

St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
Annual Meeting  
November 29, 2020

**Note.** In lieu of a traditional annual meeting due to social distancing requirements during the Covid-19 pandemic, annual reports were generally sent via e-mail to communicants. Those without email addresses were mailed copies. Fr. Eric's sermon/Rector's report and the annual reports follow these minutes.

**Opening Prayer.** Fr. Eric preceded his sermon with a prayer.

**Receipt of Annual Report.** Fr. Eric Mills delivered the Rector's report as part of his sermon at the 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am services. The sermon follows these minutes and are part of the annual report. The repeating theme in the sermon was "He is the potter, we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end."

**Rector's Comments.** Fr. Eric took the opportunity following the sermon/Rector's report to thank each of the Ministry Board Chairs: Ricky Evans, Nan Bush, Don Halbert, Deacon Pam Hayes, Linda Humphreys, Ruth Smith and all of the ministries members that work with them. He also thanked the retiring Vestry members (named below) as well as the returning Vestry members: Liz Halbert, Deborah Jordan, Debbie Evans, Tom Griffin, Steve Russell, Dave Ham, Mike Chase and Holly Meiners. Bob Fuchs, Treasurer, and Margaret Bearden, Clerk were also thanked for their service.

Special appreciation was expressed to our deacons, Pam Hayes and Sally Learned, and our retired clergy for stepping up to help in the time of need.

Also thanked were the parish staff: Lorraine Beamer, Betty Rupp and Debbie Skillman for making everything work during the struggles of a pandemic ministry. Dennis Courtnage and his usher team were thanked for their dedicated ministry in making our services possible during the time of Covid.

**Election of four new Vestry members.** The election was also held non-traditionally this year. Parishioners were emailed a link to allow them to vote for up to four out of seven candidates. Arrangements were made for those without computers to phone their votes to the office. Bill Bittenbender, Dana Richardson, Bob Wright and Jimbo Smith. Outgoing vestry members are Senior Warden Bill Carney, Junior Warden Maitland Barnes, Harry Singley and Paul Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bearden, Clerk of Vestry

### **Copy of Sermon/Rector's Report**

This week you have received the annual report, and I won't take the time to reiterate what is recorded there about all of the ministry and mission and finances pertaining to St Philip's.

As we read our lessons today, lessons meant and designed for us to anticipate, to look forward, to prepare for the Incarnation of God making our way through Advent to Christmas...I was surprised, taken aback if you will, because of the words that the Holy Spirit highlighted before

me. From our OT reading: **“...we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.”** Reminds me of the old hymn “Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.”

Shortly into the new year it happened. One of our parishioners prophetically made intercession during the prayers of the people regarding a mysterious virus which at that time was still isolated in China. We had just begun our walk through Lent...we were approaching Holy Week. When the virus came to our doorstep. Stay at home became the law of the land. Our Bishop suspended in-person worship. And we all entered into a time that none of us had experienced before. It was almost an imposed sabbath but without eucharist...how were we to embrace the presence of the Lord? What would we do next? How long would this last? Will it ever end? Will I get the virus? The questions were manifold...Yet, scripture says: **He is the potter, we are the clay.**

For some, we experienced loneliness, depression, fear, anger. Yes, some of us even got mad, mad at God...and that's OK. Our God is a big God, able to handle our anger, our fear, our yelling out. And this same God does NOT leave us nor forsake. Rather, He holds us in the palm of His hands...And morning became evening, then another day, morning became evening, and another day. One day at a time, as our emotions and thoughts changed, we journeyed onward. **He is the potter, we are the clay.**

And we still don't have answers. Yes, there is a vaccine coming, but what will happen until then? Will it get worse? Will we once again need to return to safer at home and cease our in-person worship? Will we return to digital services? I don't know the answer to that ...but I DO know this: “God will strengthen you to the end.”

We just read those words in our NT reading: **“God will strengthen you to the end.”** And this, my brothers and sisters, I believe, is the message

for each of us this year... **“He is the potter, we are the clay. And God will strengthen you to the end.”**

In those days, weeks, and months, we worked hard. Doing things we had not done before. Pastoral Care became more important than ever as we were restricted from in-person visits. Dozens and dozens of parishioners were chosen as priorities for pastoral care. Stephen ministers became pastoral assistants by making phone calls and maintaining contact with those parishioners throughout the pandemic. Vestry and clergy made every effort to contact each household in the parish to ensure all was well, and to offer any help or prayer that may be needed. Together we ministered to one another. **“For He is the potter, we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

Members of the parish stepped forward to offer assistance in making our digital services more inclusive of parishioners. People signed up to be part of the zoom recordings for our initial prayer and worship services. Others offered their talents to put the services together and get them posted to the internet. Together we made worship possible. **“He is the potter, we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

Devotions, teachings, and meditations were offered numerous times each week through our website. Eventually we were able to begin outdoor gatherings with every precaution taken to allow in-person worship. We designed a safe way to offer communion as Eucharist returned to our services. And just over a month ago we were able to return to indoor worship. Many of you - representing the worship board, Vestry, staff, and clergy – everyone labored together to establish CDC, state, and diocesan recommended protocols to enable us to gather together indoors again. Together He formed us into the Body of Christ. **“For He is the potter, we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

God is molding us and making us into the image of his Son. Into the image of love. As we learn to sit and be still – He fashions us. As we learn to worship and pray with others even while we are alone in our homes –

He forms us. As we take to heart the command to love others as Jesus loves me, He touches and heals us and fills us anew with his life giving Spirit! **“For He is the potter, we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

So, just what was this pandemic filled year really about? My answer to that question is simply this: “He is the potter, we are the clay - God will strengthen you to the end.” These months have been a time of change, of slowing, of stopping, of seeking, of patience, of fear, of anger, of disappointment. It was all of those, often many at the same time. You see, you don’t get the creative hands of God forming and molding and making you without areas and parts of your life getting moved around like lumps of clay being reformed. But that’s what’s happened. Because He is the potter and we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.” God has held each of us in the darkest moments of night, and touched each of us in the brightness of the noon day sun...and the Holy Spirit has fashioned in you, in me, in each of us, the image and likeness of Jesus...the same Jesus who emphatically commanded: “Love one another as I have loved you.” My Brothers and Sisters, **“He is the potter, and we are clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

Look at your neighbor, look around this parish at your brothers and sisters...and see the fingerprints of God all over them. And Look at yourself, the fingerprints of God are all over you too! Because He has created you, formed you and fashioned you because **“He is the potter and we are the clay. God will strengthen you to the end.”**

In the words of our NT reading: We have been enriched, strengthened, called into fellowship, and do not lack any spiritual gift...because He is the potter and we are clay and God will strengthen you to the end.” God has left his mark, His fingerprints upon each of you in 2020. Let us go forward into 2021 in the power of his love...where we look forward to a new Assistant Priest joining us, and a new parish hall and ministry center, and new families joining us as well as new ministries and ministers emerging and providing loving care. And this we WILL do for He is the

potter and we are clay and God will strengthen us to the end.” **“Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.”** Amen.

## **Annual Reports**

### **Senior Warden’s Report – Bill Carney**

It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden this past year.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with, and learn from, so many wonderful and talented people – Clergy, Staff, Vestry members, Ministry Board and Committee Chairs, numerous other lay leaders and parishioners. You are all a blessing. I cannot adequately thank the exceptional wardens with whom I have worked, first as a Vestry member and then as Junior and Senior Warden – Thank you for your guidance and support.

Serving as a warden has given me a unique opportunity to observe first-hand how dedicated our clergy and staff are to the work of this place and how many parishioners work tirelessly to serve. Please know how much I appreciate you and what you do and know that you are constantly in my prayers.

Think about where we have been at St Philip’s, where we are now, and where we will be going. The Strategic Plan developed over years of work and evaluation with several revisions, showed that the top two needs of our parish were an assistant rector and a building with a large

gathering room and a modern safe place for our staff to do the work that drives St. Philip's.

During the past few years we were able to attract an assistant – (twice) and as part of their journeys, they were called to be rectors at other places. We should be proud of the part we had in their development. Now we continue to search for a new full time assistant. This month we also broke ground on a building that will provide us space to do the work God calls us to do here in Southport. We just need to analyze the possibilities that having a full time assistant and a new building provide. Buildings are not the church – We are the Church.

The first duty of a senior warden involves acting as an advisor to the Rector and maintaining an interest in the well-being of the rector and his family. I am certain that when I started as a warden no one foresaw meeting by Zoom and sitting on a porch rocking several feet apart. Yet through the Grace of God we have been able to continue to do the work of the Church through all the obstacles Covid-19 has presented. I want to thank all for helping support Fr Eric as I view that as the most important function of a Senior Warden.

This spring, our lives changed in extraordinary ways. Social distancing requirements and stay-at-home orders altered how and where we were able to work, eat, gather, serve, and worship.

Our physical buildings closed for a time, but at St Philip's, the vital work of ministry continued. Hurricanes and Pandemics may have reminded us that the future and timing of change is always unknown. However, we continue to be a vibrant, driven, and transformational place.

We remain, by the grace of God, St. Philip's.

**Deacon's Report**  
**Deacon Pam Hayes**

What an incredibly WEIRD year this has been, but then it has been for everyone. But new challenges present new opportunities. We have reorganized worship spaces from inside, to video, to outside, and back to inside. I can assure you that has added to my flexibility as a deacon at worship! I have served at regular Sunday worship services and several funerals. It has been a bit frustrating to not be able to meet with the Pastoral Care Board in person, but I can assure you that pastoral care needs of the congregation are being met, through Fr. Eric and Fr. Jeff, our Stephen Ministers, and the Daughters of the King. Sadly, in my personal life I had to say goodbye to my wonderful Mother, Patty, but once again your outpouring of love and support to my entire family was so very welcome. It is such an honor and a joy for me to be able to serve St. Philip's as a deacon. I am sure that we will have many more challenges as the new year begins, but we have strong ministries and leadership to help us through; not to mention the excitement of a new, long awaited creation of ministry space. Just know that I believe in *you*, the wonderful family of God that is St. Philip's.

## **Finance and Facilities Ministry Board**

Don Halbert, Board Chair; Margaret Bearden, Communicator

The purpose of our Board is currently three-fold: 1. To oversee and administer all matters relating to the financial health of St. Philip's Church including budgets, audits, investments, stewardship and debt. 2. Maintain the physical health of our buildings and grounds. 3. Manage the planning, financing and timely construction of the new Parish Hall. Oversight of our Board rests with the Vestry.

Our committee consists of seven full-year voting members, each with subcommittee responsibilities (Margaret Bearden- Investments, Assistant Treasurer and Communicator, Jim Belvin- Endowments, Bill Bittenbender- New Parish Hall, Bob Fuchs- Treasurer, Don Halbert- F&F Board Chair, Bryan Wester- Buildings and Grounds, and Ruth Smith- Stewardship) as well as ex-officio non-voting members Fr. Eric Mills, Senior Warden Bill Carney and Junior Warden Maitland Barnes). Due to the nature of our responsibilities, we work in complete partnership with all other ministries and their numerous and various constituencies.

A key responsibility is communication of the Parish financial health, and as such the Treasurer's report to the Vestry is published monthly on the St. Philip's Web site under Finance and Facilities/Finances. Results of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign will also be made available when complete. Our Treasurer also provides all parishioners with regular written statements on the status of their individual contributions.

Key accomplishments on behalf of St. Philips:

1. **New Parish Hall-** Completed restoration of the Chapel and Sanctuary damaged during hurricane Florence. Removed Carr Jorgenson house to make way for new Parish Hall. Completed plans for new Parish Hall, obtained permission from the Diocese to move forward. Arranged necessary financing and contracted with Urban Construction to build Hall and expect occupancy by October 2021.
  
2. **Buildings and Grounds-** Constructed new storage shed. Organized and staffed 4 volunteer yard maintenance crews. Made changes to the church ventilation system in accordance with CDC guidelines to allow return to indoor services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Installed new fire monitoring system in the Chapel of the Cross, Parish Hall and Sanctuary as recommended by the Safety and Security Committee.
  
3. **Stewardship-** The Stewardship Committee has been divided into three parts, Annual Giving, Time and Talent, and Communication/Education. The Annual Giving Campaign is almost complete, but we will continue our work until all communicants of the church have been contacted and given the opportunity to pledge. The Time and Talent Group is working on discovering the talents of the Congregation and how to put these talents to work within our church. The Communication/Education Group is working to educate the Congregation on year round stewardship. They are putting together a video that will highlight activities in our church.
  
4. **Endowments-** Development of Endowment Fund Brochure, Educational presentations to Parish.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the Chairperson of this dedicated collaborative team for the year 2020.

Enclosed for your information is:

2020 Financial Results as of 10/31/2020 Operating Budget	2020 YTD Actual	2020 YTD Budget	2020 YTD Variance	2019 YTD Actual	YTD 2019

Revenues					
Pledges	433,409	460,370	-26,962	433,071	337,000
Flower Revenue	600	5,425	-4,825	5,350	-4,750
Identified Offerings	32,289	32,593	-303	28,990	3,290
Loose Plate	3,020	8,559	-5,539	8,644	-5,624
Parish Hall Rental	500	550	-50	570	-70
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,111	13,000	-9,889	7,353	-4,200
Total Revenues	472,928	520,497	-47,568	483,978	-11,000
Expenses					
Parish Staff	275,377	335,857	60,480	318,252	-42,000
Administration	27,625	28,408	784	25,308	2,317
Property	227,436	72,578	-154,858	61,212	166,000
Vestry	51,283	60,336	9,053	49,103	2,180
Faith Formation	435	4,450	4,015	2,232	-1,783
Outreach	5,000	6,000	1,000	8,838	-3,838
Parish Life	147	5,567	5,420	2,360	-2,213
Pastoral Care	487	2,392	1,905	1,070	-584
Worship	5,761	15,165	9,404	7,798	-2,000
Total Expenses	593,551	530,753	-62,798	476,173	117,000

Net Total	-120,623	-10,256	-110,367	7,805	-128
<b>Loans</b>	<b>End of Month Balance</b>	<b>12/31/2019 Balance</b>	<b>Change</b>		
Mortgage Payable	0	174,417	-174,417		

Through October, St. Philip's has received \$930,413 of the \$1,385,364 pledged during the capital campaign for the new parish hall. Capital campaign pledges will continue to be paid through 2022.

2021 Operating Budget Operating Budget	2020 Budget	2020 FY Forecast	2021 Budget	Change vs FY Forecast	Change vs 2020 Budget
Revenues					
Pledges	565,000	539,346	581,157	41,811	16,157
Flower Revenue	8,025	1,200	8,025	6,825	0
Identified Offerings	40,000	39,697	41,208	1,511	1,208
Loose Plate	10,504	3,965	7,500	3,535	-3,004
Parish Hall Rental	660	600	600	0	-60
Miscellaneous Receipts	15,000	3,111	15,000	11,889	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>639,189</b>	<b>587,918</b>	<b>653,490</b>	<b>65,572</b>	<b>14,301</b>
Expenses					

Parish Staff	403,124	328,300	433,349	-105,049	-30,2
Administration	34,118	33,531	35,316	-1,785	-1,19
Property	86,550	237,068	87,596	149,472	-1,0
Vestry	71,028	61,975	65,060	-3,085	5,96
Faith Formation	4,500	2,485	1,700	785	2,80
Outreach	6,000	5,000	7,050	-2,050	-1,0
Parish Life	6,950	280	4,924	-4,644	2,02
Pastoral Care	2,600	695	1,080	-385	1,52
Worship	18,834	6,330	16,894	-10,564	1,94
TOTAL EXPENSES	633,704	675,664	652,969	22,694	-19,3
NET REVENUES - EXPENSES	5,485	-87,745	521	88,266	-4,9

**Pastoral Care Ministry Board** Rev. Deacon Pamela Hayes, Board Chair; Janet Fox, Communicator

Pastoral Care is a multifaceted ministry that requires one-on-one, confidential interaction. While our clergy offers unique and dedicated care, these ministries focus on specific needs in our community. The Pastoral Care Board includes those ministries of St. Philip's who look to care for and assist our parishioners. Those ministries include Stephen Ministry (Susan and Mike Chase, Pam Hayes, Bill Wheeler, Stephen Leaders); Daughters of the King (Jane Mitchell, Sharon Sands); Bereavement (Fr. Bill Eberle, Janet Fox); and the Healthcare Equipment Library (Michele and Ray Barkalow), which loans assistance devices to those in need.

**Daughters of the King 2020**

The Order of the Daughters of The King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Today our membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. Our Anglican tradition includes episcopal oversight, recognizes that Holy Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation, acknowledges the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, and worship according to *The Book of Common Prayer*. The Order's purpose is to bring others into a living, loving relationship with Jesus our Lord and Savior and to help strengthen the spiritual life of our parishes and missions.

Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. It is not necessary for a woman to be a member of The Order to pray and serve in the church. The Order is a spiritual community in a busy world where women with similar interests can pray, study, share together, affirm ministries and support each other. Through the Rule of Service, Daughters regularly take part in the worship, study, and work of the church, undertake a personal program of evangelism in a conscientious effort to bring others into a personal relationship with Christ, and work with their clergy, as directed, for the spiritual up building of the parish. A Daughter is also faithful in her personal devotional life through Bible or Christian spiritual studies, participation in quiet days, retreats, prayer groups and diocesan/provincial assemblies. Members are present to each other in Christ's love. Daughters wear the badge of The Order. It is a Greek Fleury cross of silver, one inch square, charged on the horizontal with the words, "Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine", and at the base of perpendicular, with initials of the motto of The Order – FHS-"For His Sake." Watch for those of us wearing these crosses as members of the Sara Smith Chapter in our church.

The Sara Smith Chapter of Daughters of The King met on the third Saturday in January at Priscilla Wheeler's home with a program on 3<sup>rd</sup> Beatitude. The third Saturday in February there was a Healing Service and Eucharist in Priscilla Wheeler's home with Father Bill Eberle and Deacon Pam Hayes officiating. Meetings each third Saturday morning were suspended beginning in March due to Covid-19. Communications were continued over email. A get together was held in Waterway Park in July to say "Bon Voyage" to Wanda Luey who was moving to Phoenix, AZ. Meetings were resumed in September thanks to Zoom through the church office.

The DOK Prayer List is updated each month and sent to each Daughter. Our second Friday lunches for Hospice House were delivered in January and February but suspended due to Covid 19 in March.

### **Healthcare Equipment Library 2020**

The Healthcare Equipment Library continues to provide equipment to our parishioners, and some friends of parishioners. We have had some additional donations, due to the continued generosity of those in our church community. Demand has been somewhat less, particularly earlier this year, due to the pandemic (perhaps due to the halting of elective procedures for a time). All it takes is a phone call, and we will find the equipment from our library list, and transport it to the person who needs it, as it is available. The equipment is stored in the donors' homes, as there is no place large enough to store it.

### **Stephen Ministry 2020**

St. Philip's has 14 trained, active Stephen Ministers. Over the past year we served six care receivers. Two of those caring relationships have ended due to the death of the care receiver, and two have ended through mutual agreement.

When Covid-19 hit, it certainly changed everything, and our ministry was no exception. There could no longer be face-to-face visits and all of our regular Stephen Minister meetings were done by telephone or Zoom. Father Eric asked the Stephen Ministers to become pastoral callers for our parishioners considered high risk for various reasons. We divided the list and began regular calls weekly to over 100 folks for several months. Some are still contacting those on the list although not as frequently. Some have agreed that the calls are no longer necessary.

Another pastoral initiative, Community of Hope International, will begin when the pandemic has made it safe to gather again. It will equip a group of pastoral visitors to call on people in the hospital or who are homebound for various reasons. Several of our Stephen Ministers plan to train for this ministry, and it will be open to others in the congregation as well. More will be announced about the training when we can meet without restrictions. Meanwhile, if you think this ministry may appeal to you, you can check it out at [www.cohinternational.org](http://www.cohinternational.org).

### **Bereavement/Grief Group 2020**

This extremely important ministry is led by Fr. Bill Eberle and assisted by Janet Fox. It is a program for those coping with grief of any kind. Entitled "Walking

Through Grief,” the weeks long program looks at every aspect, and provides participants with ideas and ways to cope with the bereavement process. This year, it went to Zoom, like everything else, but in that way it was open to so many more people, rather than being restricted to on-site meetings. Walking Through Grief has been offered for several years, at least twice a year, and is open to all parishioners as well as those outside the parish.

**Outreach Ministry Board** Ruth D. Smith, Board Chair; Cathie Courtnage, Communicator

Because of the Covid-19 outbreak, our group has not been able to meet as much as we normally would. We did decide to meet quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 and have done so most of the year by Zoom and email.

We have during this year continued with most of our projects. There are reports from some of the chairs included with this report. We get our funding from the church, the Mission Fund, various fund-raising activities and donations. Below are our activities for the year.

- Winter Shelter- Provided motel rooms for 61 nights and meals for homeless families
- American Legion Scholarship- Matched the Stewart family funds for a scholarship to a high school senior-Won by Brayden Williams
- Lit-Bit of Help- Helped with the mailing of supplies to Belize
- Monday Lunch- Supported this group until they had to stop serving in mid-March because of Covid-19
- Contributed \$2340.50 to SOIIF
- Distributed 196 book bags with school supplies through StreetReach
- Distributed over 1000 books to 120 students at Virginia Williamson School for summer reading
- Contributed to a family at Easter
- \$2000- New Hope Clinic
- \$2000- Matthew's Ministry
- \$1000- Hope Harbor
- \$1000- Brunswick Family Assistance
- \$300- Brunswick County for Christian Recovery

- \$2000- Capital Campaign
- \$2000- Brunswick Partnership for Housing

### **Men's Club**

See Parish Life Ministry Board for Men's Club Report

### **Community Lunches**

Lunches were served on Mondays during January and February but were discontinued by the Covid pandemic. Usually 30 -50 lunches were served. There were 6 to 8 volunteers serving. We look forward to the ability to serve once the pandemic is under control.

### **Diaper Ministry**

During the Pandemic the Diaper Ministry "Bundles of Joy" have reduced the amount of diapers they usually distribute. All packaging of diapers has been done by Frank and Maryann Darzano in their home. Diapers have been distributed to two food pantries, SOIICF Panty in Boiling Spring Lakes and the Love Ministries Food Pantry in Bolivia. Diapers were also distributed to Hope Harbor and Samara's Village. The end of the year balance to date is \$1,540.00. The diapers will continue to be distributed following all CDC guidelines until funds are depleted. There will not be reason to ask for future funding to purchase diapers unless the Pandemic is eradicated.

### **Belize Ministry**

Our mission is to deliver school supplies and resources to students and teachers of the Anglican Diocese of Belize, while also assisting in small improvement projects at the local level. We are very pleased to report that this Fall's shipment of school supplies has been sent. This brings a total of approximately 27.5 tons of school and teacher supplies delivered in the past seven years. The global corona virus pandemic impacted Belize greatly. Travel restrictions imposed on Belize caused sever hardship on the majority of the country's tourist/service industry. We have expanded our assistance to partner with Diocese and other churches to purchase food products in bulk for distribution in the areas in which we have served. This has been an ongoing program since the spring and is projected to last through the year.

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

See Parish Life Ministry Board for ECW Report

### **Brunswick Partnership for Housing**

The Brunswick Partnership for Housing has closed on the property at 250 E 11<sup>th</sup> Street and will begin to raise funds for the renovation. This has been a multi-year project and it is so exciting to see it this close to complete.

All other activities have been cancelled at SOIIF due to Covid-19. Hopefully, as the virus situation begins to improve, new plans can be made.

**Parish Life Ministry Board** Linda Humphreys, Board Chair; Tink Shelton, Communicator

The mission of Parish Life Ministry, is to plan, develop and implement activities that enhance, encourage and support the people of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Normally that would include getting together as a community, having events for newcomers, new members and visitors and supporting our parish. But this was not a normal year!

In February, Newcomers 'Ministry discussed the idea of Shepherding. This ministry would begin with the first visit, continue through the membership process and form a lasting bond between Shepherd and newcomer. Plans were made for a Newcomers/New Members Social on March 13<sup>th</sup> and a brunch for the choir on Easter.

In March Fr. Eric gave a very inspiring presentation about "faith communities". The goal of the program is to build trust and community using a framework of prayer, study and fellowship. He has used the program before and found it useful. However, he reminded us there are other models to investigate.

New members were welcomed from ECW, Marty Younts, and from the Men's Club, Paul Miller.

And then COVID arrived. Since then, Parish Life has been like a seed planted and preparing to bloom. The social for March 13<sup>th</sup> and the Choir Brunch were canceled along with almost every other event for the rest of the year.

We've had two email meetings and two Zoom meetings in September and November. Currently we Zoom every other month and communicate by email when needed. However, some work is taking place in the background. Newcomers 'Ministry is working on a "Tele-shepherding" model and the creation of neighborhood groups is still an ongoing project.

ECW had a very successful Fall Festival.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrews has formed. There is great excitement about the new Parish Hall! We are taking small steps during these trying times waiting for our seed to bloom.

I want to thank the Parish Life Board Members for a job well done. Tink Shelton, our Communicator, takes excellent notes during this time of Zoom and communicates well with Lorraine. Barbara Edwards, Ruth Smith, Frazer Crane, Rose Dahill, Joanne Valente, Paul Miller, Marty Younts and Deborah Jordan have been a positive, dynamic force during 2020.

**Ride Sharing Ministry** Barbara Edwards Representative

The Ride Sharing Ministry is one of the newer committees in Parish Life and was approved by the Vestry in the summer of 2019. There are times when members of our congregation could use transportation to a doctor's appointment, physical therapy, a church service or meeting, or just a trip to the store or elsewhere.

Before the corona virus pandemic, we had five or six drivers committed to drive. We anticipate that most rides would be scheduled ahead of time. Drivers would sign up for areas they are willing to cover including Boiling Springs, Leland, Shalotte, Wilmington, and the Southport area. This is a voluntary program and is independent of St Philip's, making the primary insurance coverage that of the volunteer driver (owner of the car). Forms are signed by both driver and rider.

We will try to restart this program when times return to normal if there is still a need for this service.

**Gather Round the Table (Dine In- Dine Out)** Ruth D. Smith Representative

Gather Round the Table, formerly known as Dine In-Dine Out, is an opportunity for members of our Congregation to gather for fellowship and food. Under normal times, an announcement would go out to the Congregation in early fall asking them to sign up to participate in this activity. The names would then be divided up into groups of eight. The first person on the list for the dine in group would select a date that suits the group and plan a dinner. The hostess would do the main dishes and the other members would do the other dishes needed. Each member would take a turn in their own home. For the dine out group, the first member with the help of the other members would select a time for the dining and the hostess would select a restaurant and make reservations for the group. The other members would

do the same in the order their name appears on the list. Members may elect to join both groups if they wish.

This year because of Covid-19 no groups were formed. Hopefully, this activity can be resumed in the future for not only is it lots of fun but also a wonderful way to meet and get to know new members of our Congregation.

### **ECW Annual Report**

Marty Younts Representative

As Episcopal Church Women, we are committed to one another and called to witness for Christ. Our challenge is to provide a safe place where every woman is free to become the person Christ called her to be. We are called. We are different. We are one body.

SPE ECW began 2020 with our monthly Women's Luncheon on February 24 which attracted a lovely and lively crowd to Rusty Hooks Restaurant. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all other luncheons, our Saturday Spiritual Day, our Diocesan Annual Meeting, our Make a Difference Day, and our Christmas Celebration were canceled.

Fortunately, we were able to prepare for and conduct our annual Fall Festival on the first Saturday of October while observing all safety protocols. Even after increased expenses such as renting a large tent, we raised over \$8000 to be used for both in-reach and out-reach.

We look forward to resuming social and educational activities for all of St. Philip's women when it is safe to do so.

**Newcomer/New Member Ministry** Rose Dahill and Joanne Valente Representatives

The Newcomer/ New Member Ministry team has been focused on first time visitors to St. Philips. The goal, as we saw it, was to make a welcoming contact, provide general information about the church and ministries while encouraging visitors to fill out information cards. Teams of greeters have been created, trained and implemented along with a gift bag program. The team met to start further discussions on a program for new members which we labeled Shepherding.

Then Covid. During this extraordinary time, the team will look at a ministry we'll call Tele-Shepherding: phone, Zoom contact with new members to establish relationships and encourage their involvement in the life and ministry at St. Philips according to their interests and gifts. As Father Eric said, "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ".

### **Brotherhood of St. Andrews** Jeff Krantz Representative

The St. Philip's chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was established in March of 2020. We had been meeting without a charter for some months to allow ourselves time to decide if we wanted to organize under the Brotherhood's umbrella. We met on Friday mornings at 9 to share our weeks with one another, to pray for one another, and to engage in some reflection on how we live into our roles as Christian men. The Brotherhood has a set of three disciplines it encourages, Prayer, Study, and Service. I think that all of the Brothers miss our times to share and pray together. Praying alone in the pandemic just isn't the same. We also have committed to reading the Lesson from the Daily Office, and I send out a weekly (almost) reflection on one day's lesson in lieu of our time together. Finally, we have as a group decided not to set our own service goals for the group, but rather to align ourselves with the Men's Club and bolster their efforts. I am sure that I speak for all the Brothers when I say that we look forward to being able to meet again in the wake of the pandemic.

### **Men's Club**

The Men's Club was active in 2020 until we were shut down by Covid in late February and early March. We were able to have a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on 2/25/20. We did some sporadic maintenance work with New Hope Clinic. Other than the above, the Men's Club has been inactive. We look forward to returning to activity. When we start up again, all men of St. Philip's are welcome.

### **Worship Ministry Board** Ricky Evans, Board Chair; Bobbie Fuchs, Communicator

#### Statistics:

Avg Sunday attendance: 8:00- 60 pre-covid 10:30 – 162 pre-covid

Digital services accessed by an average of 200

Avg. Beach Service attendance: N/A

Weddings: 1

Funerals: Interments only during COVID

Worship Ministries at St. Philip's are achieved through the strong support of our dedicated parishioners who volunteer their time and talent. Currently, we have approximately 150 volunteers that assist in the different ministries that the church offers. The ushers, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers and lay readers are there every Sunday to assist with our services, and the Eucharistic Visitors visit those parishioners that are not able to attend Sunday services.

Behind the scenes, the Altar Guild (coordinated by Janet Wester and Kate Singley) prepares the altar and keeps the linens and brass clean, and the Flower Guild (coordinated by Jan Fairley, Julie Harrelson and Debbie Raker), arranges the flowers for each service.

St. Philip's is fortunate to have a very able Choirmaster and Organist, Debbie Skillman, to direct our music program and lead our extremely talented choir. They not only provide music at the 10:30 services, but they support the church throughout the year with all the extra services during Holy Week, Christmas, Evensong, and many other special services.

Acolyte leaders Erinn Hughes and Ricky Evans continue to work with acolytes each Sunday and lead acolyte training sessions.

Deacon Pam Hayes and Janet Wester coordinates a dedicated group of volunteers to provide a weekly service to the residents of Elmcroft Assisted Living facility. The music and spiritual fellowship that is provided is very uplifting to these residents.

The Summer Beach Ministry on Oak Island coordinated by Peter del Sol had to be cancelled this year because of Covid. Hopefully it will return in 2021.

Training classes for Eucharistic ministers, Lay readers, ushers, greeters and Altar Guild members have been held periodically throughout the year.

Our Worship Board with one representative from each ministry meets once a month. All our ministries have had to make adjustments after the first quarter this year. Some activities have been temporarily suspended because of Covid.

Thank you to all that serve and make St. Philip's a special place to worship even in these challenging times.

**Faith Formation Ministry Board** Nan Evans Bush, Board Chair; Deborah Miller, Communicator

Faith Formation's ministries have been restricted but not entirely shut down in 2020. The most active is the labyrinth, which continues to be available around the clock to church members and the public alike, for which we are grateful to Debbie Evans. While the library's physical presence is shut down, Deborah Miller has been working offsite to build the computerized catalog system which will be activated in the new library space. Software such as Zoom has permitted the adult education classes to remain active or semi-available. Sunday School, Bible 101, and yoga will resume when pandemic restrictions lift; in the meantime, Wednesday Bible, and a new New Testament course are continuing on Zoom. We will all rejoice when we can again be together.

