

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT • MARCH 5, 2023 • GARRISON, NY

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Report of the Nominating Committee

- Presentation of the Slate
- Appointment of Secretary and Ballot Counters

LUNCH

Rector's Report

The Rev. Amanda Eiman

Vestry Report

Sarah Bayne,
Senior Warden
Will Felder, Junior Warden

Nursery School Report

Betsy Alberty, Director

Financial Report

Gabe Salas, Treasurer

Results of the Parish Election

Recognition of Service to St. Philip's

Commissioning of New Vestry Members

Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Rev. Amanda Eiman

Dear St. Philip's Family,

God's blessings to you! I am joyful and grateful that we have shared another meaningful year of worship and ministry together at St. Philip's Church. I continue to be profoundly blessed to be your rector and I do not take for granted the trust and grace you have in me and give to me. Thank you.

This past year has brought blessings and challenges, but God is faithful and has been with us through all of them. We began the year navigating the continued challenges of living with COVID, and thus our in-person gatherings were stifled once again. Our in-person ministry was masked and limited, but as we moved into the spring and summer, we were able to enjoy the fullness of Holy Week, Easter, and the season after Pentecost.

We now have moved into what many are calling the "post-COVID" time as much of the major threat from the virus is behind us. But our daily lives over the last three years (the entirety of the time that you and I have been together) have been transformed. In the case of churches, it has often transformed us into new worshipping communities. Churches are not the same as they were pre-COVID. St. Philip's is not the same, and our individual lives are not either.

Live-streamed worship is now part of our common worship. Many of us have joined worship on Zoom or YouTube, and when once it seemed odd to be preaching to a camera, or have a camera present at our worship, the camera is now a staple on Sunday mornings. On days where we take a break from the livestream, it may feel odd – because our online "congregants" (maybe that is you!) are absent. Our online presence has increased and been a blessing.

Other post-COVID developments and changes have led to several members of our parish being licensed to lead worship on a regular basis on Wednesday evenings. We have sponsored a postulant for holy orders, and we enjoyed a wonderful organ dedication concert in October that was postponed from March 2020.

We also have welcomed several new families, couples, and individuals into our church family this past year, and their presence has blessed us. We participated in the Sacred Spaces tour this summer and as a part of that event we welcomed visitors into our church and graveyard for tours and information sessions. For the second year in a row, we offered a week of Vacation Church Camp in August. We continue to build relationships with our ecumenical neighbors, as for the second year in a row we participated in an Advent evensong series with our Roman Catholic and Episcopal brothers and sisters.

God's presence and grace is tangible in the St. Philip's community. We are a vibrant, loving, and growing community, and as one congregant recently shared, "I feel like I am receiving a hug every time I walk into this church." Thank you for all that you do to make this place a warm, spirited, holy, and life-giving community. And may God continue to bless you, and us, as we grow in God in Jesus Christ together.

Grace and Peace,

Amanda+



Photo: Daniel Bentley

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

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WARDENS' REPORT

St. Philip's in the Highlands closed out 2022 with strength and with confidence for the future — in our growing membership, our financial security, and our purposeful ministry.

We continued a period of transition as our parish emerged from the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and after the installation of a new Rector. Pandemic related restrictions like masking and limited contact have finally abated and we are able to meet in person for worship, fellowship, and outreach. Meetings previously held only on Zoom are now in person and services are attended mostly maskless where we greet each other during the Peace. Coffee hour fellowship resumed as a cherished element of weekly parish life.



Photo: Ross Corsair

Acolytes lead the procession for the 10 am Sunday morning service.

The energy around our youth ministry has been a remarkable addition to the church. Our children's chapel, an all-volunteer endeavor with over a dozen children of varying ages in regular attendance, has matured into an organized introduction of youth into the Christian tradition and a spiritual life. The establishment of a children's choir, now led by Stacy Labriola and open to youth in the wider community, rehearses on Friday afternoon and shares their music monthly at the 10 am service. These two initiatives, building upon a long tradition of youth ministry at St. Philip's, have flourished and will continue to be a priority for the church's leadership in the years to come.

We were able to dedicate our Schoenstein organ this fall in an organ dedication concert. The dedication, originally planned for March of 2020 and postponed due to Covid, honored all those who gave of their time and treasure to restore the church, install the organ, and make this remarkable gift to the church possible. A program with articles from the builder, Jack Bethards, long-time organist Woody Entrekin, and Jan Anderson, for the restoration committee, was published along with recognition of all donors. A special plaque honoring donor Patricia Cloherty and her friend Marian Osborn, is now installed next to the organ. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our buildings and grounds committee, the organ is well looked-after, and we plan to host several events in the

coming year to take advantage of our good fortune to have such a resource.

Our primary responsibility as a vestry is to manage our church's physical and monetary resources. Our major focus this past year has been to prudently balance rising costs with effective fundraising, always guided by our aspirations for the future. Matching our vision and commitments, along with necessary expenses of our campus and facilities, requires careful and thoughtful planning. As we look to 2023, we have established sacred music and outreach as our strategic priorities. Led by our music committee we intend to fully fund a full time music director with a search commenced soon. The importance of music in the life of St. Philip's has always been paramount and continues to be a major focus for stewardship for this year and for decades to come. Our outreach committee has produced an ambitious plan for this year focused on key partners at the local, regional, and international level to whom we would like to commit financial resources in addition to our volunteer efforts. These organizations, like the Rural Migrant Ministry, Hedgewood, and the Philipstown Food Pantry, which will be very familiar to many of you, deserve our further commitment to their efforts. As always, the church depends, year in and year out, upon your generosity and pledges of support to maintain our infrastructure and achieve our goals.

We are grateful to those who serve on the vestry and who give of their time, wisdom and generosity in working with the rector and supervise the various committees that make St. Philip's run. Comprised of volunteers, these committees oversee and support the programs and activities at St. Philip's. You may not always see these committees at work, who quietly help out, week in and week out, from the altar guild, to buildings and grounds, to parents in the children's chapel and children's choir, to lay readers and greeters, just as an example, but the church community would not flourish without them. Thank you all.

Sarah Bayne, Senior Warden

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Will Felder, Junior Warden

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Members of the Vestry

Rev. Amanda Eiman, *Rector*
Sarah Bayne, *Senior Warden*
Will Felder, *Junior Warden*
Kari Jo Cates
Jamie Copeland
Charlie Dupree

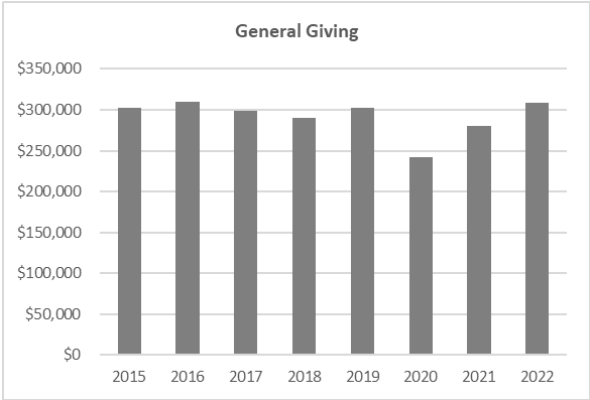
Margy Gerber, *Clerk*
Paul Kantor
Fred Osborn
Marilyn Palefsky
Gabriel Salas, *Treasurer*
Jennifer Sandlund

TREASURER’S REPORT

Funding the Church’s Mission – Getting Better, But Need to Share the Burden

St. Philip’s raised \$309k in general support (including \$185k in pledged amounts) which is in line with pre-COVID historical amounts in 2015-2018 (with the addition of other smaller sources of income, the church raised a total of \$352k in unrestricted revenue last year).

General Giving + Pledged Funds

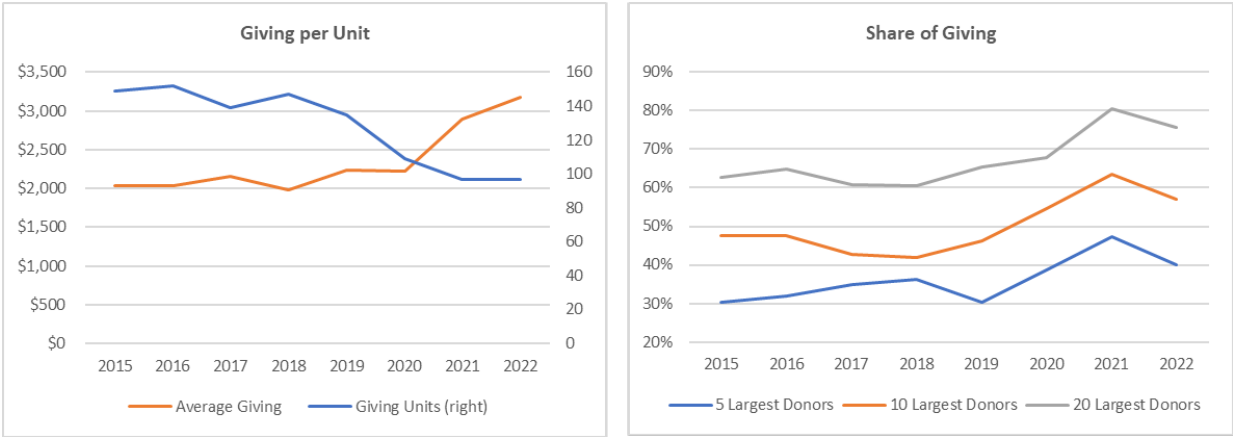


Source: On Realm

This is great news! As the church prepares to re-launch its music program and strengthen its outreach ministry, it is comforting to know that the congregation has provided the corresponding financial support.

However, it is important to recognize the challenges ahead for our ambitious plans. There are a portion of long-term congregants who are not enthusiastically giving. Their concerns need to be listened to and addressed. We benefit today from a smaller number of congregants that have picked up a larger proportion of the giving. Whereas between 2015 and 2018 the church received giving from an average of 147 families, in 2021 and 2022 it only had 97 giving units. Moreover, the 5 largest donations exceeded 40% over the past two years (and the largest 20 between 75% and 80%).

Individual Giving + Share of Largest Donors



Source: On Realm

For 2023, the goal is clear. To continue and expand its ministries, the church needs to expand its stewardship base and spread the financial commitment to a more even and sustainable basis. This is very achievable as the congregation builds from the strong support shown in 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 Financials – Met the Fundraising Budget, But Expenses Were a Challenge

St. Philip's Church in the Highlands operates in a lovely, yet old and large campus with highly unpredictable running costs. At the start of 2022, the church was hit with early-spring snow storms at a time of peak fuel costs which was the main reason for a \$23k cost overrun. Additionally, higher-than-anticipated costs associated with the music program and St. Philip's support of ACK St. James School in Kenya led to another approximately \$20k in unexpected expenses associated to the church's ministries.

As a result, despite having met the fundraising goals, the church accrued a \$72.6k preliminary loss for 2022.

St Philips Preliminary Financials

St Philips ex NS	Year-to-date		Budget Track		
	to Dec 21	to Dec 22	2022e	% O/U	Comment
Pledges + Plate	297,003	272,713			
Graves + Columbarium	15,800	16,800			
Other general giving	13,830	39,076			
Discretionary Income	326,633	328,590			
Earmarked Income	52,234	21,115			
Total Income	378,867	349,705	350,000	-0.1%	
Total Compensation	223,151	223,596	219,000	2.1%	
Total B&G	88,957	98,178	75,000	30.9%	Heating
Total Programs	11,168	31,463			St James + Music
Net Cottage Expenses	(13,883)	(12,678)			
Diocesan Assessment	39,232	38,324			
Administration + Others	38,303	43,436			
Total ex Comp, B&G	74,820	100,545	56,000	79.5%	Programs
Total Expenses	386,928	422,319	350,000	20.7%	
Net Cash Flow	(8,061)	(72,615)	-		

Source: Draft Church's 2022 Accounts

TREASURER'S REPORT

2023 Budget – Rebuilding & Growing

To nobody's surprise, St. Philip's has completed a couple of challenging years but is now in a much stronger position to achieve its goals to re-build its music program and expand its outreach ministry. Additionally, in line with the rest of the country, the church has faced rapid cost increases which are reflected in a \$407k operational budget for 2023, compared to a \$350k budget for 2022 and a \$422k actual operating cost.

In addition, and looking to expand its music program, the church would need between \$50k to \$75k in additional funding to complete its aspirations on the music program and outreach ministries.

	fy2022 (e)	fy2023 (e)
Total Compensation	222,904	224,738
Buildings & Grounds	71,951	84,451
Diocesan Assessment	38,324	38,324
Office Supplies	25,163	26,422
Professional Fees	14,041	14,743
Other	10,868	11,411
Cottage Income	(15,678)	(15,678)
Total pre-Programs and Contingency Provisions	367,573	384,410
Youth Choir Director	-	5,100
Main Music Program	17,817	17,817
Total Music	17,817	22,917
Base Budget		407,328
Outreach Budget	12,832	20,000
In-house Programs	3,336	3,336
Youth Ministry		5,000
Contingency Provision		19,221
Full Budget	401,559	454,885

Gabe Salas, Treasurer
gsalas72@gmail.com

ST. PHILIP'S INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

St. Philip's has a tradition of financial strength and good stewardship that was inherited from the members of the church who came before us. The operation of the church over the years has been undergirded by the existence of a permanent endowment, which has been called on from time to time to support long term capital projects that secure the church's future. Following an occasion when a call to utilize the endowment was made (as it was in 2019) the church's leadership seeks to restore the endowment to its previous level as soon as possible.

The endowment was restored during 2020 and is currently valued at approximately \$1.2 Million.

The church has an investment committee, which is comprised of six parishioners (Daniel Bentley, Smitha Dawson, Alex Donner, Evan Hudson, Fred Osborn, and Nat Prentice), the rector, the wardens, and the treasurer. The committee reviews the investment of the endowment, its asset allocation, quality constraints, liquidity reserves, diversification and concentration, and anything else relevant to prudent management of this portfolio. The committee does not pick individual securities for investment, relying instead on a professional manager (Lazard Asset Management) to make those decisions within our general portfolio guidelines. The committee meets quarterly to review the financial situation

of the church and the recent performance of the endowment and to discuss any potential changes to the investment guidelines. We are approaching the 8th anniversary of St. Philip's relationship with Lazard (initiated in May 2015), which is coordinated by our parishioner, Dyke Benjamin. Our Investment Policy Statement, recent performance reports, and the minutes of our quarterly meetings are available for any parishioner's review. Questions and new members are always welcome.

Nat Prentice, Coordinator
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Bell ringer Jamie Copeland and his young apprentice announce the end of the Sunday morning service.



Photo: Jennifer Sandlund

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

SERVICE TO OTHERS

Service to Others / Outreach ministries were off to a strong start and successful year, thanks to our emergence from the pandemic in 2022. We experienced the revival of several of our existing programs and added a new ministry, with great hopes for a few more new programs in 2023, spanning across the Hudson Valley region, New York State and internationally.

The annual Spring Clean Up Day in May at **Rural and Migrant Ministries** ("RMM") campus across the river in Cornwall-on-Hudson was a fun-filled day of outdoor clean up and gardening alongside several other volunteers from various organizations. St. Philip's also actively supported RMM's children's summer camp in August by sponsoring 3 children. Parishioners visited the camp in Fishkill, NY and interacted with some of the children, as well as assisted in a brief video interview as part of a larger fundraising campaign for the camp. We were also able to re-start monthly Sunday services at the **Hedgewood Home for Adults** assisted living facility in Beacon, NY in the fall, offering communion and music for the residents, with first-hand feedback from the residents of appreciation for this ministry. In addition, we had another successful year of Hedgewood Christmas gift bag giving from our congregation,



ACK St. James School female students pose for photos at the newly completed dormitory.

whereby all 25 sign-up slots were filled within a few hours! The **Midnight Run** project in September was yet again a success, with our parishioners speedily gifting toiletry kits provided in an effort to care for the homeless on the streets of New York City. The students at **San Miguel Academy** in Newburgh, NY were back in full-swing at classes and extra-curricular activities to support their collegiate dreams. Several of St. Philip's parishioners were on hand at many of the student activities, cheering them on and engaging with the students and faculty. We hope for several mentoring programs to re-start in 2023. St. Philip's welcomed a new ministry last year by way of **InnerChange**, a program to engage, enrich and support the lives of senior citizens of a housing complex in Harlem, NY. Residents were able to visit Garrison and Philipstown on three occasions – gardening event at a parishioner's home in May, fall event visiting the Cold Spring Halloween Parade, and a Christmas event of carol singing and fellowship at St. Philip's. We look forward to growing this relationship in the new year. **Philipstown Food Pantry** donations, a long-standing program at our parish, continued in 2022 and will do so in the coming year. Perhaps one of our greatest joys in 2022 was the implementation of the \$15k grant received in 2021 from the diocese, to support the building of two girls' dormitories for **ACK St. James School** in Lelan, Kenya. Construction was well underway through last year, with a brief pause due to pandemic-related cost increases requiring an additional \$9k funds. Our parishioners were quick to support the effort, fully fundraising and handing over the additional funds to our partners in Kenya by year-end. We are thrilled to report that the project was fully completed, including construction of buildings, water sourcing and beds for boarders who were enrolled beginning of January 2023! While a one-time funding effort, we expect to continue our support and engagement with the students of St. James School through various programs at St. Philip's. We were informed that the Salvation Army food program is not in service due to personnel loss, but we are thrilled to continue our existing programs in the new year ahead, and expect to explore new programs, including **Fred's Pantry** and **Jan Peek House homeless shelter** in Peekskill, NY, which our church and community could offer support to in the coming year.

Smitha Dawson

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ST. PHILIP'S NURSERY SCHOOL

As St. Philip's Nursery School embarked on its 62nd year, our students were finally eligible for Covid vaccinations and we felt much safer than the year before. The summer of 2022 brought hot weather and the most **Summer Fling** campers served. We were full every week of camp, with 22 campers at a maximum for each of the 5 weeks offered. We

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

hired Johanna Asher, a gifted music teacher, who brings her musical genius to our students on a weekly basis. She was added to our talented roster of enrichment professionals at St. Philip's. We have Miss Micki who teaches dance recently introduced tap to our students, Veronica Morgan, Desmond Fish children's librarian who volunteers her time on a monthly basis to enrich our students with literacy and our very own



Miss Micki teaches dance to St. Philip's Nursery School students.

Reverend Amanda who teaches chapel once a week.

Our program was met with the unfortunate challenge of losing most of our 4 Year Old Duck class (8 students) to various school district UPKS (Garrison, Lakeland and Highland Falls). In lieu of this we merged the Blue Rabbits and Ducks, which brought back that peer role model in learning through play. The Red Rabbits have continued to stay in the downstairs classroom because the 2 year old's needs are very different from our 3s and 4s.

We began the school year with an Open House **Meet the Teachers** where families learned more about our program and signed up for events on our school calendar. We successfully enrolled 23 out of our projected 32 students for the school year. We also hosted our first joint nursery school and children's chapel **Parent's Night Out** fundraiser which was well attended. The theme of the first half of the school year involved plenty of outdoor education based on the extensiveness of our beautiful campus. Highlights included our visit from the **Garrison Fire Department** for Fire Safety Month, **Pumpkin Patch** for Halloween, our **Halloween Song & Dance**, **Guest Readers** on the stump circle and our **Winter Holiday Song & Dance**.

This past fall, the staff took advantage of two Professional Development training courses. We had Putnam Child Care Council in to talk about Hands-On Science in the Preschool Classroom. Our second training was focused on nature-based learning opportunities with preschool aged children. We took this training in conjunction with St. Luke's Nursery School of Putnam Valley and Little Blessings Preschool of Mount Kisco. The tools and suggestions have been implemented within each of our classrooms. In concert with our training, we have monthly staff meetings to discuss curriculum, upcoming events, and a host of early childhood topics. We completed the first of our two parent teacher conferences of the school year.

Our talented and dedicated staff consists of Assistant Director & Lead Blue Rabbit Teacher, Mary Ellen DeAngelis; Duck teacher, Jessica Johnstone; Blue Rabbit Teacher, Roseann Bean; Blue Rabbit Teacher, Melissa Angier, Red Rabbit Teacher, Pat Weigman; Red Rabbit Teacher, Ann Marie Nicholls; and Red Rabbit Teacher and Head of School, Betsy Alberty.

Looking ahead, we will have our **White Elephant Sale** on 3/25, spring **Silent Auction Fundraiser** on 6/3, **Graduation**, and Summer Fling camp. Open enrollment has begun with a lot of children returning with us for next year. We thank the nursery school committee, the vestry, and the entire congregation for your sincere and continued support.

Betsy Alberty, Director

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ST. PHILIP'S NURSERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The nursery school committee meets monthly with the director, Betsy Alberty, to discuss the school and all of its aspects, including tuition and fundraising to support the school. As the Nursery School Director's report indicates, the school is bustling with energy and wonderful activities. The challenge for this year included the loss of 4 year olds to the UPK in public schools in the area. We have seen an increase in two and three year olds to the program, however, and continue to consider establishing an after school program.

The school continues depends upon volunteer support, both from parents, past parents, and friends in the community, in all ways. The traditional White Elephant Sale to be held on March 25 and the now traditional spring fundraiser, this year to be held on June 3, supports faculty development, and the overall well being of the school. We are grateful to the members of the committee, who bring wisdom and dedication to the school.

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

St. Philip's Nursery School Committee

Betsy Alberty, *Director*
Sarah Bayne, *Chair*
Kate Calligaro, *Vice Chair*
Kari Jo Cates
Erika Cooper
Rev. Amanda Eiman, *Rector*
Fred Osborn
Alison Pataki
Anita Prentice
Julia Wynn
Travis Yuengst, *Treasurer*

MUSIC MINISTRY

As I write this report, tomorrow is Ash Wednesday which marks the 1-year anniversary since I began at St. Philip's. Being that I started as a "supply organist", you may not know much about me.

I have over 30 years' experience as a church musician – as a child, I was in the choir at my church. As soon as I was old enough, I became the director of the youth choir. At age 14, I became the organist and youth choir director at St. Francis of Assisi RC Church in Newburgh, NY, and have since served as the organist and choir director at a Presbyterian Church, a Lutheran Church, and an Episcopal Church. I've overseen the maintenance of the pipe organs at each of these positions and overseen the restorations of 2 of them. The Schoenstein is by far my favorite instrument of which I've sat at the helm.

I'd like to share with you my process of choosing music for our services. Sitting in a quiet space, I read the lectionary lessons for the week. I look for the theme and think of hymns and anthems that reflect and reinforce this theme. The Episcopal Planning Guide, Hymnary.org, HymnSite.com, and some other websites are tools I use that offer suggestions and guidance. I like to have an assortment of musical styles and genres in worship services. I choose music that our choir can, hopefully, sing well. My goal is to choose music that is challenging but doesn't exceed our abilities.

Over the last year, the choir has grown tremendously in many ways. Improvement has occurred through individual voice lessons and rehearsals structured around proper vocal technique, with emphasis on listening to one another and achieving the unison blended choral sound. I thoroughly enjoy working with our choir and would like to thank them for their hard work, commitment, and positive energy.

In Advent, we had a wonderful evensong that was structured in the Anglican tradition. I look forward to doing more evensongs, and hopefully a Lessons & Carols service in the future. I also hope to begin a concert series that showcases our beautiful instruments.



The adult choir performs an anthem during the 10 am church service.

Photo: Ross Corsair

Thanks to Charity, Colleen, Smitha, Sally, Janine, Ron, Tobi, and the Chris' for their weekly participation as well as Jorge, Rodman, and Eugenia for joining when they can. Thanks to our youth choir, and to Janine and Stacy for their leadership. Lastly, thanks to Amanda, the vestry, and you, dear reader, for your continued support. May God bless you and keep you, may God's light shine upon you, and be gracious to you, and may God turn towards you and give you peace.

Christopher Fasulo

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MUSIC COMMITTEE

This year has been a time of growth and transformation for music in our parish. In the spring of 2022, a new group came together — a "music self-study committee" — to consider the past, present, and future of music at St. Philip's. Our first undertaking was a survey of our church community. Thanks to many respondents, including a number who offered thoughtful commentary, we came away with a newly energized collective vision for the music ministry at St. Philip's. The "music self-study committee" became the "music committee," and we began moving forward in the work the parish had laid out for us.

Children's Choir

Building a new youth choir program was among the top priorities that emerged from the survey. In the fall of 2022 we were blessed to have the wonderfully talented organist, vocalist, and choir director Janine Thwaite lead our first new group of children's choristers. Close to twenty children ages 5-12 came together once-a-week after school for rehearsals beginning in October. They shared their beautiful musical offerings with us in Sunday worship services in November, and again in December, both on Sunday morning and in a special evensong service.

For the spring term, beloved community member, musician, and early childhood educator Stacy Labriola has taken the

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

reigns of the choir. The children are continuing their weekly rehearsals, and the group continues to grow. Each new child brings their special spirit to our community, and together their songs of praise and thanksgiving bring liveliness and joy to our congregation. The children shared a musical offering again in February, and they will be singing on Sunday mornings once a month throughout the spring.

We are so grateful to Janine, Stacy, the many parents who have made this possible, to God for the gift of these children, and also of course to the wonderful children themselves. Thank you for your voices!



The children's choir performs during the 10 am church service.

Photo: Charity Shumway

Organ Dedication

Our parish music survey also made clear a collective hope to share our beautiful historic church building and our world class organ with the broader community by hosting musical performances in our sanctuary outside of worship services.

We began by organizing an organ dedication concert. The members of St. Philip's Church dedicated themselves to a campaign from 2016-2019 to address the capital needs of the church and its grounds. Their remarkable efforts led to the installation of a new Schoenstein organ in December of 2019. An organ dedication concert, planned for March of 2020, was among the many events sadly cancelled that spring.

As we emerged from the pandemic, the music committee felt the time had come to bring our community together in thanksgiving for the gift of the organ. On the afternoon of Sunday October 2nd, we welcomed Craig S. Williams, West Point Organist/Choirmaster, as our special guest and performer. The full-to-the-brim sanctuary, the consecration of the organ, the words of appreciation spoken for all who worked to make the organ possible, and Craig Williams' stunning performance, all marvelously celebrated the organ that will serve us for generations to come.



Photo: Ross Corsair

Craig S. Williams plays St. Philip's Schoenstein organ during the organ dedication concert on October 2.

Looking to the Future

With terrifically gifted organist Chris Fasulo leading music and our adult choir in our Sunday worship services and the wonderful directors Janine Thwaite and Stacy Labriola leading our children's choir, this has been a year of music nurturing our spirits and our community at St. Philip's.

Looking forward, it is our firm hope that we can grow our music ministry at St. Philip's by creating a permanent position for a director of music ministry in the year ahead. We envision a future of beauty and excellence in music at St. Philip's, but above all we envision a future of continued joy as we come together in new ways to express our love of God through music. We are grateful to the stewardship committee for their ongoing work toward this goal as well to all who have given and will give in the future. Thank you!

Charity Shumway

charityshumway@gmail.com



Photo: Terri Albas

Eight St. Philip's parishioners were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church on June 4, 2022 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and bless Kim, Charles, Tobi, Matthew, Catherine, Jack, Clark, and Kate in their walk with Christ.

WORSHIP

Our worship year began a bit stifled due to dealing with the Omicron variant, but by Easter we were able to engage full, mask-optional worship once again. Our Interim Music

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Director, Owen Borda, completed his time with us in February. In March, Chris Fasulo joined us as our supply organist and he continued through the year. A new children's choir was formed and Janine Thwaite directed the choir during the fall semester. We participated in the ecumenical evensongs with our brothers and sisters from St. Mary's, Graymoor, and Our Lady of Loretto. Wednesday evening prayer continued with the exception of the summer months, and this fall three more parishioners joined the leadership rotation. We also transitioned to the use of a fully printed worship bulletin that contains the full liturgy. In June, 6 people from St. Philip's were confirmed and 2 were received at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Rev. Amanda Eiman

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CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday school has been meeting on a regular basis during the 10 am service and we are seeing exciting growth and enthusiasm from our children and families. On Sundays, we begin in the Parish House and join our families in the chapel for the sacraments. Some highlights of our spring meetings were the celebrations of Pentecost, Mother's Day, and Father's Day, with an outdoor summer kick-off gathering at Lake Valhalla, with over fifty parishioners attending.

In August, we held our second annual **Vacation Church Camp**, which took place largely outdoors utilizing the beautiful campus with over 20 children in attendance and many adult volunteers. Over the course of a week, we explored God's Creation as children learned through games, crafts, songs, dances and daily Bible lessons.

This fall, as our numbers continued to grow, we resumed children's chapel gatherings during adult worship on Sunday

mornings. Our **StoryMakers** curriculum focused on the Biblical story of Noah's Ark and the Flood, and the children enjoyed different lessons incorporating the themes of faith, patience, promises, new beginnings and, of course, animals. StoryMakers uses art, Scripture plays, and social-emotional connections to invite children into God's redemptive narrative: God loves us and promises to be with us always.

Our newly revitalized **St. Philip's Children's Choir** offered songs in morning worship under the direction of Janine Thwaite, which they rehearsed on Friday afternoons in the Parish House. These gatherings have been consistently well attended and filled with joyful and enthusiastic learning and worship.

Additionally, children's chapel partnered with the St. Philip's Nursery School to host a **Parents' Night Out** fundraiser in the Parish House where children gathered, many in pajamas, for pizza dinner, games, crafts, and a movie, while their parents enjoyed date nights at local restaurants.

During December, we geared our weekly lessons toward Advent, and made Advent wreaths during coffee hour as a larger church family, to use in our homes through the Sundays of December. The children participated in the annual outdoor creche set-up, hosted a Christmas caroling walk in Cold Spring, and also made Chrismon ornaments which then decorated the tree that stood in the sanctuary. The **St. Philip's Christmas Pageant**, under the direction of Carolyn Copeland, was filled with joyous Christmas carols, festive acting and attire, and the story of the Nativity offered to a full church on Christmas Eve.

Children's chapel resumed weekly meetings in the New Year. On January 8th, approximately sixty people gathered for a potluck dinner to celebrate **The Feast of the Epiphany**, with King Cakes, regal decor, and a reenactment and lesson of the Wise Men following the star to Jesus. In February we concluded the Noah's Ark curriculum and now turn to Lenten lessons. We will continue in this format for the six weeks of Lent, and then also meet during the season of Easter.

After that, we will begin a new 6-week StoryMakers curriculum on "Stars" and the story of Abraham to finish out the spring semester. Our children's choir will sing monthly under the direction of Stacy Labriola. Planning has begun in earnest for our third summer of Vacation Church Camp. We are excited to see our community growing in numbers and enthusiasm as children begin to know and experience God's love for them, and as families feel welcome to grow and connect at St. Philip's.

Era Porth, Kari Jo Cates, Allison Pataki Levy

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allison.pataki@gmail.com 646-823-8325



On January 8th, almost sixty adults and children of the St. Philip's family gathered for a potluck dinner to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany together.

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Several exploratory meetings were held to begin an ecumenical regional youth group in Philipstown. Some of the meetings were leader and parent based, and some were activities for youth and teens. The youth group is still in the planning stages, but it is hoped that by partnering with other local churches, an area youth group can grow and thrive.

Rev. Amanda Eiman

rector@stphilipshighlands.org 845-424-3571

ADULT EDUCATION/FORMATION

In the season of Epiphany, we began a lectionary Bible study that met via Zoom. It was a welcome alternative to the isolation of the winter COVID months. In the spring, parishioner Catherine Illian led a book study and discussion. Also in the spring, a well attended and robust newcomer class met on Sunday afternoons preparing many for confirmation at the cathedral. In October, Daniel Bentley led a four-week guided study on the Letter to the Hebrews.

Rev. Amanda Eiman

rector@stphilipshighlands.org 845-424-3571



Coffee hour offerings

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The main charge of the fellowship committee is “community building.” It is intended to create opportunities outside of the worship service for our community to gather socially, connect and build relationships that will in turn strengthen our programs and ministries. The committee meets as needed by Zoom and creates events and supports other planned gatherings. In 2022, these events included receptions for the organ dedication, **Blessing of the Animals**, a **churchyard tour**, an **advent wreath** making activity for families, and evensong in December. The committee organizes the potluck lunch held at the **Annual Meeting**, the **Parish Picnic** in June and receptions for newcomers. We have a small group of **greeters**, people who sign up to greet people as they enter the church,

hand out programs and pass the collection plate during the service. We can definitely use more volunteers for this modest but important role.

The fellowship committee also oversees coffee hour, one of our major community-building opportunities. We recently introduced signing up via **SignUpGenius** as a way for volunteers to easily sign up to host well in advance. Kate Calligaro has kindly offered to manage the coffee hours. This year we have also introduced a simple and colorful new instruction sheet to take the mystery out of hosting coffee hour and hopefully it will encourage more parishioners to participate in this highly appreciated role. The committee welcomes new members and suggestions at anytime.

Carolyn Copeland and Jennifer Sandlund

carolyn.crcprods@gmail.com 917-887-2475

jennifer@thesandlunds.com 845-591-0516

LAY READERS GUILD

Members of the congregation participate in the service each Sunday by reading lessons, psalms, and prayers. Please contact Sarah Bayne if you are interested in joining this ministry.

Sarah Bayne

sarahbayne1@gmail.com 845-424-3249

ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild prepares the altar and arranges the memorial flowers for services at St. Philip's. The guild also cares for the linens, vestments, silver, pewter and brass used in services. In addition to the head (Margy Gerber), currently active volunteers include Marianne Benjamin, Wendy Bickford, Sara Breen, Jackie Grant, Rodman Neumann, and Jennifer Sandlund. Emerita members include Judi Dixon, Judy Hayes, Karen Lindros, and Belle Newton.

The New York Altar Guild, Inc., awarded St. Philip's a grant of \$2,000 toward repairs to the church tower's three-faced



The altar prepared for Easter service

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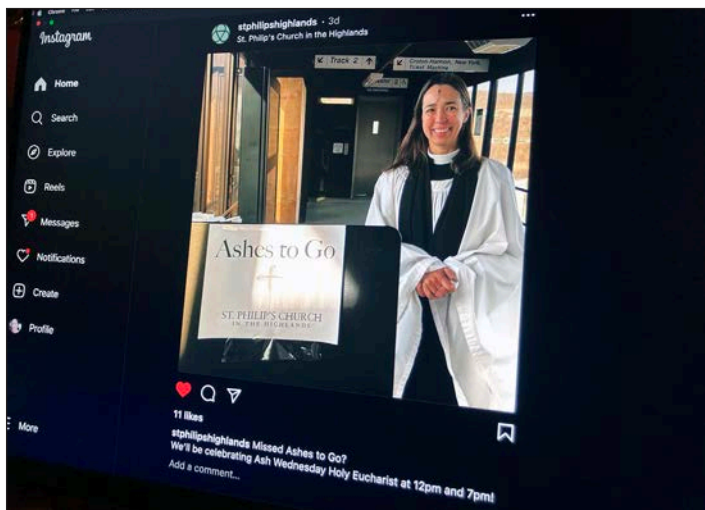
clock and chime; recently, the guild graciously extended the target date for completion of the project until September 30, 2023.

The guild welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Margy and she will arrange tutorial session(s) for you with experienced guild members.

Margaret (Margy) Leahey Gerber, Head
margretleahey@gmail.com 845-216-0885

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee's main focus continues to be the publication of our quarterly church newsletter, *The Messenger*. New in 2022 — we expanded our social media presence to Instagram. Please follow/like St. Philip's on **Instagram** and **Facebook** to see current photos and videos of what is happening at St. Philip's.



Advertising on Instagram for "Ashes to Go" at the Garrison Train Station on Ash Wednesday.

Goals for 2023 include discussion and development of a logo for St. Philip's and continued focus on effective communications within our congregation and to the wider community. Please reach out to any member of the committee if you have thoughts or ideas regarding our parish communications. Committee members include Terri Akbas, Chair; Rev. Amanda Eiman, Rector; Daniel Bentley; Chuck Linsmeier; Joe Plummer; Era Porth; and Jennifer Sandlund.

Terri Akbas
takbas@optonline.net 845-424-6153

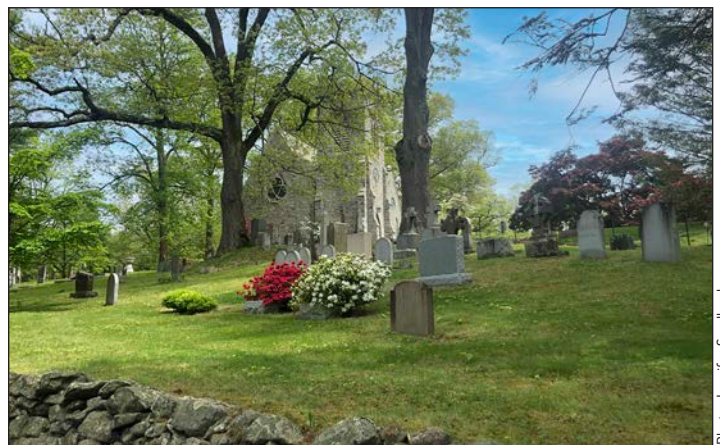
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The buildings and grounds committee is comprised of volunteers who provide coordination and planning in managing the five buildings and large landscape that comprise St. Philip's campus. This committee decentralizes many responsibilities among the volunteers who assume supervision of specific task areas or particular buildings.

Although some of these duties are informally coordinated, it is overseen by a vestry member and the two wardens who meet regularly. In this way, the buildings and grounds committee strives to bring good management practice and collective stewardship to St. Philip's historic buildings and picturesque churchyard.

During 2022 the buildings and grounds group has actively pursued dual goals: improving the preservation and use of existing buildings and grounds while seeking ways of economizing on the costs of keeping the beautiful campus looking its best. Preservation activities included more regular inspection and better routine maintenance of all properties by professionals and volunteers. One volunteer has assumed primary responsibility for supervising the entire church building. This permits better monitoring of the complicated heat and humidification systems in the church and helps ensure that minor repairs are undertaken quickly and well. Additional responsibilities for the campus were allocated to outside contractors or part-time custodial assistants in order to provide more systematic routine maintenance of trees, garden areas, footpaths, roadways, and drains throughout the year. The addition of a new volunteer has added to the capacity of the committee to do its work. In 2022 much preservation work was occasioned by the need to meet unexpected challenges that are normal in an old and historic campus like St. Philip's. Urgent repairs to buildings, dealing with failed boilers, burst pipes, leaks in walls and roofs, and the removal of storm damaged trees in the churchyard were among the projects attended to by volunteers working in tandem with contractors at various times.

Preservation of the new organ has been an ongoing priority. Modification and constant monitoring of humidity and heating systems within the church building were undertaken to ensure the organ's proper care as a valuable instrument and to meet all the climate control warranty requirements of the organ manufacture. This special effort was required after findings of serious climate deficiencies within the church during the previous year, after which a water line trench to



St. Philip's historic church and churchyard

Photo: Jennifer Sandlund

Photo: Jennifer Sandlund

LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

the church building was constructed to help maintain correct humidity standards. Ongoing consultation with the organ manufacturer is relied upon extensively in order to find the best ways of protecting and preserving our magnificent organ.

Current budgetary realities have discouraged new building projects. Yet the committee has been formulating plans for future improvements to important buildings in order to enhance their usefulness to the St. Philip's community. In recent years, the church and rectory were substantially improved and modernized as part of a special capital program and extensive fund-raising. Going forward, the Parish House will require more attention in order to preserve and upgrade its function as a community center, office complex, and nursery school. Among the future needs for this building, upgrading its heating system, providing office air conditioning, and installing storm windows are high priorities. A small grant was awarded in 2022 to St. Philip's to begin installing storm windows in the Parish House. Another major project is providing better access to the Parish House and making it ADA compliant. A comprehensive plan was completed for this that envisions improving pathways, adding a ramp, and reconstructing the Parish House bathroom so it is usable by those with disabilities.

Paul Kantor, Chair

pkantor1@optonline.net 914-316-2962

CHURCHYARD AND COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

On December 17th we participated in Wreaths Across America, a veterans' remembrance ceremony, thanks to the sponsorship of the Felder Family. We also thank Rev. Eiman, US Representative Mike Lawler, Bob Delaney, who led the local veterans helping with logistics, and the Hudson Highlands Pipe and Drum Band for their inspirational music.

We remember Russell White who died this year. For decades Russell, with his trusty backhoe, was the go-to caretaker of our campus. Churchyard Registrars through the years

have been fortunate to benefit from Russell's institutional knowledge of all things subterranean at St. Philip's. His expertise, memory of local lore, and good nature will be missed!

We encourage families to use cremation. From the standpoint of the remaining space in the churchyard and the general environment, this makes the most sense. All monument plans/sketches must be shown to the Churchyard Registrar and approved by the vestry. No mausoleums are permitted. Please obtain approval from the churchyard and columbarium committee before installing any plantings or placing urns or statuary.

2022: Sales: Four burial plots; one columbarium niche

Burials: One full burial; five cremains

David C. Gordon, Jr., Churchyard Registrar

gordondavidcjr@gmail.com 845-424-3369

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

David Gordon has continued to add important photographs and memorabilia to the parish's archives. Among possible projects for 2023 is a proposal to begin adding oral history interviews to our collection.

Margaret (Margy) Leahey Gerber, Vestry Liason

margaretleahey@gmail.com 845-216-0885

NURSERY AND CHILD CARE

Supervised child care for infants and young children is provided most Sunday mornings from 9:00 am - Noon, and other scheduled times, on the lower level of the Parish House. Our main focus is to care for the little ones while their parents are in church, taking a class, at choir rehearsal, or other ministry. There are plenty of activities to entertain and engage multiple children, and we strive to ensure that they each have a positive and nurturing experience. We play with the children, do puzzles and read books, and when it is nice outside we visit the playground. We make every effort to tidy up the playroom with the children prior to their parent's arrival, and we thank everyone for ensuring the space remains neat and clean

Eliza Paris

914-621-6583

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office is located in the Parish House to the right of the front door. Our Parish Administrator Johnna Locoparra keeps office hours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Tuesday through Friday.

Johnna Locoparra, Parish Administrator

office@stphilipshighlands.org 845-424-3571

Rev. Amanda Eiman

rector@stphilipshighlands.org 845-424-3571



Photo: Jennifer Sandlund

St. Philip's churchyard and columbarium



Photo: Jennifer Sandlund



Photo: Karlo Cates



Photo: Ross Corsair

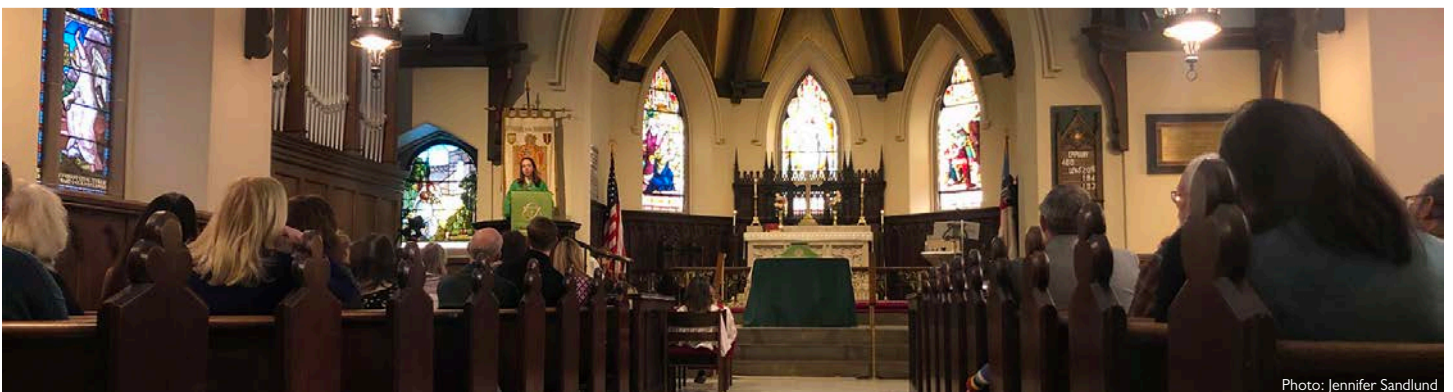


Photo: Jennifer Sandlund

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

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