

- I. Call to Order/Opening Prayer**
- II. Lifting our 2023 Ministry to God in Prayer**
- III. Questions about 2023 Ministry Reports**
- IV. Clerk's Report**
 - a. By-laws Revision**
- V. Election of 2024 Nominating Committee**
- VI. Stewardship Report**
- VII. 2024 Terms of Call for Pastor**
- VIII. Foundation Annual Report**
- IX. Closing prayer**

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, Pastor & Head of Staff

Dear Kindred in Christ,

2023 was a year of much experimentation. Your Session is currently doing a book study of the book “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You Are Going.” The world has changed dramatically and our congregation has been visited by so many struggles. I know that at the dawn of 2024 we are reeling from the devastation wrought by ice and wind and frigid temperatures in January of this year. One of you said to me, “I’m so sad for our church. What are we, Job?”

I want to remind you of some of the courageous experimentation we undertook in 2023, much of which brought joy, and all of which helped us continue our mission of connecting with Christ and each other to serve our neighbors. I believe that experimentation is key to leadership when you don’t know where you’re going.

Our children’s ministry team labored faithfully these past several years and expressed a need to wrap up their ministry in June. But before they finished, they hosted another fantastic Parents’ Night Out that served many neighbors and church families. As they were wrapping up their service, I took a walk with Emily Dew during which we ran into another young mom and the idea for Supper Church was born. I built a team and we spent the summer dreaming up a new approach to ministry with families— an early Saturday evening meal based, informal worship opportunity. This ministry launched on September 30th and ran weekly through the end of the year, experimenting with location and approach all through. By the end of the year we welcomed a few new families to Supper Church and while it was sometimes chaotic, there was much joy in the gathering. The team decided to try once a month from January to March of 2024 to see if that might be more manageable for everyone involved. We’re still experimenting and hope you’ll support this experiment in whatever way you can in the year ahead.

We experimented with a new approach to confirmation in 2023, with a weekend retreat followed by 6 months of mentorship. Only one of the four confirmands opted to join the church in 2023, but new relationships were cultivated. I’m grateful that Sally Miller has felt a call to experiment with youth ministry and that she began building that before the year was through.

As we continue to navigate hotter and hotter summers, we experimented with outdoor worship on the courtyard for most of the summer and installed air conditioning in the chapel, with help from New Church of Oregon, the Korean congregation who shares our building. Many reported delight in our outdoor gatherings. This was a successful experiment. Likely the summer of 2024 will involve both outside worship and chapel worship; experimentation continues.

After a year of relationship building facilitated by our fabulous neighborhood ministries coordinator, Katy Rustvold, a collaborative effort of the Friends of the Multnomah Safe Rest Village and the SW Faith Coalition called “Pathways Home” experimented with

hosting a series of public events for consciousness raising and organizing around the growing housing crisis in our region. This work resulted in a new ministry being launched, a grand experiment called Southwest Outreach. Many of the people on the original Pathways Home team, including a St. A's member, are now key to Southwest Outreach, a multi-faceted initiative that is building relationships with and meeting needs of houseless neighbors. A weekly shower program at Riversgate Church is only one piece of their work, but it is one fruit of 2023 experimentation.

We renewed our Cuba partnership through a visit at the end of 2023. In one sense, as we've been in this partnership for over a decade, this was not experimental. In another sense, every time a new delegation undertakes a visit to Cuba it is a grand experiment. This time we experimented with bringing a quality laser printer all the way from Portland to Santa Clara, via Houston and Havana. This was not without its challenges, but we succeeded! It was connected and operating within hours of our arrival, greatly enhancing the office work of our sister congregation. Our visit this year was shorter than those in the past and it was complicated by heavy rains, but all those who traveled became much more aware of the importance and value of partnership and developed deep affection for our Cuban kindred. Hopefully the next experiment in this partnership will be a visit from Pastor Reile to Oregon!

St. A's hosted an experiment in the development of new musical theater, as the music for a new musical about the life of Moses written and composed by a neighbor, Chari Smith, was workshopped in our sanctuary with the support of our musician Don Feely, and several St. A's singers as well as singers brought in by Chari from outside. Some St. A's folks, including my entire family and Cory Chestnut, are continuing to participate in the development of this musical.

Personally, I did a lot of experimentation this year. I participated in a Zoom playwriting class with my high school English and drama teacher and composed a short play reflecting on grief. I assembled a long dreamed of octet, called the Bachtet, and we had a lovely performance on September 10 in St. A's worship. I joined an Enneagram and Family Systems Cohort that took me to Texas four times this year where I attempted to find links between two areas of my personal study and interest the past four years. I've been leading the Conflict Team for the presbytery and we had our first experiments in interventions in congregational conflict. And I took a stab at a major grant to support a sabbatical in 2024— I didn't receive the grant— but I'm still planning that sabbatical for next summer— which will be a marvelous experiment for all of us.

Meanwhile my household has been experimenting with hosting exchange students, first from Germany and then from Saudi Arabia, stepping into various musical theater opportunities, trying out stand-up comedy, and voice lessons. So many lovely experiments.

Regular ministry continues— 10 am worship, its hybrid character no longer an experiment; the choir has been renewed; we have special musical visitors throughout the year, many of whom are old friends of St. A's, some are new! And we continue our monthly on-line Enneagram and Anti-Racism studies. That reminds me of another

experiment launched in 2023— a new spiritual formation group meeting twice a month in person. Thanks to Jan Reynolds, Amy Houchen, and Oli Young for their leadership of this experiment!

I am grateful for the support the Rev. Dr. Sunggu Yang who has served as our parish associate for liturgy and adult education for the past several years. He stepped out of this role at the end of 2023 both to allow him more time with his young family and to help the bottom line of our budget. He will still be on call for pulpit supply and I suspect you'll see him a bit this coming summer!

It may seem strange to be doing so much experimentation almost 70 years into the life of this church, but experimentation keeps us nimble and opens new possibilities, and is a faithful response to the rapidly changing world in which we live.

I give thanks to and for all of you.

In Christ, Pastor Sarah

CONNECTING WITH CHRIST

EDUCATION

Laurie Donald, Elder

Children's Ministry

“To everything a time and season and a time to every purpose under heaven...”
The Children's Ministry at St. Andrews has reached a point in the cycle where we have very few school-aged children in the congregation. On many Sundays there are none. Our dedicated team of Sunday morning volunteers, many of whom have served for decades (!), are ready for their overdue retirement. Anyone who has taught knows the frustration of preparing a lesson and the necessary materials, only to have no students. These heroic volunteers- Carol Patterson, Marie Dolson, Lori Sweeney- who improvised over and over during the pandemic and then faced a year of non-attendance have stepped down for their rest. Until the cycle swings back and we again see school aged children on Sunday morning, we are trying a new thing.

Our desire to serve young families has led to the birth of supper church. This informal service on Saturdays at 5pm is open to all who seek an alternative to Sunday morning worship. It features singing, a lesson, a communal meal, art or play, and an opportunity for adult connection. We are looking for the right frequency balance. Through the fall we met weekly and for the winter we are meeting the first Saturday of the month. Join us and see what this new thing looks like.

Aubrey Schiefelbein, Caroline Sanderson-Doughty, and Everett Schiefelbein have continued to faithfully provide nursery care.

Learning and Fellowship opportunities continued to challenge assumptions and stimulate thought through both in-person and virtual sessions. We have continued the virtual platform for several of our ongoing offerings, which allows participants to join from anywhere.

A twice monthly, in person, spirituality group launched this year and is being ably facilitated by Jan Reynolds, Amy Houchen, and Oli Young.

The Enneagram discussion group has continued to explore better self-understanding and better understanding of others, especially in relationships, through the study of what motivates, drives, and fulfills the individual and others. The group consists of St. A's members and friends.

The anti-racism group has expanded its study through several book studies in 2023. The participants are gaining greater awareness of privilege and coming to terms with the racist foundations of our society. In 2023 they read and discussed *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, *All the Real Indians Died Off and 20 Other Myths About Native Americans* by Dina Gilio-Whitaker and Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *A Living Remedy* by Nicole Chung,

and *The Place We Make: Breaking the Legacy of Legalized Hate* by Sarah Sanderson. This last book is still their focus and it is helping them to understand the racial history of our own state and region. They hope to bring the author, who resides in Milwaukie, OR, to speak to the congregation as a whole.

The men's Bible Study continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7 a.m. Pastor Tom facilitated this group until the fall when he took on a job as a bus driver. It is now primarily a virtual study group facilitated by Pastor Sarah.

Our parish associate, Dr. Sunggu Yang, concluded his time with us in a well-received Sunday morning class in the chapel on the Reformation.

St. Andrews continues to nurture its congregation through these activities and more, helping individuals grow in their knowledge of and love for God.

WORSHIP

Laura Faulkner, Oliver Young, Eric Hamilton, Worship Elders and Pastor Sarah, Primary Worship Leader

The worship year started with a lovely gathering on New Year's Day in the chapel, where we worshiped in the round with the support of a guitarist, Sheila McGrane.

We are grateful to have sustained 10am hybrid worship the whole year through. After several years of intermittent shut-downs and shifts to virtual only worship, this was a milestone! We're thankful for the work of Elijah Brownell, our media specialist, all year long and for the rotating sound volunteers—Steve Planck, Laura Planck, Larry Patterson, and Ric Tower. We're also grateful for the ministry of Don Feely, for his work with the choir, his invitation of musical guests, and support of our volunteer song leaders, Nancy Goering, Connie Blumthal, and Pastor Sarah primarily this year. Pastor Sarah is delighted to provide harmony when other strong song leaders are available. Again, we have song leaders so that those worshipping on-line can have support for their singing at home; someone needs to be amplified for the benefit of virtual worshipers. Many thanks to Amy Houchen for ably recruiting worship assistants throughout the year. We are also grateful to Barb Leahey for her steadfast coordination of communion every month and to Kevin Sanderson-Doughty for monthly bread baking.

It was wonderful to welcome Elder Steve Cook back into the pulpit for our now annual recognition of earth day. It was also wonderful to have sermons from Dr. Yang, Roberta Schlechter, and Jan Reynolds in 2023.

We were delighted by the successful experiment with outdoor worship in July and August this year. A big thanks to Steve Planck, Laura Planck, and Elijah Brownell for all they did to make that possible. We engaged in lectio divina and invited spontaneous testimonials on the first Sunday in July and were profoundly moved by the sharing that unfolded. We are also pleased that the chapel is now air-conditioned offering us two good options for worship locations in the hot summer months.

It was wonderful to welcome the Bachtet, the tuba playing of Eric Hamilton, visits from other instrumentalists, and the Canby Cantalinas to enhance our worship music in 2023. And as ever we remain grateful for the ministry of our sanctuary choir.

We launched our new Supper Church ministry on Saturday evenings in September of 2023. This is a forum for relaxed worship, education, and fellowship. Many thanks to the Supper Church Team, Emily Dew, Laurie Donald, Carolyn Gazeley, and Pastor Sarah and to the many volunteers who've cooked, set up, cleaned up, or otherwise supported the ministry.

We are grateful to Laura Faulkner for her service as worship elder until mid 2023 and grateful to Eric Hamilton for stepping onto Session this year. The Sanctuary team formed in 2022, met a few times in 2023 to attend to all the material aspects of worship - communion, tech, candles, pews, paraments, offerings, etc. This team intends to gather quarterly to troubleshoot, anticipate upcoming needs, and evaluate current practices.

In this year of transitions in leadership we did not convene creative worship planning teams, but are grateful that practice has resumed in 2024 under Eric's able facilitation.

If you would like to support the worship life of the congregation, first, make it a priority to participate regularly, second, consider serving on a creative worship planning team or volunteering as a worship assistant, communion server, sound technician, or usher. Third, consider preaching or offering a testimony during summer worship while Pastor Sarah is on sabbatical; talk to Jan Reynolds if you want to assist with summer worship. If you want to help out, but don't know what is needed, talk to Eric Hamilton or Oli Young or Pastor Sarah. We will be more than pleased to get you connected.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Don Feely, Director of Music

This year has been rewarding, as our choir returned to a regular schedule and we celebrated a full year of worshipping in person. While we still face intermittent challenges, a sense of normalcy prevails. We were able to enjoy the musical gifts of many guest soloists - particularly Dagny Regan, Jordan Paulus, Eric Hamilton, and Lindsey Santamaria. Daniel Buchanan and John Sherwood blessed us with their music in June and we had a full brass ensemble again on Easter. A special treat was Caroline Sanderson-Doughty singing for us on Christmas Eve.

I am so grateful to our choir that has continued their commitment to lead our worship with song, sharing their musical gifts. Thanks be to God!

The Canby High School Cantalinas returned to join us in December, and it was wonderful to see the sanctuary so full on that Advent Sunday. I am continually grateful to serve this kind and loving congregation.

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

BOARD OF DEACONS

Merrie Backer and Becky White, Co-Moderators

Roberta Schlechter, Co-Moderator as of November, 2023

Board of Deacons Mission Statement

The ministry of Deacons is set forth in Scripture as one of compassion, witness, and service. At St. Andrews, the Deacons work faithfully to “connect with Christ and each other to serve our neighbors.”

What We Do

The Board of Deacons is composed of fourteen members including co-moderators and secretary. We reconfigured the Ministry Teams in order to better describe what we do and to condense some of the functions. As a result, we now have five teams addressing the needs of our congregation and community.

Our Teams

Memorial Services:

After the worship service on All Saints Day in November, in which Chuck Stilson and Carl Bankes were memorialized. Refreshments were served.

Personal Contact:

Greeting cards were sent by this Deacon team for landmark birthdays and anniversaries. Sympathy cards as well as those offering encouragement and support were sent.

Community Food:

This team worked to provide support and meals to those in need. Lunches were provided to Safe Rest Village three times (May, July, December). This activity was enjoyed by all as we worked to make and deliver nutritious lunches to those in transitional housing.

Emergency Needs:

This team responds to requests from the congregation or community in order to meet short term needs. A gentleman needing a night's lodging while recovering from surgery, gift cards for food or gas, and other high need requests were honored.

Spiritual Connection:

A list of those unable to attend worship service was maintained and regular contact recorded. This list includes ten to twelve members that has been modified frequently as individuals passed away and/or home addresses changed. Transportation for those needing a ride to Sunday worship was arranged by a member of this team. A regular announcement is in the weekly bulletin giving contact information if someone wants to request a ride.

A note about the Shepherd's Ministry:

Deacons will review this ministry in the upcoming year in order to update the contact base and determine how to ensure contact with congregants.

WELCOME & FELLOWSHIP

Connie Blumthal & Becky Schiefelbein, Elders

There were several wonderful developments in 2023:

- Sunday Worship attendance has been steadily increasing as more of the Congregation returns to Sanctuary worship. Many people have also been assisted in learning how to attend via ZOOM or Facebook.
- Nametags continue to foster new friendships.
- During the hot summer months the outdoor 10:00am worship was a much more comfortable and welcoming experience.
- The St. Andrew's website continues to bring new visitors to us.
- Fellowship coffee hour has broad participation and volunteer support.
- The "Big Table" potluck in the Chapel on December 31st was well attended and very enjoyable as we ate great food, talked, sang and worshipped joyously around the large round tables.

In 2024 we anticipate additional potluck and fellowship opportunities. New members will most likely join us this Spring. And next summer worship services can be held in the newly air-conditioned Chapel.

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

MISSION

Darwin Força, Elder

Team Members: Jeanette Kloos, Mary Sherwood, Mary Poulsen, Laurie Donald, or Marilyn Palumbo, Katy Rustvold

Vision

The Mission team, having heard calls for increased communication and increased means by which congregants can become involved, has been crafting living documents to guide our work and root us in the St. Andrew's history and continued legacy of service. In that vision we stated we wanted to "regularly provide, promote, and engage in opportunities of service to each other, the church, and the greater community." This vision guides us in all of our work.

Partnerships & Projects

West Women's and Children's Shelter

We continue our long-time partnership with this domestic violence shelter and it remains one of our strongest ministries. Guests at the shelter continue to appreciate monthly supplies, daily snacks, and delicious casseroles, faithfully prepared and delivered by St. Andrew's volunteers on the first Saturday of each month. The monthly signup is available in the weekly e-news. We also once again had a Giving Tree for shelter guests in the weeks leading up to Christmas, and all of the gift requests were fulfilled. Thank you to all of those who participate each year and especially to Emily Dew for continuing to coordinate this opportunity to help spread joy during the Christmas season.

Multnomah Village Safe Rest Village

This year we continued to support and collaborate with the Deacons in serving the Multnomah Safe Rest Village, a temporary housing site on Multnomah Blvd where people can stay as they transition from living outside to being permanently housed. Through our partnership with the grassroots neighborhood group, Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village, we can respond in a timely manner to the most current needs they face at any given time. This includes collecting outdoor clothing gear for winter weather, the Deacons preparing periodic lunch deliveries, the Quilters making Christmas stockings that were filled at an Advent Supper Church gathering, and many more acts of individual service by various St. Andrew's members. We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2024 and beyond, especially with the City of Portland's plans to double capacity at this vital shelter in the near future.

Ziploc Ministry & Operation Nightwatch

We continue our work with this ministry partner, gathering monthly to fill large Ziplocs with items critical to the well-being of those living outside. Representatives from Operation Nightwatch visited worship this last December to talk about the impact of this

ministry, and were also the recipients of last year's Christmas Eve offering, for the second year in a row.

Neighborhood House & the SW Hope Feed the Hungry Campaign

We continue to value our long-time partnership with Neighborhood House and once again took part in coordinating and participating in the 2023 SW Hope campaign. For the second year in a row Katy participated in the planning meetings leading up to this event, helping with the continuation of knowledge through year-to-year Neighborhood House staffing changes, as well as shaping the various fundraising activities based on feedback from St. Andrew's and the wider community. We look forward to SW Hope in 2024, which begins on February 14th.

The Mission Team also coordinated our annual food drive for Neighborhood House, this time taking place during December rather than leading up to Thanksgiving as we've done in the past. Thank you so much to Jeanette who is the main deliverer of food donations collected at St. Andrew's during the drive.

Cuba Partnership

We are so thrilled that we were once again able to travel to Cuba to visit with our sister congregation in Santa Clara, during the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our delegation included Pastor Sarah and her daughter Caroline, Marilyn Palumbo, Maggie & Sally Miller, and Roberta Schlechter. Leading up to this trip the congregation generously contributed cash and item donation that our delegation brought with them, including medicine, medical supplies, and even a new color printer. The cash we collected will help them maintain salaries and operating costs for the coming year, in an environment where doing this is increasingly difficult. The delegation looks forward to continuing to share stories of this meaningful experience in the coming months.

Local Environmental Mission

St. Andrew's continues to work on our parking lot to remove invasive plants and maintain the native plants we have planted.. Thanks to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for helping on our two work parties, 30-50 people volunteering about 165 hours.

PC(USA) Special Offerings/Christmas Eve Offering

The session authorizes the Mission Team to coordinate four PC(USA) offerings, and the Christmas Eve offering, directing St. Andrew's generosity to specific ministries of our denomination. Here are our special offerings and their purposes:

- One Great Hour of Sharing (global disaster/hunger relief)
- Pentecost (young people and at risk children)
- Peace and Global Witness (peacemaking)
- Christmas Joy Offering (past and future leaders of our denomination)
- Christmas Eve Offering (designation at our discretion)

SW Outreach

A new addition to serving our neighbors, St. Andrew's became the fiscal sponsor of a local mutual aid organization, SW Outreach, which provides supplies, cold weather gear and connection to neighbors living outside in Southwest Portland.

It has been another year of God showing us what is possible when we trust our belief in the inherent value and dignity of every human being, and our call to connect with one another through Christ. In the coming year we plan to look for ways to offer volunteer opportunities to those in the wider communities in SW Portland, rather than just those in our congregation. We also hope to provide to the congregation more frequent and timely updates of our mission activities. To become more involved in any of our mission activities, contact any member of the Mission Team: Darwin Força, Jeanette Kloos, Mary Sherwood, Mary Poulsen, Laurie Donald, Marilyn Palumbo, or Katy Rustvold.

QUILTING

Gail Planck, Coordinator

The St. Andrew's quilt group is always looking for ways to use our hobby to help others. In 2023 we made 316 items that helped members of our church community and our neighbors. Following is a list of those items.

- 1 baptism quilt
- 7 quilts for members
- 14 quilts for Project Linus
- 13 quilts for Care Partners hospice
- 15 fidget quilts for Care Partners
- 5 quilts and fleece blankets for a needy family
- 10 doll quilts
- 30 fleece blankets for Project Linus
- 13 dresses for Dress a Girl Around the World
- 1 new member bag
- 8 faceless dolls for Doernbecher's
- 20 pillows for Safe Rest Village
- 10 small pillows for Operation Nightwatch
- 5 dog beds
- 34 Christmas stockings for Safe Rest Village and the shower project
- 130 pillowcases for Doernbecher's
- Fabric and sewing machine needles for Cuba

The quilters meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 9:30. You don't need to be a sewer to participate. There are plenty of other jobs to do. All are welcome! Please join us in this fun ministry.

Building Use

Katy Rustvold, Coordinator

Becky Schiefelbein, John Calhoun, Steve Ihrig, Consulting & Planning

St. Andrew's continues to use its building to provide space as a way to connect with neighborhood and community groups, and 2023 was an especially busy year. Pre-pandemic we averaged just a handful of building users each month, but in 2023 we saw

10-15 regularly scheduled building users in any given week and/or month. These included:

- Five choir & performance groups
- Four AA/Al-Anon groups
- Three Boy/Cub Scout groups
- One Girl Scout group
- Three sports groups
- Three private birthday parties
- Two arts/crafting groups
- Six charitable/advocacy organizations

Because of this boom in building use it became clear that it was time to update our building use policies and regulations, as well as our fee structure, in order to keep up with the increased costs of hosting so many groups. The last time St. Andrew's had reviewed these was in 2016. Our former fee schedule was structured so that only for-profit groups, ticketed performances, and weddings were charged to use our building. However, since at least 80% of our building users are non-profit groups this meant that most were using the building for free, with some offering a small donation as they were able. Unfortunately, due to increased utility and maintenance costs, maintaining this arrangement was no longer possible. We are very grateful to Becky Schiefelbein who spent many hours researching other public use rentals in the area to determine what would be a fair rate to begin charging our users. What resulted is a new fee schedule where all groups directly aligned with the mission of St. Andrew's will continue to pay nothing, non-profit groups will be charged a nominal fee depending on the room they use and number of hours, and a competitive, market rate fee will be charged to all other for-profit groups (see below). The intent is to make our building use financially sustainable so we can continue to offer this means of gathering and connection to our neighbors in SW Portland. We also thank Session for their careful consideration and approval of these new policies.

One of the goals of the session is to better utilize our facility. Additionally, the church's utility and maintenance expenses over the last two years have grown at a much higher rate than expected, putting a sizable strain on the operating budget. It became clear that the church could no longer afford to allow our building to be used for free by the community groups who regularly meet here. Extensive research helped determine appropriate rental rates and the session adopted a new facility rental structure. The most significant change is the policy that all building users who are not performing St. Andrew's mission-focused work will pay an hourly fee. That fee differs depending on the space being rented and whether the user is a non-profit or regular business user:

St. Andrew's Facility Hourly Rental Rates (through 12/31/2024)

Space	General Building Use	
	Standard	Nonprofit
Calvin Hall (1/3 section)	\$20	\$15
Chapel *add \$5 in warm months	\$30	\$20
Friendship Hall (Gym)	\$55	\$40
Kitchen (Service Only)	\$35	\$25
Kitchen (incl. dishwasher, dishes, etc)	\$50	\$35
Lounge	\$35	\$25
Sanctuary	\$50	\$35
Narthex	\$20	\$15

We are working with our current regular building users to implement this new policy. Once that is done we will utilize social media to advertise the available spaces in our building with the goal of increasing rental revenue and expanding our connection in the local community through facility usage.

ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Steve Ihrig, Elder

Team Members: Jeanette Kloos, Larry Patterson, Earl Stanfield, Richard Donald, Marge Stockwell (Emeritus)

In 2018, when I first started serving on the Facilities team, it was easy to reflect on what projects the team worked on during the year. However, in 2023 it is not always easy to separate Facility's projects from others that involve other contributors and other leaders.

One of those projects is the installation of solar panels, which would definitely be a project on our facility. Amy Houchen and Steve Cook were the two major organizers and contributors to this project. They developed the relationship with the company who would install the panels and organized all of the fund raising. 100 solar panels now rest upon our Sanctuary roof generating electricity and saving St. Andrew's utilities costs and being a good steward to our environment. Thank you, Amy and Steve, for all of your efforts in taking this project from an idea to reality.

A second project that involves more than the Facilities team is the land-scape beautification project. Amy Houchen again was the leader of this effort. She interviewed several companies and chose Blossom to develop a multi-phase landscaping renovation project for the church. A small project committee, led by Amy, met throughout the year to review the plan and make recommendations that better fit the needs and budget of St. A's. Amy organized the fund raising efforts for this project and helped set up a plant-purchasing program that will help with the planting portion of this beautification effort. Renovation is scheduled to begin in January 2024.

In May 2023 the landscape committee interviewed and hired a couple to provide landscape maintenance specifically in areas not included in the beautification project. This monthly maintenance work will continue following the completion of Blossom's renovation and beautification project to help maintain our renewed grounds. Thanks to all of the people who have donated to this much needed work – you are saving many sore backs and knees of our congregational gardeners.

In June air conditioning was installed in our Chapel. After getting bids from several companies and a generous contribution from New Church we now have a cooler place for summer-time activities when it is too warm in the Sanctuary.

After St. A's was broken into we formed a Security committee to look at interior and exterior security measures to increase the safety of our building and grounds. In 2023 we added several additional locks, gathered bids for replacing the exterior doors by the office that are more secure, gathered bids for installing exterior motion-sensor lights and cameras and bids for some fencing on the East side of our building. The door by the office was schedule to be replaced in December but, hopefully, will be installed in

January 2024. We are currently reviewing the bids and overall cost of installing the lights and cameras.

Other completed projects in 2023:

- parking lot cleanup
- parking lot tree removal and replanting (in cooperation with neighbor's donations)
- care and maintenance of the Rose Garden (in cooperation with Michael House's loving care and in Chuck and Gini Stilson's memory)
- summer watering (thank you intrepid watering team)
- plumbing replacements and repairs
- lighting work: replacing ballasts and bulbs in many areas of the church
- boiler software training and implementation – the effective use of our boiler system is only possible if the boiler can be programmed in relation to the church's daily schedule. This can only be done with remote access to this system. We are fortunate to have this person on the Facility's team. Thank you.
- testing and replacing smoke detectors
- new signage replacement and installing

I know there are projects I have forgotten to list. Please know that we are always on the lookout for repairs that need to be made, changes that enhance efficiency, savings and safety. We are so fortunate to have members of St. Andrew's who are very skilled, knowledgeable and willing to give of their time to conduct assessments, do the planning and make those repairs. Thank you.

Thank you to Jeanette, Larry, Earl, Richard, Steve Planck, Todd Kloos, Michael House, Amy Houchen, Steve Cook, Carol Patterson, Marilyn Roberts, Becky White and Becky Schiefelbein for all of your efforts to keep our St. Andrew's building and grounds safe, beautiful and working.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Katy Rustvold, Staff Member

Life in the St. Andrew's office continues to be characterized by active engagement with those in the congregation and many different representatives of the wider community. It is undeniable that the life of St. Andrew's is thriving, and I have many enriching interactions with a variety of people throughout each week. There are very few dull moments around here!

This year we changed our offices hours to 8:30-2:30, which allowed me to transport my kids to school on my way in each morning. I very much appreciate the continued flexibility of Pastor Sarah and the congregation that make this a great place to work, especially as a working mother. I am also heartened by how many offer their thanks and gratitude to the work that I do here. I hope to continue being a helpful and useful office

administrator, keeping things efficient and organized to allow you all to continue to do the great work you do for this church.

My second role as Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator really took off this year. In 2022 Pastor Sarah and I spent much time developing and growing the group of faith leaders that we called the Southwest Faith Coalition, and the relationships that were fostered through that process really showed their fruits this year. We continued partnering with Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village (FMSRV) and held a series of co-sponsored educational events around homelessness in Portland, that were called 'Pathways Home' events, at rotating locations that included St. Andrew's. We engaged with so many of our neighbors in SW Portland, learning about the root causes of homelessness and opportunities to help be a part of just solutions. We also spent time listening to others' hopes and fears around this complex issue in Portland that led to deeper trusting relationships between people of faith those in the community who are not aligned with a faith group.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to have come out of this was the founding of Southwest Outreach, a collaboration between faith and community leaders whose first initiative was opening up a weekly shower program at Riversgate Church in Multnomah Village. What started as primarily a hygiene program and a space to connect, with just a handful of volunteers and guests, has grown into a larger operation that now offers a range of services to our unhoused neighbors, many guests utilizing their services each week, and an expanding group of volunteers. I am so heartened and moved by the work of these volunteers and the impact they are having on so many lives. If you would like to hear more about this work, and how you can volunteer and donate, contact Marilyn Palumbo, one of the founding members of this work.

I look forward to continuing to work for you all in these roles in 2024. My hope is to reinstate the SW Faith Coalition gatherings and hear what other collaborative work is possible based on our common mission to be the people of God in the world. I also hope to get some feedback from the St. Andrew's congregation about our communication tools, and how they might be better used to serve you. Whatever is coming in this new year, I know I will continue to be surprised and delighted by what The Spirit has in store for us all.

PERSONNEL

Steve Cook, Elder

Team member: Rebecca Nasson and Pastor Advisor - The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson-Doughty.

2023 was a relatively stable year with no staff turnovers. We are grateful for the faithful staff of St. Andrew's, both our longstanding staff members, and our newer staff members. We are also grateful that our bookkeeper, Krissy Wilds, overcame her bout with cancer and has been able to continue in service to us. Thanks to members who supported her through her time of illness and treatment.

We did release the Rev. Dr. Sunggu Yang from his role as parish associate for liturgy and education at the end of 2023, both to meet his needs and to lessen our overall personnel budget. We are thankful for his steady support and for the outstanding classes he taught while serving with us.

The personnel team recommends 3% increases for all staff members and this is reflected in the 2024 budget.

We are in need of more members for the personnel team. If you would like to join us, please let Steve Cook or Pastor Sarah know.

Statistical Information for 2023

MEMBERSHIP COUNT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022: 157

ADDITIONS:		LOSSES:	
Confession of faith	1	Death	3
Reaffirmation of faith	0	Removal from active rolls	3
Letter of transfer	0	Transfer out	2
TOTAL		TOTAL	
	1		8
Net loss: 7			

Membership count as of December 31, 2023: 150

MEMBER DEATHS IN 2022

Pat Peters	March 5 th
Bud Berg	April 28 th
Chuck Stilson	August 11 th

ADMINISTRATION OF SACRAMENTS

Baptism of infants and children:.....	1
Baptism of adults:	0
Weddings:	0
Holy Communion	
o 12 Sunday services	
o 1 Eucharist services	
o A few homebound	

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCES & STEWARDSHIP

John Calhoun, Elder

2023 revenues were \$20k better than budget from higher pledge fulfillment, loose offerings, and interest income. However, spending was also \$5k higher due to higher utility costs, insurance, and facility repairs. We had colder weather than prior years causing more natural gas usage to heat the building. The anticipated reduction in electric costs from solar panel energy production did not happen because the installation was delayed until October, well after the peak electric production occurs in the summer. Overall, our \$9k loss was \$14k lower than budgeted.

During 2023 we did install solar panels and a new gas heating system was completed that should reduce utility costs in future years, or at least offset rate increases. The church also initiated an effort to increase rents from groups using church facilities and to recruit renters post pandemic more aggressively.

With the increase in interest rates, we stepped up our cash management activity. We closed our Synod fund account which paid very little and moved funds to a Schwab money market fund to get better interest. We also opened a savings account at Key bank and try to minimize our checking account funds. We can move cash back and forth between these funds at Key bank instantly. As a result, we earned \$9k in interest for 2023.

Our budget for 2024, reflects a drop in pledges partly offset by an increase in rental income. In addition, spending cuts are being made to cover the rest of the drop in income. We have eliminated the parish associate position as well as our earthquake insurance. We are forecasting a drop in utility costs due to our new solar panels and our new more efficient furnace.

St. Andrews financial balance sheet remains strong. We have financial assets of \$597k on 12/31 2023 an increase of \$17k from 2022. We have no debt other than short term payables and we are due a \$28k payment from the federal government in lieu of a tax credit for our solar panel installation.

Subsequent to the end of 2023 our church property suffered damage from the wind/ice storm that hit Portland in January. The total cost for tree removal and repair will be about \$40k, assuming we do not find any structural damage to the building after the fallen trees are removed. While we have insurance, there is a \$5k deductible and some costs will not be covered. Insurance rates are likely to be increased when they are renewed mid-year. These costs are not reflected in the new budget.