

One hundred and thirtieth Annual Meeting of  
**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Wellesley, Massachusetts



Photo: Peter Lull

**2022 Annual Reports**



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# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Wellesley, Massachusetts

## Staff

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**Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership**

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**Assistant Rector for Youth and Family**

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**Youth Music Director** Ciara A. Cheli ..... ciara@standrewswellesley.org

**Sexton** Steve Killeen ..... steve@standrewswellesley.org

**Assistant Sexton** Bill Clover

## Vestry Members & Committee Heads

*Terms expire on the date of the Annual Meeting*

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## Volunteer Staff

D.D. Alexander, Jane Givens, Caren Parker, Sandra Rigney, Jenny Sawyer, Harriet Thompson, and Sandy Warren.



# 130th Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

11am to 12:20pm

## Agenda

1. Singing of the hymn (page 2) ..... 11am
2. Question:  
*Name two or three concrete ways that St. Andrew's deepens your spiritual life*
3. Call to order and opening prayer ..... 11:15am
4. Reading of the warrant
5. Quorum and election of parliamentarian
6. Filing of annual reports by title ..... 11:20am
7. Report from the nominating committee,  
Nominations from the floor and election ..... 11:25am  
*Dan Dent, chair*
8. Financial reports. .... 11:35am  
*Finance chair remarks Justin Wahls*  
*Treasurer's report Harry Condon*  
*Investment committee report Justin Wahls*  
*Stewardship report Hugh MacArthur*  
*Presentation of 2023 operating budget Justin Wahls*
9. Rector's comments. .... 11:55pm
10. New business ..... 12:05pm
11. Closing prayer and blessing ..... 12:15pm
12. Adjournment. .... 12:20pm

Commissioned in celebration of the 25th anniversary of R. Harrison Kelton as Organist and Choirmaster  
of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts

for the Feast of St. Andrew

Descant

3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, who made the gos - pel known,

1. Sing of An-drew, John's dis - ci - ple, led by faith through ways un - trod,  
2. Sing of An-drew, called by Je - sus, from the shores of Gal - i - lee,  
3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, sent to make the gos - pel known,

faith - - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, made a cross his own.

till the Bap - tist cried at Jor - dan, "There be - hold the Lamb of God."  
leav - ing boats and nets and kin - dred, trust - ing in that "Fol - - low me."  
faith - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, called to make a cross his own.

So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,

Stirred by hear - ing this new teach - er, An - drew, freed from doubt and fear,  
When a lad's small meal fed thou - sands, when in - quir - ing Greeks found care,  
So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,

bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.

ran to tell his bro - ther Si - mon, "God's A - noint - - ed One is here!"  
when the Spi - rit came in bless - ing, An - drew faith - - ful - ly was there.  
bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.  
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Music: Wellesley's Kelton, James Woodman (b. 1957)  
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# Staff Reports

## Report of the Rector



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR of transition for St. Andrew's. We have moved from a COVID dominated environment to what we hope is a post pandemic world. The year began very much under the shadow of the pandemic with the in-person attendance

of our Christmas services having been crushed by a COVID variant outbreak over the holiday period. But by Easter, we were able to re-introduce the sharing of bread and wine at communion. In-person attendance at Easter was lower than in pre-pandemic times, but the numbers were far better than they had been at Christmas. We entered the summer with the sense that we seemed to be moving out from under the shadow of the pandemic. But there was a great deal of uncertainty about whether we would begin to see more people return to in-person church at the beginning of the new program year in September 2022. Or would the "new normal" be much lower levels of attendance even in a post COVID world as people's habits and priorities changed after more than two years of pandemic?

It is, therefore, with a sense of gratitude and joy, that we have witnessed increasingly strong in-person attendance since September. When we add the numbers of people following our services online with those who have been attending in person, we have combined attendance comparable to pre-pandemic levels. It has also been very hopeful to see many new families, especially younger families with children, join St. Andrew's since September. This has re-emphasized the importance of our church school programs in drawing new people to the St. Andrew's parish family.

In the first half of the year, we were very concerned about a drop off in volunteers helping to run the various church ministries. This was affecting all the ministries of the church that are featured in this report. Like all churches, St. Andrew's is completely reliant on the gifts of time and talent given so generously by parish-

ioners to maintain the robustness of its parish life. It was therefore very worrying that heads of ministries were reporting that they were having trouble finding volunteers as concerns about COVID persisted and people's habits had changed. But since September we have seen this situation largely reversed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our ministry leaders and all our volunteers who give so generously to help make our parish thrive.

Now some might argue that I am focusing too much on attendance numbers. Some clergy would say that it more important to focus on whether you are helping people to grow in the depth and commitment of their Christian faith than on the number of people attending church services. But I think it is not an either/or issue. I believe the fact that people are choosing to return to church and recommitting to being part of the St. Andrew's church family indicates that they value the spiritual life that we offer to them through the many ministries of this parish to which this report is a testimony.

Furthermore, the deepening the spiritual life of the parish, our *raison d'être*, has very much been at the forefront of our thinking, as we undertook the RenewalWorks spirituality initiative at the beginning of the program year. We had intended to undertake this initiative in 2020 but had to postpone its launch due to the pandemic. But it has felt even more timely to undertake this initiative of spiritual renewal this year as we regather and recommit ourselves to our faith in this post pandemic period. RenewalWorks is about helping parishioners recognize that they are on a spiritual journey of hopefully growing into a deeper faith in Christ. By spirituality, we mean developing a loving relationship with God, with our neighbor, with the world, and with ourselves as Christ taught us. This is what the mission and purpose of our church is about. The RenewalWorks Initiative involves parishioners anonymously taking a survey of their personal faith and beliefs. The results of this survey allow the church to direct its ministries and programs to address the reality of the congregation's spiritual

growing edges. A task force of parishioners is reviewing the data from the survey and will be making recommendations for our ministries at the annual meeting in 2023.

Before ending, I would like to thank all the clergy and staff at St. Andrew's who have worked so hard to help keep our parish alive and well during these uncertain times. There were bittersweet emotions with the departure of the Rev. Mia Kano, the assistant rector for youth and family, to be the priest in charge of a parish in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts—we were sad to see her go but excited for her new ministry. The timing of Mia's departure meant that we missed the hiring window for newly ordained clergy and so we were very lucky that the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole was able to join us as the part time interim associate rector for youth and family, and is now a full-time associate rector. We were also sad to see Amanda Kern leave St. Andrew's after many years as our director of children's music and arts programming. But it has been a blessing to welcome Ciara Cheli as our new youth music director. I would also like to extend a thanks to Wardie Mannix for

her much-loved ministry, Katharine Clark who has so ably managed our office and technology, Susan Jackson for her work with the children, Steve Killeen and Bill Clover for overseeing our church building, and Joanne Butler for handling the church accounts. I would very much like to thank my clergy colleagues, Rev. Margaret Schwarzer and Rev. Karen Vickers Budney, for their outstanding ministry as priests in this parish.

Finally, I would like to thank our vestry and our two church wardens, Will Nystrom and Megan Burns, for their work during this challenging time. I especially want to thank our wardens for a critical role in helping to lead the parish amid all the difficulties that the pandemic has thrown at us. St. Andrew's has been very blessed by their wisdom, insight, and dedication during this time of uncertainty and challenge.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

## Report of the Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership



Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

THE YEAR 2022 HAS BEEN full of resilience and renewal. We find ourselves maintaining an "in person" and "online" world, but more and more people are returning to church in person, and we have had a record number of newcomer families joining us and expanding our community. Both the adult formation committee and the membership committee have engaged a few new strategies to stay connected with our parishioners, but we have also returned to most of the program structures of 2019. I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to worship and work with our St. Andrew's community as we deepen our faith and share the love of Christ with our neighbors in this year of expansion and recovery.

### Adult Formation Advisory Committee

Our adult formation committee and I share in the mission of Christian education for adults at St. Andrew's. Your feedback and interests guide the topics and programs we choose, so please share your interests and questions with me or a member of our committee. I am thankful for the service and creativity of our members who served in 2022: Pam Alexander, Peter Fergusson (rest in peace), David Guydan, Carrie Hawley, Ansley Martin, Will Nystrom, Cynthia Scott, Carol Shedd, Paul Shellito, and Sandy Warren. I'm especially thankful for the strong leadership of our stalwart chair, Ansley Martin. He is an effective administrator who is dedicated to building up opportunities for adult learning and Christian formation. He also runs a mean Turkey Trot.

## Adult Formation and Learning

This year, adult formation has continued to be hybrid, offering our Bible circles, Men's Bible study, and 9am Christian learning online, in person, or hybrid mode. Monthly Bible circles and Adrian's monthly Men's Bible study have had an average of 25 parishioners studying scripture. In Advent, Adrian's "Luke Bible Study" drew parishioners to daily reflections and engagement on Realm or Facebook. In 2022, our Bible circle studied the Acts of the Apostles and the challenges of the early church. Men's Bible study studied Mark.

Our 9am Christian learning series, meeting approximately 28 times per year, has averaged 24 members per class, and we have had over 55 people attending at least one Christian learning series class this past year. We paid special attention to how faith and science engage each other this year, a focus of study across the global Anglican communion.

We held our Lenten program in person and online this past year. We couldn't offer the "potluck" part of our "Lenten Potluck & Program" because of COVID protocols. Our evening Lenten programs were smaller than usual; we hope to return to more robust fellowship in 2023.

This year, our Holy Monday Taizé-style service was held in person and broadcast, with over 100 participants, and our Advent service was held in the sanctuary and broadcast live with 35 in person and over 60 people online. I want to offer particular thanks to the members of our Advent Taizé-style meditative working group: D.D. Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Liz Parsons, Jenny Sawyer, Cynthia Scott, and Carol Shedd.

Our 2022 Blue Christmas service continued to offer space and support for people who are facing significant loss or challenges during the Christmas season.

We were not able to offer "Ashes-To-Go" in 2022 because of the pandemic restrictions. It was a true pleasure to serve as the facilitator and editor for the sixth Lenten Meditation Guide written by St. Andrew's parishioners. In 2022, we printed over 560 copies, mailing a copy to every household on our active parishioner list and sending a daily email to 126 people who asked to get emails of the guide online.

In November, the Wellesley Turkey Trot was in person this year; we had approximately 45 members

of St. Andrew's participating in person. We won the "Biggest Team" award this year! After a three-year pause, St. Andrew's staffed a water table for the race.

We did not host an event with Temple Beth Elohim in 2022, but after a three-year lull, we returned to St. Andrew's field trips. Twenty of us went to the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA.

Faith & Practice classes, offered as forums for parishioners to share and reflect upon the practice of our daily faith, continue to be vital and engaging. Four classes were held in person this year.

We are also in the midst of planning a pilgrimage to England this summer, another sign that this year is about renewal and recovery. Please turn to our adult formation committee report for more details about our offerings this year.

## Membership Committee

It has been a pleasure to work with our membership committee in 2022, and we've worked hard, welcoming over 38 new families as they explored our community and got to know our church.

As we began to return to a more normal daily life, many families have joined us as seekers or newcomers this year, and many of these families have brought young children into the church. We continue to welcome seekers and help integrate newcomers into our parish. We hosted our Kids' Place coffee this fall outside in the playground. We couldn't hold a Newcomer's Brunch just yet but welcomed newcomers at a special coffee hour. We continue to greet people at the start of each Sunday service, and to speak with newcomers and seekers after each service, insuring their welcome. Our membership committee gives each newly baptized child a beautiful picture book celebrating their baptism at St. Andrew's. Please join us in welcoming all the newcomers in our midst. If you see someone standing alone at coffee hour, please introduce yourself and help them to feel welcome. Please turn to our membership committee report for more details about our work this year.

I enjoy being the clergy liaison for the vital work of our membership committee. My main responsibilities lie in welcoming newcomers by email or phone so that they have an immediate clergy welcome. I also meet with newcomers who would like to discuss

their faith and help newcomers learn more about our parish. I'm especially thankful for Elizabeth Clarke, chair of our committee. She is a creative driving force in our church's important ministry of welcome. It is a joy to work with her and our faithful membership committee.

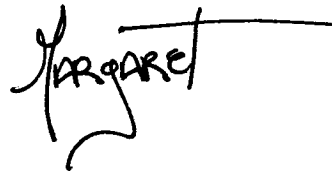
### Wellesley College Ministry

In 2022, Wellesley College students have continued to worship at our 8am, 10am, and 5pm services, and some join us online. One student also wrote for our Lenten Meditation Guide this year. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I have not met students from the class of 2024 or 2025. We have four students from the class of 2026 worshipping with us. Our Wellesley College ministry still benefits from a diocesan grant we secured through the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole. I reach out to our students with a weekly newsletter, and we encourage students to join us for coffee hours and

special events. Our ministry with Wellesley College students continues to bring energy and enthusiasm into our congregation's life. I hope to build up this ministry in the new year.

Like all of us, I'm thankful for a year that has held some renewal and resilience for our church fellowship and ministry. We can feel the vitality growing in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. I'm prayerful that our lives will continue to move towards more normal times as we continue "St. Andrew's Strong" in our worship, learning, and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Margaret K. Schwarzer

## Report of the Associate Rector for Youth and Family



Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole

THE START of this church school year has been incredibly encouraging and it appears that we are finally emerging from the pandemic with in-person learning. The year started with fully staffed volunteer classroom

teachers, a replete church school committee, and a new youth music director, Ciara Cheli. Mia Kano left a meticulous scheme of work and lesson plans scheduled for the entire year.

First, I want to thank our church school teachers, D.D. Alexander, Matthew Benfer, Bianka Eichelberger, Lee Eichelberger, Heidi Emerson, Caleb Farny, Pamela Grossetti, Hunter MacArthur, Tommy MacArthur, Lakey MacArthur, Ntonhle Kekana, Steve Mahoney, Ellen Staelin, Elizabeth Svedland, Carolyn Urban, Coryell Urban, and Anna Lee Wahls. Thank you, too, to our youth group leaders Rob Brandt and Marie Dunnell.

Our lower school is in its second year of using Godly Play. This is a Montessori-style approach that teaches children the building blocks of faith through

Bible lessons being told in story fashion alongside guiding questions to help the children engage their imagination. We have been particularly blessed by not only great teachers but also teens taking an active role in the classroom as well.

Our upper school is also in its second year of using curriculum that combines the principles of Love First and Children's Illustrated Ministry. Each lesson combines prayer, Bible lessons, reflection, and acts of service. We have had many guests from our congregation visit the classroom to talk about the various ministries they are involved in and how these ministries relate to faith and service.

Rite-13 continues to use the national Episcopal curriculum and our parent volunteers have used their own creativity in bringing these lessons to life. Along with being learners, Rite-13ers have started to take on a variety of roles including teaching younger children in our church school and reading lessons during our church services. Many thanks to our outgoing leaders, Judy Marth and Greg Urban. Many thanks also to our current team of leaders, including Lee Eichelberger,

Heidi Emerson, Caleb Farny, and Elizabeth Svedlund, all of whom are doing a phenomenal job.

Moving on to older children, there are ten teens in our in-person confirmation classes. Unlike previous years, we have moved away from the Confirm not Conform curriculum and have engaged the candidates in our lesson planning. What we have learned from them is that they enjoy a balance of getting-to-know-you activities, as well as lessons that include the three-legged stool of Anglicanism—scripture, tradition, and reason/experience.

Our acolyte team has worked hard at making the services special, with the expert guidance of our acolyte leader, Wendy Barry. Thank you, Cameron Cowperthwaite, Alex Dehn, Ben Dehn, Charlie Denomme, Conor Donahue, Clara Eikeboom, Johannes Eikeboom, Benjamin Mahoney, Peter Mahoney, Caroline Martin, Rebecca Martin, and Eloise Svedland.

I am grateful to Rob Brandt, Marie Dunnell, and Adrian Robbins-Cole who have been jump-starting our youth group. We had a successful evening of college care package assembling and Little Angels' Gift Shop gift wrapping. We ended the year with a Christmas party and gingerbread house making.

In addition to these regular activities and classes, this autumn, the church school combined classes for three lessons. The first was a service project to make autumn themed cards to send out to shut-ins and other members of our congregation. The second was to learn about Wily Scholars and the college care

packages project. The children then wrote cards to the recipients of the packages. In December they made Christmas cards and advent wreaths with electric LED candles so that they could be used in assisted living facilities.

Thank you to our church school committee for organizing our fellowship events and children's activities at the homecoming parish picnic, the All Hallows' Eve, and Cookies & Carols. Thank you to Coryell Urban who is the chair and vestry liaison for the church school committee. She brings a wealth of knowledge, insight, and energy to our committee. And finally, thank you to Susan Jackson, the Christian learning coordinator, who organizes the teaching schedule and prepares the classrooms, and so much more. Without her, I would have been lost this year. She has helped me understand the ins and outs of the curricula, conventions, and church year calendar. She is also a wonderful colleague and is a delight to work with.

One last gratitude—I am delighted to be staying on in this role and starting at St. Andrew's as the associate rector of youth and family on a full-time basis. It is truly a delight to work here with such an exceptional staff and warm, wonderful, and energetic congregation. Thank you!

In gratitude,



Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole



Photo: Peter Lull

# Report of the Music Minister



Helen Ward Mannix

IN JUNE OF 2022, I completed my 15th year as music minister at St. Andrew's.

Our 2022 music program began the year with a suspension of Thursday evening choir rehearsals due to a spike in COVID. We resumed Thursday evening rehearsals in February. On Sunday, March 6, 2022, masks in church became optional. Some of our choir members continued to wear masks and some chose not to wear them. We did not sing a Lenten Evensong this year, but we did sing our usual services for Holy Week and Easter. Our section leaders remained constant, but I hired, on an "as needed basis" two additional basses, who are presently studying at Boston University: Gabriel Harrison and William Smalley.

Our congregational choir numbers have grown. We've added two high school students and an eighth grader. Some more congregational members joined the choir at the beginning of January 2023. The choir numbers somewhere around 28 singers.

After 14 years on the job, Amanda Kern, our director of children's music and arts programming left us in June to pursue other opportunities. We've hired Ciara Cheli, who not only has a beautiful soprano voice and sings regularly with the senior choir, but who is also skilled in working with children. We've changed the job description to three, six-week projects: a Sunday musical production at the end of March, a Youth Sunday in May, and the Christmas Pageant in December. We are hoping to attract more children if we do it in this way.

We celebrated All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6 and St. Andrew's Day on Sunday, November 20, with Iain Massie playing the pipes and 27 singers in the senior choir. Kana Yamoto from Wellesley College accompanied the choir on the piano in Copland's "Zion's Walls." On December 4, we held our Advent Lessons & Carols service with a choir of 31 singers and Thomas Handel playing the organ. This was the first time since 2019 that we were back full strength.

The children's Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 18, 2022, and we had three services on Christmas Eve: 3pm; 5pm, with only a quartet singing; and 10pm, with the senior choir and a string quartet.

We continue to have Wellesley College chamber music ensembles under the direction of Jenny Tang play for preludes and postludes in various services. I want to foster this relationship with Wellesley College.

Jonathan Ambrosino continues to take care of our Juget-Sinclair organ. Denis Juget and Stephen Sinclair came down from Montreal to service the organ the week before Thanksgiving. Due to an emergency back home they left after only two days of work. They plan to return to finish the work early this year. Anthony McKenna tunes our pianos.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H Wardie".

Helen Ward Mannix

# Wardens' Reports

## Wardens' Letter



Megan Burns



Will Nystrom

AS I SIT DOWN TO WRITE THIS LETTER on Gaudete Sunday, it's currently snowing outside and I'm reminded of a quote about snow: "If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow." Right now, I'm choosing to be joyful about the snow as I'm choosing to be joyful about the task of writing this letter. What a gift it is for us as wardens to be able to reflect on the triumphs and challenges of this past year at St. Andrew's. In my first year as junior warden, I've had the opportunity to see all the wonderful works that our clergy, staff, and volunteers do for our parish and our community. It's been a real education for me and a true blessing to bear witness to the countless accomplishments of our church.

As 2022 draws to a close, we have been delighted to move closer and closer to a more "normal" year in our parish life. We have learned so much from the resiliency and creativity of our parishioners and are constantly reevaluating our offerings and how to keep some of the many innovations that came out of the pandemic while also returning to more in-person events and services. We continue to run hybrid services on Sundays and have been delighted to see both robust in-person attendance, as well as continued online participation.

The biggest transition this year was the departure of our assistant rector for youth and families, Mia Kano, who was called to serve at St. Mark's Church in East Longmeadow. It is difficult to enumerate Mia's many contributions to St. Andrew's, particularly during the pandemic. Although her talents had been

shared across all age groups here at St. Andrew's, her ministry with the children and youth of our parish were remarkable. Along with our wonderful church school committee, Mia kept church school and youth programming thriving throughout the pandemic, coming up with creative ways to keep the children engaged during a time of great loss and disconnection.

Although we were saddened to see Mia go, her departure created an opportunity to revisit the important ministry of our youth programs with Sarah Robbins-Cole, who ably took on the role of associate rector for youth and families, first in a part-time role and now as a full-time, permanent addition to our clergy. Sarah brings considerable experience of working with youth and young people from her six years as a school chaplain at King's College School Wimbledon in London. Sarah has also worked with college-aged youth in her role as college chaplain at Wellesley College. We were absolutely delighted to welcome Sarah to the full-time role, and we look forward to her leadership and wisdom.

Throughout all the changes of the past few years, we have been blessed to have had Adrian's steady, thoughtful leadership. Most importantly, Adrian was finally able to begin the RenewalWorks project that had been postponed during the pandemic. A group of vestry members and a dedicated RenewalWorks working group were lucky enough to meet with Rev. Jay Sidebotham in September to learn more about the initiative. As a congregation, we exceeded the participation goals set for us by RenewalWorks and are continuing to review the findings. Although the final report has not been published yet, Adrian has already been implementing some of the suggestions gleaned from the survey, including the current Advent Bible challenge that's been such a welcome part of my own Advent practice this year.

Having spent last summer as our lead clergy person while Adrian was on sabbatical and Mia was out on maternity leave, Margaret finally had a chance

to enjoy a sabbatical of her own. Margaret's time away was spent traveling on a variety of trips long postponed due to the pandemic, including returning to both the Yale Divinity School and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. where she was ordained. Margaret also traveled to the U.K. and spent time reading the works of Thomas Merton, a Roman Catholic monk, among others.

As always, our staff continues to do phenomenal work supporting our clergy and our parish. Along with Holly Anza, our vestryperson for communications, Katharine Clark has been instrumental in the rollout of our new parish directory program, Realm. In addition to all her other myriad duties, Kate has been venturing out to North Hill on a monthly basis to work with our parishioners on getting signed up for the app. Joanne Butler has continued to keep our finances in order and works closely with our finance team and our treasurer to ensure our systems are up to date. Susan Jackson has been a font of institutional knowledge as Sarah Robbins-Cole has taken on the new role of associate rector and helped continue to run the amazing church school program. Sadly, we saw the departure of longtime director of children's music and arts programming Amanda Kern. Amanda worked at St. Andrew's for 14 years and enriched the life of our parish with her children's music ministry. After careful consideration, we decided to somewhat change the role and were delighted to find a new leader to take on this ministry. Ciara Cheli joined St. Andrew's team as youth music director in the fall and is working on staging multiple productions throughout the year, beginning with the Christmas Pageant. She is a 2020 graduate of Wellesley College and has sung with our senior choir on many occasions during her time at the college.

It's been a joy to return more fully to in-person worship to celebrate the Eucharist with Adrian, Sarah, Margaret, and Karen Budney, but also with our fellow parishioners. Coming back to church is meaningful for me, particularly since it gives me a chance to enjoy the wonderful music put together by Wardie Manix and our amazing choir. Ensuring that our physical home on Denton Road was ready to receive large numbers again is the responsibility of our able sexton,

Steve Killeen, who also managed the transition of the apartment that was vacated with Mia's departure.

This year saw a return to some of our favorite parish traditions, including a reimagined Bargain Haul, which was successfully celebrated in the spring. Our membership and fellowship teams put together some amazing events throughout the year to help bring us all together again in person.

Our annual stewardship drive to fund 2022 provided a firm financial foundation for the work of the parish in the past year as we exceeded our pledge target reaching \$1,125,000 in gifts and pledges. Thanks to all for your continued support and faith in our parish and our missions! Our current campaign for 2023, "Renewing our Faith and Commitment," is approaching our goal. Many thanks to all who have already pledged, and we strongly encourage others to join in—it's never too late to join the cheerful givers!

Serving as the junior warden throughout this past year has been both a blessing and a wonderful challenge for me. I have been ably helped by both clergy and staff, but particularly by my senior warden, Will Nystrom, who has shown me the ropes. I've also learned so much from our entire vestry and I want to offer a particular thanks to those vestrypersons who are departing at the end of this year: Hugh MacArthur, Steve Mahoney, Ansley Martin, and Coryell Urban. Their impact on our congregation will be felt throughout the coming year.

One of the takeaways from our RenewalWorks program that I've tried to incorporate this year is to include more prayer in my daily life. With that in mind, I'd like to leave you all with a favorite prayer of mine from T.J. Mooney that I think is helpful in this time of transition between years:

*Thou from whom we come, and to whom we go, and by whose will the time between coming and going is time to find ourselves and time to find thee, we offer thee thanks for this time of change, for new knowledge and new friendships, new perspectives on our lives. Help us to remember. Help us to become. Help us to be of use. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are thine, now and forever. Amen.*

—Megan Burns, Warden



## Montessori School Report

THE WELLESLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL is delighted to continue its long-standing relationship with St. Andrew's. We are grateful for the continued support of St. Andrew's, which has allowed us to continue to offer our community a high-quality program for children 15 months to six years old for almost five decades. Access to a community-based program is more important now than ever, as families look for a safe and nurturing place for their child's development to be fostered. As we strive to meet the needs of our community today, our teachers and staff are implementing new and innovative ways to offer an

authentic Montessori curriculum. We would like all St. Andrew's parishioners to know that a scholarship fund is available to members of the church. On behalf of the entire Wellesley Montessori School, I would like to give a special thanks to the clergy, vestry, Katharine Clark, Susan Jackson, Wardie Mannix, Steve Killeen, and Bill Clover for their continued support to our school community..

—*Vanessa Larkin, M.Ed.*,  
Wellesley Montessori School director.

## Parish Register

*Baptisms* Georgiana Rose Anza, Alan C. "Clay" Botsford, IV, Pippa Colby Botsford, Lucy Theresa Brennan, Heidi Charlotte Dietz, Lily Russell Dubé, Eden Claire Edgerton, Blake Henderson Flaherty, Amelia Eloise Incandela, Loretta Sue West, and Troy Michael West

*Burials* Nabil W. Basta, MD, Deborah Slitor Brauning, Charles Campbell, Robert Lamb Compton, Barbara Compton, Charlotte Worrall Corey, LaVonne Del Col, George Dummer, Peter Fergusson, Ilse Josephine Weihe Jobson, Erica Smith Johnston, Ruth Lawler, Barbara Ann MacArthur, Merrilyn Delano Marsh, Dana Martin, Robert Gideon Nystrom, Leigh Rebmann Oler, and Ann J. Robertson

*Confirmations* Colin George Graves, Charlotte Josephine Jolley, Joseph Earl Douglas MacArthur, George William Raeke, Andrew Miles Snow, Katherine Fessenden Snow, and Jane Coryell Urban

*Marriages* Marguerite Chickering Hamlin and David James DeFelice; and Suzanne Goodwin Klotz and Corbin Washington Marr

# Nominating Committee Report

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT that the nominating committee has recruited a full slate of candidates for a vote of the congregation at the 130th annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. These candidates have confirmed their willingness to volunteer their time

and talents and we are grateful for their commitment and leadership. Thank you to the St. Andrew's nominating committee for their dedication and hard work.

—Dan Dent

## 2023 St. Andrew's Slate of Nominees

### Sam Schaefer, Property (3-year term)



Sam Schaefer

SAM, WIFE HEATHER, and two children Norah (19) and Coley (17) have been attending St. Andrew's since moving to Wellesley from Chicago in 2011. Norah and Coley were both confirmed at St. Andrew's and Heather serves on the church school committee, the altar guild and the nominating committee. Sam has been in the commercial real estate business for over 25 years and currently leads the Trammell Crow Company's Boston office where he oversees all development and acquisition projects for the local team with a focus on the office, multi-family, life sciences, and industrial sectors. Sam previously served as president and CEO for Hobbs Brook Real Estate, and prior he served in several roles at Tishman Speyer during his 18 years with the firm, most recently as the managing director, global head of leasing, corporate outreach and property management. Schaefer holds a BA from DePauw University and serves as the chair of the board of directors of Good Sports. In his free time, Sam loves being on the water and the ski slopes, walking the family dog, and supporting all of Norah's and Coley's theatrical and sporting endeavors.

### Carrie Hawley, Adult Formation and Learning (3-year term)



Carrie Hawley

CARRIE HAWLEY started attending St. Andrew's in 2016 after having been a member of Episcopal churches in Newton, MA, Summit, NJ, and New York, NY. She was previously active in Grace Episcopal Church's discussion group series, which was led at the time by interim rector Margaret Schwarzer. She has served on the adult formation committee since 2017, has been a contributor to the Lenten Meditation Guides, and recently co-taught a Christian learning series. She also served on the property committee during the recent renovation of the sanctuary and continues to serve on the membership committee.

Carrie is a professional lighting designer, wife, and mother who resides in a 1773 historic home in Sudbury. She studied architecture at Miami University in Oxford, OH, and then earned a Master of Science in Lighting from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. She began her career as a lighting designer at HLB Lighting Design in New York City in 1995. In 2007, she relocated to Boston and opened HLB's fourth lighting design studio, and in 2020 she became CEO, overseeing HLB's eight studios worldwide. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her three adult daughters who are spread across the country, spending as much as time as possible in the garden, and planning future travel adventures with her husband, Shervin.

### **Madison Riley, Stewardship (3-year term)**



Madison Riley

MADISON AND HIS WIFE, Laura, became members of St. Andrew's in 2017. During these past five years with the church, Madison has sung with the tenor section of the senior choir, been a member of the parish's outreach committee, a reader on Sundays, and an

active member of both the Men's Book Club and Bible Study. In 2019, Madison was received at St. Andrew's.

Recently retired, Madison's career has been entirely in the consumer and retail industries. He earned his master's in business from the Darden School, at the University of Virginia. After business school he held several leadership positions including president of The Stride Rite Children's Group, and the managing partner of Kurt Salmon Associates (a consumer and retail consultancy) North American and Asian operations, and as their COO. In 2016, Madison led the sale of his firm to Accenture, followed by his leadership of the acquisition's integration. He was global managing partner of Accenture's Retail Strategy Practice until his retirement.

Madison is the vice-chair of the Wellesley Advisory Committee and a Town Meeting Member. Additionally, he serves on some non-profit boards.

Madison and Laura have three grown children (Madison, Gray, and Sarah) who are all now navigating their own life paths, and two grandsons (Charlie and Alex) by their oldest son.

### **Pamela Grossetti, Youth Formation and Learning (3-year term)**



Pamela Grossetti

PAMELA AND HER FAMILY have been members of St. Andrew's since 2015. Pamela has been a church school teacher, a member of the church school committee, and a Bargain Haul volunteer. Pamela and her husband, Josh, live in Wellesley. Their children,

Francesca (13) and Sara (10), have spent many years at St. Andrew's church school with Francesca now a confirmand. Professionally, Pamela is a partner at a Boston law firm, specializing in investment management law. Outside of church, Pamela enjoys spending summers on the Cape, reading, and time with family and friends.

### **Dan Dent, Diocesan Representative**



Dan Dent

DAN AND HIS FAMILY have been members of St. Andrew's since 1996. Dan has served as clerk, communications committee chair, church school teacher, Bargain Haul volunteer, and as editor of The Call. Dan and his wife, Sarah, live in Holliston. Their

children, Sally (25), CC (22), and Alex (20), participated in many aspects of church life at St. Andrew's, including baptism, confirmation, and youth group mission trips. Professionally, Dan is a communications manager at Draper. Outside of church, Dan serves on several nonprofit boards.



# Vestry Committee Reports

## Report of the Vestryperson for Adult Formation

IN 2022 WE CONTINUED THE STRONG WORK established by our dedicated adult formation and christian learning committee and Rev. Margaret Schwarzer. It has never ceased to amaze me, having served on this committee for close to seven years, the extent of insightful and thoughtful discernment and collaboration about formulating and implementing the programming for our parish. Our aim continues to be to search for topics and themes to enrich and engage our Christian spirituality, to build and reinforce hope and faith, and to enlighten and educate through the wisdom of the Episcopal Church.

Our Christian learning sessions and the evening Lenten Program are firmly settled in a hybrid setting of in-person and online participation. This enables parishioners the flexibility they desire to participate in a program. To expand access to our programming, this fall we extended babysitting hours, in coordination with church school, so families with young children can attend. We will continue to provide this service in 2023. Our Advent Taizé-style service and the Holy Monday Taizé service are both held in-person as well as broadcasted for others to view and experience. The Blue Christmas service and our Faith & Practice sessions remain in-person events only to maintain the intimacy and soulfulness of each experience. We look forward having the potluck dinner at our Lenten Evening Programs once again in 2023.

As a committee, we try to anticipate the needs and interests of our parish. Because there was a sense of mental, emotional, and physical toll caused by the pandemic and other global stressors, we chose themes such as “Choosing Gratitude and Sharing What We Have”, “Choosing Spiritual Strength”, and meditatively experiencing “Christmas Spirituality”. We enjoyed two sessions discussing the powerful practice of gratitude or how we can be resilient through hope, wonder and gratitude. We were enlightened to the Refugee Resettlement ministry at Temple Beth Elohim by speaker Deb Gotbetter. With a focus on outreach, we had a presentation regarding El Hogar by Execu-

tive Director Denise Vargas and another on B-SAFE by Liz Steinhauser. Our Faith & Practice offerings included topics such as “What does GOD think of Suicide? What do you think?”, “Claiming Joy as a Spiritual Practice”, and “Singing the Psalms”.

A topic we spent a tremendous amount of time on throughout the year was God / Religion and Science. Our exploration, discernment, and inspiration came from sources such as: “Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God,” a *Wall Street Journal* article; *Science and God are Both “True”: A Look at How Anglicanism Shaped the Scientific Revolution of the 17th Century*; the New Anglican Communion Science Commission; the book *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Francis Collins; *A Scientific and Theological View of Light*; as well as The Anglican Church’s Science & Faith Project.

During Lent, our 9am Christian learning sessions explored the visual images of *Hell in the West*. We also delved into the book *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels* by Thomas Cahill. As for our Wednesday evening Lenten Program, our theme was “Living a Life of Faith, Hope, and Love.” Topics included reflections on the books *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall and *Pillars of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and Douglass Abrams. Rabbi Rachel Saphire of Temple Beth Elohim presented a session on “Faith and Love from a Jewish Perspective” while Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole offered us the “Three R’s for Living a Life of Faith, Hope and Love: Ruts, Routines, and Rituals for Holding onto Faith in Times Like These”. Our other offering was a “Visio Divina: A Visual Mediation Based on Faith, Hope, and Love (1 Corinthians 13)” led by Helen Netos of Bethany House of Prayer.

Prayer is the cornerstone of our spirituality and faith. As such, we devoted time to understanding and experiencing ancient prayer practices such as centering prayer, praying the Psalms, and praying with icons. In additions, Rev. Dr. Jim Weiss, Associate

Professor, Boston College provided two sessions on the history of our prayer book titled: "Anglican Worship: Prayer Book 1549-1979."

Whether it was the Christian learning series, Bible Circle, or the Men's Bible/book clubs, interest and attendance reflected pre-pandemic levels and grew in some areas. We were thrilled that our St. Andrew's Turkey Trot Team was able to participate in person and share in fellowship and support for a great cause. We were thrilled to win "the largest team" award.

Unfortunately, we're not able to bring back events such as the college coffee meetings or the Wellesley College retreats/workshops/programming. We hope to do so in 2023. However, we were able to have our first field trip in three years to the Russian Icon Museum in Canton, MA. In addition, planning and coordination for a pilgrimage to England in July 2023 was completed.

We are extremely fortunate at St. Andrew's to have the resources to be able to invite outside speakers to share their knowledge and wisdom with us.

However, we are also blessed to have a treasure trove of talent and thoughtfulness from our clergy and parishioners who share with us as well. We wish to acknowledge our gratitude to parishioners D.D. Alexander, Carrie Hawley, Joanna Horobin, and Karen Pekowitz for their presentations. As always, we are thankful for the contributions from our clergy, Adrian Robbins-Cole, Sarah-Robbins-Cole, Karen Budney, Mia Kano, and Margaret Schwarzer. Not to be overlooked, we acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed a Lenten reflection in our Lenten Mediation Guide over the years. Together we learn and grow our spirituality and faith.

And finally, thank you to our adult formation and Christian learning committee without which none of this would otherwise be possible: Pam Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Peter Fergusson (rest in peace), David Guydan, Carrie Hawley, Cynthia Scott, Carol Shedd, Paul Shellito, Sandy Warren, and Rev. Margaret Schwarzer.

—*Ansley Martin*

## Report of the Vestryperson for Communication

### Realm

A primary focus of the communications committee in 2022 was the transition from our old database to Realm. So far, we have updated active members' contact information, helped with email signups and logins, started organizing ministry groups, and used the site for registering children for church school, including Kids' Place, Godly Play, upper school, Rite-13, youth group, and acolytes, with the help of Susan Jackson, Sarah Robbins-Cole, and Coryell Urban. We have begun to add photos to parishioners' profiles, in hopes that we can soon print photo directories for members who still prefer printed materials.

We have also started using the "News" feature of Realm as an internal social-media-esque sharing site. We plan to continue to add the number of features on Realm that we use regularly, including the app, which allows parishioners to send instant messages to parishioners, groups, and clergy. It also allows us to push communications out to parishioners, and it allows for ministry groups to communicate on shared threads.

### Social media

We have increased the weekly number of Instagram posts, which themselves link to Facebook, which in turn, has increased the number of followers. We have been focusing on church happenings, including outreach projects, upcoming events, upcoming sermon "sneak peaks," and family and children's events. We continue to post photo albums of events on the church's Facebook page, thanks to our church photographer, Peter Lull. We continue to check in with the diocese to align our social media guidelines.

### Streaming services

We have continued to stream our Sunday services on Facebook, the website, and YouTube. We have committed online parishioners tuning in every week from around the country and even some from across the globe. A special thanks to Rob Brandt for his continued commitment to helping St. Andrew's stream, even post-pandemic.

## Other Communications Work

In addition to these areas of focus, the year also included ongoing activities:

### The Call

We continue to produce The Call featuring columns from each of the clergy and the wardens, as well as articles on people and issues of interest to the parish. We thank Dan Dent for his great work in producing this important communication tool. Dan generates ideas, writes copy, edits, and guides production of The Call.

### Ads/Signs

New Christmas banners were produced for the 2022 holiday season, featuring our icon campaign. We placed ads in the online town newspapers (the Welles-

ley Townsman and Swellesley Report). We have also posted in the “What’s Up Wellesley” Facebook group for some of our special events including many of the family and children’s events.

### e-Pistle

This email goes out every Friday as an electronic version of the weekly Sunday bulletin. The communications committee met monthly in 2022, with frequent attendees including our three clergy members, Kate Clark, and parishioners Rob Brandt, Dan Dent, Peter Lull, Betsy Millane, Sandra Rigney, and Terri Rawson-Wakefield. We thank Terri especially for helping with the transition to the new vestryperson for communication.

—Holly Anza

## Report of the Vestryperson for Fellowship

THE YEAR 2022 SAW WONDERFUL post-pandemic activity!

Events throughout the year were done with the purpose of bringing community together, celebrating the fellowship, and strengthening the bonds among parishioners. For in our wonderful community being together, we experience God’s love and we felt this throughout the year.

In January, we were slow to start the year due to the rise in COVID, but we made up for it over the course of the following 11 months.

In February, Mia Kano and Coryell Urban orchestrated a Shrove Tuesday evening, “S’mores & Ashes” by the firepit, with a bit of ash symbolism. We did this to bring families together and it was a great gathering as we gradually emerged from the pandemic.

March was highlighted by Evensong hosted by Margaret Zusky and Wendy Haering. April was our most active month as all Bargain Haul organizers and participants enjoyed a wonderful parish night, our first big parish gathering in about two years. It was terrific to be together and enjoy a mini-Bargain Haul, led by Heather Schaefer and Jen Martin.

For Easter, eggs were hidden, and many parishioners came to the in-person service. In May, we had

a fantastic Spring Tea, hosted by Katherine Condon, Julia Pekowitz, Ginny Snow, and Coryell Urban. There were over 20 attendees, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

The September Welcome Back Picnic at the Hunnewell Estate was a great success. Jenny Sawyer led the charge; Coryell oversaw youth activities and Elizabeth Clarke from membership oversaw the welcome table. It was a wonderful welcome back morning.

Coffee hours continue and Hilary Madge oversees this effort; we are always looking for volunteers. In addition, Jenny Sawyer and Becky Hamlin coordinated Coventry Suppers which continue to be popular. Over 70 parishioners participate in the supper gatherings, and they continue to be a monthly event that all look forward to.

In October, we had planned to proceed with the annual joint luncheon with Village Church and Sarah Robbins-Cole was going to speak on the topic of happiness. Unfortunately, very few St. Andrew’s parishioners were able to attend (due to illness or travel) and we cancelled the event. However, on the other end of the spectrum, the fall fellowship Oktoberfest event was very popular with over 100 parishioners attending in the parish hall! It was a very successful event,

and even more parishioners would like to help plan the next large event.

November brought Gathering-of-the-Greens which Linda Lull oversaw (both Saturday and Sunday) and Becky Hamlin graciously offered her expertise on Sunday morning to anyone who needed assistance in advent wreath making. In December, the annual Lessons & Carols reception was hosted by Margaret Zusky and Wendy Haering.

I am thankful for the wonderful St. Andrew's community and also for the support of the fellowship committee and all others involved, both volunteers

and participants: Barbara Bergstrom, Rob Brandt, Sarah Dent, Al Dubé, Zebby Dubé, Becky Hamlin, Wendy Haering, the Hunnewells—Emily, Frank, and Luisa, Ntonhle Kekana, Peter Lull, Lakey MacArthur, Hillary Madge, Ansley Martin, Jennifer Olivetti, Tim Raeke, Terri Rawson-Wakefield, Dot Reed, Sandy Rigney, Jenny Sawyer, Mark Sawyer, Heather Schaefer, Lynda Sperry, Kris Vanin, Michael Vanin, Sandy Warren, and Margaret Zusky. And special nods of gratitude to Steve Killeen and Bill Clover for all their work to support us behind the scenes.

—Ginny Snow

## Financial Report and Budget (see insert)

## Report of the Vestryperson for Human Resources

THE HR COMMITTEE ADVISES the rector and wardens on matters concerning paid staff of the church. The committee prepares and maintains job descriptions and an employee handbook, recommends salary levels and adjustments, investigates benefit options, and assists in the hiring of staff members. Over the last several months, the focus of HR has been on the search for an associate rector for youth and family. To that end, we have explored externally to evaluate the supply of potential candidates, as well as internally by collecting input from the various constituencies who interact with the individual filling this role. We are thrilled that this research has resulted in the permanent hire of Sarah Robbins-Cole, who has been serving as interim in this role since last spring.

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians proclaims: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.* (Ephesians 4:4-6)

In addition to serving as a spiritual home to our congregation, St. Andrew's is also a workplace where dedicated clergy and staff endeavor together to fulfill their professional calling.

The HR committee strives to support the rector, as "CEO" of St. Andrew's operations, in providing a

healthy and enriching environment for everyone who reports for duty each day, as one body, one spirit.

With a goal to sustain and grow our congregation, HR looks forward to working with the rector on creating an organizational infrastructure which allows for programming to attract new members of all ages, but most particularly families with children.

Anyone attending a worship service at St. Andrew's this past fall would witness that we have withstood the challenges posed by the pandemic and come out on the other side. This would not have been the case without much effort and sacrifice by our amazing clergy and staff, and most of all, by the grace of God.

The First Letter of Peter teaches us: *And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.* (I Peter 5:10)

This past year has seen a gradual return to something closer to normalcy at St. Andrew's. We are blessed to have been in the capable hands of our rector, Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole, who has not only gracefully steered us through the worst of the pandemic, he has also reinvigorated the congregation with many new initiatives, most exciting of which is the Renewal-Works program. Adrian has already started implementing some of the ideas generated by the Renewal-



Works survey data gathered from the congregation, including the virtual Advent Bible Challenge.

Associate rector Rev. Margaret Schwarzer has continued to stimulate us spiritually and intellectually with adult formation programs. Recent highlights include conversations around, "Science & Religion," with discussions based on readings from Francis Collins' book, *The Language of God* as well as conversations about "Different Perspectives of the Same Cosmos," which offered both scientific and theological views of Light. A field trip to the Museum of Russian Icons resonated with artistic sensibilities and complemented the "Icon of the Week" practice instituted in our church transept. Margaret's preaching helped us weather the storm of COVID throughout 2022. Her pastoral care, particularly the Blue Christmas service, reminds us that we do not walk alone in our challenges.

St. Andrew's has also been fortunate to have Sarah Robbins-Cole take on the role of assistant rector for youth and family, first in a part-time interim capacity, and now as a full-time permanent role. Sarah brings her many talents as a clergy person to both the pulpit and the classroom and has worked with younger members of our congregation and their parents with perseverance, grace, and wisdom. By all accounts, Sarah has done a masterful job of managing programming, alongside both staff and parish volunteers. While COVID restrictions had limited the ability to draw the children and youth of our parish to activities over the last year, we are excited by the prospect of Sarah re-engaging them and building programs to attract older teens as well.

Pastoral associate Rev. Karen Vickers Budney generously shares her time and talent with St. Andrew's by her deep pastoral care ministry and we are truly grateful for her service to our congregation.

Last spring, we bade farewell to Rev. Mia Kano, whose ministry we were especially grateful for during

the difficult times of the pandemic. Her priestly and technological skills were crucial in helping the parish establish online ministries when in-person gatherings were not feasible.

As parish administrator, Katharine Clark plays a key role in overseeing the life of the parish, including our technology and communications, bulletins and publications, and managing the complexities of the church calendar. Katharine proactively seeks out ways for technology to enhance the ability of the parish to communicate and make connections with new and existing parishioners, such as with the recently established Realm platform.

St. Andrew's is truly blessed by the brilliance of music minister, Helen "Wardie" Mannix. The music program is one of the most beloved and appreciated elements in the life of our parish and Wardie's masterful conducting of the choir elevates the spiritual enrichment of weekly worship services.

This fall we welcomed youth music director Ciara Cheli, who brings new enthusiasm and vision to this role. We look forward to the performances she will be directing with our children and youth in the coming year.

Throughout the year, Christian learning coordinator Susan Jackson works very hard behind the scenes to organize the church school ministries. Both Sarah Robbins-Cole and Mia Kano have stressed how vital Susan's work is in ensuring the smooth running of our church school programs, which are critical for engaging new families with St. Andrew's.

Our much-loved sexton, Steve Killeen provides for the maintenance and care of our church buildings. He is incredibly reliable and works tirelessly to support both staff and lay people when they are managing events in the building.

—Lisa Howe

# Report of the Vestryperson for Membership

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE at St. Andrew's is responsible for welcoming newcomers of all ages, races and faith backgrounds into our parish and providing opportunities for them to become engaged in our church community. We do this to help ensure that St. Andrew's remains a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community for all. Importantly, we hope that this engagement helps to strengthen our collective faith in God and unity in Christ.

This past year found us able to return to some sense of "normalcy" within our committee and its functions. We held in-person meetings and hosted two coffees: one on May 15 in conjunction with regular coffee hour in the parish hall for new members who joined us during the pandemic, and the other being a Kids' Place coffee on October 16 attended by several new young families with infants and toddlers. We also resumed regular welcome greeting and exit greeting—even with handshakes for those comfortable doing so! We plan to resume our traditional Newcomer's Brunch for adults in early March and we are also hoping to host our adult Pimm's party at the rectory this spring for new active members.

Another fun tradition that continues in full force is Coventry Suppers with six groups of eight to ten members in each group. This is a wonderful way to stay connected with one another and to get to know other parishioners of multi-generations better.

In addition, our committee provides each newly baptized child with a picture book commemorating their baptism at St. Andrew's and serving as a special keepsake.

We are pleased to report that we had 36 newcomers and new families exploring St. Andrew's over the course of the past year and many have chosen to stay and worship with us. We are grateful to those of you who have participated in welcome greeting before the 10am service as it sets such a warm tone for all members entering our church. If you are interested in being a greeter, please reach out to a member of our membership committee—we would love to have your involvement!

Members from our committee also serve as exit greeters to meet and greet visitors after the 10am service to welcome them, record their information if they would like to be on our mailing list or receive name-tags, and answer any questions that they may have. Please introduce yourselves to any new faces, welcome them and direct them to the exit greeter wearing a big Welcome button at coffee hour. Once we are able to collect information, Margaret reaches out directly to make a personal connection oftentimes followed by a member from our committee.

A sincere thank you to the membership committee for their support and commitment during 2022.

The committee includes: Travis Anza, Connie Barnes, Ciara Cheli, Amanda Curtis, Becky Hamlin, Carrie Hawley, Tad Heuer, Ntonhle Kekana, Lakey MacArthur, Suzanne Nystrom, and Anne Prensner. Will Nystrom is our warden representative.

Heartfelt gratitude to Margaret Schwarzer, our clergy representative, who is a warm presence to all new seekers and a wonderful sounding board to our committee.

—Elizabeth Clarke

# Report of the Vestryperson for Outreach

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE of the St. Andrew's outreach ministry is to help our congregation put our Christian faith into action. In 2022 the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially the rise in cost of living, continued to adversely impact our outreach partners. With COVID restrictions easing we were pleased to resume in-person volunteer activities, in-person meetings of the outreach committee and an in-person outreach partner showcase event during coffee hour on November 13. Highlights of our outreach work for 2022 follow.

## Metrowest/Local partners and activities

### 1. *Family Promise Metrowest*

Our relationship with Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), a cooperative interfaith partnership helping families with housing insecurity through safe transitional shelter, meals, and case management, continues to be a positive opportunity to live our faith.

- In 2022 FPM reached a key milestone with the opening of three self-contained family shelter units at FPM's HQ at Mulligan Street, Natick. Volunteers from St. Andrew's are once again volunteering on site.
- The SAIL (Sustaining Achievements for Independent Living) program continues to prepare families for transition from shelter into permanent housing and continues to support them once placed. The LIFE (Local Initiative for Family Empowerment) program is designed to support families at risk of eviction/homelessness.
- Our outreach budget gave \$2,800 this year to Family Promise Metrowest. FPM also benefits from the 2022 Alternative Giving Fair (AGF).

### 2. *Salvation Army*

The outreach budget gave \$3,000 to Salvation Army Framingham.

### 3. *Wellesley Food Pantry*

St. Andrew's outreach continues to support the efforts of the pantry in helping our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. The Wellesley Food Pantry received financial support from

St. Andrew's in the sum of \$1,500 from the budget and also benefits from the 2022 AGF.

## Urban/Boston partners and activities

### 1. *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

St. Stephen's Church in Boston's South End is our sister parish. In 2022 the leadership of both the church and the St. Stephen's Youth Program changed as the Rev. Tim Crellin was called to a new parish and the Rev. Liz Steinhauser took up a new role. We look forward to continuing our partnership with this inner-city parish as we get to know the new leadership.

- Cam McCormick and Karen Pekowitz organized our volunteering for the B-SAFE summer enrichment program. We shopped and prepped, and then hosted and provided a generous lunch and snacks for a fun outing to Hopkinton State Park on August 5. We also provided bags of non-perishable groceries for delivery to St. Stephen's Youth Programs (SSYP).
- St. Andrew's parishioners have continued to support the B-LOVE program by donating non-perishable groceries.
- St. Andrew's continues to support the B-READY after-school program by providing hearty snacks, currently "make your own tacos." A team gathers the first Sunday of the month in the St. Andrew's kitchen to prepare the meals.
- In November, parishioners donated over \$4,500 to supply holiday dinners, and gifts for seniors, at St. Stephen's. Herb Manning shopped for the turkeys and food and was delighted by the enthusiastic volunteer corps that helped organize the bags for 100 holiday dinners on Sunday, November 20 and helped with delivery to St. Stephen's. Jack & Jill Whiting prepared Christmas baskets to be given to seniors at St. Stephen's, including beautifully knitted items provided by the St. Andrew's stitchers, and Christmas cookies baked by parishioners.
- During Advent parishioners donated gifts of toys, sporting equipment and clothes requested by St. Stephen's Youth Program families as part of B-SPARKLE.

- St. Stephen's received additional financial support from St. Andrew's in the sum of \$13,000 from the budget and the St. Stephen's Youth Programs also benefits from the 2022 AGF.

#### 2. *Healthcare Without Walls/Bridges to Moms*

Healthcare Without Walls (HCWW), founded by Dr. Roseanna Means, provides free and compassionate medical care, and advocacy to homeless women and families. St. Andrew's has supported the efforts of this ministry for many years with leadership provided by Donna Kell. In 2021 the organization opened a fully dedicated space at 41 West Street, Boston which is centrally located close to many of the shelters used by HCWW clients. In 2022 HCWW underwent significant change following the retirement of Dr. Means and the hiring of new leadership. Dr. Means continues to lead the "Bridges to Moms" initiative at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, bringing ante-natal and post-natal medical care to homeless pregnant women and new mothers, and early childhood development oversight to their children. Given the changes at HCWW the nature of the relationship with St. Andrew's is under review. In the meantime, we continue to support the Bridges to Mom's initiative by their inclusion in the 2022 AGF and a "Pampers diaper drive" as part of the Advent Giving Tree.

#### 3. *common cathedral*

An outreach ministry of Ecclesia Ministries to underhoused/homeless people in the Boston area, *common cathedral* is a weekly worship service held by Brewer's fountain on Boston Common. Under Cam McCormack's leadership, St. Andrew's parishioners join members of the community in worship and provide lunch several times a year. We provide sustenance in the form of food, but the constancy of this congregation fuels our faith.

#### 4. *The Sox Box*

Parishioners donate large white athletic socks (which people living on the streets need for health reasons) and this is supplemented by an annual grant of \$700 from the outreach budget. The socks are distributed periodically to homeless shelters, *common cathedral* and HCWW.

#### 5. *St. Andrew's stitchers*

Donna Kell coordinates the St. Andrew's stitchers who work at home to make beautiful knitted and crocheted goods such as shawls, hats, scarves, blankets, cotton washcloths, and baby clothes. Since this ministry began in 2006 some 15,000 items have been lovingly crafted. The shawls are gifted to parishioners in need by the pastoral team and other items are distributed to many of our outreach partners including the clients of Healthcare Without Walls, Bridges to Mom's "Welcome Home Baby" baskets, members of the *common cathedral* congregation and are eagerly anticipated items in the Christmas baskets for the elderly of St. Stephen's. Starting in the fall of 2022 the knitters have been busy making sweaters, hats, and blankets for infants and toddlers in Ukraine, to be shipped in January 2023.

### **International partner and activities**

#### *El Hogar, Honduras*

For more than 40 years, El Hogar has been transforming the lives of children from vulnerable situations by providing access to quality education and technical training. Bianka Eichelberger acts as St. Andrew's liaison to El Hogar. In 2022 Bianka was elected to the board of El Hogar and visited Honduras.

- During 2022 El Hogar continued to offer their school programs to over 200 children, both those residing with their families in the community as well as at the residential schools.
- St. Andrew's provided \$5,000 in financial support from the budget and El Hogar will also benefit from the 2022 AGF.

Emergency relief/Episcopal relief and development. We provided a grant of \$4,350.

### **Alternative Giving Fair (AGF)**

The AGF provides parishioners the opportunity to support our outreach partners by making donations in lieu of actual Christmas gifts. The team provides cards that parishioners can give to their loved ones to inform them of the donation and organization. The 2022 AGF, organized by Ann Johnson with assistance from Cam McCormick, was extremely successful. At the time of writing this report, in mid-December, more than \$23,000 had been received with more donations expected throughout December.

## 2022 Outreach Grants

In 2022 grants totaling \$30,000 were distributed to the following organizations. Each grant application was sponsored by a parishioner, noted in parenthesis. In 2022, we were especially pleased to receive an application from the 2022 confirmand class and encourage the class of 2023 to submit a grant in 2023. Grants were awarded in two waves, in spring and fall.

### *Spring 2022*

- \$5,000 to RIP Medical Debt (Class of '22 Confirmands), which was more than matched by the congregation, erasing over a million dollars of medical debt
- \$5,000 to North American Family Institute (NAFI) (Margaret Zusky) to support the creation of a teen-person "youth council" informing the NAFI Youth and Police training initiative
- \$5,000 to ROCA, Springfield (Lisa Howe), to provide trained service providers to intervene with youth experiencing trauma and violence
- \$5,000 to The Wily Network (Joy Denomme), to expand the number of Wily scholars supported by the network, and specifically to support career counseling for graduating scholars

### *Fall 2022*

- \$5,000 to Caritas Communities (Tom Palmer) to support clients moving into accommodation from homelessness
- \$5,000 to the International Institute of New England (Cam McCormack) to support reunification of immigrant children to family members or sponsors

The many and varied opportunities to put our faith into action are what make St. Andrew's such a vibrant and caring community. This past year has been an economically challenging year for our outreach partners but I am grateful for the generous response of our parish and thank the outreach committee members for their coordination of our efforts: Joy Denomme, Al Dubé, Zebby Dubé, Bianka Eichelberger, Jennifer Hanley, Donna Kell, Peter Lull, Anne Manners, Herb Manning, Paige Manning, Cam McCormick, Debbie Osborn, Madison Riley, Mary Scanlon, Jack Whiting, Jill Whiting, Margaret Zusky (communication liaison), Megan Burns (warden representative), and Adrian Robbins-Cole (clergy representative).

We continue to strive to put our faith into action and trust in God's unwavering love for our strength and perseverance in the year ahead.

—Joanna Horobin

## Report of the Vestryperson for Property

"PROPERTY" CONTEMPLATES AND TENDS to the continuing maintenance and capital needs of parish property. Steve Killeen ably shoulders the execution of this work engaging vendors as needed. Although he most often works independently, our property committee plays a consultive role for major projects, and Steve maintains conversation with the property vestryperson.

We facilitate the important spiritual and fellowship activity by working to have facilities in optimal condition.

A good deal of property management has a "zero negative feedback goal"—preventing problems. There is also the ongoing opportunity to listen to and collaborate thoughtfully with fellow members to ensure our role is executed well.

—Stephen Mahoney

## Report of the Vestryperson for Stewardship

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

—2 Corinthians 9:6-8

THE 2023 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE came together in the spring of 2022 to begin planning for the 2023 campaign. Given the parish's participation in the RenewalWorks program this fall, which is predicated upon spiritual growth, and given our desire to continue to invest in our spiritual home, our theme for this year became: "Renewing our Faith and Commitment." Our goals were to raise \$1,100,000 and have participation from 300 households.

Our thinking continued to evolve as we moved out of a complete pandemic mode of operation, but still worked in a world that was hybrid. We adapted successful aspects of the 2022 campaign, but also made some enhancements for 2023:

- Keeping parts of 2022's successful hybrid campaign, such as video testimonies, email updates, and in-person thermometer, and e-Pistle updates
- Expansion of the campaign from four to six Sundays to allow for reaching the broadest possible audience

- Return to written testimonies in the weekly bulletin for those attending church in person
- Publishing an alphabetical list of those supporting the campaign, dubbed "St. Andrew's Cheerful Givers" which appeared online and in the bulletin
- Continuing in-person updates from the stewardship committee on progress

As we wind down our campaign, I am pleased to report that we have raised over \$1.1 million from over 250 pledges as of this writing in early December. We will continue to get gifts and pledges through the winter.

I would like to thank everyone in the St. Andrew's community who makes a pledge or a gift as this helps us to make the church and our parish what they are today. I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful group. I would also like to thank each member of the stewardship committee for their time, talent and energy in making yet again a very different campaign a success, nonetheless. Members are: Connie Barnes, Joe Hamilton, Eliot Heher, Ann Johnson, Allen Jones, Lou Madge, Herb Manning, Will Nystrom, Madison Riley, George Stathis, and Michael Vanin.

Finally, a call of appreciation and gratitude to Adrian for his support and participation throughout the entire process, all of the meetings, and helping to develop the strategy. Best wishes.

—Hugh MacArthur

## Report of the Vestryperson for Worship

QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR OUR COMMITTEE provide a chance for the leadership of St. Andrew's creative ministries to meet with clergy to plan every service on our busy church calendar: baptisms and funerals, Christmas Eve and Easter, and everything in between. This committee includes the ministry heads for acolytes, altar guild, flower guild, lay Eucharistic ministers and readers, music, ushers, video, and church wardens. Together we explore all our options to elevate the beauty and majesty of our faith inside our sanctuary. Our committee's focus is on how to support the clergy during the service and how to inspire the congregation in all that they see and hear. Each of these separate ministries offer opportunities for any-

one in our congregation to use their creative talents to take an active role in our worship services.

St. Andrew's is blessed with a strong base of volunteers for the many facets of our worship but there is always room for someone new. Those of us who can serve in these ministries enjoy a deep understanding of faith and community. Training is a joyous endeavor offered with aplomb by long-serving members. There is nothing like being in the church before the congregation arrives. Sometimes there is stillness and peace and a chance for a quiet prayer or two. Sometimes there is the wonderful hubbub of activity in preparation and excitement for the gathering of the parish. Each person involved in the ministries listed above gets to experience this.

At the start of 2022, our community slowly returned from another round of COVID-19 over the December holidays. There was a concern among many that attendance would be down or may stay online forever. Our ministry leaders were unsure how many folks would be comfortable renewing their commitment to volunteer. But we remained hopeful. On Sunday, April 3, we were able to communally share in Holy Eucharist (using intinction cups instead of the chalice) for the first time in almost two years. Our attendance numbers slowly rose and with this our volunteers returned.

Our program year in September was led by the new clergy team of the Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole, the Rev. Margaret Schwarzer, and the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole. It was exciting to see strong attendance numbers at Homecoming Sunday on September 11, 2022. Our beautiful services and robust community have returned—with the addition of 25 to 50 online parishioners each week. It is wonderful to feel we're back on our feet as a congregation worshipping together.

This past year we saw changes in our clergy and staff. At the end of May, Mia Kano, our assistant priest, announced her departure for a new job as rector at St. Mark's in East Longmeadow. We also lost the talents of Amanda Kern, our director of children's music and arts programming, at the end of the school year. Rev. Margaret Schwarzer was able to take a well-earned sabbatical for June, July, and part of August. In August, our vestry voted to bring on the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole as an interim associate rector to lead our church school and family outreach until St. Andrew's could find a replacement for Mia. With the start of the school year, our music program added the talents of Ciara Cheli to lead our youth in three special services:

Christmas Pageant, a special musical theatre event, and Youth Sunday. In December, it was announced that Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole would join our clergy team full-time as an associate rector for youth and family.

From the pews, our services are so beautiful and inspiring. I want to celebrate everyone who makes it happen from behind the scenes. It truly takes a village to get us to 10am every Sunday morning. Our worship services depend on the many talents of the following:

- Our clergy, Adrian, Margaret, Sarah, and Karen
  - Katharine Clark, Steve Killeen, Bill Clover, and Susan Jackson
  - Carrie Hawley and her beautiful new lighting system.
  - Wardie Mannix and her 25 (on average) stalwart senior choir members plus several guest musicians
  - Ciara Cheli and her 20 youth pageant participants (and their parents!)
  - Wendy Barry and her 12 teenage acolytes and returning alumni
  - Joe Hamilton and his 20 lay readers and chalice bearers
  - Rob Brandt and his team of six video operators
  - Terri Rawson-Wakefield, Lakey MacArthur and their 24 ushers
  - Katie Barrack, Debbie Lorenz and their seven flower guild members
  - Erica Gelser and her 33 altar guild members
- for a grand total of 166 joyful servants (at least. . .) and there's always room for more!

—Laura Brown MacKinnon

## Memorial Rose Garden Report

SINCE ITS CONSECRATION ON JUNE 14, 1998 there have been 57 burials in the memorial rose garden. We are very grateful to Wardie Mannix, who has been caring for the roses in the garden with the help of our sexton, Steve Killeen. In addition to thanking Wardie for her skillful and faithful care of the roses, the administrators thank everyone in the congregation who has contributed to the creation and maintenance of this beautiful garden. We welcome all members of the

congregation to learn more about it. I offer my thanks to the memorial rose garden administrators: Megan Burns and Will Nystrom, wardens; Harry Condon, treasurer; Stephen Mahoney, vestryperson for property; and Katharine Clark, parish administrator.

—Adrian Robbins-Cole

*Burials in 2022* Robert Lamb Compton, Barbara Compton, and Peter Fergusson

## Report of the Vestryperson for Youth Formation

YOUTH FORMATION AT ST. ANDREW'S encompasses a wide range of educational and fellowship programs designed to embrace the children and families of our parish as integral members of our congregation and nurture within them a lifelong relationship with God, Jesus Christ, and their community. St. Andrew's offers a broad range of programs for all ages, from infancy through high school. Our curricula are designed to emphasize love and kindness, introduce the foundational stories of Christianity, and empower our children to explore and build confidence in their faith. We offer our children opportunities to lead and participate in outreach ministry and in worship and liturgy. Fellowship events give our families the chance to connect with one another and strengthen our sense of community.

This past year was a year of transition and growth for youth formation. We bid farewell to Rev. Mia Kano at the end of April, and in July, we welcomed Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole as part-time interim associate rector for youth and family. This gave us the opportunity to carefully consider the needs of our youths and families, and we were thrilled to announce in December that Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole would be continuing with us on a permanent, full-time basis. St. Andrew's has and will continue to benefit from Sarah's wisdom and extensive experience as a priest and educator. Susan Jackson continued to support the church school and youth programs in her role as Christian learning coordinator. We are grateful for our passionate and committed church school committee of D.D. Alexander, Pamela Grossetti, Heather Schaefer, Elizabeth Svedlund, and Anna Lee Wahls, who dedicated many hours of their time.

We also experienced transition in our youth music program with the departure of director of children's

music and arts programming, Amanda Kerns, at the end of June, and the hiring of Ciara Cheli. Along with this change came a shift from weekly rehearsals to an exciting new program centered around three events: the Christmas Pageant, a musical theater performance, and Youth Sunday.

Over the course of the year, we have happily seen the number of families participating in our programs and events grow steadily. We were pleased to return to offering childcare for infants and toddlers in the spring, and we have seen a steady increase in children attending church school, including many new families. As the pandemic subsided and young children became eligible for vaccination, we have been able to bring back beloved St. Andrew's traditions, such as Youth Sunday, All Hallow's Eve service and potluck, Little Angels' Gift Shop, and Cookies and Carols. We were also able to successfully collaborate with other ministries within St. Andrew's and with youth rectories in our deanery.

We continued to depend on volunteers to teach our church school classes and lead our youth programs. As the number of children and youths participating in our programs has grown over the past year, so has our need for adult volunteers. We are very grateful to those who have dedicated their time to teaching in 2022 and hope to increase the number of teachers going forward.

A detailed report of the specific programming has been submitted by Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole.

St. Andrew's youth are an essential part of our parish. We are incredibly thankful to the many people who teach, mentor and support our youth, and we thank all who give their time to this important ministry. I look forward to the year ahead!

—Coryell Urban











Photo: Peter Lull



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