2021





ANNUAL REPORT



ST. RICHARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5151 LAKE HOWELL ROAD
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32792

Rector's Report

The Rev. Alison P. Harrity



2021 Year In Review
The highlight of 2021 was on the day of Pentecost, May 23, when former rector of St. Richard's and retired bishop of West Missouri, The Rt. Rev. Barry Howe, visited to confirm, reaffirm and receive 12 people. The majority of the congregation was vaccinated against COVID 19 and we had just relaxed the requirement to mask while inside the worship space. We even had a lunch reception in the breezeway for the occasion. After Pentecost, Coffee Hour resumed after the 10:30 a.m. service. And in June we had an indoor celebration of St. Richard's Feast Day with The Rev. Dr. Harry Coverston playing the part of our patron. Worship and Fellowship were in full swing again. And then the delta variant of the virus followed closely by omicron seemed to send us back to the beginning of the pandemic. However, when reviewing the year St. Richard's has still changed lives and changed the world.

Impressive work was done by our NEW! Justice Committee that was born out of the 14 member class of Sacred Ground, a program offered by the Episcopal Church to increase awareness of racial injustice and move people to take an honest look at our own biases and do something to bring about change and create a more just, loving community. The Justice Committee, chaired by Kathy Stockman, started to educate our community with Zoom Book Clubs. In addition, we invited the rector of the historically black Episcopal Church, St. John the Baptist, Charles Myer to preach at our Ascension Day Service and in turn our associate priest and one of the facilitators of Sacred Ground, Dale Truscott, preached a Sunday morning at St. John the Baptist. And because St. Richard's is committed to justice and reconciliation we held a Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Hope for the Future in coordination with a Candlelight Vigil being held around the reflecting pool in Washington D.C. We remembered those who died as a result of COVID 19 and honored Martin Luther King, Jr.

New this year in worship was a service we titled "Memorial Moments" a service in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks and prayers of lament for the state of our world today enduring a protracted pandemic, racial injustice, natural disaster and continued conflict and human suffering across the world. We also held our Blue Christmas Service again in 2021 in December to assist those who might be grieving a loss get through the holiday season. In September, we restarted the Healing Service each Wednesday. It has provided a necessary support to me and to those who feel more comfortable in a small group worship setting.

We continued to reach out to the community continuing to provide meals for our Family Promise families who were housed again this year in hotels. The Coalition for the Homeless shut down their volunteer program for a time but then put us back to work making and serving food for more than 200 residents each month. The Discretionary Fund continued to support members of the community who come to St. Richard's in need of rent money or a utility bill paid. Instead of marching in the Come Out with Pride Parade in October, we set up an information table in the marketplace and gave out information about St. Richard's.

Our Vestry gathered for a one day retreat in September with The Rev. Reginald Payne-Wiens, who is an African-American priest in Charlotte, NC. Reggie asked the vestry if we really live the invitation the Episcopal Church extends "All Are Welcome". We examined our own biases. He helped us map the assets at St. Richard's. Assets that include our physical building and grounds, the gifts of our members, and the spiritual gifts that we have to offer to the wider community. Pastoral Care at St. Richard's is now headed by the rector. With limited in-person visits, the clergy are continuing to do most of the home communion and hospital visits. New this year was "Weaving Memories", a grief workshop using art to assist people who are grieving a pet.

Education ministry continued to be a challenge. Kid's Club, our education program for children, has not returned. Adult Education we attempted to restart on



Zoom on Sunday mornings, but it was not very well attended. Tuesday Night and Wednesday Morning Bible Study continue on Zoom and in-person. We did have a Lenten Program that consisted of weekly packets of reading material and images created by Pam Menke and distributed via email. The Promise of Ashes led us through a holy Lent.

There have been a number of new people who have found St. Richard's. People who have found comfort and community in worship and in groups like Sacred Time, our contemplative prayer gathering.

The rector continued monthly meditation ministry at The Mayflower one of the local retirement communities. My service continues on the Board of The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Center and I joined the board at the LGBTQ+ Center in Orlando. A new group called the Traditions Council, an advisory board of The Interfaith Council of Central Florida, was formed and I was happy to accept an invitation to brainstorm ideas to bring faith communities together. I enrolled in the Inner MBA Program through Sounds True to learn new ways to bring mindfulness into practice in the larger community.

We are changed, we are strong, we are joyful and we are hopeful. The stress of this protracted pandemic is very often not noticeable on the surface, but we acknowledge that it is there and we have let it change us, not diminish us. Sunday mornings are still the most important part of the week for me as the priest at St. Richard's and for our community to gather and recharge our energy so we can continue to be changed, and we can continue to create change for the glory of God and for the peace of the world. Shine on St. Richard's!

The Rev. Alison P. Harrity



The Register of Church Membership and Rites
St. Richard's Church 2021

Baptism
Augustus Mark Emerciano Lisa Jun. 26
Achilles Haywood Auricchia Jun. 29
Leo Robert Andrew Jarrett Nov. 7

Pentecost Sunday May 23
Confirmations
Ryan Hudnal, Victoria Thomas, David Delgado Silos

Receptions
Kathy Sotckman, Beth Rudloff

Reaffirmations
Carol Alves, Cydney Ogilvie, Deb Boshell-Idowu, Susan Hana, Nina Stipe, Jim Loutitt, Linda Young

Marriage
Armando David Silos and Joseph William Obrochta Jr. Apr. 10
Meredith Mayer and Austin Brain Oct. 3
Ammy Abraham and Alex Chinoda Oct. 29
Mackenzie Clapp and Joshua Freilich Dec. 31

Death
Ann Martin Jan. 30
James Charles Barrett Feb. 1
Amabell "Amy" Smith Apr. 8
Peggy Mayo Thompson. Jul. 1
Edward "Eddie" Christian Loeffler Jr. Aug. 7
Robert "Bob" Coll Oct. 9
Frances B. Wilson Oct. 23
Richard Allan Fountain Oct. 24
Charles "Ken" O'Hair Nov. 6
Rodney Braisby Dec.

Junior Warden Report 2021

Stuart Lilie

The two major property projects this year are the installation of new altar lighting and the replacing of the ceiling tiles in the Parish Hall. K and S Electrical installed the lighting. Installing the new lights was a long process starting in April and finally completed by Thanksgiving. The initial installation provided more than adequate lighting, but the placement of the lights shown directly into the eyes of the congregation. Fortunately, James LaGalle stepped in and within a week he installed shades over the front altar lights and a box over the pulpit light. The cost of the lighting was $6000.00. The new lights have transformed the appearance of the altar area and enhance the quality of our broadcast videos. The lights are dimmable which allows for subdued light especially for evening services.

The replacement of the Parish Hall ceiling tiles was shepherded by the Rector and the cost covered by a donor. The work was done by Kaye Acoustics. James LaGalle also refinished the Altar rails. The rails had become scratched and, in some places, the finish was fading. James took a section of the railing home to refinish one section at a time. In June we transferred our interior pest control contract to Truly Nolan and canceled Orkin to save money and to support a member of the congregation. During the hail storm the post anchoring the flies on the North side of the Parish Hall fell over. The post anchoring the flies was replaced with a better anchoring system. In addition there was more routine maintenance of plumbing, air conditioning, and the kitchen fire protection system. The fountain pump was replaced by Pinch a Penny.

Future Possibilities

The sound and video systems in the Parish Hall are old and outdated. A replacement upgrade of the system will be expensive, but would greatly enhance the value of the room for our use and for rentals.

At some point the pillars in the breezeway need attention. They are structurally sound for the moment, but will need evaluation at some point. The structural posts are wood, which of course does not last forever in Florida. The decorative boards surrounding the structural posts are rotting at the bottom. This does not affect the structural post, but is aesthetically unpleasing. I think the appearance of the breezeway would be greatly enhanced if the posts were replaced with round pillars.

St. Richard's Music Department

Dr. Carl MaultsBy, Director of Music





For all of 2021, the St. Richard's Music Department operated under the restrictions dictated by COVID. From January through mid-September, with the exception of Easter Vigil, the music for the 10:30 AM principal service was limited to a cantor, Lex Goity, and the Director of music playing piano and organ. The Easter Vigil was sung by an a cappella quartet in the breezeway. On Easter Sunday, a musically socially distanced trumpet was added to the service.

During the traditional Schola summer break, volunteers from the Schola served as the cantor. From mid-September through the end of the calendar year, a septet sang most of the services. The traditional Christmas Eve service saw the welcome return of Vanessa Hawkins, soprano, plus a string quintet. The principal anthem was Dietrich Buxtehude's "Das Neugeborne Kinderlein" sung in the original German.

The biggest challenge facing the Music Department is the transference to streaming the same quality of sound that St. Richard's experiences with in-person worship. Hopefully, in 2022 with potentially the acquisition of more microphones and a large enough mixing console, this challenge will be relegated to the past.

Christian Education 2021

The St. Richard's Bible Study Wednesday 10 AM class (Mining the Depths, a Facebook group) met in face to face sessions in the Theological Library during 2021. The sessions have been shared on Facebook live and are also available for later viewing. For the Spring term our class examined in depth the interpretation of Scripture over the centuries through articles included in editions of the The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV): The Hebrew Bible's Interpretation of Itself, The NT Interprets the Jewish Scriptures, Jewish Interpretation in the Premodern Era, Christian Interpretation in the Premodern Era, The Interpretation of the Bible: From the Nineteenth to the Mid-twentieth Centuries, and Contemporary Methods in Biblical Study. These readings demonstrate that methods and approaches were not constant just like the meanings that resulted from the differing periods.

For the fall session the class started a new project through a reading journey aimed at "Rediscovering Paul" using published scholarly works that reassess the writings and life of the apostle. These include The First Paul by Marcus Borg and John Crossan, Paul among the People by Sarah Ruden, and The Jewish Apostle Paul by Eli Lizorking-Eyzenberg. During the months of September to December class members have seriously engaged the contents of the first three chapters of The First Paul. These chapters have aided discovering many new ideas and clarifying perspectives that are bringing the first century apostle into clearer focus.

If you have not taken the journey with us so far, whether in person or online, you are invited to jump in now and rediscover Paul for yourself. Jim Christoph The St. Richard's ZOOM Bible Study group that meets virtually on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM consists of a lively sharing session of scripture observations, applications, and personal interaction. The engagement of participants is noteworthy in their group involvement, openness to each other, and offering of ideas. During the spring months the class completed a reading of the Book of Acts started the previous fall. These sessions were truly a mind opening and heart moving experience. During the summer months class members waded into deep waters in the study of Song of Songs examining literary forms, metaphors, and theological allegory. This journey of reading clearly was an eye opening experience. During the fall months class members wrestled with the chapters of Lamentations receiving many new insights and expanding our appreciation of this book of sorrow and hope. For our final venture we started reading the Gospel of Luke at the beginning of Advent. The encounter with its nativity narratives was particularly meaningful this season. If you have not taken any journeys with us so far, you are invited to jump in now and encounter anew the Gospel of Luke for yourself.

Jim Christoph



Sacred Time

Every Tuesday morning from 10:00 – 11:00, a group of parishioners meet in the Lady Chapel for a continuing practice of contemplative prayer. We are not 'experts' in contemplative prayer, which is why it is called a 'practice', but we consistently meet every week to explore different methods of prayer, i.e. lectio divina, centering prayer, guided meditation/imagery, sacred gazing, etc. All of these methods of prayer stem from a willingness to listen to what God has to say to us today via written words, art, music, imagination, the world in which we live. The key word is "Listening". The hour we spend together is a time of quiet, a time to think/meditate, a time to just Be, a time to let go and welcome God's presence, and be aware of God's presence in us. We hold each other in prayer and we hold the parish in prayer as we listen in quiet awe. This is an open group and we welcome anyone who wishes to join us for these ancient and holy practices.

Tiffany Lane

DEB BOSHELL-IDOWU



My name is Debra Boshell-Idowu. I have been a member of St. Richards Church for about 4 years. I have found it a great place to grow in my spiritual being and my journey to be closer to God.

I was openly welcomed by Reverend Alison and the 8 o'clock parishioners and felt right at home from the start. I have since been participating in the 10:30 service because I enjoy the music. The parishioners there were also so loving and I feel like I am with family when I am with you all .

I have served on the Outreach Committee which has done many things. We hosted a Christmas party one year with a bake off which was very fun.

Since then Covid has kind of messed things up. But, things are getting back to normal and I believe 2022 will be better than last year. I feel St. Richards has done amazing throughout this Pandemic and so many people have stepped up to keep us together and moving forward.

Through Outreach I have participated with feeding the homeless through Family Promise and have gone to the Coalition for the Homeless also to help several times . Both are such valuable projects.

I also like attending our Bible Studies and Contemplative Prayer group. It has been a true blessing for me as I seek closeness to God.

St. Richard's, I find, has so much to offer in Education , Art , Music and Meditation. It has been a place for all who seek to participate.



I'm a member of the Pastoral Care Committee and have become familiar with many of our members through this program. I also am a member of the Alter Guild.

I attend Tai Chi which is a great group as well. I also like the book clubs.

There are other areas such as the Justice Committee, Divine Diners, Flower Guild ,the Crochet and knitting group, Icon Guild, and Schola which I have not been able to participate but love the fact that they are there and very much apart of this special community. I know I've left out someone because there is something always going on here.

I am retired so I do have time to dedicate to our Church.

I am a widow.(We do have a great bereavement program here too!) I also am a mother of 5 and have 6 grandchildren. I have been a single Mom and worked many jobs over the years .I can appreciate how hard life can be. I also know God was with me through all these times. I will try to do my best for the vestry if you choose to elect me.

STEPHEN O'CONNELL



I started attending St. Richard's Episcopal Church in fall 2006 as a member of the choir. Little did I know that I would find a home at St. Richard's and feel blessed by being a member of this community and participating in the work we do as a community of faith. Looking back over these past 15 years I would never have dreamt that I would find a church home and a great sense of acceptance and support. I had never experienced this before and grateful to the community of St. Richard's for allowing me this home. It is because of this gift that I feel compelled once again to run for a position in the Vestry. I have had the great joy of singing

with the choir/schola, and serving twice on the Vestry, plus serving twice as the Vestry secretary. During these times of service on the Vestry, I took my responsibility very seriously while decisions were made for our community. I learned how valuable it is to always listen before speaking and respecting the views of others (even when I may disagree or feel quite differently on the subject matter). During these times, I experienced the working of the Holy Spirit within some challenging situations facing not only our community, but the world. I also learned that our community of faith is more than words and driven by action. We speak of our faith, but also act with our faith. I think this is the heart and soul of St. Richard's. We act with compassion, love, and with strength. I have learned from our community of faith that we have to carry out the gospel teachings and at times this can put us at odds with others, but we persevere.

As I mentioned earlier, I have been a member of the choir/schola since I first started attending St. Richard's. I have been fortunate to serve on the Vestry twice and represented St. Richard's as a delegate to the Central Florida Diocesan convention. A few years ago, I was selected to serve on the Diocesan's Marriage Equality Task Force. This experience taught me a great deal about leadership within the church and confirmed for me that St. Richard's is a true gift for all individuals as well as a place of belonging. The last two years have been challenging for us as individuals, neighbors, and the community of St. Richard's. We have much to do to continue to heal and move forward in a world that we most probably never expected to live in. But this has again confirmed for me that we are a unique community of faith and can move mountains and bring joy and love to all. I would be humbled again to represent each member of St. Richard's as a Vestry member and thank you all for your love and support these many years.

BETH RUDLOFF



I have been coming to St. Richard's for two years now and am so thankful to call it my church home. I came after some negative experiences with evangelical churches and after looking for a church that is embracing of the openness and love of God, and that is interested in different ways of experiencing and living this out. I have definitely found it here! I have participated in activities such as: the Tuesday night bible study, the Wednesday morning study, the healing service, the contemplation service (and Reiki with Tiffany), and have led book club studies. In each of these activities I have been able to meet and get to know the wonderful people at St. Richard's, who have become my family (along with my two adult children and my sister).

I am very concerned about the many ways Christianity has been distorted lately by churches, and how these distortions have meant that many people are dissuaded from understanding and living an intimate relationship with God. For me St. Richard's has been the foundation of a new and growing relationship with God, and has helped heal the wounds and trauma I have experienced in my life.

I have a background in hospital administration and have served on nonprofit boards as well. My interests tend to focus on effective implementation of an organization's vision for the future. As a vestry member, I would like to explore how we can bring this vision to our community in new and unique ways, drawing on initiatives that other churches like us have developed. I also would support and encourage the continued varied ways in which we draw upon sacred traditions and new ideas to cultivate our relationships with God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and each other.

DEBBIE SPONSLER



I am a Maryland native, but have been a resident of Florida since 1988 and am the mother of two boys in their 20's. I was raised in the Catholic Church and in my search for a church that was a better spiritual and personal fit, found my way to St. Richard's in August 2019. I was instantly welcomed and touched by the warmth and friendship offered by the clergy and members. I knew very early on this church community was the right one for me.

Helping others and volunteering my time and talent have been a way of life starting at a young age. I think it is important to leave the world at least a little better off where possible. Some of my volunteer work through St. Richard's include Family Promise (before COVID-19), the monthly dinner crew at the Coalition for the Homeless, and counting the collection once a month. In addition to

the church activities, I am on the Greater Orlando PFLAG Board of Directors. I absolutely adore the fact that St. Richard's is committed to helping both locally and globally to make this world a better place. I was looking for a church that was accepting and affirming, and as the mother of a transgender son, this was an absolutely essential criteria. The Episcopal service also allowed me to keep some of the traditions I treasure from my Catholic upbringing, but in an environment that truly embraces Jesus' love for everyone! I believe that like many churches, we need to find a way to diversify our membership in age, race and ethnicity. We have to reach out to the next generation to be a viable parish in the years to come.

CAROL ALVES



I have been a member of St. Richard's since 1978. In that time, I have served on the Vestry twice, once as Senior Warden. I have sung in the choir, coordinated the acolytes, participated in the activities of the women of the Church and served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Visitor. Currently, I lead weekly Tai Chi, serve on the Altar Guild and volunteer with Family Promise and the Coalition for the Homeless.

My hope is that St. Richard's Church continues to be an open and loving community of faith that is able to engage in outreach that makes a difference in people's lives. I believe in the importance of greeting visitors and making them feel welcome. I value and want to maintain our Memorial Garden which holds beloved members of my family as well as our unique Pet Cemetery.

JANICE ELSHEIMER



Janice Elsheimer was born in Louisville, KY in 1950 and moved with her family to Winter Park in 1965. A graduate of Winter Park High school, she attended FSU on academic and music scholarships, graduated from UCF with a degree in English Education, and earned her master's degree in Gifted Education from the University of Arkansas. She taught high school English and gifted education for 26 years before retiring from Orange County Public Schools in 2012. Born and raised a Catholic, she and her husband Seth have been members of Orlando Community Church, Northland and Summit Churches before finding a home at St. Richards and becoming members.

She is a published author of two books, The Creative Call, An Artist's Response to the Way of the Spirit (Penguin Random House) and Garden Graces, The Wisdom in Growing Things (Beacon Hill Press). She has two adult sons, two daughters-in-law, and a 10-year old granddaughter. Janice has contributed to St. Richard's by maintaining the flower beds in the Memorial Garden and looks forward to serving on the vestry as another way to contribute her talents to this amazing church.

Senior Warden's Report

I have had the privilege of serving as your Senior Warden for the past three years, and as I thank you for that opportunity, I want to review just a smidgen of what that journey has entailed.

2019 started with a bang, as they say, with the move of Dru and Scott to full time and the affirmation and renewal that accompanied Bishop White's visit. Our attendance soared, our finances were solid, and our outreach continued to grow and expand in diverse ministries.

And then in March 2020, we –with most of the rest of society – shut down. We masked up and attended services outside and via You Tube, obtained PPP money to stay afloat, conducted vestry and staff and Bible study and committee meetings (including Sacred Ground discussions, out of which our Justice Committee was formed) via zoom, and waited for life to return to normal.

After what seemed like an eternity, we were able to return to services inside – at first ticketed but then not, and we resumed Divine Diners and planned fellowship events, and started dreaming about a future without COVID. Omicron followed Delta and we wondered if we would have to shut down again, but our high vaccination rate allowed us to continue services in the sanctuary, and add back the choir (given singers' masks and social distancing).

And while some churches are

Senior Warden's Report



considering selling property and merging with other congregations as their only path forward, we somehow- through the grace of God and the resulting generosity of our parishioners- managed to continue our Outreach to the homeless and to end 2021 in the black, and we are beginning to envision what the endemic phase of this virus looks like for us as a church, and as the people of God.

Through all this, Alison and all our clergy have been resilient, thoughtful, loving and exceptionally versatile. Our staff overcame every obstacle in their path to keep St Richard's running efficiently. We are blessed beyond measure to have the leadership provided by this spectacular team, and I want to express to each of them my deepest gratitude for the incredible job they do every day, but particularly for holding us tight and keeping us together as a community in the midst of the chaos of the past two years.

Our challenges are not to be underestimated, but we are a church on a mission to discover God's grace and change our lives and change our whole world. And every day we choose again to continue on our journey doing just that.

FamilyPromise
of Greater Orlando

Family Promise Report for Annual Report

Family Promise families continued throughout 2021 to be housed in hotels. As a result, host churches such as St Richard's provided dinners during their host weeks. St John Lutheran and First Congregational, Winter Park continued to support us in this effort, providing food for three of the nights during each of our host weeks.

Because of COVID restrictions, St Richard's generally provided money for Family Promise to purchase food for the families. Each quarter we collected offerings from our parishioners specifically earmarked for Family Promise, and the week before our "host week", I took the money to Family Promise headquarters. Staff then purchased food for the families with that money. Occasionally a parishioner donated actual food for a given evening (which they dropped off at Family Promise on the selected date), and sometimes a parishioner donated food from a particular restaurant - which was then picked up by Family Promise staff and delivered to the families at their hotel.

In every case, however, we collected more money than was needed to provide dinners for our week, so Family Promise used the additional funds for meals during those many weeks when there was no host church providing meals.

It wasn't quite the feeding of the five thousand, but there was always more than enough. It's a wonderful feeling, to be part of a community as generous as St Richard's, and to know that that generosity has made a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

To all of you who contributed this year to the feeding Family Promise families, thank you for being a light in the darkness.

Kay Wolf







SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

What is Spiritual Direction? Where did it come from? Spiritual Direction is far more about companionship, guidance, and mentoring than it is about giving "direction". Spiritual Direction is a relationship of trust between one who guides another on his/her spiritual journey and another who longs to deepen the connection with God and to discern the movement of God in his/her life. At the heart of Spiritual Direction is a person's desire for God, of finding the depth of meaning that is unique to that person's life.

Although for some of us, Spiritual Direction may be a new concept, authentic Spiritual Direction is a very ancient practice and has its roots in the desert tradition of the 4th and 5th centuries of the Common Era. During this time, certain men and women moved in the Egyptian, Syrian, and Palestinian deserts in an attempt to lessen the distractions of everyday life, in response to an interior call to listen and to be more attentive to God's presence. These men and women were untrained and unordained. They began as solitary hermits, later coming together in various communities for spiritual support of one another. Over time they became known for their spirituality, discipline, and love of God, and were sought out as guides by others. They are often referred to as the fathers (abbas) and mothers (ammas) of the desert tradition. The Eastern deserts gave birth to monasticism as an essentially "lay vocation". The earliest spiritual directors (known as "elders" in the Orthodox tradition) were lay monks and were authorized to guide others and to receive confessions.

Ultimately, in the midst of this close and trusting relationship, God was present. God was recognized as the true Spiritual Director. What the abba/amma gave to the student was not a code of written or oral regulations, not a set of techniques for meditation, but a personal relationship within which the abba/amma grew and changed as well as the student, for God was constantly directing them both.

Over the centuries this model for spiritual direction has not changed much for the Orthodox communities. The Western church, however, took the example and moved it into primarily a monastic, cloistered setting in the middle ages, which was not easily available for

lay men and women. The vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience were taken from these very early desert traditions and expanded to include the community of monks and/or nuns. The way of monastic life became the "elder" for the disciple or monk. As the monastic tradition continued to develop in the Western church, the teaching of the individual again grew in importance encompassing common prayer, reading of scripture, work, and the ever present obedience.

What began so early in our Christian tradition in the desert is still being used and modeled in monastic communities around the world and is now finding its way back into importance among the laity, as a lay vocation in the true sense of its beginnings.

Today, Spiritual Direction is more available. Certified Spiritual Directors come from many denominations and spiritual backgrounds, but are well grounded in the skills necessary to walk the spiritual path with others. The consistent awareness and theme of all Spiritual Direction is that God is the "Director", and works thru the certified director and the directee. God meets us and moves us forward as we are able and willing to do so.

My particular 'method' of spiritual direction is one of being a 'companion' in the celtic tradition of walking the path together. The celtic term is "anam cara" or soul friend. I have found it to be an honor and privilege to be with others in finding God in all areas of life. As a Spiritual Director at St. Richard's I would be honored to walk with you on your journey. Contact me to schedule an appointment at: tiffanylane46@gmail.com or #269-274-7537.

Tiffany Lane



ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The 2021 Altar Guild operated in Rapid Response Mode because Covid was still a major factor in our lives and worship.

While Sunday 10:30 Rite II services were streamed live inside the church, 8:00 Rite I congregations enjoyed outdoor breezeway worship until the middle of June when the weather became too hot. Both services continued to use True Vine wine and wafer kits for Holy Communion. In addition to the two Sunday morning services, Morning Prayer was on Facebook each weekday, and at 5:00 Evening Prayer happened each Sunday except First Sunday Holy Eucharist and 4th Sunday Taize.

The Altar Guild added several new members, and several members had to take a Covid hiatus. In addition, regular teams gave way to rapid response volunteering with members working outside their regular assignments. This generosity on the part of all members was a wonder to behold and one of the examples of how our community supports one another.

Another beautiful effect of staying outdoors for some services was the unique and lovely Easter Vigil, set outdoors at the granite altar in the exquisitely manicured garden. Scott set chairs on the lawn and people enjoyed the springtime evening light to rejoice that He is Risen, Indeed!

Current members of the Altar Guild are Sexton Scott Schuerman, Tom Irish, Geri Zarolinski, Marion Swaby, Sayaka Kamakara, Jim and Michelle Christoph, Gail Hencken, Deb Boshell-Idowu, Mazrine Duncan, Cydney Ogilvie, Kathy Anderson, Carol Alves, Shirley Caballero, Debbie Davis, Susan McConnell, co-chairs Sheila Geha and Mary Nan Johnson, esteemed muse and intercontinental consultant Fr. Bob Vanderau, all under the wings of our all-forgiving and encouraging rector, Alison Harrity. This report would not be complete without acknowledging the love and support we all feel in working together and watching each other's backs in times of stress. It is a pleasure to work together at St. Richard's!

Justice Committee

The Justice Committee formed in February 2021 as the outgrowth of the 10-part Episcopal Church Sacred Ground Project facilitated at St. Richard's by Dale Truscott and Kin Xuxa. From September 2020 to January 2021, 14 members of St. Richard's studied issues of race and justice through film, reading and dialogue. The Justice Committee was born as a way to move forward. Kathy Stockman was unanimously approved as chairperson.

From the outset, the Committee found purpose within the St. Richard's mission statement : "to discover God's grace, change our lives and change the whole world." The Committee explored ways to increase understanding of racial justice and equity and ways to act and to grow within the St. Richard's community. This began with a book discussion group conducted on Zoom.

Justice Committee Book Group offerings to date:
"Jesus and the Disinherited" by Howard Thurman, facilitated by Beth Rudloff (May-June 2021)

"Touch the Earth, A Self-Portrait of Indian Existence," compiled by T. C. McLuhan, facilitated by Burr Anderson (October-November 2021)

"Beneath White Stars, Holocaust Profiles in Poetry," by Holly Mandelkern, facilitated by the author with added support by Mitchell Bloomer (January-February 2022)

Early plans also included showing the PBS series "The Black Church, This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song." A two-part screening was scheduled for September 18 and 19 but was canceled due to increasing levels of COVID-19.

With the help of Drucila (Dru) Mundo, Kathy Stockman and members developed the Justice Committee page on the church website, strichards.org, for the purpose of sharing information and events and the promotion of Sacred Ground.

The Rev. Alison Harrity contacted Fr. Charles Myers, of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in Orlando and arranged a pulpit exchange. Fr. Charles Myers preached at St. Richard's Church at the Ascension Day service, May 13, 2021 and Dr. Dale Truscott reciprocated at St. John the Baptist on Sunday, July 18, 2021. Parishioners from both congregations attended both services.

The Canon Nelson Pinder Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians invited Justice Committee Chair Kathy Stockman to join the Beloved Community Task Force which has been charged with developing an anti-racism program for the Diocese of Central Florida. Members regularly subscribed to monthly newsletters and publications and attended workshops, webinars and training sessions offered by the Episcopal Church, the Quaker Church, the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing and the Union of Black Episcopalians. Members monitored the work of the Poor People's Campaign, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center and Showing up for Racial Justice. Throughout the year, members wrote letters and called local and state representatives on issues of voting rights, the Anti-riot Law and Indigenous People's Land Rights.

The Justice Committee meets monthly on Wednesday evening by Zoom. All are welcome.



GAY PRIDE PARADE

In the past St. Richards has participated in the parade for Orlando Come out with Pride as a way to let our community know that this is a place where all are welcome. This year however, we took it a step further. Instead of simply walking in a parade, we reserved a space in the marketplace area where most people at least pass by (estimates of about 10, 000 people walked through the marketplace). The event itself happened but was nearly canceled more than once due to concerns for Covid, however precautions were made to the satisfaction of most people and we were able to move forward.

Four people from St. Richards set up and represent-

ed us at our booth. We passed out over 500 bottles of water with a label providing our information and location printed on it. We also passed out 200 rainbow bracelets with our website and "all means all" printed on it. We also passed out additional informational brochures.

The booth was exceptionally well received with over a dozen people requesting added information. We ran out of water and items to give away by early afternoon but contacts continued to be made the entire day. This was a great chance to actually talk to people and answer questions while helping to meet their need to stay hydrated on a rather warm October day.

It was a great day, a fruitful day and everyone easily saw a great potential for being able to talk to those who were interested and put our information in the hands of those passing by. It is hoped we will participate again this coming October with more people who can stay the 12 hour day to represent St. Richard's, possibly more labeled bottled water and possibly more bracelets along with a good way to capture the name and contact info of those who stop by.

Victoria Thomas

Deacon's Report

As a deacon, I am fortunate to have a boss that allows me to do deacon's work primarily outside the church walls. The only reason I became a deacon was to work as a hospital chaplain. As much as I have come to love serving on Sunday's and Wednesday's (Healing Service), especially proclaiming the Gospel, the work that grounds me is in the hospital, or visiting one of you or yours at home or in the hospital. The minute I began training as a hospital chaplain I knew that this was the "one on one" ministry I wanted to be trained to do; and I felt God's confirmation throughout my clinical training. Once I got that training, I needed ordination to have any hope of finding a job. The diaconate was a perfect fit for that since the only question anyone seemed to be interested in me answering was: "Why do you need to be ordained?" Like you, I was already a minister in the One Holy Apostolic Church. We're all called to ministry. But I apparently had the right answer – I need to be ordained to be a hospital chaplain.



Over three years ago I started working as a chaplain at Central Florida Regional Hospital "on call." The hospital paid me $2 per hour to be available to take trauma and other emergency calls at the hospital. I worked evening and midnight shifts, especially on weekends. In October of 2020 the hospital asked me to work two 8 hour shifts, Tuesday and Thursday, in the hospital, no more "on call." With my work at St. Richard's and our large family, Kathie and I worried it might be too much – but I talked Kathie into it. It is literally my dream job/ministry. It is a bit much, but I've gotten better at saying no to anything other than my 2 shifts each week, and my work at St. Richard's.

For me, the most important work I do at St. Richard's is home and hospital visits, especially when one of my church family has an end stage illness. Again, my hospital chaplaincy informs and grounds me in this important work at St. Richard's. In recent years, we've lost too many of our church's matriarchs. More recently, too many of our patriarchs have gone home – and I have been privileged to witness their lives at St. Richard's, and accompany them on their journey home.

Peace and all good!
The Rev. Rich Wilson



Flower Guild
2021 Annual Report

The Flower Guild of St. Richard's is responsible for designing, procuring, arranging and displaying flower arrangements for worship services for all Sundays of the year and for festival days and some special occasions such as funerals, weddings, baptisms as requested.
In 2021, we were able to return to worship inside the church for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. liturgies. COVID restrictions have been in place the whole year adjusting according to diocesan and CDC recommendations. Our services continue to be live streamed on YouTube, which expands our work with the need for flower arrangements in the choir loft, and occasionally at the pulpit, lectern, and Mary altar. We have continued the use of silk flowers as well as occasional natural flowers because of their ease of use, reusability, and better performance in camera shots.

This year we added new members Ryan Hudnall and Lesa Hudnall who are serving along with Victoria Thomas and me. We look forward to a time when others who have served the Guild and new members will join us.

We look forward to 2022 and to continuing to serve the worship life of St. Richard's Episcopal Church.

Kin Xuxa









Looking Back at 2021

























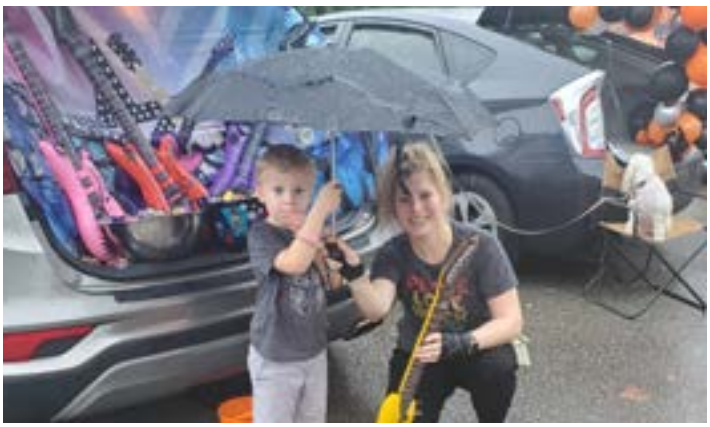









FACE MASK











Treasurer's Annual Report 2021

Financial Health

Looking at our Financial Health through the lens of our 2021 St. Richard's Revenue and Expense Operating Report, St. Richard's Statement of Financial Position Report, and our Budget.
Our Budget for 2021 was established at the beginning of the year. Our total revenues budgeted were $469,356.95.

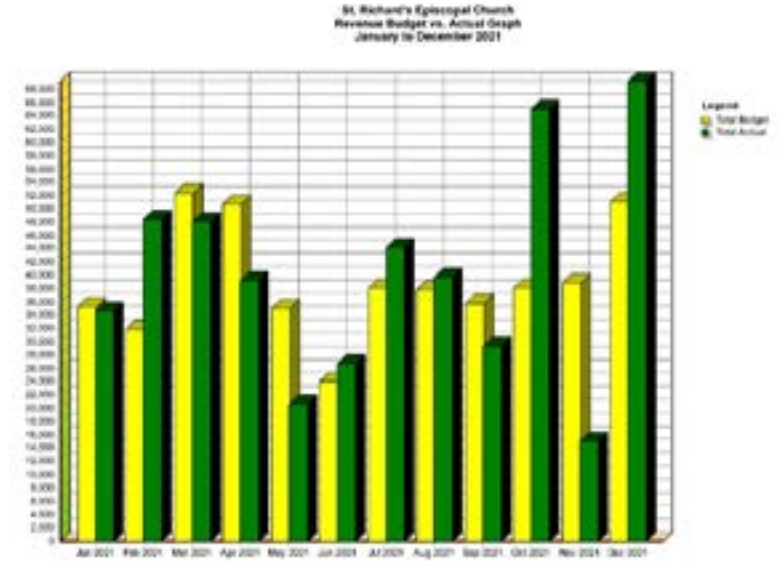
- Total Actual Revenues - $474,444.59 – a gain of $5,087.64 over a budget of $469,356.95 or 1% over budget.

- Total Plate & Pledge Offerings - $362,766.64 –a loss of ($7,767.96) over a budget of $370,534.60 or 2% under budget.

- Total Special Offerings - $104,892.26 – a gain of $10,248.22 over a budget of $94,644.04 or 10% over budget.

- Total Other Income - $6,785.69 - a gain of $2,607.38 over a budget of $4,178.31 or 38% over budget.

We applied for and received a 2nd Draw Paycheck Protection Program government loan for $30,700.00 which was used for approximately 8 weeks of payroll. After we exhausted the 2nd Draw Loan, we applied for and received forgiveness of the loan in its totality. The 2nd Draw PPP government loan played a significant role in the financial health of St. Richard's in 2021.

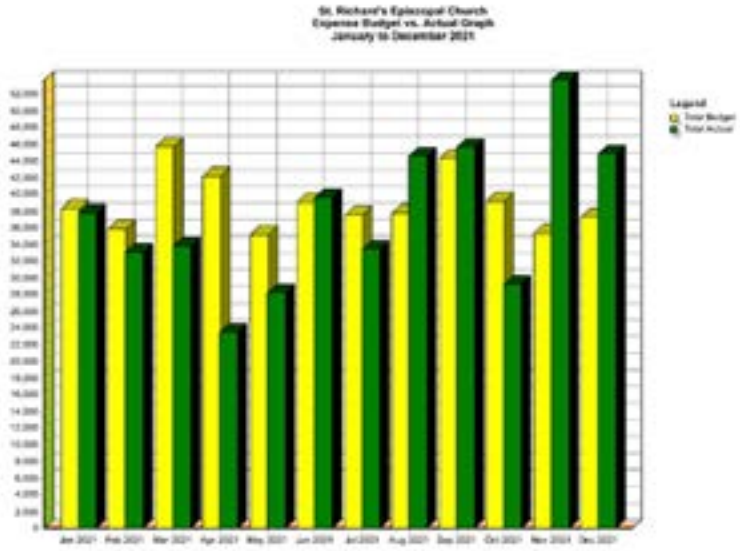


Our Annual Operating Expense Budget for 2021 - $468,455.33.

- Our Total Actual Operating Expenses for 2021 were $470,360.27 which was ($1,904.94) more than our budget of $468,455.33 or .4% over budget.

- Our End of the Year Operating Cash Flow/Operating fund summary shows a gain of $4,084.32.

Budget 2022 – Highlights
Annual Budget – 2022*
Total Revenues - $456,371.00
Total Expenses - $470,840.04



Financial Strength

- Our Intangible Assets (including Operating, Restricted and Endowment Funds ended 2021 - $358,181.64. This is an increase of $33,516.16 or 9.3% over 2020.

- Roof Loan Payoff – We retired our loan in December with a $15,559.00 payoff, allowing us to go into 2022 unencumbered by any loans.

- Financial Management is a team effort. The strength and knowledge base of our Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, Collections volunteers and our other committees, staff and vestry, contributed greatly to a successful year. Thank you for your service and support.

•Thank you to all our parishioners for your generosity. It is all of us working together that makes it possible for St. Richard's to fund its ministries and to provide in person and live stream services.

Looking Ahead- 2022



•Pledge Drive Results - $315,066.00

•We continue to expect financial challenges related to the pandemic. In person worship attendance has been lower in comparison to pre-pandemic times and that effects loose plate contributions. Live streaming our services is now an integral part of worshiping at St. Richard's. We continue to have added expenses related to live streaming, i.e., compensation for tech support person, additional equipment, and expenses related to keeping us safe.

•Currently, additional government assistance programs do not appear to be in the offering for church non-profit organizations in 2022.

•Businesses and non-profit organizations are experiencing challenging times and generally are not in an expansion mindset. As we go into 2022, our rector, finance committee, and vestry continue a search for a tenant to use our parish hall on a permanent basis.

•The Budget for 2022 was created by the Finance Committee with the approval of the vestry. It is a road map for 2022. We will be managing our expenses very aggressively.

St. Richard's 2022 BUDGET

Accounts	2022 Budget
REVENUE	
****Operational Income**	
Plate and Pledge Offerings	
1-400100 - Gifts & Pledges	$345,000.00
1-400130 - Loose Plate Offerings	$2,000.00
Total Plate and Pledge Offerings	**$347,000.00**
Special Offerings	
1-401100 - Building & Grounds	$55,000.00
1-401103 - Music Offering	$1,500.00
1-401105 - Worship Offering	$700.00
1-401110 - Christmas Offering	$3,500.00
1-401120 - Easter Offering	$3,100.00
1-401140 - Thanksgiving Offering	$200.00
1-401150 - Birthday Offering	$200.00
1-401160 - Flowers Offering	$3,000.00
1-401164 - Fellowship Offering	$1,500.00
1-401168 - Weddings/Funerals	$2,000.00
1-401170 - Other Operational Gifts	$30,000.00
1-401174 - Memorial Brick Sales	$100.00
1-401176 - Pet Memorial Garden	$200.00
Total Special Offerings	**$101,000.00**
Total Operational Income	**$448,000.00**
Other Income	
1-400200 - Facilities Donations	$6,000.00
1-400202 - Bank Interest	$40.00
1-400250 - Bank Credit Card Rewards	$331.00
1-900506 - Endowment Fund Interest	$2,000.00
Total Other Income	**$8,371.00**
Total Revenues	**$456,371.00**
Accounts	**2022 Budget**
Expense	
****Personnel**	
Clergy Compensation	
1-500100 - Rector - Salary	$30,604.08
1-500110 - Rector - Housing	$47,999.90
1-500140 - Rector -	$12,026.30
Total Clergy Compensation	**$90,630.28**
Staff Compensation	
1-500413 - Parish Admininistrator	$31,990.40
1-500415 - Sexton	$27,040.00
1-500416 - Parish Admin. Asst.	$14,462.50
1-500425 - Choir Director/Organist	$34,953.34
1-500435 - Professional Singer	$6,300.00
1-500450 - Nursery Workers	$3,000.00
1-500417 - Live Stream Minister	$4,680.00
Total Staff Compensation	**$122,426.24**
Contract Personnel	
1-500430 - Supply Organist	$2,400.00
1-500445 - Supply Singers	$2,000.00
1-510210 - Instrumentalists	$4,140.00
Total Contract Personnel	**$8,540.00**

Benefits	
1-500130 - Med., HSA, Dent. & Life	$30,818.00
1-500150 - Pension - Rector	$16,313.52
1-500155 - Pension - Employees	$9,293.31
1-500160 - Continuing Education	$1,080.83
1-500165 - AAM Fees	$2,459.00
1-500710 - Worker's Comp	$1,423.25
Total Benefits	**$61,387.91**
Payroll Taxes	
1-500650 - FICA Expense	$7,590.43
1-500655 - Medicare Expense	$1,775.18
Total Payroll Expenses	**$9,365.61**
Total Personnel	**$292,350.04**

Accounts	2022 Budget
**Christian Education	
Christian Education	
1-510110 - Adult Ed. Resources	$0.00
1-510105 - Children's Curriculum	$0.00
1-510600 - Youth Ministry	$0.00
Total Christian Education	**$0.00**
**Administration	
Office Expenses	
1-520100 - Office Supplies & Paper	$1,400.00
1-520105 - Office Equipment	$6,800.00
1-520120 - Postage	$1,388.00
Total Office Expenses	**$9,588.00**
Insurance	
1-520300 - Property & Liability Insuran	$37,616.00
Total Insurance	**$37,616.00**
Bank Loan- Debt Reducation	
1-520190 - Interest Payment	$0.00
Total Bank Loan	**$0.00**

Administrative	
1-500145 - Business Expense - Recto	$2,000.00
1-520115 - Technology Expenses	$10,200.00
1-520116 - Live Stream/Tech Support	$8,000.00
1-520130 - Advertising	$1,000.00
1-520140 - Business Expense	$1,000.00
1-520150 - Accountable Reimburseme	$0.00
1-520160 - Permits & Fees	$200.00
1-520170 - Bank/Credit Card Fees & S	$6,200.00
1-520180 - Payroll Processing	$408.00
4-520107 - Bank Fees	$0.00
Total Administrative	**$29,008.00**
Total Administration	**$76,212.00**

**Building & Grounds	
Repair & Maintenance	
1-530150 - Lawn/Garden Maintenance	$9,500.00
1-530300 - Building Maintenance	$3,000.00
1-530320 - Fire & Safety Inspections	$2,000.00
1-530330 - HVAC Repair and Mainten	$11,860.00
1-530399 - Expendables	$1,500.00
1-530500 - Bldg & Grounds **	$0.00
1-530615 - Pest/ Termite Control	$2,267.00
Total Repair & Maintenance	**$30,127.00**
Utilities	
1-520200 - Telephone &	$6,000.00
1-520205 - Electricity	$15,380.00
1-520210 - Water & Sewer	$1,830.00
1-520215 - Propane	$600.00
1-520220 - Trash & Disposal	$2,600.00
Total Utilities	**$26,410.00**
Total Building & Grounds	**$56,537.00**

Accounts	2022 Budget
**Diocesan Support	
Diocesan Support	
1-550100 - Diocesan Assessment	$34,351.00
Total Diocesan Support	**$34,351.00**
**Parish Life	
Social Ministries	
1-560105 - Fellowship (Parish Events)	$0.00
1-560162 - Volunteer Appreciation Exp	$0.00
Total Social Ministries	**$0.00**
Music	
1-510220 - Instrument Maintenance	$1,575.00
1-510230 - Music Supplies & Licenses	$1,955.00
Total Music	**$3,530.00**
General Ministries	
1-540500 - Stewardship Expenses	$350.00
1-560210 - Worship Supplies (Liturgica	$3,800.00
1-560220 - Flowers Expense	$3,269.00
1-560230 - Memorial Brick Expense	$60.00
1-560240 - Pet Memorial Garden Expe	$176.00
1-560250 - Newcomer Welcome Expe	$200.00
Total General Ministries	**$7,855.00**
Total Parish Life	**$11,385.00**
**Misc Expenses	
Misc Expenses	
1-700100 - Misc Expenses	$0.00
Total Misc Expenses	**$0.00**
Total Expenses	**$470,835.04**





Office Volunteers

One area where members of the congregation can help St. Richards is in the office as a receptionist volunteer. There are eight slots, four morning and four afternoon. The duties include answering the phone, greeting people who come in, Receiving deliveries, stuffing, folding, stamping, proofing, and other things as needed. Currently Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons are open. Please consider stepping up and filling a spot. Call Tom Irish 407 488 8427 for more information.

St Richard's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Alison P. Harrity
5151 Lake Howell Road,
Winter Park, FL 32792-1095
www.strichards.org

(407) 671-4211 - Office
(407) 671-2028 - Fax
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs
9:00 am - 4:00 pm