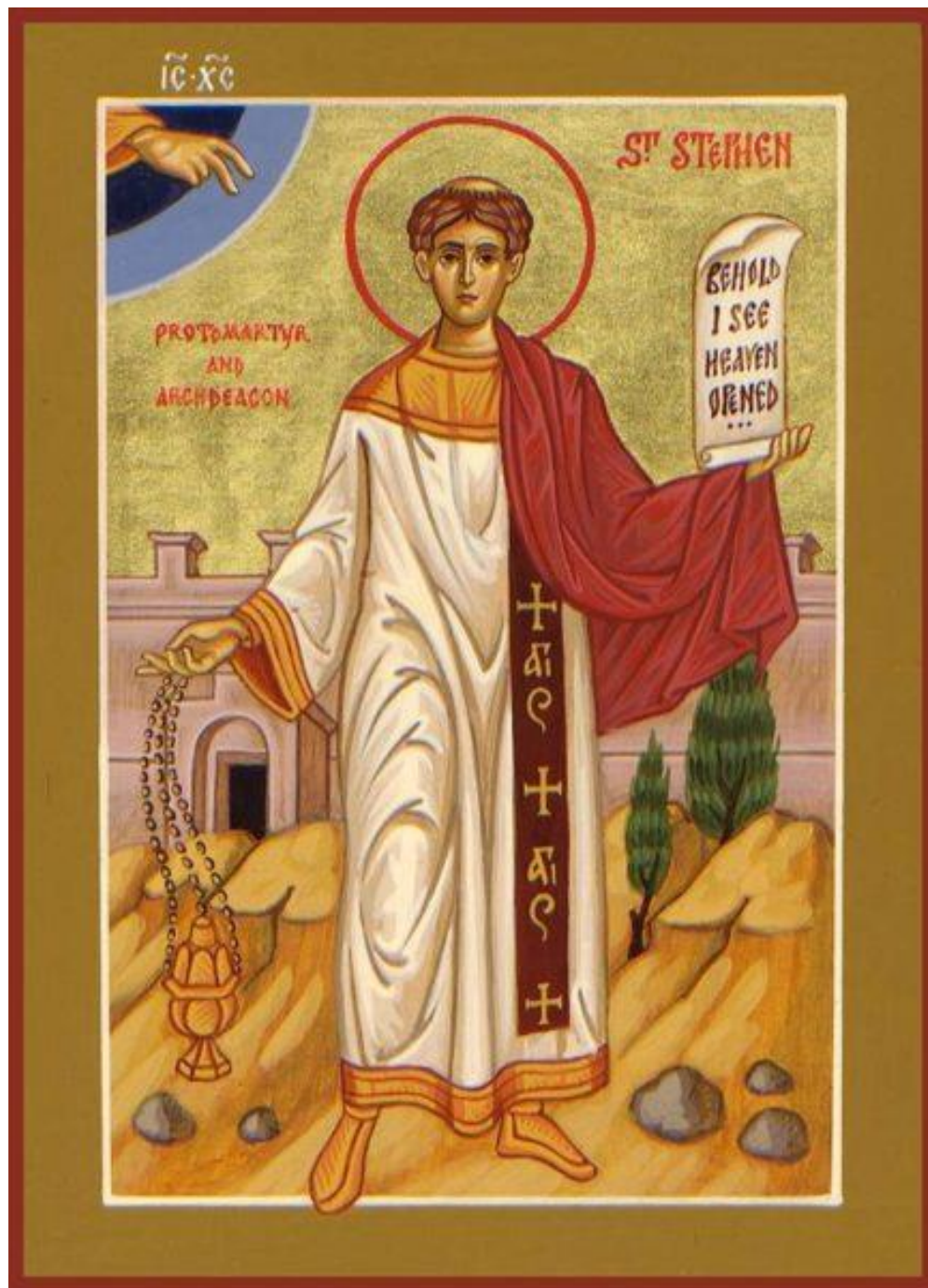


# Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

Port Washington, New York



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

117th Anniversary of the Parish

Sunday — January 22, 2023

10:00am Hybrid Meeting—In Church & Online via Zoom

## 2022 CLERGY, VESTRY, DELEGATES & STAFF

**Clergy**      The Reverend Lauren T. McLeavey  
*Rector*

**Vestry**

Matt Bendix, <i>Warden</i>	2023
Rachel Golder	2024
John Day, <i>Treasurer</i>	
Alan Dinn, <i>Clerk</i>	
Robert Knapp	2023
John Longmire	2023
Elizabeth Predmore	2023
Stephanie Anderson	2024
Barbara Keller	2024
Jennifer Wilson Pines	2024
Donna Blankman	2025
Robin Schroeder	2025
Elionora Silbersack	2025
Milan John, <i>Youth Member</i>	2023

### Delegates to Convention

Delegate	Robin Schroeder
Youth Delegate	Milan John

### Consignment Shop Advisory Board

Donna Blankman, Abby Chromy  
& Susan Dietz Massingill

### Parish Staff

Parish Administrator	Bernadette Reyes
Director of Music	Thomas M. Fierro
Children & Youth Minister	Rhonda Fay

### Parish Staff (continued)

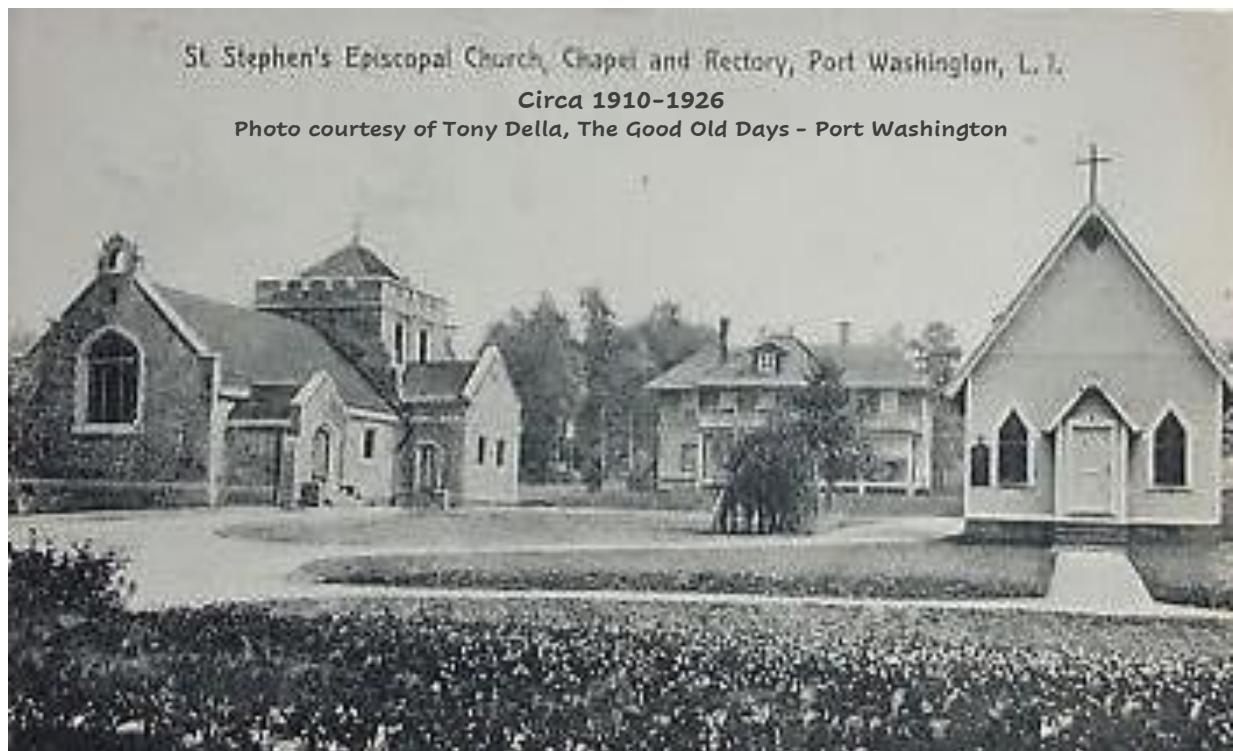
Consignment Shop Manager	Caren Salkin
Consignment Shop Associates	Susan Snyder Efrat Blum
Facilities Manager	William (Bill) Stropkay
Accountant	Don Cavanaugh

### Volunteer Leaders

Payroll	Linda Ives
Fall Fair	Roopali Gupta
Stewardship	Rachel Golder
Communications	Bill Anderson Alan Dinn Roopali Gupta Mo. Lauren McLeavey Bernadette Reyes Robin Schroeder Nora Silbersack Jennifer Wilson-Pines

Healing Ministry	Bob O'Brien Dolores Kazanjian O'Brien
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Lay Ministry Team	Alan Dinn
Eucharistic Visitors	Robert Chao
Ushers	Jim Massingill
Altar Guild	Gail Grossman
Coffee Hour	Susan Dietz Massingill
Christ's Light	Rosetta Chao
Parish Historian	Alan Dinn
Zoom Meeting Host	Arthur Golder



# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday January 22, 2023—10:00am

<b>Prayer</b>	<i>The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey, Rector</i>	
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<i>Mo. Lauren McLeavey</i>	
<b>Election of the Vestry</b>		
Report of the Nominating Committee	<i>Matt Bendix</i>	4
Nominations from the Floor		
Appointment of Tellers		
Opening of the Polls		
<b>Business Meeting</b>		
Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting	<i>Alan Dinn</i>	5
Treasurer's Report	<i>John Day</i>	7
2023 Budget	<i>John Day &amp; Don Cavanaugh</i>	9
Stewardship & Finance Report	<i>Rachel Golder</i>	10
Investment Report	<i>Jim Massingill</i>	10
2022 Parish Register		12
<b>Reports</b>		
St. Stephen's in 2022	<i>Alan Dinn</i>	13
Rector	<i>Mo. Lauren McLeavey</i>	17
Wardens	<i>Matt Bendix &amp; Rachel Golder</i>	18
Buildings & Grounds	<i>Bill Stropkay</i>	19
Altar Guild	<i>Gail Grossman</i>	20
Lay Ministry	<i>Alan Dinn</i>	21
Music Ministry	<i>Thomas M. Fierro</i>	21
Spiritual Healing Ministry	<i>Bob O'Brien &amp; Dolores Kazanjian O'Brien</i>	22
Annual Diocesan Convention	<i>Robin Schroeder &amp; Milan John</i>	23
Sunday School & Youth Group	<i>Rhonda Fay</i>	24
Inreach	<i>Bernadette Reyes</i>	26
Outreach	<i>Bernadette Reyes</i>	26
Fall Carnival & Bake Sale	<i>Roopali Gupta</i>	28
Consignment Shop	<i>Susan Dietz Massingill</i>	28
Communications	<i>Bernadette Reyes</i>	29
<b>Election Report</b>	<i>Tellers</i>	
<b>Recognition of Retiring Vestry</b>	<i>Matt Bendix, Rob Knapp, John Longmire &amp; Lizz Predmore</i>	
<b>Blessing &amp; Closing Hymn</b>	<i>Mo. Lauren &amp; Tom Fierro</i>	31
<b>Dismissal</b>		31
<b>Adjournment</b>		

## ELECTION OF VESTRY

### **Voting Eligibility Requirements**

All persons eighteen years of age or over belonging to the Parish who have been regular attendants at its worships and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such meeting shall be qualified voters thereat, and the presiding officer shall be the judge of their qualifications. Such of them as are present in person shall constitute a quorum.

### **Warden & Vestry Qualifications**

To be eligible to serve as Warden, a nominee must meet the Voting Eligibility Requirements and must be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church. Those nominated to serve as members of the Vestry must meet the Voting Eligibility Requirements.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

The St. Stephen's Nominating Committee - Matthew Bendix, John Longmire, Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Elizabeth Predmore, and Carolyn Predmore - is pleased to announce the nominees for Vestry.

#### **3 year terms:**

- Abby Chromy
- Gail Grossman
- Susan Dietz Massingill

The Committee also nominates **for Warden, 2 year term:**

- Matthew Bendix.

The Committee invites nominations from the floor for Warden to serve a 2 year term.

We thank these parishioners who have agreed to serve as our representatives on the Vestry, giving of their time, talent and treasure for the spread of God's kingdom here in Port Washington and in the world, especially our departing Vestry members Robert Knapp, John Longmire, Elizabeth Predmore.

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING—JANUARY 30, 2022

By Alan Dinn, Clerk of the Vestry

The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Port Washington, NY, was held via Zoom on January 30, 2022, being the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. On motion from the congregation, the Rector, the Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey, declared the meeting open at 10:05 AM.

**Opening Remarks** – Mother Lauren spoke about the rules for Wardens and Vestry members. She led the congregation in thanking retiring Warden Roopali Gupta and Vestry members Elisa Delaney, Gail Grossman, and Bob O'Brien.

**Report of the Nominating Committee** – The Nominating Committee, which consisted of Elisa Delaney, Gail Grossman, Bob O'Brien, Carolyn Predmore, Roopali Gupta, and Mother Lauren, presented the following names for election to the Vestry:

For Warden (2 years) – Rachel Golder

For Vestry (3 years, Class of 2025) – Donna Blankman, Robin Schroeder, Elionora (Nora) Silbersack

For Vestry (1 year, Class of 2024; remainder of Rachel Golder's term) – Rob Knapp

(It was also noted that Milan John has been reappointed as our youth member.)

There being no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed on motion made by Elizabeth Predmore and seconded by Fr. Guy Dioguardi. The nominees were elected unanimously.

**Annual Report** – A printed Annual Report has been prepared, containing reports of parish organizations and committees. The final copy of this report is considered an attachment to the minutes; only additions and comments to the report are provided herein.

## BUSINESS MEETING

**Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting** – The minutes of the 2021 annual meeting are provided on pages 6-8 of the Annual Report. The minutes were approved on motion.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's Report is provided on pages 9 and 10 of the Annual Report. COVID relief helped and some one-off donations.

**2022 Budget** – The operating budget for 2022, approved by the Vestry at its December meeting, is included on page 11 of the Annual Report. Mother Lauren added that the deficit is scary, but we have to be flexible and keep our eyes open for more opportunities. Since we don't have as many pledges, we have to use our facilities better (and upgrade them).

**Stewardship** – see Annual Report, page 12. Rachel Golder said that our pledges were almost flat with last year's, and we also had most successful capital campaign in the past 10 years. We are also looking into grants from the Diocese to help with facility upgrades.

**Finance Committee** – see Annual Report, page 13.

**Parish Register** – The register of church services, baptisms, deaths, and facility utilization is provided on page 14 of the Annual Report.

## OTHER REPORTS

**St. Stephen's in 2021** – see Annual Report, pages 15-18.



**Rector's Report** – see Annual Report, pages 18-19.

**Wardens** – see Annual Report, page 20. Roopali Gupta noted that this had been her hardest two years of warden service, with a new rector going almost immediately on maternity leave followed by the COVID pandemic. She was proud of how the parish has come together through the pandemic, remaining cohesive and well-organized, and was still able to offer many services to the community

**Buildings and Grounds** – see Annual Report, pages 21-22. Elizabeth Predmore noted that the first priority with the funds raised by our capital campaign will be replacement of boilers. Matt Bendix is preparing drawings and specifications and we plan to go out for bids in February. The next tasks will be roof repairs and dealing with leaks.

**Altar Guild** – see Annual Report, pages 22-23.

**Lay Ministry** – see Annual Report, pages 23-24. Alan Dinn added his wishes to Eucharistic Minister Fr. Guy Dioguardi as he departs, and he welcomed EM Tori Gebbie, back from “injured reserve,” and new servers Christopher Capogna and Grace Fielding.

**Music** – see Annual Report, pages 24-25.

**Healing Ministry** – see Annual Report, page 26.

**Diocesan Convention** – see Annual Report, pages 26-27.

**Sunday School and Youth Group** – see Annual Report; pages 27-28.

**Outreach** – see Annual Report, pages 29-30. It was noted that Laundry Love is still not in person, and the team are issuing gift cards.

**Inreach** – Rosetta Chao reported that she is heading a new “inreach” effort to call all parishioners to see if anyone needs help (rides, food, etc.) or just wants to talk. She already has a few team members for the effort.

**Fair (Carnival and Bake Sale)** – see Annual Report, pages 30-31. Roopali Gupta added that two more “sub-fairs” are planned for later this spring, a party in April organized by Elizabeth Predmore and Francesca Blass that will include an auction (quilt and other items), and a Trash & Treasure sale in May.

**Consignment Shop** – see Annual Report, page 32.

**Communications** – see Annual Report, pages 32-33.

**Closing** – After a blessing, all sang a final hymn, “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place.” The meeting was adjourned on motion at 12:13 PM.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

By John Day

Once again, financially, St Stephen's did much better than we had feared and budgeted at the outset of the year. The budget for 2022 anticipated a net operating outflow of \$110,718 but the out turn (not yet audited) is a surplus of \$88,741.

The main reason for the improvements were:

- A bequest of \$100,000 from a parishioner
- Accounting for the forgiveness, during the year, of another Federal Government PPP loan amounting to another \$37,000 ('another' because the first loan of this amount was forgiven in 2021): this second loan was received in 2021 from the federal government as part of a program that helped the country through the impact of the COVID pandemic: the loan was forgiven in 2022.

On top of these windfalls, we received some generous donations from pledging parishioners and unusually high payment of pledges in advance (2023 pledge amounts paid in 2022) and together these put us in comfortable surplus.

The operating numbers for the year to December 2022 are summarized here (thanks to Don Cavanaugh for keeping our books straight and the numbers flowing):

										2022		2023
										Actual		Budget
<b>Operating account</b>										\$		\$
Income	Recurring									521,905		508,700
	Non-recurring - Covid related receipts									45,405		
	Non- recurring Bequest									100,000		-
										<u>667,310</u>		<u>508,700</u>
Expense	Recurring									578,569		594,968
Surplus/	Recurring									<u>(56,664)</u>		<u>(86,268)</u>
(deficit)	Overall									<u>88,741</u>		<u>(86,268)</u>
<b>Capital account</b>												
	Brought forward									79,571		46,978
	Contributions									61,138		
	Expenditures									<u>(93,731)</u>		<u>(15,000)</u>
	Carry forward									<u>46,978</u>		<u>31,978</u>

So again for 2022, though we feared a very substantial deficit at the budgeting stage, we actually recorded a good surplus.

On the capital account side, the capital campaign continued and \$61,138 was raised in the year; \$93,731 was spent on improvements to the fabric of the real estate, (for which there is continuing substantial need).

### **Budget 2023**

The operating budget for 2023 was approved by the vestry in mid-December 2022: the start point in preparing the budget is actual recurring revenues and expenses in 2022, adjusting our expectation for revenues and expenses in 2023 by taking account of known changes – expenses are expected to be up reflecting the inflation that has set in during the course of this year. The budget shows a deficit for 2023 of \$86,268.

There are no further federal COVID relief credits to come through in 2023.

On the capital side, we have assumed that we will spend a third of what we have collected and not already spent: we have not specifically budgeted for further contributions though we will continue to encourage these to be made.

The 2023 approved budget is, again, approved by the vestry knowing that it represents a financial outturn that cannot be sustained long term. We are now entering in on a normal, post-pandemic, world in which, with Mother Lauren's leadership, we can set new directions and regenerate the church's activities and the engagement of the Port Washington community in the church – which, in turn, will ensure that we create a financially sustainable future for the church.

### **Cash position and investments**

Checking account cash: \$148,000 as at Dec 31, 2022 – a solid opening position.

The strategic and other fund investments are at ~ \$540k down from \$587k at the start of the year: it has been a poor year for the markets.

Thanks to Jim Massingill who looks after these funds – with guidance from the finance committee.





# 2023 BUDGET

St Stephen's Budget 2023									
	2017 Actual	2018 Actuals	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	Change
<b>Operating fund</b>									
Income									
Pledge	194,624	235,859	194,196	203,319	191,815	173,000	239,334	175,000	(64,334)
Unpledged envelope	27,721	28,154	30,084	30,762	35,343	25,000	35,209	33,000	(2,209)
Contributions and income against active outreach		1,370	179	-	-	1,000	25	1,000	975
Plate	5,985	5,008	5,242	1,154	1,147	3,000	1,838	3,000	1,162
Rentals	104,060	104,410	104,658	105,144	105,844	105,144	87,222	122,100	34,878
Parish Hall & St Cecilia	48,299	47,325	49,828	40,001	47,705	50,000	59,705	84,600	24,895
Fundraising - mainly consignment shop / Fair	59,888	55,885	63,189	22,790	49,337	50,000	57,904	55,000	(2,904)
Investment used for operations	20,081	5,000	5,000	4,805	4,622	5,000	67,700	5,000	(62,700)
PPP Grant / Cares Credit	-	-	-	-	36,804	-	-	-	-
Other	18,286	21,183	36,377	21,136	49,385	32,000	18,374	30,000	11,626
Bequest	20,100	-	69,834	100,000	-	-	100,000	-	(100,000)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>499,043</b>	<b>504,194</b>	<b>558,588</b>	<b>529,110</b>	<b>522,002</b>	<b>444,144</b>	<b>667,310</b>	<b>508,700</b>	<b>(158,610)</b>
Expense									
Clergy remuneration - inclusive of medical, pensions etc.	111,097	114,361	117,600	85,615	108,759	131,000	128,581	139,825	11,244
Supply clergy/ deacon expenses	1,927	-	1,586	2,596	-	1,000	1,076	1,000	(76)
Musical remuneration	60,589	65,320	62,955	57,577	63,299	65,000	60,565	60,000	(565)
Administrative and custodial remuneration	33,624	34,097	34,003	43,521	34,553	32,000	34,754	34,000	(754)
Consignment shop remuneration/ other	22,529	27,054	23,560	23,649	24,344	28,000	31,130	32,000	870
Staff 'on costs' - FICA and workmen's comp	22,640	21,725	21,636	23,815	13,196	12,000	11,135	13,000	1,865
Rector/lay training and dev. - events subs. books	1,545	694	700	-	487	3,300	395	2,000	1,605
Rector discretionary	301	-	-	-	172	500	5,842	500	(5,342)
Worship and music supplies	4,595	3,959	3,727	3,712	4,522	4,000	11,972	5,000	(6,972)
Diocesan Tithe	37,606	34,958	32,702	36,351	37,867	38,562	38,562	36,943	(1,619)
<u>Committee budgets</u>									
Outreach	1,076	6,564	5,451	420	3,360	1,000	3,510	1,000	(2,510)
Communications	745	1,036	1,729	550	671	2,000	1,033	1,000	(33)
Christian Formation	3,957	1,673	2,778	2,078	773	2,000	2,400	2,000	(400)
- Staff	11,320	11,540	11,794	11,661	11,989	12,600	12,560	13,600	1,040
Welcoming & Connecting (Food & Bev)	2,180	1,776	2,323	527	751	1,500	1,149	1,000	(149)
Altar flowers - altar guild expense	6,277	5,571	6,073	1,989	1,890	4,500	5,843	5,000	(843)
Stewardship	-	634	540	-	511	500	120	500	380
<u>Office expenses</u>									
Machine rental & office supplies	6,457	6,628	6,419	6,135	6,955	7,000	6,892	6,000	(892)
Telecoms	6,726	6,996	6,722	6,538	7,594	7,500	6,075	7,000	925
Postage	912	1,021	1,462	1,077	1,394	1,400	1,211	1,600	389
Printing	2,375	2,507	3,703	1,629	624	1,500	5,326	1,500	(3,826)
<u>Buildings and Grounds</u>									
Repair & Maint: Church/PH	12,658	8,290	5,286	12,523	16,412	10,000	17,524	10,000	(7,524)
Repair & Maint: Rectory	75	-	3,409	606	2,051	1,500	474	2,000	1,526
Repair & Maint: Rental Properties	1,170	565	6,012	1,544	2,066	3,500	3,389	3,500	111
Equipment Purchase	749	410	605	201	-	500	465	500	35
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	604	1,196	3,220	1,411	4,347	3,000	1,765	4,000	2,235
Cleaning Service					18,000	21,600	25,821	41,400	15,579
Contracts	7,502	6,885	8,893	4,128	16,137	8,000	9,326	8,000	(1,326)
Housekeeping supplies	3,166	3,569	3,725	5,878	3,285	5,000	5,465	5,000	(465)
Water, Electric & Gas	24,753	30,877	31,358	29,813	31,414	33,000	39,183	40,000	817
Grounds Maintenance	22,185	24,349	35,280	7,361	15,437	15,000	10,215	12,000	1,785
Inspections/Permits/Fees	2,154	696	2,275	54	131	2,000	1,957	2,000	43
Real Estate Taxes	35,120	36,768	38,214	39,142	39,423	41,000	39,269	42,000	2,731
Insurance (general risk)	25,454	27,274	27,656	28,511	30,909	31,000	33,949	35,000	1,051
<u>Professional</u>									
Annual Audit & Closing	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,500	0
Accounting Services - Monthly	10,228	9,139	9,522	9,182	8,184	9,500	8,367	9,000	633
Payroll & Employee Tax Filing	811	1,037	445	1,041	6,448	1,200	1,283	1,500	218
IT consulting	2,710	2,469	2,445	2,887	4,366	4,500	2,586	3,500	914
Bank fees and sundry	1,444	1,432	1,352	1,341	4,755	1,600	1,899	5,000	3,101
Miscellaneous	395	-	-	-	-	600	-	600	600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>494,558</b>	<b>508,173</b>	<b>532,359</b>	<b>460,363</b>	<b>532,475</b>	<b>554,862</b>	<b>578,569</b>	<b>594,968</b>	<b>16,398</b>
<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>(3,979)</b>	<b>26,229</b>	<b>68,747</b>	<b>(10,474)</b>	<b>(110,718)</b>	<b>88,741</b>	<b>(86,268)</b>	<b>(175,009)</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b> <i>(One time expenses)</i>									
Search, welcome and installation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Discernment		303	12,367	314	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>12,367</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>4,485</b>	<b>(4,281)</b>	<b>13,862</b>	<b>68,433</b>	<b>(10,474)</b>	<b>(110,718)</b>	<b>88,741</b>	<b>(86,268)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Capital fund</b>									
Carryover - Prior Years	46,750	6,192	50,903	32,019	23,471	73,011	79,571	46,978	-
Contributions - Capital Campaign	78,395	168,733	1,025	-	69,675	-	61,138	-	-
Capital Improvements	(118,953)	(124,021)	(19,909)	(8,549)	(13,575)	(73,011)	(93,731)	(15,000)	3,575
Subtotal	6,192	50,903	32,019	23,471	79,571	-	46,978	31,978	3,575
<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>	<b>(36,073)</b>	<b>40,430</b>	<b>(5,022)</b>	<b>59,884</b>	<b>69,097</b>	<b>(110,718)</b>	<b>135,719</b>	<b>(54,290)</b>	<b>(171,434)</b>
<b>Columbarium Fund</b>									
Funding - Loan form Reserve Fund (Payment)	-	24,212	(10,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Columbarium	-	(24,212)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Columbarium niches	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	2,500	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(36,073)</b>	<b>40,430</b>	<b>(5,022)</b>	<b>59,884</b>	<b>69,097</b>	<b>(110,718)</b>	<b>138,219</b>	<b>(54,290)</b>	<b>(171,434)</b>

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE REPORT

By Rachel Golder

Fellow Parishioners,

**Pledge Drive:** While pledges do tend to trickle in through the year, as of this writing the Stewardship team can report quite a successful 2023 pledge drive, holding both the number of pledges (#48) and total pledge amount (\$176,000) relatively constant compared to 2022 (#49/\$183,000). The ongoing slow decline in pledges continues to worsen our operating deficit, though we have been blessed with some generous bequests from long-time parishioners. A notable change to our Stewardship drive was to combine a plea for Capital funds with the pledge request (a new annual tradition), and we had 18 capital fund commitments totaling a generous \$53,000 which will finish paying for the boilers and doors projects. Thank you for your generosity, and it's NEVER too late to pledge, or to donate to the capital fund! We remain happy to discuss how you can include St. Stephen's in your estate planning, or ways to optimize tax benefits from your donations. (email [stewardship@ststephenspw.org](mailto:stewardship@ststephenspw.org) or call the office!)

**Finance:** As the Treasurer's report indicates, 2022 was a bad year for investing but, because we were very conservatively positioned, our endowment returns were better than the market. As asset values have cheapened, opportunities are emerging to generate more income from the portfolio. The committee has identified some attractive funds (from a risk/return perspective) and will allocate to them in a diversified way in 2023, while ensuring that enough liquidity is in place to meet our operating needs. I thank the committee for its insightful discussions and good suggestions.

Yours in Christ,  
The Stewardship and Finance Teams

### Stewardship Team

Rachel Golder & Lizz Predmore

### Finance Team

Rachel Golder, John Day, Jim Massingill, Randy Forsyth, Larry Shields & Bill Anderson

## INVESTMENT REPORT

By Jim Massingill

St Stephen's has five accounts with the Charles Schwab brokerage firm. Three accounts are true endowments, the Morgan Music and the Chao Music funds and Endowment fund. The Designated account is used to hold money for rent deposit, Sunday school uses, etc. The misnamed little "e" endowment account is used to hold unrestricted money.

Authorized agents for all the church accounts are as follows: Matt Bendix, Gail Grossman, Bob O'Brien, and Jim Massingill.

In 2021, there were many small transfers of dividend and capital gains into the church from the funds. These transfers are now stopped. Dividend and capital gains will now be reinvested or held in cash.



The investment results for 2022 were as follows:

- ◆ endowment lost (7.34) %
- ◆ Chao lost (6.66) %
- ◆ Morgan lost (8.03) %
- ◆ Endowment lost (8.33) %
- ◆ Designated lost (11.04) %

At 1/10/2023 the funds are invested as follows:

- ◆ endowment—12 % cash, 11 % equities, 77 % bonds
- ◆ Chao—17 % cash, 1 % equities, 82 % bonds
- ◆ Morgan—10 % cash, 2 % equities, 88 % bonds
- ◆ Endowment—14 % cash, 1 % equities, 85 % bonds
- ◆ Designated—11 % cash, 3 % equities, 86 % bonds

The fund balances at 1/09/2023 were

- ◆ endowment — \$ 346,827
- ◆ Morgan — \$ 21,834
- ◆ Chao — \$ 63,368
- ◆ Endowment — \$ 31,779
- ◆ Designated--\$ 42,570



## 2022 PARISH REGISTER

	2022	2021	2020		
	In-Person/ Online	In-Person/ Online	In-Person/ Online		
Sunday Services	102/53	74/51	46/34	<b>Baptisms</b>	Grace Darsie Maren Sombrotto Steele Sombrotto Stevyn Sombrotto
Weekday Services	7/7	3/50	3/41		
Funerals/Burials	5	2	4	<b>Marriages</b>	Serge Ayinou & Gaby Montes Thomas Schnapp & Jessie Valentine
Baptisms	4	4	1		
Marriages	2	0	0		
Average Sunday Attendance	49/12	16/21	58/32	<b>Deaths &amp; Funeral/ Graveside Services</b>	Carol Fielding Jeanne Freeman Shelby Gasek Norah Heckman Josepha Jenks Nancy Allen Oestreich Jane Wyckhoff Lee Patricia Yorck Jonathan Yorck
Other: Stations of the Cross	0	0	0		
Home Communion	102	20	8		
Easter Sunday	122/37	22/71	0		
Sunday School Enrollment	21	17	31		
Daily Office on Sundays	4/2	7/4	14/0		
Daily Office on Weekdays	0/39	0/50	0/41		
Confirmations	2	0	0		
Reception in to the Church	1	0	0	<b>Transfers</b>	<i>Into St. Stephens:</i> 0 <i>Out of St. Stephen's:</i> 2

### 2022 Use of Facilities

#### Church

Auction of Promises  
Blessing of the Animals  
Caregivers Support Group  
Choir  
Coffee Hour  
Consignment Shop  
Fall Children's Carnival  
Knitters  
Parish Caroling & Potluck  
Parish Fellowship Luncheon  
Quilters  
Sunday School  
Trash & Treasure Rummage & Plant Sale

#### Outside

AA—Sound Serenity  
Feldenkrais Class—Maria Whisenand  
Gregory K. Williams (Viola Lessons)  
Grupo Serenidad—Spanish AA  
Girl Scouts of Port Washington  
Julianne  
Metropolitan Youth Orchestra  
Nassau County Board of Elections  
North Shore Day Camp  
Om Sweet Om Yoga  
Port Clergy Assn.—Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Port Summer Show  
Port Washington Children's Center  
Port Washington Senior Center—EAC  
Sol Center & Akouie (Meditation)

## ST. STEPHEN'S IN 2022

By Alan Dinn, Parish Historian

### January

As we started the year, we were still abiding by the latest COVID protocols imposed by the Diocese:

- Only our four section leaders will perform (fully masked) in place of the whole choir.
- We will tape off every other pew to ensure social distancing.
- Going forward we may no longer serve any food or drinks. This means coffee hour will not have any coffee or snacks. We can still gather to chat, as long as we are all masked.

### *EPIPHANY*

Our annual meeting was held in person and via Zoom on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The parish elected Rachel Golder as Warden, replacing Roopali Gupta; Donna Blankman, Robin Schroeder, and Nora Silbersack to 3-year terms as Vestry members; and Rob Knapp to a 1-year term (remainder of Rachel Golder's term). Milan John was also appointed by Mo. Lauren as youth member.

At the annual meeting, Rosetta Chao reported that she is heading a new "inreach" effort to call all parishioners to see if anyone needs help (rides, food, etc.) or just wants to talk. She already has a few team members for the effort.

### February

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Mo. Lauren celebrated a hybrid Eucharist at noon in lieu of the normal noonday prayer service.

Parishioners have set up "Meal Train," an informal group that will provide meals to members who are unable to shop or cook.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Provenzano issued new pastoral guidance on COVID-19. Highlights include:

- As of March 1, 2022, the use of masks during the liturgy will be at the sole discretion and direction of the clergy-in-charge, taking into consideration the age, vulnerability, and health concerns of the members of the community at any given gathering.
- Coffee hour and other gatherings involving food and beverages may now resume, again at the discretion of the clergy-in-charge.
- In-person meetings, classes, and other activities may resume, taking into consideration the use, accessibility, and access of livestreaming, Zoom, and other electronic communication that now easily expands the options available for full inclusion given a multitude of circumstances.
- We are not yet resuming the offering of Holy Eucharist in both kinds (i.e., the common chalice).

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Mo. Lauren had outpatient surgery. She and her family have been receiving meals from the Meal Train.

Fr. Willis Lingayo, a supply priest in the Diocese, celebrated at the 8 AM and 10 AM services on February 27<sup>th</sup>.



## **March**

### *LENT*

Lent began on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with two hybrid celebrations (noon and 7:30 PM) of the Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes. After the noon service, Mo. Lauren offered ashes to people attending the Senior Citizens Service Center in the Parish Hall.

On Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, Mo. Lauren began to offer a Lenten study program via Zoom based on Matt Rawle's book, *What Makes a Hero?: The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus*. The program continued on Mondays through April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **April**

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Provenzano authorized a return to Holy Communion in both kinds and permitted the restoration of the Common Cup in the liturgy. He did not permit a return to intinction. St. Stephen's restored the practice on Palm Sunday.

Also on April 4<sup>th</sup>, a St. Stephen's started a Caregiver Support Group. The group is led by parishioners Cathy Adelhardt (a Licensed Social Worker) and Eva Turel (a Registered Nurse), and offers support to adults caregiving for other adults. It provides a place to ask questions, feel supported, and speak with others experiencing similar situations. The group will meet in person in the Parish Hall on the first Monday of every month from 6 PM to 7 PM.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the parish celebrated the lives of departed parishioners Nancy Allen Oestreich and Josepha Jenks.

### *HOLY WEEK*

April 10 – Palm Sunday. Members of the choir and parish joined in a procession from the Parish Hall to the Church. The Sunday School and youth group members read the Passion Gospel.

April 13 – A service of Tenebrae was held at 7:30 PM.

April 14 – Maundy Thursday – a hybrid Eucharist with foot washing was held at 7:30 PM.

April 15 – Good Friday – an in-person service was held at noon and a hybrid service at 7:30 PM; both had Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

### *EASTER*

April 16 – Holy Saturday – the Easter Vigil was celebrated in-person and online at 7:30 PM.

April 17 – Easter Day – in-person Eucharist at 8 AM; hybrid Eucharist at 10 AM.

Beginning during the week of April 18<sup>th</sup>, a team from SoundAdvice.nyc upgraded our audiovisual system to improve our recording and broadcast capabilities and hearing within the church. The upgrade was part of an initiative offered to parishes in the Diocese; it was partially funded by a diocesan grant and by a major donation.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday of Easter, Mo. Lauren blessed a set of pew cushions that the Sunday School and youth group had made. On the same day, the Sunday School and youth group cleaned nearby Stannards Brook Park as an Earth Day project.

## **May**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the parish received a substantial bequest from the estate of Josepha L. ("Jo") Jenks.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Laundry Love resumed in-person operation at the Super Laundromat on Manorhaven

Boulevard. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with the Port Washington Clergy Association. It helps to wash the clothes and bedding of low-income individuals and families. The program will continue on the third Thursday of each month.

An Auction of Promises was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, organized by Elizabeth Predmore and Francesca Blass. Dinner was by Matt Blass. Total take for the evening was \$2580 in bids, plus a \$500 donation. In addition, the last St. Stephen's quilt, originally planned for the 2020 Fair was raffled and raised \$1600; the winner was Burr Henahan, who had been one of the quilters.

The firm of Foley-Baker and Sons has been adjusting and repairing our pipe organ.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the flags on the campus of St. Stephen's were placed half-mast in memory of all those killed senselessly by gun violence, especially in the wake of the most recent mass shootings in our nation.

## June

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the parish held a celebration of the life of Robert West Needham (1929-2019).

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, Victoria von Roeschlaub and Kynan John received the rite of Confirmation from Bishop R. William Franklin, an assisting bishop in the Diocese.

## *PENTECOST*

June 5<sup>th</sup> was the Day of Pentecost. At the 10 AM service, Mo. Lauren dedicated a new Aumbry candle donated by Mary and Barry Meade. At the same service, Rees Capogna and Grace and Jane Fielding received their First Holy Communion

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, in a private ceremony, Bishop Provenzano received our retired Minister of Music, Mark van Schenkhof, into the full fellowship of the Episcopal Church.

Once again parishioners supported the Summer Together program that sends local kids to local camps.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, members of the parish participated in Port Washington's second annual Pride Parade.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Madison Shields was honored for her service as a Crucifer.

June 19<sup>th</sup> was the last day of Church School and Youth Group for the year.

## July

The new audiovisual system is now complete.

Thomas Schnapp and Jessie Valentine were married at St. Stephen's on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## September

The parish year began on September 11<sup>th</sup> with the opening of Sunday School and the return of the Choir. After the service, the Sunday School and Youth Group hosted a car wash, bake sale and lemonade stand to raise funds for the outdoor Nativity set.

At the 10 AM service on September 18<sup>th</sup>, three members of the Sombrotto family were baptized.

At their meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Vestry approved a contract with Jan-Pro Development for cleaning services.



Mo. Lauren, Victoria, Bp. Franklin, Kynan

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Mother Lauren and her two sons were diagnosed with COVID. As a result, Mother Bernadette Sullivan celebrated the 8 and 10 AM services on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. After the 10 AM service, Alan Dinn trained Adriana Shields as an acolyte.

## October

The annual Blessing of the Animals was held at 2 PM on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; due to the weather, the service was held in the Parish Hall.

The Vestry held its annual retreat on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, in the St. Cecilia Room; the Rev. Canon Claire Woodley, Canon for Congregational Support of the Diocese, was the facilitator.

On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the 10 AM service, Mo. Lauren blessed backpacks and school supplies that had been collected for Long Island Cares to ensure that everyone in the classroom is equipped with the fundamental tools to thrive in school. At the same service, Bob and Dolores Kazanjian O'Brien resumed their hands-on spiritual healing during Communion; the healings had been on hold during the pandemic. In the future, Bob and Dolores will offer these healing prayers on the third Sunday of every month. After the service, more than 60 parishioners joined in a Fellowship Luncheon in the Parish Hall organized by the Christ's Light Committee. A highlight of the event was a duet ("Bosom Buddies" from *Mame*), sung by Mother Lauren and Bernadette Reyes, accompanied by Tom Fierro.



Mo. Lauren and Bernadette

## November

On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, the parish held its Carnival and Bake Sale.

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, was All Saints Sunday. Members of the Youth Group and Sunday School performed the annual Procession of Saints.

November 20<sup>th</sup> was Commitment Sunday; at the 10 AM service, Mother Lauren blessed all the pledges that had been received so far. On the same day, St. Stephen's hosted the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 4 PM.

## ADVENT

At the 10 AM service on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the First Sunday of Advent, Mother Lauren blessed a new set of Sarum Blue superfrontal, burse, veil, and other antependia donated by the Gupta-John family.

## December

The church was "greened" on December 3<sup>rd</sup>; that same afternoon there was a Memorial Mass for Carol Fielding, mother of Jonathan.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Golder led a group from the church on a caroling tour; they sang at the Tuttle Center and the main Harborside facility, then visited Elsie Wikstrom, Man-Chee and Christine Cheng, and Mark and Carol van Schenk Hof. Afterward they joined many more members and friends at a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall.

The annual Christmas Pageant was held in the Parish Hall after the 10 AM service on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Many of our young people participated, from 6-year-old angels to high school students in the choir. We were visited, both at the service and the pageant, by our Rector Emeritus, Fr. Kurt, and his wife,

Priscilla; their granddaughter Victoria sang in the pageant choir.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM in the church, we hosted a Winter Solstice Meditation, facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Hildur Pálsdóttir.

### *CHRISTMAS*

There were two services on Christmas Eve. The 5 PM service was a Family Eucharist, featuring music by the “Miracle of Christmas Orchestra” led by Rachel Golder. The 10 PM service was the Festival “Midnight” Eucharist. There was also a Eucharist at 10 AM on Christmas Day.

## RECTOR’S REPORT

By The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey (Mo. Lauren)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In preparation for this report, I read through my report from last year, and wow, what a difference a year makes, but also things stay the same. We really had no idea what was going to happen in 2022. It was a very tumultuous and stressful year, but St. Stephen’s was able to adapt and change to a hybrid format with great success. I do not think that anyone anticipated that the pandemic would go on so long and give us a lot of lasting change.

We had so many great events in 2022. The Auction of Promises was a wonderful night, the Kid’s Carnival and Bake Sale was a great success this year, thanks to all of you who helped out. The Consignment shop is doing great. We also had a Parish lunch as well as a wonderful Christmas Caroling party. Our team of Eucharistic Visits made over 100 visits to our homebound parishioners and neighbors! This is wonderful! All of these events were so much fun and I am sure that I am forgetting many things. The world will never go back to what “normal” was, we will have to keep many of the skills we have learned during pandemic and expand them in order to change and grow. Nothing will change unless WE change.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to share and celebrate the year that has passed and look forward to the year ahead. Most of the stress around these meetings centers on the budget and membership statistics. Something I have learned in my years of church service is that when the church is focused on mission, the budget and membership will grow stronger as a result. It is a cycle. When a church focuses on their missional identity, it goes out into the world and makes itself known, then people become interested and will join. Then the membership is stronger, and the circle continues. In looking over our numbers from 2022, we have had an increase in attendance and participation. That is wonderful, thank you all so very much.

The church is not just the priest, but the people. The church is a vehicle by which the members of the Body of Christ can serve the community in the name of God. So, I encourage everyone to think about different missional opportunities St. Stephen’s has in our area. Change comes from the people, not the priest. I have learned that lesson the hard way in the past. We must change in order to be sustainable. What are you interested in? What do you think the area needs? Not every idea will take hold or be “successful” but it doesn’t hurt to try new things. St. Stephen’s is ready to jump into the future, holding on to our valued traditions, while simultaneously trying new and exciting missions. This is a key to having a church that stands the test of time. We honor our past, while looking forward. We can’t dwell

on so-called failures or focus on negative events in the past and how things were done in the past. We acknowledge them, learn what we can from them, and then look forward with positive energy.

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. We are in this for the long haul. We must be patient and diligent.

I end with a “Blessing for when you need to rethink your life” by Kate Bowler:

“God, this is a time of major rethinking of all that my life means.

Help me, guide me.

This is what the LORD says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jer. 6:16 NIV

blessed are you who take the risk  
of standing still right at the point of change,  
though uncertainty and stress want to propel you forward.

blessed are you, standing there at this new crossroads,  
giving yourself permission  
to stay suspended awhile in the questions:  
maybe this isn't...  
maybe i don't want....  
maybe i need....

suspended in the reimagining,  
discerning until you find  
that the thought-threads of 'what-if'  
lead you to a settled 'if-then.'  
and you know it's yours.

blessed are you, gathering what you need  
to move forward in this new awareness,  
this new peace.

with deep truth comes a deep and settled calm.  
you'll know it when you see it.”

Many Blessings be upon you!

Mo. Lauren

## WARDENS' REPORT

By Rachel Golder & Matt Bendix

Fellow Parishioners,

In the past year the Wardens, Rector and Vestry of St. Stephen's have worked together very collaboratively, and have made progress on a number of vital fronts. Matt and Rachel want to thank the Vestry and all of St. Stephen's wonderful volunteers for their efforts in 2022. We particularly want to express our thanks to the committees that drove key projects forward this year – Buildings & Grounds, Communications and Finance/Stewardship at the top of the list.

We had a big focus on necessary capital projects: not only was major, important work done on our rental properties (which allowed us to re-rent them during the year, increasing our income from them); we are



also underway in replacing our boilers and replacing/repairing the doors to the Parish Hall and Church; next we will be looking for cost-effective ways to improve our very leaky roofs. The Diocese gave us a \$25,000 grant for the doors project and has provided contracting assistance; the Capital Campaigns of the last 2 years have covered the expense of all projects but the roofs.

We have also worked to improve the income generated by our facilities: we renegotiated all of our key tenant leases and added new users to our space. Not only does this increase income, but it raises the Church's profile in our community and provides service to populations in need (such as seniors and children). In terms of other revenue generation, we are thrilled with evolution of our fundraising 'calendar' to multiple smaller events during the year, as Roopali describes in her Carnival note.

The Wardens have worked closely with Mo. Lauren to engage the Diocese as we plan ahead for our Church in the post-pandemic world, examining our finances, physical plant and parishioner commitments (of time/talent/treasure!). All churches are challenged at the moment, but we have strengths in all of these areas on which we can build. An increased pace of smaller-scale 'fellowship' activities, like the recent luncheon and caroling potluck events, have reminded us what a great community we are and can be. Please keep participating in every way you are able!

Yours in Christ,  
Matt & Rachel

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

By Bill Strokay, Facilities Manager

Facilities Manager, William (Bill) Strokay, has made tremendous progress in tackling many projects that came up during the year, with much help from local businesses and independent contractors like handymen Joe Marno and John Rand.

**Here are some of the things that were accomplished in 2022.**

### Church

- Trimmed all bushes on Church Property
- Cleaned up storage and installed more shelving
- Painted music room
- Painted ceiling in St Cecilia Stage
- Installed new faucet in kitchen in St Cecilia room
- Painted downstairs hallway in Church
- Removed old park benches on side of Church
- Painted machine room floor in basement of Church
- Cleaned out all window wells
- Had large A/C unit serviced, power washed evaporator and condenser coils replaced any old parts and checked for proper working order.

### Parish Hall

- Repainted all lines in Parking area
- Had toilet exhaust fans repaired in both Men's and Women's bathrooms

- Lubricated and repaired Anderson Windows on Upper level and auditorium (replaced handles on windows)
- Had several leaks repaired in Facilities Office, Stairway behind Auditorium
- Rms 201, 205, 206, Parish Hall and classrooms
- Installed new faucet in room 201
- Cleaned out Garbage area removed old fence and installed new one
- Put stones on ground of area
- Repaired commercial Stove in kitchen
- Repaired crack in front of door by garbage area on Carlton Ave. Water was seeping to stairwell
- Painted handicapped ramp and stairs to Parish Hall

#### Miscellaneous

- Prepared 14 Carlton & 6A Washington for rental
- Had all gutters cleaned at St. Stephens Complex
- Removed & installed new sink in upper Bathroom at the Rectory

## ALTAR GUILD REPORT

### By Gail Grossman

The St. Stephen's Altar Guild is responsible for many tasks related to the smooth running of church services.

We prepare the church for services, regular Sunday worship, Christmas and Easter special services, funerals and memorial services. We maintain the vessels, linens, robes and hangings; assist the crucifers, acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers with robing; arrange for the ordering of flowers for the altar and their distribution following services.

During the church year we purchase basic supplies and replenish items which are outdated or which are in short supply.

We were very fortunate this year to receive a donation from the John family in memory of relatives. This was used to purchase blue hangings for Advent which are part of the set to match last year's chasuble. We were also gifted a new liquid wax aumbry candle by the Meade family which has solved problems we had been having with the disposable candles. Mother Lauren was able to locate a beautiful stand for our new candle holder.

The Altar Guild administers the Memorial Flower Fund which solicits donations for flowers for the altar as a Memorial a Thanksgiving or a Celebration and we also arrange for donations to purchase lilies and poinsettias to help to decorate the church for Easter and Christmas Services. This year we decided for financial reasons that unless we had a memorial fund donation for a specific Sunday, we would use either greenery from members' gardens during the summer months or else dried or artificial arrangements. If you would like to see live flowers every week, please make a donation to the Memorial Flower Fund.

As always we urge anyone who would like to participate in the altar guild to volunteer for any Saturday or Sunday.

## LAY MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

by Alan Dinn, Lay Ministry Coordinator

From the Catechism: *“The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”*

Our mission is to encourage lay people to participate in the public worship of St. Stephen’s to the extent permitted by the Canons of the Episcopal Church. We carry out the mission by recruiting, training, and scheduling Eucharistic Ministers (EMs), Lectors, and Acolytes.

***Eucharistic Ministers*** – Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) are authorized to administer the chalice at regular celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. EMs must be confirmed adults (16 or over). Candidates are selected by the coordinator with the consent of the Rector; after training in the parish, they are commissioned during a celebration of the Eucharist. We have seven active EMs.

As the parish returns to more in-person/hybrid worship, our EMs are returning to their traditional role as chalice administrators while continuing to lead the Psalms and Prayers of the People. Some have also led Wednesday noontime worship services via Zoom.

***Eucharistic Visitors*** – Eucharistic Visitors (EVs) have the same age and confirmation requirements as EMs. Their ministry is to administer Communion from the Reserved Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins. EVs are trained at the Mercer School and licensed by the Bishop for a three-year term. Three of our EMs hold EV licenses and two others serve as EVs but not as EMs. Our EVs are working with Mother Lauren in a rotation to visit shut-ins.

***Lectors*** – Several of our congregants serve as Lectors, reading Scripture lessons at the principal Eucharists on Sundays and Feast Days. Lectors must be active in the parish and be of good voice. (At our family services, lessons are read by our young people and their families.)

***Acolytes (Servers and Crucifers)*** – Duties involve lighting and extinguishing candles, assisting with the offering, and assisting with the preparation for Communion. Older Acolytes also serve as Crucifers, carrying the Processional Cross. Candidates are eligible when they reach 4th Grade and serve until graduation from high school.

We have four active Crucifers and four Servers.

## MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

By Thomas Fierro, Director of Music

January 2022, we were in a partial shut down from the Omicron variant that affected our Christmas Services last year. The situation started getting better by the Lenten Season, so we were able to get music ready for Holy Week and Easter. Our attendance both in the Congregation and the Choir were still low, but we were able to celebrate the Resurrection with glorious music.

The Spring Season saw a good awakening to come back to church and choir membership did improve.

Our “Hymn Request Summer” was very well received, and we were happy to fulfill all the hymns and songs that you are fond of. Many have a personal connection to a particular hymn and we plan on doing the same for this summer.

September came along with a fresh start to the new season. Gradually we built up attendance and by October and November we saw a nice improvement in Choir membership. A few former high school students, who continued with their music studies in college, have come back to sing with us, which is wonderful and presents new possibilities. We are always looking to welcome new members.

The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service held here at St Stephens was warmly received and many of the ministers commented on the great sound of our Pipe Organ. It was good publicity for St Stephens. Kudos to Mother Lauren who did a great job in coordinating it all.

December brought a lot of opportunities for our young performers to present themselves here at the Parish and I was amazed at their talents at the 5pm Family Service on Christmas Eve. Rachel Golder did a tremendous job coordinating and conducting the “Miracle of Christmas Orchestra” and Mother Lauren joined with her talents on the Trombone.

The Christmas Eve 10pm Service saw a bit of change musically. We changed from having the Brass Instruments to a String Ensemble. With our expanded Choir and the Strings, the music gave a certain intimacy to the Church, perfect for a Christmas Eve Service.

For next Season we can perhaps plan on other musical offerings and make use of our young talent from the Miracle of Christmas instrumentalists as well as the children’s choir. Also, Lessons and Carols and a Spring Concert with other local church choirs could be a possibility.

We welcome and encourage your thoughts, comments and support in our music and liturgical ventures.

Thomas M Fierro, *Director of Music*

[musicoffice@ststephenspw.org](mailto:musicoffice@ststephenspw.org)

## SPIRITUAL HEALING MINISTRY REPORT

By Bob O’Brien & Dolores Kazanjian O’Brien

Members, International Order of St. Luke (OSL)

We are grateful to report that, after the enforced pandemic-related hiatus, we are once again offering hands-on spiritual healing. We are available every third Sunday at the Sunday 10 a.m. Eucharist service during communion to those who wish to come forward for healing prayer. We are also available by telephone at 516-944-9054.

Parishioners have sought prayer for their own spiritual, physical, and/or emotional healing. They have prayed with us to give thanks for blessings received. We have prayed with members and visitors for loved ones, for pets, for St. Stephen’s, and for the healing of our community, our country, and the world.

In addition, we have visited and prayed with the homebound, as well as both patients, staff and medical practitioners in nursing homes, hospitals, and physicians’ offices. We encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity.

For more information about spiritual healing in general or OSL in particular, speak with us.

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION REPORT

By Robin Schroeder, Delegate

The Diocesan Convention was held in person for the first time in three years on November 11 and 12 at the Marriot hotel. There was a full house of clergy and lay people in attendance. The convention started with a liturgy and there were liturgies, including Saturday morning communion throughout the program. The pomp and circumstance on display was a uniting site.

Business at the convention included voting people into Diocesan wide committees, including our own Mother Lauren who was elected to the Disciplinary Board. Most positions were uncontested, however the positions for clergy and lay representatives for General Convention Deputies and alternates were. The voting went through several rounds before the count was settled. Brief biographies of the candidates were provided but there was no electioneering from the floor.

Highlights of the convention included video clips from churches who received grants from Episcopal Ministries of Long Island that showed how they put grassroot activities into practice during the convention, including a food pantry and outreach to the poorly homed.

The Bishop spoke about the 5Ts and said we should stop worrying about the numbers. The five Ts are:

1. Tell-proclaim the Good News
2. Teach-baptize/nurture to equip believers
3. Tend-respond to need by loving service
4. Transform-work to transform unjust (get hands dirty)
5. Treasure-try to sustain creation (including going green)

“Being the church will grow the church.”

The Diocesan spoke about the One Mission Capital Campaign which involves banding together of churches within the Diocesan to raise and share monies for capital projects (building and projects) with the fund raising support being centralized within the Diocese. So far a dozen parishes. Including St. Stephen’s have signed on. The goal is to raise over \$11 million for projects.

Hopefully we will reap benefits both spiritual and financial from this endeavor.

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION REPORT

By Milan John, Youth Delegate

The youth convention began in the main ballroom for a short introduction, where we were then brought to another room and began playing icebreakers to start. We eventually started with a lecture on the topic of “what does it mean to be the church” where we were asked to question different ideas like what makes a church, does where we congregate have importance on our worship, and other questions such as that. We then played another game where one person stood in the middle of a circle guarding a red ribbon while everyone else individually tried to take it from them, being frozen if they were tagged. After a few minutes of this game, we talked about the different ideas that the game questioned, like individual vs. group unity. This led us to our next activity, where we and a partner walked blindfolded throughout



the building, the one with no blindfold guiding the blindfolded. We switched the blindfold halfway to see what it was like to be the guide and to be the blinded person. After this activity, we then talked about the activity and how it showed the importance of togetherness that is offered through the church and about following the light/the guide, who represented God. After this, we started making these small colorful jar lanterns until we returned to the main ballroom for the evening prayer and recess.

The second day began first with a scavenger hunt that involved meeting many different figures in the church and asking them to do an activity with us or sign our scavenger hunt paper, including getting Bishop Provenzano to take a selfie. After this, we officially started the second day with the bishop's address, which coincidentally was similar to the overall lecture on the first day on "being the church." After his address, we left the main ballroom and went to talk about his address, the different members of the diocese, Camp DeWolfe, and opportunities throughout the church for involvement and volunteer work. After this, we finished our light of God lanterns and returned to the main ballroom at 12 pm for the Noonday Prayer. After this, we had lunch separate from the rest of the convention and then were dismissed as it had reached its end. Compared to last year's virtual convention, this year's felt much stronger in message and in reaching me and other youth delegates. Being in person made it easier to connect to the other delegates there and made it much easier to understand the general messages of the lectures we were given. The games were fun, and the different ideas behind them really made you question the concepts presented to you, which were all debated and thoroughly explained. Overall, it was a great experience being able to converse and connect with different youth members from across Long Island at the convention, learning about their different churches, the experiences they've had there, and sharing the different ideas we came up with when presented with discussion.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP REPORT

By Rhonda Fay, Children & Youth Minister

Our GREAT Sunday School teachers are Susan Massingill, Rhonda Fay, Jennifer Pines, Gareth John, and Marcie Passley.

We welcomed 1 new Sunday School Student and 2 Youth Group members.

Attendance for Sunday School is around 9-13 every Sunday.

There are 8 Youth group members. They are always around when needed. Sometimes a few of them show for Sunday School.

Sunday School has a lot of fun with chapel, class time with bible lessons, arts and crafts along with music, singing and hand bells.

### Our highlights January through June

The Sunday School and Youth group read and acted out The Passion of Jesus Christ in church on Palm Sunday.

There was an indoor Sunday School Easter Egg hunt due to inclement weather with a scavenger hunt for the Youth Group.

We celebrated Earth Day once again and cleaned Stannards Brook Park on Carlton Ave and also made and hung home-made bird houses using peanut butter and seed throughout the park.



3 children from Sunday School received their first holy communion as well as 2 Youth Group members received their confirmation.

Our end of year celebration was baking and decorating cake pops for coffee hour. Thanks Jennifer Pines!

We continue to collect "Pop Tabs" for the Ronald McDonald House and ask for donations for our outdoor Christmas Creche.

### **Our highlights September through December**

Our opening day for Sunday School and Youth Group was our very first Car Wash. Despite the weather it was a lot of fun. We raised \$445 towards our outdoor Nativity crèche. We will definitely do this again in the spring of 2023.

St Stephens collected 72lbs worth of back to school supplies for Long Island Cares

Both Sunday School and Youth Group joined for our annual 10AM family service "All Saints Parade". There were 14 Saint Readers

Instead of Food donations for Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Fatima requested gift cards instead.

Thanks to your generosity, St Stephens donated \$445.00 worth of Stop and Shop Gift cards.

St. Stephen's adopted a family from Our Lady of Fatima (number 109) for Christmas. Instead of Gifts, we were requested to donate gift cards. Thanks to your generosity, \$575.00 in Store and Stop & Shop gift cards were donated.

The Youth Group were in charge of making table centerpieces for the Christ's Light Luncheon and the Sunday School sang a few songs.

Along with money raised in the past and our car wash, we raised enough money to purchase the 3 Kings for our outdoor Nativity crèche. We are still collecting donations for more pieces.

The Christmas Pageant and Hand Bell performance was FANTASTIC as usual on stage in the Parish Hall after the 10AM service on Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your Sunday School and Youth Group Support!!!



## INREACH REPORT

By Bernadette Reyes

In 2022, St. Stephen's "Christ's Light Committee" was formed. The brainchild of Rosetta Chao, its main purpose is to forge and strengthen connections between parishioners and the church. The hope is that the Committee's work will ignite a spark within the parish that calls us to unite and have an active presence at St. Stephen's.

The Committee members are Rosetta Chao (chair), Cathy Adelhardt, Donna Blankman, Bob Chao, Christine Cheng, Kathy Forman, Laura Giordano, Eva Longmire, John Longmire, Jim Massingill, Lynda McDougald, Bob O'Brien, Dolores Kazanjian O'Brien, Mary Lou Pedersen, Carolyn Predmore (secretary), and Nora Silbersack.

Starting in late-March, committee members made phone calls to the members of St. Stephen's to see how each was doing, to see if he/she needed anything, to offer information about and referrals to local resources and organizations if asked, and to gather ideas that to make parish life at St. Stephen's even better.

In October, the Committee hosted a Parish Fellowship Luncheon as an opportunity for parishioners and their friends and family to come together and enjoy each other's company and a hot meal in a relaxed setting. During the luncheon, surveys were placed on each table for attendees to fill out, asking for feedback on the kinds of events they would be interested in having at the church in the categories of Fellowship, Spiritual Growth and Outreach. It also asked if the person filling out the survey would be interested in volunteering to help at these events. The survey could be filled out anonymously if desired. If you are interested in filling out a survey, contact the church office and Bernadette will send one to you. There are also a few hard copies at each entrance of the church.

Last year, several parishioners set up a "Meal Train," an informal group that would provide meals to members who were not able to get out to the store or cook for health or other reasons. One was organized for Mo. Lauren last February, as she was recovering from hip surgery.

Rachel Golder organized a small group to visit some of our homebound parishioners and sing Christmas carols. They did short sets of a few songs (a cappella) at each parishioner's home on December 17, 2022 from 3:30pm-5:30pm, just before the Parish Potluck and Caroling Party held in the Parish Hall (thank you to Susan Dietz Massingill who coordinated the potluck part and Rachel who led the caroling and accompanied on the piano).

## OUTREACH REPORT

By Bernadette Reyes

As usual, the Sunday School/Youth Group continue to be the juggernauts of outreach for St. Stephen's. You can read the details about the various projects they took on this past year in Rhonda Fay's report on page 24.

In April 2022, Eva Turel, RN, and Cathy Adelhardt, LCSW, started a Caregivers Support Group. Meeting on the first Monday of each month, initially in the Parish Hall but currently in the St. Cecilia Room, the group provides a safe space for adults caregiving for other adults to ask questions, feel



supported, and speak with others experiencing similar situations. The sessions are free and open to all in the community, both within and outside of St. Stephen's.

St. Stephen's donates the use of our facilities to community organizations such as the Girl Scouts of Port Washington and Port Summer Show. Our longstanding relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous continues too – they hold their meetings on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays either in the Parish Hall or St. Cecilia Room. 2022 was the second year that the Nassau County Board of Elections has used St. Stephen's as a polling site for one of the Port districts. On December 21, 2022, we hosted an interfaith Winter Solstice Meditation and Sound Bath. This was a free community event, facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Hildur Palsdottir of Sol Center, with sound bath by Antonia Fthenakis of Akouie: The Divine Awakening Healing Arts Space; both are based in Port Washington.

Lizz Predmore and Mo. Lauren once again collected donations of supplies and money from the parish in order to put together College Care Packages, which were sent out to students whose names were provided by parishioners. They were mailed out prior to final exams.

In June, St. Stephen's once again celebrated Pride Month, by partnering up with the local LGBTQIA+ organization, Be The Rainbow. Some parishioners participated in the Port Pride Walk, as well as the lead up event "Chalk the Walk". The church displayed "Port Pride" and "Love is Love" signs to show its support.

Thanks to Rachel Golder, St. Stephen's raised money again this year for Summer Together, to help local families in need of economic assistance access summer activities, such as summer camp or summer memberships to the Manorhaven Pool.

St. Stephen's resumed its involvement with initiatives led by the Port Washington Clergy Association such as its "Laundry Love" program at the Port Washington Super Laundromat in Manorhaven, and the "Paper & Personal Care Pantry" program at Lutheran Church of Our Savior. This year, St. Stephen's had the honor of hosting the Clergy Association's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 20, 2022. We had a lovely reception for those who attended in the St. Cecilia Room, organized by Jennifer Wilson Pines.

Donald Miller continues his yearly donations to the The Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Miller Fund, established to honor the memory of his father and mother by helping people in need. As Mr. Miller stated in the letter that accompanied his donation to St. Stephen's, his parents' desire was "always to help people less fortunate than themselves". In 2022, we used Mr. Miller's 2021 donation to purchase more Stop and Shop gift cards to distribute to individuals coming to the church office looking for food assistance; sadly, the poor state of the economy this past year has increased the number of people coming in to ask for gift cards. We also put a portion into the Rector's Charitable Fund, which helps people looking for assistance with things such as purchasing gas, help with utility bills, etc. If you know anyone who needs food assistance, please have them contact the church office; we have a few Stop and Shop gift cards left from last year and we will be using the Miller Fund's December 2022 gift to purchase more for 2023.

Our yearly pledge to the Diocese continues to give the Diocese opportunities to minister to Long Island needs, as well as country and world-wide missions.

We have continued sponsoring our boy adoptee from Lesotho, Africa named Paballo Chalatsane. He is now 10 years old and is an only child living with his mother in Phamong who struggles to provide for her family. St. Stephen's sponsorship helps pay for Paballo's educational needs, and helps his community with access to clean water, healthcare, and spiritual enrichment.

## FALL CARNIVAL & BAKE SALE REPORT

By Roopali Gupta, Chair

On Saturday November 5th, 2022 we held our annual Fall Kids Carnival and Bake Sale. The Carnival was a great success in building friendships and connections within the parish as well as our community. The Carnival generated a total of approximately \$6,200 in revenues with expenses of approximately \$2,700. The net carnival receipts totaled approximately \$3,500. Although not our best year certainly not a bad one.

This year again the fair committee elected to break up the fair into separate events like 1- Carnival and bake sale, 2- trash and treasure sale in Spring, 3- silent auction for higher valued goods and services. By spacing these events out throughout the year, we were able avoid volunteer fatigue. Many who ran the booths and other events of the fair were very pleased that by not having too many booths they were able to not be exhausted at the end of the event.

We should count amongst our successes at the carnival the inspiration of the great parish and community participation and a generally very enjoyable day for all who volunteered and participated. We had children who, after playing all the carnival games, chose to volunteer to run those games. The community came out in large numbers, especially families with smaller children, and seemed to have really enjoyed being at St. Stephen's for the day. The carnival and bake sale would not have been as successful if not for the volunteers from the Schreiber HS Key Club. Mrs. Janine Goldstein, Schreiber Health Teacher and Key Club Advisor, hopes to continue offering our Fall Carnival as a volunteer opportunity to her students for many years to come.

We once again utilized the GiveSmart Platform for online ordering was again used for bake sale pre-orders. Though we did not sellout our bake goods online, we were able to sell many pre-orders. As Covid-19 becomes a continual part of our lives people seem to want to buy more goods in-person which was great for the carnival day.

We've already requested from the vestry to have this year's fair on November 4, 2023. Subject to Vestry approval that will be the date.

I want to thank all the Parishioner, youth members and outside volunteers who helped make the Fall Carnival and Bake Sale a success. We literally could not do it without you, your continued dedication and support, THANK YOU!

## CONSIGNMENT SHOP REPORT

By Susan Dietz Massingill

The mission of the St. Stephen's Consignment Shop is "Good deals...Good works."

We have over 300 active consignors. The community and parishioners also donate, which represents almost 50 % of revenue. The shop is a method of purposing clothes and housewares, while helping the community and the church. We have been actively encouraging donations.

Caren Salkin, and our part time shop managers, Susan Snyder and Efrat Bloom are supported by a 4 volunteers, Susan Dietz Massingill, Katherine Crean, Bette Sue and Kerry Curan. The shop is open 870



hours a year, volunteer hours total 1180 hours. These numbers mean that the managers are supported by less than 2 volunteers daily. This is really not enough. We need more volunteers. Susan is the only parishioner in the volunteer ranks

If you can spare a few hours on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday from 10 to 4 please stop by the shop and see any one of us or email Caren at [shop@ststephenspw.org](mailto:shop@ststephenspw.org).

The shop continues to increase in revenue as we all recover from COVID 19. Our contribution to the church this year was about \$20,000 which is an increase over last year.



## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Bernadette Reyes

The tasks that the Communications Committee undertakes include: managing our social media presence; submitting press releases items to local publications; creating and distributing promotional content for church events to print and online media outlets, as well as to the parish, in both paper and digital formats, for posting in windows or bulletin boards of local businesses, to email to friends and family, and to promote on social media; editing and emailing the monthly Banner newsletter, and updating our website.

The website is an important vehicle for “church shoppers” who are looking for more information about our parish, as well as for current members. Thank you to Bill Anderson who not only maintains and updates the church’s website, but also puts together both our Banner and Sunday School & Youth e-Newsletters. This year, a Website Committee was formed consisting of Robin Schroeder, Nora Silbersack and Jennifer Wilson Pines. Their task is to go through the website to make sure that the content is up to date and to figure out how to make the site easier to use/navigate and engaging. Robin Schroeder details what they’ve done so far:

*We have broken down the website into sections and have started basic updates, i.e. updating pictures. In the longer term, we are looking into rearranging some of the sections to better reflect who we are and make it more user-friendly. We hope to engage the assistance of others in the parish to help with areas like improving the participation information and links i.e. community partners. We ask any interested parishioners, with and without website experience, to share their feedback. We are also reaching out to the Diocese for consulting information.*

The Banner is the church’s electronic newsletter which is emailed monthly on or about the first Friday of the month. Rhonda Fay also puts together a Sunday School and Youth Group newsletter that also gets distributed via email to the parish within a week of the regular Banner. These newsletters are also

mailed out to a group of parishioners who do not use email or prefer a printed copy. If you or someone you know wishes to receive a hard copy of the newsletter or any parish communications, such as this Annual Report, please let me know—[office@ststephenspw.org](mailto:office@ststephenspw.org) or (516) 767-0363. I want to make sure that all parishioners are reached.

Thanks to Jennifer Wilson Pines for documenting our various church events with her beautiful photography. She also helps manage content for our Facebook page, along with Roopali Gupta, Alan Dinn, and Mo. Lauren, as well as written and coordinated press releases, pictures and ads with the local papers, like Port News.

Mo. Lauren has been managing the church's Instagram and TikTok accounts, as well as maintaining the Shop's Facebook page. Roopali Gupta set up a Facebook group that is linked to the St. Stephen's Facebook page called "St. Stephen's Episcopal Church PW Community". This is a Parish community forum for Parishioners and Friends of St. Stephen's where you can share church events, ideas, and prayers. So far the group has 66 members – if you would like to join, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5478290122243552>

The Parish Directory is available through the church office; if you would like a copy, please let me know. If you have had a change of address, email or phone number since last year, please also let me know so I can update your record in the database.

**Wondering how you can help the Communications Committee's efforts to get the word out about our wonderful parish? Here's how:**

- Get on our email list. Much of our communication is now digital, and we'd like to be able to include all parishioners. Send your email address to [office@ststephenspw.org](mailto:office@ststephenspw.org).
- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. Please comment and share our posts. This helps us grow our presence. You can have your church-related pictures posted to our Facebook page (let one of the Facebook editors listed above know) and then tag friends.
- Send your pictures of church events to [office@ststephenspw.org](mailto:office@ststephenspw.org) and [banner@ststephenspw.org](mailto:banner@ststephenspw.org).
- Forward our Banner and Sunday School e-newsletters to friends in the community who may be interested in visiting St. Stephen's.
- Invite friends or family members to attend on-line or in-person services or any of St. Stephen's free events during the year, or register their child for Sunday School.
- Put up any of the church's event flyers in your workplaces or places you patronize if they allow it.
- Spread the word! Word of mouth is still an effective tool, even in this digital age.

## Blessing

### Hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place*



1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, \_\_\_\_\_ and I  
 (2.) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive \_\_\_\_\_ till you  
 (3.) say He saved you from your sin, \_\_\_\_\_ now you're

know that it's the Spir - it of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ There are  
 know Him in His full - ness, and be - lieve. \_\_\_\_\_ You're the  
 weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, \_\_\_\_\_ you can

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, \_\_\_\_\_ and I  
 one to pro - fit when you say, \_\_\_\_\_ "I am  
 make it right if you will yield; \_\_\_\_\_ you'll en -

know they feel the pres - ence of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 going to walk with Je - sus all \_\_\_\_\_ the way." \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that \_\_\_\_\_ we feel. \_\_\_\_\_ }

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,  
 stay right here with us, \_\_\_\_\_ fill - ing us with \_\_\_\_\_ your  
 love, And for these bless - ings \_\_\_\_\_ we  
 lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know \_\_\_\_\_ that we have  
 been re - vived when we shall leave this place. 1. 2. 3. There are place.  
 3. If you

## Dismissal

Let us Bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God*



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

9 Carlton Avenue  
Port Washington, New York 11050  
(516) 767-0363  
[office@ststephenspw.org](mailto:office@ststephenspw.org)  
[www.ststephenspw.org](http://www.ststephenspw.org)

Sunday Services at 8am (in person) & 10am (in person & via Zoom)

Wednesday Noonday Prayer 12 pm (via Zoom)

Sunday School & Youth Group 10am, September-June

## Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10am—12pm

Tuesday: 10am—3pm

Friday: Closed



*Photo by Jennifer Wilson Pines*