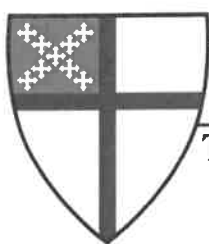
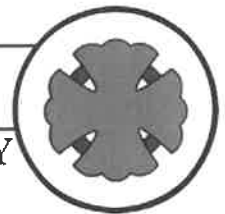


# St. Benedict Annual Meeting Ministry Report



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church  
THE HANDS OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF LACEY



January 21, 2024

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# Meeting Agenda

1. Opening prayer — The Rev. (Dr.) Beth Echols
2. Introduction of Secretary — Gerry Apple
3. State of this Parish, St. Benedict Episcopal Church
4. Introduction of Candidates for Vestry and Alternate Delegates
  - a. Vote and Review timeline
5. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
6. Presentation of Required Reports
  - a. Financials Report – Don LaFord
  - b. Church Building and Grounds – Mindy Chambers
    - i. Projects Planned for 2024
7. Other Business
  - a. Questions - Concerns
8. Closing prayer & blessing – The Rev. (Dr.) Beth Echols

# Proposed Rules of Order for Annual Meeting January 21, 2024

## Article I Membership

### Section 1. Definition

St. Benedict Parish (the "Parish") shall have members as defined in RCW 24.03A.010(45) of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act. A person 16 or older may become a member of the Parish if they have been Baptized and have submitted a written request to become a member to the office. Members moving from one congregation to another must submit a copy of the "Letter of Transfer" they received from the Rector of their originating congregation to the Parish Rector along with the request to become a member.

### Section 2. Voting rights

Each member is entitled to one vote in all matters submitted to the membership for vote. In no case may votes be made by proxy.

### Section 3. Member in Good Standing

Any *member* as defined above shall be considered a Member in Good Standing if such person:

- Is a confirmed communicant of The Episcopal Church
- Attends Communion regularly and has demonstrated active support to the Parish financially.
- Meets any additional conditions or qualifications for service imposed by the Diocese of Olympia.

## Parish Meetings

**The Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Parish for the election for the Vestry members, and lay delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting shall be held at an hour and on a date between January 1 and the last day of February as determined by the Rector and the Vestry, and of which due notice shall be publicly given at Divine Service on the two Sundays immediately prior to said date.

**Quorum.** A quorum shall be the number of participants who have registered attendance by the start of the annual meeting. The actions of the meeting shall be valid as long as 75% of the original registered participants remain by the close of the meeting.

## Voting

Congregation will vote on new Vestry members and alternate Delegates.

Shortly after closing the annual meeting the Vestry will vote on Junior Warden, Treasurer(s) and Vestry Clerk.

**State of St. Benedict Episcopal Church, Lacey WA**  
**(In Accordance with Canon I.6.1)**  
**Rector's Report**

The following is the record of the Sacrament life of St. Benedict Episcopal Parish.  
There were **two Baptisms**,; **no Reaffirmations**; **two burials**, and **eight Committals** in the St. Benedict Columbarium:  
**Eucharist** was celebrated **104** times. There were **six special liturgies** in keeping with the Church calendar.

**St. Benedict Episcopal Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 23, 2023**

The meeting was opened in prayer by Chaplain Beth Echols, Rector, at 10:40 a.m. Forty-three members signed in, and a quorum was present throughout the meeting. Chaplain Beth read the church's April 9, 1980, founding document.

Sr. Warden Tim Madden read the rules for the meeting. Spencer Daniels was appointed clerk for the meeting. Tim thanked the outgoing vestry members for their service: Gretchen O'Connor, Kaye Scott, and Nancy Zabel. Tim announced that Jan Akin and Mike Akin will become the delegates to the diocesan convention.

Vestry Elections: The following were nominated for the three open vestry positions: Mindy Chambers, Kelly Ellis, Larry Frodsham, and Otis Lloyd. After balloting, Mindy, Kelly, and Otis were elected.

Convention Alternate Elections: After balloting, Janet Snow and Julian Snow were elected as alternates to the diocesan convention.

Co-Treasurers: Tim announced the appointment of Don LaFord and Fran Frodsham as Co-treasurers.

Financial Report: Don LaFord reviewed the financial report for 2022 and the budget for 2023. The church finished 2022 in the black by \$5,000. Don explained the role of the diocesan investment fund (DIF) in the 2023 budget. If we otherwise meet expenses, we will not have to take money from the DIF for 2023.

Building and Grounds: Jr. Warden Jan Akin thanked all those who helped her with the building and grounds in the past year. We are now title holders to our property.

Transition Team: Jeff Zahir reviewed the work of the transition team, concluding with the selection of Chaplain Beth as Rector. He also noted the grant from the diocese to create a portal to the side yard.

Senior Warden: Chaplain Beth announced that she requested Tim to remain as Senior Warden. The vestry will elect the Junior Warden.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer W. Daniels, Clerk to the Annual Meeting



Candidate for Vestry  
Bob Beckman

Bob joined St. Benedict in February 2023. Bob likes being of service and joined the Bob and Kathy Team for refreshments and dish pit duty every four weeks. Bob also participated in the grounds clean up and manned the grill at two bar-b-ques this year and worked the dish pit for the Ladies Tea. Bob facilitated the restart of the Men's Group which meets the last Saturday of every month. Bob was baptized Baptist and was confirmed Episcopalian at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walla Walla in February 1985. Bob has been married to the love of his life, Kathy, since 1975. Bob and Kathy have two children, John 56, and Jen 52, two grandchildren Jessica 27 and Riley 23 and one great-grandson, Bryson 7. Bob works full-time from his home in Lacey for the Developmental Disabilities Administration/DSHS/ Washington State as the Acting Waiver Services Unit Manager. Bob has worked for the State of Washington for almost 20 years in Seattle, Kent, and Lacey. Bob and Kathy lived on their 45 foot trawler, Claty, for 16 years and enjoyed exploring the Salish Sea. Our home is now a cottage in Lacey we bought in 2020.



Candidate for Vestry  
Bob Zych

I initially joined Episcopal Church tradition and the Diocese of Chicago in the early 1980's. My wife Susie and I served as Youth Directors at St. Anselm's Church in Park Ridge, IL. In that role, I led two summer youth group canoe trips to the Boundary Waters along the Minnesota-Canadian border. Our two daughters were baptized at St. Anselm's. Susie and I participated in the Ecumenical Cursillo leadership program, and Susie served on the Ecumenical Cursillo Secretariat Committee. We moved from Prospect Heights, IL to Olympia, WA and became members-in-good-standing of St. Benedict's beginning in 1988. Our daughters were confirmed here at St. Benedict's by our close friend Bishop Charles Burgreen. Both girls were active in the Episcopal Youth ministry. Susie served on the Bishop's Committee, as well as Junior Warden and Senior Warden. Our family has a long, active history with St. Benedict's. Over those 35+ years here in Olympia, I previously served in different roles at St. Benedict's, including Diocesan representative, Bishop's Committee Member, and Lay Eucharistic Minister. We generally attend the 8:00 am service. I trained as a Spiritual Director at St. Placid Priory in Lacey. I retired from a 42-year computer technology professional career in 2014. Since retiring, I served as technical advisor on two local non-profit organizations; as Board Member for the Presbyterian Sound View Camp and Retreat Center, and the Thurston County Long Lake Management District Steering Committee. I look forward to turning my attention again to serving with the St. Benedict's vestry.



Candidate for Vestry  
Nancy Zabel

Nancy Zabel is an original member of St. Benedict. She has been on the vestry several times and is currently the Sacristan.

## **Vestry Report**

**Presented by 2023 Sr. Warden  
Tim Madden**

2023 was a good year for Saint Benedict Vestry and I want to recognize and thank the Vestry members, Mindy Chambers, Junior Warden; Jan Akin, Gerry Apple; Mark Caldwell; Kelly Ellis; Karen Fraser; Norman Gregory; Otis Llyod; Karen Knudson; and Jeff Zahir.

- A few of the accomplishments of Saint Benedict the Vestry was involved with:
- Approved the Financial Policy
- The \$20,000 grant was approved from the Diocese
- Cleaned out the storage areas, making room for things that we want to keep.
- Continued working on updating the directory.
- Removed trees that were dead and or infected
- A plaque with the names of those in the columbarium
- And a new HVAC
- Coordinate volunteers to help keep the building and grounds looking good
- Many more things not listed

The Vestry meetings were held monthly on the second Thursday of the Month at 5:30 pm. The Vestry has put in long hours to keep Saint Benedict on track and moving forward, I applaud them and thank them for all their support for me and the church. It is a good group to be with.

### **Acolyte Ministry**

In 2023, the Acolyte Ministry continues to operate with a small but solid core of capable youth who constantly proved their value as members of the St. Benedicts worship team.

The 0800 service currently has no acolyte support.

The 1030 service the acolyte team consists of Kyle Brown, Arianna, Zyllah and Serenity Borja. This team of acolytes exhibits a high level of dedicated expertise and continues to prove itself to be a valuable resource to the parish.

The two components essential to the success of the Acolyte Ministry is the willingness of the youth of our parish to participate, and the dedicated backing and encouragement of these youth by their parents and grandparents, and I thank them for their efforts.



While acolyte duties are traditionally a role filled by young people it is not a position exclusively reserved to them, any individual who so desires can volunteer. Anyone who would like more information or wishes to participate in this ministry should contact myself or Chaplain Beth Echols.  
Paul R. Conroy, Advisor

## **Adult Education**

The year 2023 saw two forms of Adult Education. The first was held in between services and covered a range of topics from Letters to Malcolm to the hands-on-workshop making of Anglican Rosaries. The most popular seemed to be working together to create rosaries.

The year also saw a return to the popular Lenten Soup Suppers which included a variety of social service agencies that joined the Congregation to learn about ways to support the broader Lacey community.

2024 will see the return of the Lenten Suppers as well as a variety of Adult Education Opportunities.

- Reverend Doctor Beth Echols

## **Altar Guild**

The purposes of Altar Guild are: To care for the altar and its furnishings and linens, and to prepare it for each service; To care for the sanctuary of the church; To perform any other necessary duties to prepare the sanctuary and chancel for worship.

This last year we updated the plaques for our columbarium and purchased speciality fabric to make lectern hangings. We've stayed on budget as most of our costs are reordering of candles and wine every few months.

My team of 9 has helped clean out and organize the sacristy and helped make the work we do more streamlined. We are all busy people, but we make it work and enjoy our time together.

The flower sign up is new this year and we've loved having so many people sign up.

If you would like to be part of this special team, please contact me.

- Nancy Zabel

## **Benedictions**

The St. Benedict communications team uses the online email service "MailChimp" for distributing our weekly newsletter "Benedictions" and the weekly Prayer Cycle. People may sign up to receive these publications on our website or by asking the Office Administrator to sign them up.

In a survey from May of 2021 the overwhelming response of the congregation was to keep doing what we have been doing regardless of whether COVID isolation remained a factor or not. Although the Benedictions has gone through four authors and has added more "regular" features such as messages from the Rector and "upcoming events" it has respected the sentiment captured in that survey.

In December 2023 we had 182 subscribers to the Benediction and Prayer Cycle

The Benediction is published late morning on Friday in order to give people more time to adjust schedules for events and meetings announced in the newsletter.

The Prayer Cycle is published each Saturday for the same mailing list as the Benedictions. Although its readership is roughly 20% less than the Benedictions, its readership is consistent.

## **Building and Grounds**

Just how do buildings and grounds fit into our Vestry goals of sacramental education, stewardship and evangelism.

Read on!

Our new heating and air conditioning system is more efficient than the one it replaced, and doesn't leak dangerous chemicals into the air. Many thanks to Don Laford, the HVAC project manager and Norman Gregory (junior warden from January through July), for leading us through the initial phases of the project and now, through the tricky temperature regulation phase.

We have a new mason bee house that will bring great pollinators to our plants and bird feeders (thank you Andrew) to nourish our native jays, towhees, juncos and others.

Our fall work party was a great success! We weeded and pruned and generally tidied the grounds, and spread the woodchips left when we removed two western hemlock trees that were dead or dying. This is how we honored the trees' long years of faithful service to our community.

The cleanup of the Sunday School room is complete, allowing us to offer a new Children's Chapel program and to offer it as a meeting space for community groups. Thanks to all, especially Sharon and Jim Lochner, who assisted with the project.

We made some more repairs to our aging roof to stop leaks. Most of the previous repairs seem to have held, and we're praying these new repairs will hold.

Some repairs were made to our columbarium and the memorial garden that surrounds it has been spruced up. The area is popular place of meditation for parishioners and our neighbors. It's often full of flowers left in memoriam of loved ones.

Thanks to all of you who pitched in to accomplish minor maintenance projects that keep us ship-shape. And, much is on the horizon for 2024. The vestry will meet soon to prioritize projects for this year.

Junior Warden, Mindy Chambers

## **Children's Chapel**

The Junior Warden led the effort to restore the children's space in the Sunday School Room to usefulness. The room that had become the parish catch-all room was made inhabitable again and by Advent the children had a place to call home.

Teachers were recruited for each Sunday. Children gathered with the community at 10:30 am and processed following the cross to the Sunday School Room for about 20 minutes to learn the Good News in Christ.

We were also awarded a grant from the Diocese of Olympia to purchase a curriculum. Children's Chapel will return the first Sunday of February with a full cadre of enthusiastic teachers.

Reverend Doctor Beth Echols

## **Communications Team**

Rev. Beth Echols, Jeff Zahir, Nancy Zabel, Dennis Powell, Mindy Chambers, Terryl Graham, Mike Akin and Andrea Weston-Smart

See: **Benedictions, Facebook, Videos and Web Page**

## Creation Care Ministry

### St. Benedict Episcopal Church Creation Care Ministry Vision Statement:

In fulfilling our baptismal covenant to loving God and our neighbors as ourselves, the St. Benedict Episcopal Church Earth Ministry supports our congregation and community in cherishing the wondrous works of God, and works to protect and restore the beauty, equity and integrity of all of God's sacred creation.

### St. Benedict Episcopal Church Creation Care Ministry Mission Statement:

As eco-stewards of our vast and precious natural resources, the St. Benedict Episcopal Church Earth Ministry works with our congregation and the whole of our community to understand, protect, preserve, conserve and nurture God's creation, serving one another with the gifts each of us has received, and when we are unable to act, prayerfully consider the big and small consequences of our actions on ourselves, each other, and on this fragile earth, our island home.

What a busy and productive year for our Earth Ministry (recently re-named Creation Care Ministry) team!

From releasing butterflies into the wild, to installing new homes for super-pollinator mason bees to using chips from our two downed Western Hemlocks to spruce up our grounds, to leading members of the congregation on a tour of our vast boundaries, we were involved in many aspects of church and Parish life.

One of our efforts – the Beating of the Bounds – got national attention. The “beating” involved swatting various landmarks with branches to help people come to a shared mental map of our property's boundaries.

We also celebrated the Season of Creation in our liturgy and by offering educational resources.

The season is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation.

The Creation Care Ministry has a webpage, [www.stbenedictlacey.org/earth-ministry](http://www.stbenedictlacey.org/earth-ministry). It says what is obvious to many: “The natural beauty of our parish (the neighborhood in which we are situated) cannot be overstated ... It is a part of our identity that can be an endless source of inspiration and metaphor for our faith ...”

In 2023, a small team work began in earnest, with the help of an agrarian minister, Brian Sellers-Petersen, to examine our role in caring for and preserving the wonderful gifts of God that are all around us. If you wish to join the team working on this, please contact Jeff Zahir or Mindy Chambers through the church email address: [sbechurch@gmail.com](mailto:sbechurch@gmail.com)

This year, we will continue to examine our relationship to the watershed – Woodland Creek – that hosts our building, grounds and activities – and ways we can help sustain it now and in the future.

We are examining ways we can be better recyclers, re-users and waste-reducers, at St. Benedict, in our community and at home.

We'll continue to promote our activities on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/benedictlacey>.

All are welcome to join in this ministry!

Jeff Zahir and Mindy Chambers

## **Directory Update:**

We have been working on the membership directory for a long time, and we are nearing publication. Our changes in office administration have delayed finalization. In addition, gathering your updated contact info and photos has been slow. If you have not contacted the office with any updates, please do so as soon as possible. As of December 2023 we have a Directory available upon request. This directory is missing some photos and is constantly in a state of fluid updating. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please let Terryl know. We would love to have your input as to necessary updates.

## **Facebook**

Some fast facts about our Facebook page:

313 page likes/followers

- 33 percent identify as male
- 67 percent identify as female
- Geographical demographics
  - 66 live in Olympia
  - 41 in Lacey
  - 8 each in Seattle, Tacoma and Tumwater
  - 6 in Lakewood
  - Others from various U.S. locations
  - 12 in the Philippines
  - Others from countries ranging from Canada to Mexico to Ghana to Liberia

Posts with most engagements (likes, shares, comments)

- Information on Earth Ministry activities
- Photos of St. Benedict events
- Requests for assistance, such as Christmas stockings, Easter baskets, food bank donations

## **Food Bank**

The year 2023 saw a generous response from our community to the Thurston County Food bank program. There were numerous occasions where the little red wagon was overflowing with both food and reusable shopping bags. Deliveries to the Food Bank have always been received with gratitude and a few “wows” thrown in when I show up with reusable paper and plastic shopping bags.

Please know that “every little bit helps” applies here. Non-perishable food items are the general rule; travel size cosmetics, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc., are also welcome.

Generally, I empty the red wagon following the 10:30 service on Sundays and deliver the items on Monday to the Food Bank. My thanks and appreciation to folks in our community who covered deliveries while I was unable to do so throughout the year; you are truly a blessing.

The focus really goes to all of you; your generosity is making a difference for so many others in our county. Thank you!

Mike Akin

## Hospitality Guild

The Hospitality Guilds of St. Benedict have a true calling

**G**-Greeting new and seasoned members to worship together.

**U**-Understanding the need, that all come to be fed, spiritually and physically at the table of God.

**I**-Investing time and care into our fellow members.

**L**-Looking for opportunities to show our compassion for one another.

**D**-Diving in with a helping hand to provide food, friendship and fun in all aspects of our Sunday services.

**S**-Serving this community by greeting, ushering and feeding, so that all know they are welcome.

Thank you to all who have volunteered for this ministry in the past. Your contributions have made a difference to many.

If you would like to be included in these especially giving groups, please contact me at [timandcaroline@comcast.net](mailto:timandcaroline@comcast.net) or telephone to 360-490-4965 and I will place you on a team of fellow parishioners.

## Remembering some of the great social events in 2023

1/6 Epiphany Potluck

2/2 Evensong celebration

2/21 Shrove Tuesday pancake feed

3/1-3/29 Weekly Lenten Soup Suppers with speakers

3/26 Easter basket Blessing

4/9 Easter Egg Hunt

5/5 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and game night

5/14 Special Mother's Day Recognition

6/18 Father's Day Cookout with Brian Peter-Selers

8/5 Ladies High Tea

8/20 St. Benedict's BBQ

9/23 Work Party Lunch

10/28 Halloween Potluck

11/23 Thanksgiving Dinner

12/17 Christmas stocking Blessing

12/24 Christmas Eve Reception

Blessings,

Caroline Madden

## Library

It has been a busy year for your church librarian. 24 new titles have been added to our library and we have received quite a few donations during the past year. Many of those donations are still awaiting processing, so look for a bunch of new books soon. To find out about what's new in the library, check out the top shelf of the dark red library cart in the library.

I am an active member of PNAACL (Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries) and continue to write book reviews for their Quarterly Newsletter. And any books that I review I can keep and add to our church library at no charge.

Plans for next year are to catch up the processing of new books, add more new materials and continue writing reviews.

A major purpose of our St. Benedict's church library is to make it easier to share resources within our church community. If anyone has resources you would like to share, please don't hesitate to contact me.

A special thank you to all who have made contributions over this past year.

Anne Metzler

### **Lions Eye Glass Recycling:**

First, I would also like to thank all who participated In the Lacey Sunrise Lions coffee fundraiser. Contributions from St Benedicts in 2023 totaled \$280.00, with 100% of the money going to programs in Lacey and Thurston County. --For more information about the Lacey Sunrise Lions check out our website at: <<https://laceysunriselions.org/>>

Second, this past year St Benedict's parishioners contributed 58 pair of eyeglasses, as well as several batteries for hearing aids.to the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC). We also are also a point of contact to recycle and refurbish surplus cell phones for use by the battered women's shelter.

--In Lacey the Sunrise Lions make available reader glasses by stocking frames in the Lacey branch of the Timberland Regional Library (TRL) as well as the Lacey Senior Center.

--In Greater Thurston County, the Lions partner with the Union Gospel Mission for distribution of recycled eye ware to the homeless and other less fortunate members of our community.

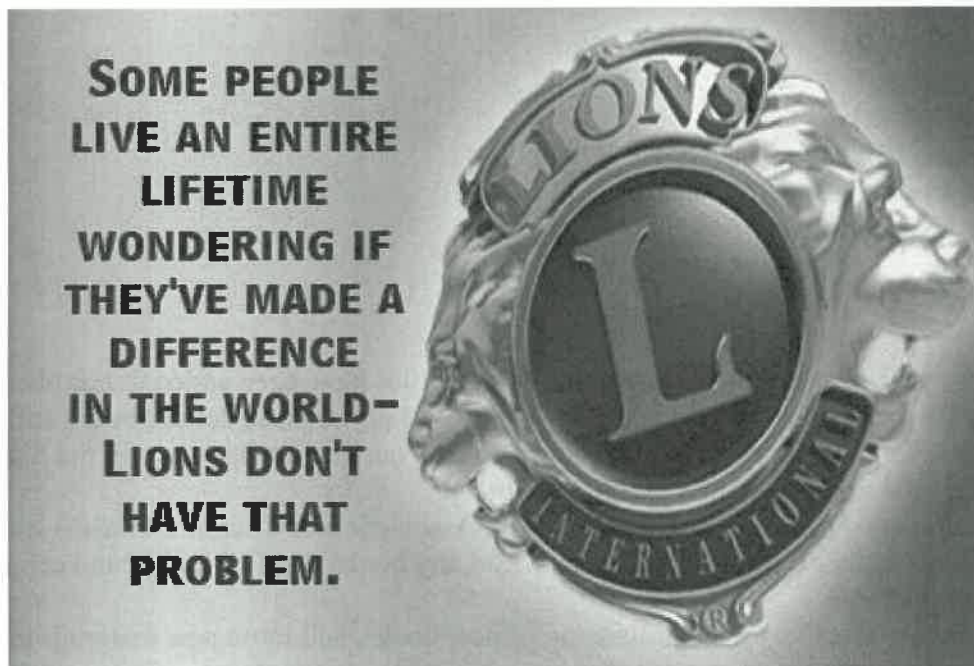
--Internationally the LERC provides eyeglasses for missions to Central and South America as well as sub-Sahara Africa.

For more information about the LERC visit their website. <Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.org>

As with any service organization, the LERC is staffed completely with volunteers, (over half are not even members of the Lions), and there never seem to be enough people to keep up with the workload. Anyone who would like a tour of the facility or otherwise has aspirations to help in our endeavors contact me.

Thank you for your efforts and please continue to recycle your old prescription glasses.

Paul R. Conroy





## Music Ministry

Music is an important part of worship in the Episcopal church (specifically, St. Benedict) as it has an important role in assisting in the worship process through the written message provided in the music as well as the emotions and expressions that are brought through the aural aspect of music.

I started as Music Director and pianist of the music program at St. Benedicts on June 18, 2023. When I arrived the choir was a drop-in choir. People would come on Sunday morning to practice for about 30 minutes prior to the church service. David was very gracious and gave me tips on music matters such as music the congregation is familiar with, etc.

I have felt warmly welcomed by so many people and I have enjoyed and appreciated the choir's hard work. Members of the choir have a strong desire to grow and they LOVE to sing harmony adding more richness to the music we sing. With that in mind we still focus on encouraging the congregation to sing. In summary, the following is a review of the Music Program for 2023

### June/July

- \*Besides getting a setback when I contracted COVID in early July this was a time spent getting to know each other. I spent time getting to know the choir and the congregation by observing, talking with members, planning music, receiving feedback, understanding its history and providing piano music.

August We continued to get to know each other.

### September

- \*Music Department/Church purchased a OneLicense annual license
  - Includes coverage of our website postings as well as printing out music from sources other than the Gather and the Hymnal 1982.
  - OneLicense has allowed more flexibility with music choices and to share our services to people on the internet while respecting the rights and livelihoods of those who write the music we use.
- \*The choir began mid-week rehearsals.
  - This is strengthening our cohesiveness and the amount of music we can prepare allowing us to bring more music to the worship service.
- \*Music focused on Creation as that was the focus for the church this month.

### October

- \*As we wrapped up the 5 week focus on Creation we also provided a lot of Spanish music at the first service of the month in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. This was well received.
- \*We started a hymn of the month that we would sing every week to increase familiarity and ease of singing.
- \*We added the Doxology as the gifts are brought forward.

### November

- \*Dave and Lisa led the music on All Saints Sunday
- \*At choir rehearsals the choir continued working on a Christmas Anthem for Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Advent Lessons and Carols, and learning to sing Psalms to Anglican Chant, in addition to preparing for Sunday morning service.

### December

- \*It came to our attention that a pipe organ was looking for a new home so I went to visit it with other members of the church. It is a nice organ and very fitting for our church. There is no cost to us except the costs involved to move it.
- \*The Church choir presented Advent Lessons and Carols on the last morning of Advent (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>) and included several different instruments in addition to voices.
- \*The Church choir presented "Mary Did You Know" as an Anthem at the Christmas Eve service in addition to leading Christmas carols and music throughout the service.

Karen Monroe, Maestra

## Office

Terryl has just completed her first year as Office Administrator. In that position she is currently running 80 copies of the weekly bulletin, purchasing pre-printed lessons which we use for most Sunday services, creating bulletin inserts and assembling the weekly bulletin packet.

Usual duties include monitoring and responding to telephone and email communications, creation of weekly Benedictions and Prayer Cycle e-newsletters, preparation of vestry meeting, annual meeting, parochial report documentation, pick up and distribute mail, greet and assist visitors to the church..

Projects on which Terryl is currently working include

- Going through historical documents and creating folders on each parishioner
- Creating notebooks of outside contracts, official church documentation and SBEC policies
- Updating electronic directory
- Updating key log – we have a lot of keys out but do not know who has them! If you have keys to any area of the church, please let Terryl know
- Updating the calendar for the website and the calendar on the bulletin board.
- Improved organization of Admin office filing system, with the help of Mindy Chambers
- Would like to eventually go through and organize the filing storage room

## Social Justice

### More than Tithing

Tithing is a reminder that God is the supplier of everything we have. It is also God's personal invitation to an outpouring of His blessing in our personal and religious life. The SBC budget for those items considered outreach and social justice exceeds 10% of the church's resources. This will provide for the healthy development and safety of children, youth and families and also work which eases the burden of homelessness, hunger, abuse, poverty. SBC's commitments lift up those organizations which do the work every day. Through this ministry we seek to better understand the wider lens of the challenges which vulnerable populations experience.

In 2023, your individual stewardship contributions made it possible for SBC to reach out to the following organizations:

Interfaith Works. Since 1974, this coalition of local faith communities has worked to celebrate and honor the undeniable human dignity of all in our community. IW manages our area's homeless and shelter programs. Contributions have been for on-going support of emergency shelter services. IW is working to provide more long term solutions to the housing needs through capital projects, such as Unity Commons\*, which now provides 58 shelter beds and community kitchen as well as some medical respite beds for those homeless being released from hospitals. Sergio's, which opened in 2023 offers both a day shelter as well as overnight emergency weather shelter, for which SBC donates hot drinks, beverages and snacks. SBC is also a member of IW's Program Council, where we are part of interfaith celebration and activism, such as an annual "Moments of Blessing" and "Resetting Our Sacred Table." The latter being part of IW's work to increase our understanding of local tribal communities. \*See connection with Meals for Many. <https://Interfaith-works.org>



Sacred Heart Men's Shelter Ministry: Another provider of shelter services is through Sacred Heart Catholic Church for men's overnight shelter. Consistently supported by SBC and in the past some SBC members have volunteered to serve as hosts at the overnight shelter or provided food at Hallen Hall.

Olympia Union Gospel Mission- It is not an overstatement to say that the OUGM works to change lives of those who are poor, homeless and frequently shunned. They describe their work as changing society one person at a time by providing meals, hygiene, clothing, vision and dental services and a place where they can feel safe and loved. <https://OUGM.org>

Homes First – Creates and maintains safe, healthy, and affordable rental homes for those who need them most. Homes First in essence becomes the landlord and assists these new residents with obtaining and maintaining their residence. Exciting empowering transition to a home they can call their own. <https://Homesfirst.org>

Thurston County Food Bank & Hunger Walk- Historically known as Crop Walk, funds raised are shared with Thurston Co Food Bank and The Community Kitchen. Both address food scarcity for those who are homeless, seniors and others who are not able to provide sufficiently for their families. In 2023 one in five people received services from the Food Bank. Donations such as ours allowed for the distribution of 5.5 million pounds of food! <https://tcfb.org>

Family Support Center of South Sound – This is an important umbrella organization which oversees comprehensive case management for homeless families, more specifically Pear Blossom Place. PBP is a critical link in the shelter network, being the only family shelter in the area. Families are extraordinarily vulnerable within the homeless population. SBC provides financial assistance and also several times a month, material goods. <https://fscss.org>

Community Youth Services –Provides an extensive continuum of programs for homeless youth, ages 9-20's, including intervention services, short term crises residence, foster care, transitional housing, day center, GED prep, skill building around parenting and more. <https://communityyouthservices.org>

TOGETHER! – Decades of youth development, particularly working with the schools in a broad range of programs promoting personal safety, decision making, connecting to housing, and all things advancing health and wellbeing of young people. <https://Thurstontogether.org>

Pizza Klatch- Support group for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies, normally held in participating high and middle schools during lunchtime. 300-400+ youth attend PK groups each week for support from their peers and trained facilitators. PK provides immensely important safe spaces to explore personal issues, learn tools for communication and increase capacity for personal safety. <https://Pizzaklatch.org>

Faith Action Network is a statewide, multi-faith partnership striving for just compassionate and sustainable communities through advocacy and public action. Now over 160 faith communities partner for public good. Economic justice, equity in health systems for the poor and other policy issues relating to vulnerable communities are the core of their work. <https://Fanwa.org>

GRuB – Garden Raised Bounty (GruB’s) mission is to grow healthy food, people and community. Drawing strength from a connection to the land they create gardens, learn bee keeping, and generally create opportunities for youth, active-duty service members and their families, veterans, and the community around food sustainability. <https://Goodgrub.org>

Monarch Children’s Justice and Advocacy Center – As substance abuse, food and housing scarcity, and stress around COVID have increased, these stressors frequently play out horrifically within the family unit. Monarch works on prevention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of what results from child abuse and neglect. Responding to a fund raiser which was to “Buy a brick,” SBC paid for a brick to say- “ Believe the children.”  
<https://Monarchcjac.org>

AIDNW- Provides services to immigrants from many countries as they leave the NW Detention Center. Resources assist them with connecting with family members wherever they may be across the U.S. Arranging for temporary lodging, transportation, phone costs and some emergency assistance for food and clothing. Small increments of money making critical family connections! <https://Aidnw.org>

NW Immigrant Justice Project NWIRP strives for justice and equity for all persons, regardless of where they were born. It promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy and community education. There is a deep belief that for society to be just and whole, we much work together to undo systemic oppression in its many forms.  
<https://www.nwirp.org>

Nisqually Education Outreach - This work bridges Outreach and Earth Ministry. Here students participate in learning projects which protect and enhance water quality and salmon habitat of the Nisqually River watershed. It works in conjunction with the Nisqually tribe. Studies strongly suggest that mental health issues, childhood obesity, attention disorder and even on-line bullying can be linked to limited access to the outdoors. <https://nrep.nisquallyriver.org>

Chaplains Assoc. For Public Safety – Thurston Co New to our pool of outreach organizations is CAP-TC , which represents an association of Chaplains who have the desire, ability, and availability to serve the community to provide crisis support services to first responders and their families, as well as the individuals directly impacted by 911 incident calls. 25/7.  
<https://Caps-tc.org>

#### Chaplains on the Harbor

Chaplains on the Harbor (Chaplains) is a ministry of presence in Grays Harbor County as part of the Diocese of Olympia. In that area, nearly 50% of the population is poor and unemployment rates are about 50% higher than that of the State of Washington.

Chaplains work is grounded in projects of survival and dignity, which meet immediate needs of the poor and afflicted in several locations throughout the county. It does this by:

Providing meals six days a week at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Aberdeen;

Operating a Community Center and Church in Westport where meals and showers are provided 4 days a week and by providing an overnight shelter from November 1 – March 31 each winter; Providing street outreach services in several locations throughout the county and by visiting people incarcerated at the county jail; and Operating Harbor Roots Farm in Montesano, where each growing season community participants grow food that is sold to groups and individuals in Aberdeen, Montesano and Olympia, with the proceeds being re-invested in Chaplains projects. For more information contact Collie Liska, [cliska@comcast.net](mailto:cliska@comcast.net)

Being an informed faith community:

Please check the regular postings on the SBC website, the Social Justice link. There information is shared on broad range of social justice topics and events happening in Thurston County. Social Justice and Outreach Ministry - Kathy Baros Friedt [kbriedt@comcast.net](mailto:kbriedt@comcast.net) 360-259-3864 (cell)

### **Sunday Morning Childcare:**

Each Sunday the Nursery/play area is open and staffed by talented caregivers who have been instructed in the required Diocesan child safety program and acquired background check verifications. Led by Susan Upton, our talented staff members arrive by 10:15am and remain available until noon.

### **Technology Support**

This cost center offers technology support to the following:

- Non-Profit users of St. Benedict Facilities including weddings and funerals
- St. Benedict Rector, Administration, and Treasurer (the military acronym is BRAT) offices
- Vestry
- Communications Ministry
- Liturgy Ministry
- Buildings and grounds Ministry.

The technology budget follows a 5-year plan adopted by the Vestry in 2021 and updated annually. Activities this year included:

- Continued support from Olympia Computers
- New remote microphone for Rector
- Borescope for building inspections
- Upgrade of Admin. computer
- Purchase and installation of new server

Due diligence of all activities resulted in significant cost savings by negotiating a reduced cost for our contract with Olympia Computers and reduced software costs through use of the Church's 501(c)3 status.

\$1,500 has been allocated in the 2024 budget for technology purchases and \$6,200 for the annual support and maintenance contract with Olympia Computers.

In accordance with the 5-year plan, the major push for technology improvements in 2024 will be improvements to the sound system in the Nave.

Jeff Zahir

## **Teller**

Your St. Benedict tellers provide an important role in the overall financial teamwork for the congregation. Every week the tellers handle the incoming funds by tabulating, documenting and depositing the money that comes to the church. We work in coordination with the recording clerk and with the leadership of Martha Liska, the head teller.

In 2023 we added one new person to the tellering crew. New tellers are paired with an experienced teller. We now have four teller teams including Martha. Thank you to the tellers, Collie, Lucy, Dennis, Vickie, Jody, Mary and Jim. The congregation can always count on you.

In 2024 we will continue to faithfully do our work. We welcome anyone interested in joining this essential parish ministry.

Head Teller, Martha Lisk

## **Treasurer**

### **2023 Key Activities**

Pay Bills, Salaries and deposit donation and other income  
Reconcile monthly Twin Star Credit Union reports & Church Windows (by Collie)  
Prepare Draft 2024 and 2025 Budget for Vestry approval  
Monitor expenditures & Income against budget, and report to Vestry  
Produce and post charts of key financial metrics monthly  
Monitor and report on Diocesan Investment Funds (DIF) monthly  
Provide funding for and pay for the new HVAC System  
Determine and process Federal Employment Taxes and WA State Insurances

### Liquid Assets Dec 31, 2023

Twin Star Credit Union Checking, Savings & CD Accounts \$111,500

Vicars Discretionary Fund \$1,920

Diocesan Investment Fund Total (DIF) \$ 455,248.

### Planned for 2024

Implement the SBEC Financial Policy as approved by Vestry  
Participate in and report to the Vestry at meetings.  
Monitor expenses related to the approved budget and take appropriate action

<b>Income description</b>	<b>\$ 2,024</b>	<b>\$ 2,025</b>	<b>notes:</b>
General Fund Pledges	\$ 170,000	\$ 178,500	
General Fund givers - non pledge	\$ 35,000	\$ 36,750	
Plate Offerings	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,300	
Special fund raising Offerings	\$ 100	\$ 105	
<b>sub total- pledges and plate offerings</b>	<b>\$ 211,100</b>	<b>\$ 221,655</b>	
Other income: Room use and specific project donations	\$ 9,260	\$ 9,723	
Congregational Development Grant carry over	\$ 20,000	\$ -	none 2025
2023 estimated carry over	\$ -		
Withdraw from General DIF to Balance	\$ 27,011	\$ 30,450	
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>\$ 267,371</b>	<b>\$ 261,828</b>	
<b>Expense Description</b>			
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 18,000	\$ 21,000	
Outreach	\$ 23,574	\$ 24,752	
Payroll & Benefits	\$ 117,527	\$ 123,403	
Church Programs	\$ 8,200	\$ 8,600	
Office Expense	\$ 15,745	\$ 16,532	
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 56,375	\$ 59,194	
Congregational Development Grant expense	\$ 20,000		none 2025
Misc. Expense	\$ 7,950	\$ 8,348	
<b>Total Estimated Expense</b>	<b>\$ 267,371</b>	<b>\$ 261,828</b>	

## Time and Talent Stewardship

Have you volunteered at St. Benedict's this past year? In what ways?

Please indicate below. If you see something missing, please add it in.

### **Worship**

People serving  
Acolytes & leader  
LEM/Readers  
Altar Guild

Music (Choir)

Ushers

Healing Service

### **Education:**

Adult

Nursery extras

Sunday School

Library

Book Club Coordination

Earth Ministry

### **Outreach**

Food Bank collection

Lions Eyeglasses

Shower Bus

House

Meals for Many

Representing ST. B at meetings

### **Hospitality**

Receptions for weddings, funerals, baptisms

**Organizing/Hosting** Parish Social Events such as:

Advent wreath making; Christmas play, Christmas Stockings,

Christmas Eve Reception, Epiphany Party, Annual Meeting,

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Lenten Soup Suppers, Secret Saints,

Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Baskets, Pentecost feast, Cinco de Mayo,

Butterfly project, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduate recognition,

Summer picnic/BBQ, Ladies Tea, Game/Movie night,

School Supply Drive, Recognitions

### **Other**

Vestry

Treasurer

Secretary

Finance

Tellers/Reconciliation

Diocesan business

Facility Maintenance & Improvement

Gardening/Trim/Weed/Plant

Rogation Sunday

Clean up

Polish for Easter

Building Committee

Communications:

Technology

Benedictions

WebPage

Facebook

Directory (Pics)

Videotaping

Specialty

Columbarium

ie: Transition

Christmas Faire