

## SENIOR WARDENS 2021 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Dear St. Paul's Parishioners,

It has been my honor to serve as St. Paul's Senior Warden this past year. The vestry has worked very hard to continue adapting how we worship and gather.

I would like to provide a summary of the wonderful work done by our rector, ministries and vestry subcommittees. Their hard work allowed us to worship, study and gather together. Even though it looked very different from years past.

- We held our first ever remote annual meeting, on zoom.
- The start of quarterly All Parish meetings, also on zoom.
- The 8am online service became a morning prayer service with a lively lectionary discussion.
- In the spring, we began a 9:30am outdoor worship service in the courtyard.
- In the summer, a third service was added in the Nave starting at 11:00am. Every other row was blocked off to allow for more social distancing.
- Once the weather became too cold for outdoor worship, the 9:30am service moved into the parish hall, kindly asking only those who have been vaccinated attend.
- And with the cold weather, came a late afternoon Heat of the Day service.
- Weekly online centering prayer was a comfort for many.
- Lunch with Jesus began, an outdoor lunch and discussion of the gospel of Mark with the parish youth.
- In the fall, our wonderful choir returned for the services in the Nave.
- During Advent the acolytes began serving again.
- We began live streaming the 11:00 service for those unable to attend in person.
- Adult formation has continued though the online rector's study.
- The Wednesday book club is still going strong, online and in person.
- The food pantry has continued to serve the needs of our neighbors, even being able to have Christmas give a way.
- We were able to have our "Pie and Beer" day celebration in the courtyard, with 68 people attending.
- We also had outdoor pumpkin carving that turned into a fun leaf pile jump for the little ones.
- The Tag Team has sent a card every month to each registered parishioner the entire year.
- And the special occasion cards continue to go out to those celebrating milestones.

- Our website and newsletter have never looked better. So much wonderful work has gone into these forms of communication.
- The FFA subcommittee has worked hard at updating and refining our financial reporting, making many great improvements.

The plans for the houses have continued to be a challenge. At the end of this year a subcommittee of the FFA met to discuss if alternative plans are needed for the houses north of the church. The recommendation was given to the vestry to reevaluate the November 2019 decision of demolishing both houses, expanding the drop off circle, expanding parking and adding a community garden. The recommendation to reevaluate is due to several factors; change in costs of demolition and building materials, change in property values, and the large deficit we currently have in our budget. This will be a priority of the new 2022 vestry.

It is hard to believe we are heading into our third year of living with the COVID-19 pandemic. For many, 2021 was another year of sadness, stress and fear. We all so miss how things used to be. But I am very proud of how St. Paul's has adapted, and keeps adapting. I feel we have struck a good balance between keeping each other as safe and healthy as possible, while continuing to worship and have fellowship. As always, our love for Jesus and each other has remained strong.

It is my hope that through 2022 we continue to adapt. We can certainly learn from our shortfalls, like over taxing our leaders and volunteers. The ease of meeting on zoom unfortunately lead to some over scheduling and "zoom fatigue." By the end of the year, there was certainly some burn out.

But there have been some unexpected positive outcomes. For example, worshipping out of doors in the courtyard has been a truly holy experience. Those who attended this service regularly look forward to it returning with warmer weather, no matter the state of the pandemic. Another is our homebound parishioners being able to join us on zoom or watch a service through streaming technologies. These are both adaptations that came out of necessity, but will be kept by choice.

St. Paul's leadership will continue to hope and plan for the day where we can return to what was. But we will not lose sight of the fact that we are *still* a beloved community. We are still followers of Jesus. We are still St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and this is church NOW.

Respectfully,

Kristy Muday