

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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2023 ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2024

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AGENDA

- I. Gathering in the presence of Spirit
 - A. Welcome and Opening Prayer (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - B. Determination of Quorum (Sharon Parham)
 - C. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2023 (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - D. Additions to the Agenda (Ruth Ann Nelson)

- II. Review of the Parish's financial health
 - A. Report on 2023 Stewardship Drive (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - B. Review of 2023 financials (Mike Shallanberger)
 - C. Presentation of 2024 Annual Budget (Mike Shallanberger)

- III. Review of the Parish's organizational health
 - A. Call for Parish Delegate to Convention (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - B. Review of Ministries (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - C. Special Announcements (Ruth Ann Nelson)

- IV. Elections of Wardens and Vestry (Ruth Ann Nelson)
 - A. Sr. Warden – 2nd Term Election
 - B. Jr. Warden – 2nd Term Election
 - C. Vestry Members – Class of 2027
 - D. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

- V. Review of Parish's spiritual health (Rev. Hentzi Elek)

- VI. Realm Presentation (Ruth Ann Nelson)

- VII. Blessing and Dismissal (Rev. Hentzi Elek)

ACTION ITEMS

Determination of a Quorum: The by-laws require that a quorum at a members' meeting shall consist of 10% of qualified voting members, defined as members over 16 years of age who are in good standing. Each person present shall have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Minutes, January 22, 2023

Composed from notes made during the meeting by Vestry Clerk Kathy McGill.

Gathering in the presence of Spirit

Opening Prayer

Rev. Anna Horen opened the meeting with prayer at 10:45 AM.

Quorum Present

40 parishioners were present at the annual meeting, which is a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 23, 2022, Annual Meeting were approved unanimously as presented. Motion brought by Ruth Ann Nelson and seconded by Teri Flores.

Review of the Parish's Financial health

Stewardship Report

Marilyn Macdonald gave the stewardship report. Pledges increased both in the number of people pledging and the amount given which is greatly appreciated. The Stewardship Campaign had a goal of \$190,000 to completely cover operating expenses. Pledges totaled \$122,184. The difference was achieved via outreach, volunteerism, and unpledged donations.

Treasurer's Report

The report was presented by Treasurer, Mike Shalanberger.

Total Expenses for 2022 were \$176,342 (\$6,651 under budget). The deficit for 2022 was \$20,662 (\$26,370 better than forecast). In-Kind giving played a major role in the parish's financial health.

\$60,000 in additional income per year is needed to move from survival focus to mission focus. The lower deficit will allow 12-15 months to generate the needed membership growth.

Presentation of 2023 Budget

Mike Shalanberger presented the budget summary for 2023. Please refer to the attached 2023 budget for details. Please note lines 54 & 56 included investments.

The parish has qualified for a grant from the High Plains region in the amount of \$6000 for the purpose of community outreach.

Funds are sufficient to run through the first quarter of 2024.

No questions were asked. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Rev. Anna thanked Mike for his diligence and clear explanations.

Review of the Parish's organizational health

Senior Warden's Report

Marilyn Macdonald reviewed key aspects of the Senior Warden's report including the formation of the Priest in charge committee, Special Vestry meetings and several physical plant upgrades.

Marilyn also spoke about the Grant received from the high-plains region. This is in the amount of \$6000 and is intended to be used as seed money to allow outreach in the community and raise the profile of St. Martins beyond the immediate area.

Review of the Ministries

Presented by Marilyn Macdonald. Please review the ministries of our parish as found in the Annual Report. There are several ministries in need of volunteers.

Scout Pack

St. Martin's also agreed to sponsor Scout Troup 113. This initiative was led by youth leader Bryan Shallenberger, and Thor Nelson agreed to be the Charter Representative. Scout Pack Leader Sara Spitzer was introduced to the Parish. The Scouts would like to assist with various projects allowing them to gain service hours and providing support to St. Martin's.

Election of Wardens and Vestry

Election of Wardens

- Ruth Ann Nelson was elected Senior Warden.
- Teri Flores and Thor Nelson were elected Co-Junior Wardens

Election of Vestry

- Tish Harris
- Maddie Des Jardins (nominated from the floor)
elected to the Vestry for a three-year term.

A motion was made and seconded that the nominations be closed. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Recognition of Outgoing Wardens and Vestry Members

Senior Warden: Marilyn Macdonald
Vestry Members: Donna Clifford, Jim McDonald, Susan Shepard
Vestry Clerk: Kathy McGill.

Rev. Anna thanked all for their time and service to the parish and all were given a token of appreciation. Maro was presented with a beautiful orchid in thanks for all she has done as Senior Warden. Maro then passed on the warden's pin and building keys to Ruth Ann Nelson.

Review of the Parish's Spiritual Health

Pastor's Report

Rev. Anna gave a brief recap of her report and spoke of the life cycle of a parish, the sadness of decline but also the hope of new growth and reminded us that the miracle that lies at the heart of our faith is a miracle of resurrection.

All life is cyclical and determining success by numbers alone tells only part of the story and fails to recognize how many wonderful ways the parish community pulls together.

The Parish parlays were a vital part of the PIC process and provided insight into the thoughts of the church family. The discovery phase of the PIC is now complete, and the visioning phase will begin with a Parish wide meeting on February 25th with Cannon Vanessa.

Psalm 27:14 "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and your heart will be strengthened."

Slide Show

A beautiful slide show of St. Martin's Past, Present and Future was presented followed by reflection and prayer.

Final Prayer

Rev. Anna closed the meeting with prayer at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Rosen
Parish Administrator.

REPORTS TO THE PARISH

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

The leadership team served under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Anna Horen until her resignation in June 2023. Following her resignation the leadership team served under the direction of Senior Warden Ruth Ann Nelson with support from long term supply priest Rev. Hentzi Elek.

SENIOR WARDEN: The Senior Warden is chosen by the Rector and confirmed by the Laity at the Annual Meeting. Under the terms of the By-Laws, a Senior Warden may not serve more than three consecutive terms. Ruth Ann Nelson was elected as Senior Warden in January of 2023 and is completing the first year of her term.

Senior Warden's Report: Ruth Ann Nelson

*We believe the Holy Spirit calls us, through Jesus,
into a relationship with God and each other to bring joy,
comfort, and inspiration to each other and world.*

This is St. Martin's North Star statement as developed by the Visioning Committee led by Marilyn MacDonald. It is on the wall in the back office and when I am working at the church, I re-read it often to remind myself of the amazing community I was asked to lead.

It has been an honor to serve as your Senior Warden in 2023. We have had many challenges as a Parish in the past year, but we have done well as a community to meet them.

I encourage you to read through the Parish Ministries part of this Annual Report. It details the work of the 35 different ministries we do that bring joy, comfort, and inspiration to each other and the world They provide pastoral care and support to our membership, enable us to worship every Sunday, keep the buildings and grounds operational, and share our love and our gifts with each other and the world.

Even more amazing, over 70 people participate in these ministries which are led by over 25 dedicated members of St. Martin's.

My role as Sr. Warden changed when Rev. Anna took a call to another parish in June. We were so fortunate to have the Rev. Hentzi Elek step in as a long-term supply priest without missing a Sunday! His service to us for three Sundays a month has given us stability in our worship and his style of service invigorated our worship. His support of my work as Sr. Warden and the Jr. Wardens and Vestry has been very much appreciated. We began by obtaining different supply priests for the Sundays Hentzi was not here. By the end of the year, we had transitioned to using lay led Morning Prayer for the services Hentzi does not officiate.

We are building a team of Lay Pastoral Leaders licensed by the Office of the Bishop to lead eucharistic services with reserve host and wine when an ordained priest is not present. I am currently taking the training for this role. Martha Libby will be enrolled in the next class. Also, we are very blessed to have Thor Nelson on the preaching team going forward.

We had a change of personnel in our Music Ministry this fall. Zachary Allen had to leave us on very short notice and once again, by the grace of God, we didn't have to miss a beat. Orlia Budge stepped into the role and has done a wonderful job incorporating different music styles into our worship and building back the music program.

This past year has seen continued growth at St. Martin's. Our membership has increased and many of our ministries have become stronger. We have had some losses in our ministries as well. Our youth group was suspended last Spring. We are seeking a way forward to continue to support our youth in other ways.

In the coming year we will be working to improve our communications within the community using a phone app called Realm Connect. Its many features include a directory, group communications, and volunteer management. We will also be working to improve our communications with our neighboring community members through increased use of social media, continued use of our banners, and improvement in our streaming capabilities. It is also my hope this year to begin a Boardgame Ministry to the community using the CLB and many boardgames that were donated for this purpose.

I would not have been able to do this work this year without the assistance and support of all of you. I am especially grateful to the Vestry, our Treasurer Mike Shalanberger, and our Junior Wardens, Teri Flores, and Thor Nelson. Their support, guidance, counsel, and hard work has been instrumental to the success of our community over the past year.

Finally, a note of thanks to our Parish Administrator, Claire Rosen. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Claire, you have not encountered the most talented, efficient, grace-filled, kind, and caring person I have ever had the pleasure of working with. She has been the beating heart of the operation of St. Martin's. From weekly bulletins and newsletters, to coordinating rentals of the CLB, to taking on the bookkeeping for the church, to working with individuals from the community who come to our door for assistance, she handles it all with aplomb.

I look forward to 2024 with great excitement for the continued ministry of St. Martin-in the Fields as it brings love, joy, comfort, and inspiration to each of us in our church community, in the wider community and in our witness to the world.

JUNIOR WARDEN: The Junior Warden is chosen by the Rector and confirmed by the Laity at the Annual Meeting. Under the terms of the By-Laws, a Junior Warden has no limitation on the number of consecutive terms that may be served.

Junior Warden's Report: Co-Junior Wardens Thor Nelson and Teri Flores

This ministry is responsible for the care and maintenance of the building and grounds of St. Martin in the Fields.

We, with the help of many of our fellow parishioners, have worked on various projects both inside and outside the building. We have repaired the children's play area, done repairs in restrooms, repaired the dishwasher in the kitchen, fixed the doors so they would close, repaired some ceiling tiles, put up street numbers showing our address, repaired broken windows, and repaired and replaced locks.

Along with this we have worked with our insurance company and Theisen Construction and Roofing to repair our buildings after the storm damage done during the hailstorm. We also obtained a grant from the High Plains Region to assist in repairing portions of the church that are not covered by the insurance.

We could not have done this without the help of many of our parishioners. We would like to thank Ed Paprocki, Bill Eldred, Tom Keables, Pete Parham, Dave Clifford, Brian Pfohl, Ruth Ann Nelson, Eric Flores, and Elizabeth Flores.

TREASURER: The Treasurer is appointed by the Vestry and is responsible for overseeing the financial health of the Parish. Mike Shallanberger has served in this position for many years and ensured that our finances are not only accurately recorded but that we have good information and wise counsel for how resources are spent. In addition to providing monthly updates of our financial health, the Treasurer also coordinates with the Stewardship Committee and oversees the annual audit of the books. Mike Shallanberger is retiring as Treasurer after 17 years in the position and Teri Flores has been appointed by the vestry to take on the role

Treasurer's Report: Michael Shallanberger

Dear Members and Friends of St. Martins,

Our operating surplus for 2023 was \$32,557 which was \$45,842 better than our revised plan. Total Income for 2023 was \$46,911 over plan and \$42,717 higher than 2022. Pledge Income accounted for most of the positive variance (\$43,712 over plan) and included \$12,400 in 2024 Pledge payments received in 2023. 2023 Plate Income was \$939 over plan, Rental Income was \$1,775 over plan, Interest & Dividend Income was \$605 over plan and Fundraiser Income was \$272 over plan. Grocery Card Income was \$340 under plan.

Total 2023 expenses of \$165,839 were \$1,068 over the revised budget and \$10,503 lower than 2022. The drop in expenses from 2022 was due to Rev Ann's resignation and subsequent clergy vacancy. The largest negative variances were Computer & Software (\$949 over budget, new laptop & monitor and an upgrade to our REALM subscription), Payroll Processing Fees (\$367 over budget, FMLI set up & processing), Diocesan Pledge (\$4,381 over budget, higher income), Property & Casualty Loss (\$1,000 over budget, hail damage), Property & Casualty Insurance (\$671 over budget) and Equipment Maintenance & Repairs (riding mower, \$670 over budget).

Expense categories over budget were offset by lower-than-planned expenses in several categories including Nursery Salaries (\$2,640 below budget, vacant), Accompanist Stipend (\$700 below budget, not hired until April), Supply Clergy expenses (\$1,412 below), Grounds & Landscaping (\$1,121 below), Gas & Electric (\$1,514 below), Water expense (\$749 below), Ministry Expenses (\$1,514 below) and Worship Expenses (\$1,076 below budget).

The combined balances in parish accounts on December 31 were \$101,124. Of this amount, \$5,194 was set aside for our pledge to the Diocese, \$1,000 is or our storm damage deductible and \$1,660 was transferred to savings to cover designated fund balances. This left reserves available for parish operations of \$93,270.

In-kind donations, direct donations to other organizations and contributions of parishioners' time continue to play a significant role in the financial health and mission of the parish. Here are many of the additional ways that **you** helped during 2023:

Parish Operations

- St Martins saved approximately \$250 on cleaning supplies which have been donated by cleaning team members for several years.
- We saved approximately \$1,100 on small equipment purchases, repairs, and maintenance – mower repairs, a new mower, a new garbage disposal and installation, cabinet repairs, door locks were donated during 2023.
- We incurred \$0 expense for flowers due to Altar Guild member in-kind donations and parishioner contributions of \$1,158.
- Our grounds and landscaping were maintained for only \$154 direct cost to the parish. This was made possible by Karen Kulp who contributed many hours of labor, the mowing team, parishioners on cleanup days, by in-kind donations for plants and supplies, and Salem Goodman's Eagle Scout Project.
- All the sale items, materials, activities, and labor donated for our successful Murder Mystery Dinner & Silent Auction, Craft Fair and Christmas Closet fundraisers that generated \$4,272 in income.
- There were dozens of donations of office supplies, postage, materials for Children's Chapel, meetings and outreach, meals, coffee hour supplies, new member materials, and signage & banners totaling \$2,527.

Parish-related Designated Funds

- Campus Designated fund - \$495.98 in cash donations used for repairs.

Outreach and Other Designated Fund Contributions

- Family Tree - \$1,109.90 cash donations, plus donations of time, and in-kind donations of clothing, infant supplies, school supplies, personal care products, cleaning supplies, and other needed items.
- St Clare's Ministries – Annual coat drive, plus serving meals monthly
- Rector's Discretionary Fund - \$1,987 in cash donations
- Good Friday Offering (Middle East) - \$50 in cash donations
- Sewing Ministry – Time & talent, supplies and finished pillow cases donated to the Children's Hospital of Colorado
- Annual food drive with donations given over to Aurora Interfaith Community Food Pantry.

Thank you all for your support of St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church.

Sincerely,

Michael Shallanberger
Treasurer

VESTRY CLERK: The Clerk is appointed by the Vestry and is responsible for recording and reporting the activities of the Vestry. The Clerk is familiar with the provisions of the by-laws and ensures that those requirements are followed. In addition, the Clerk, in partnership with the Rector, tracks the leadership for the various ministries. Joannie Ott served in this position until her resignation in November. The role going forward will be filled by Sharon Parham.

Vestry Membership (*Ruth Ann Nelson*):

Vestry members who were elected in 2021 have completed their 3-year term and rotating off will be Bill Eldred, Denise Meares, and Joanne Marabito-Harte.

1. Continuing Vestry members:
Class of 2025-Melanie Victor, two openings available for nomination from the floor.
Class of 2026-Tish Harris, two openings available for nomination from the floor.
Class of 2027 Nominations – Fred Hanson, Sharon Armstrong, Doug Meares.
2. **New Treasurer** appointed by Vestry– Teri Flores.
Sr. Warden-elect for 2024 – Ruth Ann Nelson.
Jr. Warden elect for 2024 - Thor Nelson
3. **Continuing Vestry Chaplain** – Martha Libby

PARISH MINISTRIES

Building and Grounds

This cluster of ministries includes the Cleaning Team and Grounds Care.

Cleaning Team:

Our church building and the Community Life Building are kept clean by volunteers from the parish. These Cleaning Team members volunteer once or twice a month to vacuum, mop, clean the toilets, wipe down the dust, straighten up the kitchen, and care for our space. The materials used by the cleaning teams are also donated.

Many thanks to the people who do this work: Heather Paprocki, Melanie Victor, Kathy McGill, Ed Paprocki, Ruth Ann Nelson, Teri Flores, and Brian Pfohl. An extra special thanks to Ed Paprocki who makes sure we have the supplies we need every week.

If we could add just two or three more people to this team, our volunteers would only have to clean once per month.

Grounds Care:

Our grass gets cut, our flower beds are planted and weeded, the sprinkler system is maintained, the walks are shoveled by a small but mighty team.

Karen Kulp has been instrumental over the years in ensuring that our grounds looked their best. She has decided it's time to step back from the very hard labor of planting, weeding, and maintaining our flower beds and sprinkler system. She has our gratitude for the many years she has served St. Martin's.

While Karen has stepped back, Tom Keables, Bill Eldred, Ed Paprocki, and Teri Flores have stepped up to help with keeping up our grounds.

Scout Troop 113 and many other members of the parish assisted us with a Spring clean-up of our grounds. We were challenged this past summer to keep up with the weeds in the flower beds. Also, our riding mower is no longer repairable and needs to be replaced. We anticipate a replanting this year of the bed where the three crosses stand using xeriscaping materials. We are also working on a grant from the City of Aurora to replace a portion of the grass fronting Buckley Road with xeriscaping.

It would be wonderful to add to this small but mighty Grounds Care Team.

Church Communications

This ministry includes maintaining the website, upgrades and innovations to technology, and church bulletin boards.

Bulletin Board (Joanne Marabito-Harte):

The purpose of this ministry is to create up to date bulletin boards in the church to inform members of upcoming events or happenings.

At the moment this is a solo ministry and I'd love some help.

Highlights of this Ministry are the creation and maintenance of the large St. Martin's board in the Narthex, a King Soopers Community Rewards information Board, and the Vestry board.

Challenges this year were an inability to reach (up high) prevented me from updating boards without having someone take them down for me. The boards are drilled in the wall. (short girl problem).

Also, The Military Board: No one is sure who the men are on the board, so there is uncertainty about removing it or updating it. Do we have any other current military members? Are these men still military members or are they retired? I'd love ideas if you have any.

Goals for next year are to find ideas to create new boards and improve access to the boards that are up high.

Website (Doug Meares):

The goal is to keep the website current so that people are attracted to our Church. This is also a sub-committee of the Social Media Group.

Highlights of this past year: Posted the events of the Church, such as Easter, Blessing of the Animals, Game Nights, Classes, and Christmas. Posted the pictures of past events in the Gallery. Also maintained a list and descriptions of ministries that people can join.

This Year we also made it possible for people to pledge online. The advantages of this were that people did not have to submit a pledge card and this saved the paper for printing the cards.

Challenges experienced this past year: Getting pictures of events for the Webpage.

Worship

This cluster of ministries includes Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, Chalice Bearers, Flower Ministry/Memorials, Worship Schedule, Music Ministry, Ushers, Communion Bread.

Altar Guild (Teri Flores):

The Altar Guild ministry is responsible for the care and preparation of the Sanctuary before and after services as liturgically appropriate. This includes maintenance of linens, arranging flowers, and preparing LEV kits for Pastoral visits. The members of the Altar Guild this year were Donna Clifford, Sharon Parham, Teri Flores and Joanie Ott (no longer at St. Martin's).

Some of the high lights this year included: Moving from flowers each week to plants for some seasons; Relocating the banners to improve access; Reorganizing the Sacristy to improve the usability of the space; Securing new suppliers for communion wine and various other supplies; The Greening of the church which was done with the help of so many people, especially Ed Paprocki, Bill Eldred, Brian Pfohl, Jo Cunningham, Susan Shepard, and so many more.

Challenges we faced this year included having many different supply priests; and finding a better system to determine when and how many LEV kits were required.

Special thanks to Nancy Striebel who has agreed to join us this year.

Communion Bread (Justin Loerwald):

A small group of volunteers use a recipe handed down through the years to make homemade bread for Communion. The host is the unleavened bread that symbolizes the body of Christ. Homemade Communion bread made by loving volunteer parishioners that give their time and talent to serve this very important ministry.

This year Communion Bread was provided by Susan Shepard, Fran Blackman, Heather Paprocki, Martha Libby and Justin Loerwald

Our goal for next year is to increase the volunteer list for this ministry to offer this wonderful opportunity to serve the church.

Liturgical Ministries: Acolytes/Lectors/Intercessors/Chalice.

We have a dedicated group of parishioners who serve at the altar and in worship every Sunday. Acolytes who process with the cross and assist the priest with preparing the table and assist with the intinction chalice. Lectors who read the lessons and the psalm response. Intercessors who lead us in the prayers of the people. And Chalice Bearers who serve from the common cup at communion. We are happy to train anyone who would like to begin volunteering for a liturgical ministry.

Our thanks to: Michael Stidman, Doug Meares, Mike Shallenberger, Thor Nelson, Marilyn MacDonald, Ruth Ann Nelson, Jo Cunningham, Joanne Marabito-Harte, Martha Libby, Sharon Armstrong, Ken Rubin, and Shawn Schenk.

We would like to increase the number of parishioners who help with this ministry.

Music (Orlia Budge):

The Music Ministry provides and coordinates music for weekly Sunday services. For most of 2023 this role was filled by Zachary Allen. Orlia Budge took on the role in December.

Highlights this year included special music for Christmas Eve Offertories and also the Lessons & Carols service.

Special thanks to Joe Owens, Ken Rubin, Audrey Hopkins, Ruth Ann Nelson, Teri Flores, Elizabeth Flores-Moran, Sharon Armstrong, Thor Nelson, Ed Paprocki, Fred Hansen, and the others whose names I'm forgetting that provided music for the Christmas Eve services!

The goal for this year is to have a choir/ensemble to regularly provide an offertory or other special music every 4-6 weeks.

Streaming of Services (Audrey Hopkins):

Team members: Denise Meares, Doug Meares, Tish Harris

Description: This ministry aims to keep our Church Family connected by streaming services on Facebook. If you choose not to attend in person or if you want to re-experience a great sermon or the music from our new choir, you have the option to participate online.

Ushers and Greeters (Bill Eldred):

Everyone at St. Martin's is responsible for welcoming and inviting others into our church family. The usher ministry is usually the first opportunity to meet people when entering the church. The usher ministry is responsible for greeting people, distributing bulletins, seating people, passing the offertory baskets, directing the flow during communion and counting the attendance for the service.

We would like to thank the following ushers for their faithful service: John and Jo Cunningham, Kandice and Bill Eldred, Tom Keables, Pete Parham, Ken Rubin, Kathy McGill, Shawn Schenck.

The usher ministry would love to add friendly and smiling people who would like to become an usher. If you are interested feel free to contact Bill Eldred at (303) 919-4402 or wgeldred@msn.com.

Adult and Family Ministries

This cluster of ministries includes Children's Chapel, Youth Group, Adult and Family Formation, Confirmation, and Scout Troop #113 Sponsorship.

Scout Troop #113 (Tish Harris)

Scout Troop #113, co-led by Bryan Shallenberger is now sponsored by St. Martins. Eagle Scout projects are actively supporting St. Martin's Episcopal Church. In May of 2023 the Scouts participated in our spring outdoor clean up. The prayer garden was revitalized with new plants and added rock as part of Salem Goodman's Eagle Scout project, and we were honored to host Salem's Eagle Scout Ceremony in August. Thank you, Scout Troop #113!

Children's Chapel (Tish Harris):

Youth Ministries at St. Martin's consist of Children's Chapel which meets on Sunday and will continue at the 10:15 service. Amy Shallenberger leads this ministry with the help of Char with the attendance of an average of 2-3 children.

Youth Group (Tish Harris):

This ministry serves middle school and high school aged children. The Youth group was discontinued due to the older students moving on to jobs, etc. Bryan Shallenberger led this ministry up until Spring of 2023. We are re-evaluating how best to serve our middle and high school aged children.

Vacation Bible School (Tish Harris):

Tish Harris with the help of Ruth Ann Nelson conducted a Mini Vacation Bible School, July 10-12th to attract and minister to more youth in the church neighborhood. There were 5 children in attendance and 15 volunteers! The church came together for music and celebration "Fur God Loves you and all our Furry Friends. There was a large basket donation of kid created pet toys made to a local Animal Rescue Agency!

Challenges consisted of advertisement with enough advance to recruit students for the summer program. Our banner did not produce the results we wished. Perhaps more of an online presence of a recruitment of volunteers to canvas the neighboring schools, etc. 2-3 months in advance. We will need a leader for the next summer and consider need if we have such a small number of children, in attendance for our congregation; perhaps we wait until there are more youth to support Vacation Bible School. Suggestions from a short survey: perhaps an evening program would have better attendance, and definitively more advance planning and advertisement.

All agreed a great time and blessings were had by all involved! Special thank you goes out to Heather and Ed Paprocki family and Melanie Victor for set up of the outdoor recreation maze. Crew Leaders: Maci Paprocki and Bella Wascher, Bible Lesson by Ruth Ann Nelson, Craft Projects with a Purpose: Donna Clifford, Patsy, and Char Wentworth. Thank you to Nancy Striebel for leading outdoor games and Jo Cunningham's help with registration. Thank you to Sharon Armstrong's special guest bulldog, Bill Eldridge, and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews for donation of boxes and lastly, Claire Rosen for advertising and administrative support!

Confirmation and Reception (Jo Cunningham & Ruth Ann Nelson):

The Episcopal Church in Colorado holds regional Confirmation/ Reception and Reaffirmation services annually. This class is intended to fulfill the Diocesan requirement to prepare parishioners for Confirmation into the Episcopal Church and renewal of their Baptismal Covenant. Alternatively, parishioners who have previously been confirmed in the Episcopal Church may opt to Reaffirm their Confirmation or, if previously confirmed in a different denomination (i.e. Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, etc.) to be Received into the Episcopal Church.

It is typically a 6-10 week class with a text that leads participants through the history of the Church and the basis for our Baptismal Covenant.

The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado requires any Confirmands to be 16 on or before the date of Confirmation.

In 2023, 7 parishioners participated in the class led by Jo Cunningham and RuthAnn Nelson which met once per week between Mar 12 and May 7. On Saturday, May 20 **Daniel Paprocki, David Ssali, Eric Ssali and Michael Stidham** were Confirmed at St. John's Cathedral by Bishop Kim Lucas. CONGRATULATIONS to our newly confirmed members!

Challenges we faced were: The curriculum used this year was designed for a longer period of time for the class and, although it focused on the Baptismal Covenant, ultimately was too long and involved for the period of time we had to meet.

Goals for the year ahead are: Encourage and welcome parishioners to participate in a new class with the goal of Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation by the date of the Bishop's visit to St. Martin in the Fields on April 14. Purchase a new curriculum that focuses on the Baptismal Covenant and is do-able within the timeframe available to us.

Spirituality

This cluster of ministries includes The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Stewardship, The Welcome Ministry, Visioning, and Social Media Ministry.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, St. Martin's Chapter (Doug Meares):

Our Goal is to Bring Men and Youth to Christ. We choose to do that by having a men's book study and Fellowship breakfast once a month. We meet at 8 am on the first Saturday of each Month. We are also always ready to help the Youth Group as well.

Special thanks to our Treasurer: Fr. Jim McDonald and Secretary: Bill Eldridge.

This year we were active in doing Sacred Ground, or the National Church's Racial Reconciliation training. We also did our annual Halloween candy distribution and on St Andrew's Day we did all the service parts including sermon. We are currently studying The Universal Church, by Richard Rohr.

We really have not set Goals for this Year, but we would like to restart the Meals for the Youth Group when the group returns.

Social Media Ministry (Position Open):

Through the Social Media Ministry, we can lean into our call to bring love, joy, comfort, and inspiration to the world through the power of the Holy Spirit and technology. Our goal for this ministry is to create Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube posts that show God's unconditional love for everything and everyone in God's creation. Our hope is that by being a beacon of God's love in the world, people will find their way to St. Martin's.

Last Spring for Lent we had a great program on social media posting the same questions from the Lenten series we used. These questions were also posted on our lit sign on Buckley. Maddie Des Jardins took care of posting these and did video segments of Rev. Anna for posting on Instagram. Unfortunately, Maddie was unable to continue this work due to illness.

Another low-tech part of the Social Media Ministry has been using banners at the corner of Buckley and Wagon Trail and small yard signs along our property. Banners were put up for major holiday services, Pride Month, VBS, Blessing of the Animals service, and general welcoming. Many thanks to Dana Nelson for her creativity in designing and ordering these banners. Thanks to Tendo David Lukwago, Eric Segawa, Eric Flores, Teri Flores, and Brian Pfohl for getting the banners up and down in a timely way.

In 2022 Marilyn MacDonald obtained a grant from the High Plains Region to fund this ministry in reaching out to the wider community. We have used these funds for social media advertising and purchasing banners and signs. Improvements to our streaming capabilities and other methods of reaching out may be funded by this grant as well.

This Ministry needs a pair of leaders that can implement its goal. Content can be provided, but maintaining and refreshing that content requires people who are comfortable with social media, have a great sense of humor and a desire to touch hearts across the internet.

Stewardship (Ruth Ann Nelson):

Our annual stewardship campaign ran from October 1 to November 5. The theme of this year's campaign was A Future with Hope, based on the verse *Jeremiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

We set a goal of 45 pledges totaling \$200,000 for this campaign. 53 households were sent a letter and a pledge card in the mail. Additional pledge cards were available in the Narthex. Each week of the campaign we had members of the congregation speak after the worship service about what St. Martin's means to them. Both the bulletin and the weekly newsletter had a Frequently Asked Questions section about aspects of pledging. As an alternative to returning a card, parishioners were able to pledge online through the website using Realm.

We also included a time and talent worksheet for parishioners to consider how they best felt called to share these gifts as well.

We ended the campaign with 30 pledges totaling \$141,856. This was an increase over last year's total pledges of \$122,184 which had recovered to pre-pandemic levels of giving.

One of our goals in our next campaign is to increase the number of parishioners who pledge each year.

Visioning/Parish Profile (Marilyn Macdonald):

This ministry was formed late 2022 to work with the Priest-in-Charge (Rev. Anna Horen) in discerning her transition from Priest-in-Charge into a full-time rector, or to move on to a different arrangement. We used the concept of three "Seasons" and calling upon the Holy Spirit to guide our work.

The first "Season" was of Discovery. Discovering the past and present narrative or story for the congregation. Utilizing a series of information seeking sessions involving the entire parish community, we created an identity of the congregation; where we have been, who we are, and what is most important to us in our future. We sought to identify the foundational elements of St. Martin's life and ministries, and what things need to be changed or replaced.

The second "Season" was of Visioning. Based on the current church identity discerned during the season of Discovery, we again worked with the parish community to develop an understanding of what brings life to this congregation, and what that might mean for the future. The entire parish community was invited to participate in a workshop lead by Canon Vanessa Strickler-Glass, where, using Open Space Techniques, groups envisioned the core beliefs and expansion and/or creation of ministries that directly align with those core beliefs. The third "Season" was Discernment. Together with Rev. Anna, we worked to translate the vision created during Visioning into action. Together we walked into the emerging vision, discerning if both the Rev. Anna and the congregation were called to continue this work together. The results of this discernment produced a Parish Profile and a clearly defined hope for the future, including what we hoped for in our Rector. At this point, Rev. Anna and this ministry felt that she was called elsewhere. We then moved to involve the Vestry in the search for a supply priest or a full-time priest.

Sharon Armstrong, Joanne Marabito-Harte, Ruth Ann Nelson Thor Nelson, Amy Shallanberger, Madeline Des Jardins, and Rev. Anna Horan participated in the organizational meetings at various times during this ministry. In addition, invitations were sent to all parishioners to join various small groups formed to describe their view of the history of the church, and at a later and separate workshop, develop their vision of the future. About 20% of the parish community participated in these small groups and workshops.

This committee guided the parish in self-evaluation and opened the door to the possibilities of a brighter, more clearly defined future, post-COVID. Through small groups assessing the past and present, the committee helped the parish discover our Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles and Opportunities post pandemic and changing 3 priests in five years. This process helped the members of our parish clearly identify and own the strengths and the weaknesses that affect our future. We were reminded that we are a resilient church, facing times of possible closure in our 44-year history, yet new people are regularly coming to worship with us. We were reminded that we needed to grieve for those things lost to the pandemic and to the rapid change of priests, yet we maintained a strong foundation of a loving and caring church. Later, through a visioning workshop, we experienced excitement over the prospect of new beginnings, and new visions for our future. We saw that, even though change happens, it does not have to have a negative impact on our purpose or our mission. Our reflection and our visioning have brought us to a new level of understanding, new energy, renewed strength, and the consistency of our long-term supply priest. Our long-term supply priest, Hentzi, embodies many of the traits that we had listed when we created our list of characteristics we hoped for in a new priest. Evidence that God was listening during this whole process.

This process of discernment, and the ultimate resignation of our Rev. Anna was both time consuming, intellectually hard work, and emotional. The membership of this committee changed over time, yet the core agenda did not drift from the established course. Involving more than 20% of the parish community in the small groups and workshops would have been nice, yet I believe that through those who attended the workshops, we obtained an accurate representation of the identity and vision for the church.

This committee ended with Hentzi coming in as our long-term supply priest.

Special thanks to Maddie Des Jardins for her expertise with wordsmithing and formatting. Ruth Ann Nelson provided energy when energy was low and provided creative and highly visual ways of interpreting the results of the small group and visioning workshop discussions. Many thanks to Thor Nelson for helping to provide differing points of view during discussions, which facilitated the opening of our minds to new possibilities. Lastly, thanks to all listed above who contributed their time, energy, and talents to this difficult and rewarding task.

Welcome (Martha Libby/ Donna Clifford):

The purpose of the Welcome Committee is to greet newcomers and unfamiliar faces with a smile, a name, and a true desire to make the person feel genuinely welcome and happy to be at St. Martin's. We provide the person with a "Welcome" bag that includes information about St. Martin's and our ministries along with contact information.

Members of the welcome committee are Donna Clifford, Martha Libby, and Melanie Victor. We are working on developing a process to help a new member move past the initial greeting and into life with our St. Martin's family, however shifting priorities have slowed down our welcoming process development.

For the next year we hope to Complete and document the Welcome/Integration Process; Create new welcome brochures; Host a welcome brunch; Create a training program for parishioners who would like to participate in this ministry; and add Welcome Team members.

Special thanks got to Donna Clifford who assures the Welcome Bags are filled and ready for passing along, and Melanie Victor for the design and production of our beautiful Welcome Bags!

Mission in Action

This cluster of ministries includes St. Clare's Ministry, Loaves and Fishes, Coat Drive, Sewing Ministry, Family Tree.

Coat Drive (Ruth Ann Nelson):

In honor of St. Martin who shared his own cloak, St. Martin in the Fields held its annual coat drive from October 29 to November 12, the Feast of St. Martin. The donated adults' coats were given to St. Clare's Clothing Closet. The donated children's coats were given to Montebello High School's social programs for use by the students and their younger brothers and sisters. 90% of Montebello's students are economically disadvantaged.

Fabric Arts/Crafting (Dana Nelson/Sharon Armstrong):

The ladies of St. Martin encompass many talented women. Some sew, some craft, some knit/crochet or combinations of several different talents. In the past we have used these talents to make items to sell at a craft show or as we like to refer to it as our “Christmas Closet” which is held in the Narthex of our church. There are many ladies involved with this. All proceeds from the sales have gone into the general fund for the church.

The fabric/craft/sewing ministry supports a number of activities related to fundraising and outreach.

1. Craft Fair. St. Martin’s participated in the Heritage Eagle Bend craft fair in early November 2023. The fair raised \$1,692.77 for St. Martin’s general expenses. The crafters of St. Martin’s were prolific in their endeavors this year and following the HEB fair, we were able to host the Christmas Closet at the church for 4 Sundays before Christmas. The Christmas Closet raised an additional \$792.72.
2. Pillowcases for Children’s Hospital. This year St. Martin’s donated 122 pillowcases for use at Children’s Hospital in Denver. The average stay for a young patient is 2 weeks. The children get to pick a favorite pillowcase to use during their stay as a way to personalize their space and display their personality and likes.
3. Warm Hearts, Warm Babies. St. Martin’s donated 17 baby quilts, and 54 burp cloths to WHWB. The baby supplies are donated to new moms at Denver Health as part of a going home package that includes supplies for the first 30 days of a newborn’s life.

Goals for next year: Increasing the pillowcases donations and WHWB donations thorough sewing events (pillowcase sewing day coming in February!)

Special thanks go to Sharon Armstrong, Donna Clifford, Jo Cunningham, John Cunningham, Dana Nelson, Thor Nelson, Sharon Parham, Susan Shepard, Melanie Victor, Shar Wentworth, and all who contributed to the craft fair and sewing donations.

If this type of thing interests you, there are many ladies in the church to talk to. This has always been a fellowship project along with sharing time and talent. Anyone interested in helping, joining, leading or being part of this is very welcome.

Family Tree (Dana Nelson):

Family Tree - GOALS provides transitional housing, education and support for families that are working to overcome homelessness. St. Martin’s supports the Aurora campus through frequent donations of needed supplies such as: Pantry food items, personal care and hygiene items, baby formula, diapers, cleaning supplies, gift cards for groceries and gas, etc. We host a school supply drive in August that is shared between Family Tree and Melissa Beach’s classroom in Aurora Public Schools. At Christmas St. Martin’s donates toys, gift cards, and household items such as small appliances, towels, sheets, blankets, dishes, etc. to stock the Christmas “Shop”. Residents can then “shop” for items to help establish their new living space upon leaving the facility.

Thank you to all the people who donated items and money throughout the year. I would like to recognize the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's members who make consistent donations, Ed & Heather Paprocki, Shawn Schenk, Shar Wentworth, Thor Nelson, Bill & Kandice McKeon-Eldred, Sharon Parham, Jo & John Cunningham, and Melanie Victor for their support of this ministry.

St. Martin's donated items in excess of \$3500. Donated items will help establish the households of 11 families working towards self-sufficiency.

The rapid growth of the Aurora GOALS campus has been a challenge for the leadership at Family Tree. Their administrative offices are located in Wheatridge that the communication between the two locations has sometimes been lacking and disorganized. The only in-person event St. Martin's participated in during the year was not well organized or well supported by the facility leadership. Discussions about the problems have been on-going and I am hopeful the situation will be better in the future. This particular issue does not and will not impact our regular supplies donations.

Goals for next year

1. Continue to make regular donations of needed supplies.
2. Create/support an in-person event that will be helpful to residents.

Loaves and Fishes:

St. Martin's annual food drive was held for three weeks in September. We collected 506 lbs. of food and toiletries. These were delivered to Aurora Interfaith Community on Monday September 25th for the benefit of local families in need. Special thanks to: Kathy and Steve McGill, and Carolyn Pearson who delivered our donations.

Thank you to everyone for your kind and generous donations.

St. Clare's:

Every Tuesday night from 4:30pm – 6:30pm, at 126 West 2nd Ave, Denver CO, St. Clare's Ministry serves 90-175 guests a nutritious, hot meal.

St. Martin's supports this ministry financially and supplies volunteers on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Volunteers help with setting up the tables, serving the food, washing the dishes, and staffing the Clothing Closet which provides guests in need with a change of clothes, grooming supplies, coats, and blankets. St. Martin's has been involved in this ministry for over 30 years.

Melissa Beach, who currently serves on the Board of Directors for St. Clare's, Bill Eldred, and Ed Paprocki are regular volunteers. Several other members of the congregation support St. Clare's with volunteering and fundraising as well. If you are interested in volunteering on a 4th Tuesday, please let them know. Carpooling is available.

Our goal this year is to increase the number of members of St. Martin's who participate in this volunteer work.

Membership Support

This cluster of ministries includes Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Prayer team, Card Angels, Office Support.

Card Angels (Char Wentworth):

The Card Angel Ministry mails card to parishioners on their Birthday and Anniversary.

Participants in this ministry are Ruth Ann Nelson, Denise Mears, Char Wentworth, Claire Rosen.

Having a directory that is updated in real time will be very helpful. We have had several new people join our congregation as well as several babies baptized and when they are 3 or 4 years-old they would enjoy getting a card if their names are listed.

A great BIG thanks to Claire for sending the list to the three of us. It is greatly appreciated that we get the list around the middle of the previous month so that the Birthday's and Anniversary's that occur on the first few days of the month get their cards on time. She is so good that she does this like clockwork without a reminder. Denise and Ruth Ann for sending cards out without any direction from me. Everyone doing their part without reminders or direction make overseeing this Ministry a breeze.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (Doug Meares):

Our job is to visit on Sunday mornings those who can't come to church. We will visit them and bring communion from the church service. We are to extend the service to those who are shut-in for whatever reason.

Licensed for 2023: Tom Keables, Jim McDonald, Doug Meares, Ruth Ann Nelson, and the newest member Jo Cuningham.

We now have enough that we rotate who is on duty each week. We took out approximately 49 communions this year.

Challenges experienced this past year: We now have one person who is a relatively greater distance than others. For that reason, we are struggling to visit on a regular basis. I feel we need to have more people to handle this. One for them and one for other visits.

I would like to add 2 or more LEV to our group. I think that there are others we are NOT reaching because they think we do not have enough to cover and so choose not to ask.

Parish Admin/Office Support (Claire Rosen):

The Parish Office produces the worship bulletins, the weekly E. News and sends parish communications. The Parish Administrator is also responsible for record keeping, reporting and the day-to-day running of the office.

Some of the highlights this year were archiving worship bulletins from 2010 to present and producing several different service formats. We also attended the Safety in Faith Seminar run by the Arapahoe County Sherriff where we learned a lot and gained valuable resource information.

Operating without a fulltime pastor for part of the year has presented a number of challenges from an office perspective.

In the upcoming year I hope to assist in creating a safety plan for various scenarios and enact many of the safety tips learned at the seminar. I will take on board the bookkeeping duties and hope to fully utilize Realm.

Special thanks go to: Paul Clifford for coming in every week to put announcements in the bulletins and assisting with shredding and other projects whenever asked (he saves me so much time)! Jo Cunningham and Joanne Marabito-Harte for office coverage and assisting with the archiving of worship bulletins. Ruth Ann Nelson and Teri Flores for support and encouragement. The Parish as a whole for their understanding and tolerance when things have gone askew as we've navigated this time of transition.

Prayer Circle (Marilyn Macdonald):

This ministry prays for persons who have indicated prayers are needed, for whatever reason. Prayers requested are submitted via Prayers@stmartinsaurora.org. Persons in need of prayer are prayed for by name during each ministry member's regular prayer time. Those requesting prayer are also listed in the Prayers of the People during each Sunday service for six weeks. In addition, we offer a time of Healing Prayer with a member of the ministry, on the first Sunday of each month during communion at the 10:15am service.

Many thanks to Terri Flores, Martha Libby, Kathy McGill, Denise Meares, Doug Meares, Ed Paprocki, Heather Paprocki, Bruce Raymond, Ann Shallenberger, and Faith Thomas. Martha also provides the personal Healing Prayer during communion once per month. All are welcome to become a part of this ministry. Prayer can be done in the quiet of your home at any time. When we have new information, we report to the entire prayer ministry any updates we receive. This provides a powerful confirmation that our prayers are heard!

Even though changes may occur in the church leadership and schedules, this ministry remains a steady reliable source of prayers for the parishioners. There have been no highlights, nor low lights.

Maintenance of the Excel spreadsheet used to track prayer requests requires regular contact with the person initiating the request. This allows for timely updates to be communicated to the rest of the prayer ministry team. This can become laborious work if there are many persons to contact.

Goals for the year are to add more members to this ministry to become more familiar with and aware of the needs of parishioners. Develop a sense of regular prayer life.

A special thank you to those who let us know the outcome of their original prayer request. Knowing outcomes and receiving updates keeps our prayers fresh and confirms the power of prayer for all of us.

Tellers (Mike Shalmanberger):

Tellers work in teams of two and are responsible for counting weekly offerings and checks received via mail, recording pledge payments and documenting the purpose of all funds received. Tellers also prepare the weekly bank deposit and drop deposit bags in the FirstBank night deposit.

We had a large group of tellers in 2023 which meant that members of the team only served once every seven to eight weeks on average. Vestry members are assigned on a rotating basis, but the ministry is not restricted to vestry members.

Tellers included Sharon Armstrong, Jo Cunningham, Bill Eldred, Terri Flores, Tish Harris, Martha Libby, Marilyn Macdonald, Joanne Marabito-Harte, Jim McDonald, Denise Meares, Doug Meares, RuthAnn Nelson, Thor Nelson, Ed Paprocki, Pete Parham and Melanie Victor.

Goals for next year – Make things easy for our new treasurer, Teri Flores and our new bookkeeper, Claire Rosen by having an error free 2024.

Hospitality and Fellowship

This cluster of ministries includes Women’s Breakfast, Welcome Ministry, Social Events, Fundraising, Supper Club, Coffee Hour.

Book Club (Sharon Armstrong):

A new social group has recently been started. It is being called “Between the Wines Book Club”. It is currently being attended by some of the ladies of St. Martin. The hostess of the group is the facilitator of the book discussion as the hostess has selected the book. We meet around every six weeks to 2 months and so far have had great discussions on the chosen book. The hostess provides some snacks and of course there is some wine . . . thus the name. It would be great if this club developed into numerous chapters in the coming months. Questions, contact Sharon Armstrong.

Coffee Hour/Hospitality (Justin Loerwald):

Coffee hour is a vital part of after church services to promote fellowship, welcome newcomers and provide an opportunity for parishioners to connect.

A thank you to all who have hosted coffee hour in 2023:

Elizabeth Moran, Ruth Ann Nelson, Donna Clifford, Sharon Armstrong, Jo Cunningham, Sharon Parham, Joanne Marabito-Harte, Ken Rubin, Teri Flores, Tish Harris & Justin Loerwald.

Hardly a Sunday was missed in 2023 with a welcoming table of goodies to offer church members and guests. Also, an improved inventory system to keep our kitchen cabinets filled with necessary supplies.

Challenges in 2023 reflect the same concerns in previous years regarding the COVID virus. For the health of parishioners occasionally a policy of pre-wrapped food items would take effect.

The goal for 2024 is to increase the volunteer base so more church members can participate.

Thanks to all who have provided kitchen supplies, including coffee this past year.

Dinner Club (Sharon Armstrong):

St. Martins is proud to provide a dinner club for our church family. This group is composed of singles and couples in the congregation. We meet in groups of six to eight people in a four-month period. It is a chance to get to know each other outside of church. It is completely social and lots of fun. Our groups are together for a four-month rotation and then are mixed up to start a new rotation with a different mix.

The host/hostess of the group prepares the entrée and the others are asked to bring a side dish. This is not gourmet cooking but just a casual gathering of friends. However, it has been discovered that there are some pretty good cooks at church but that is not a pre-requisite. It is about fellowship and fun.

If you haven't considered this social event, please do. You will discover church people are really a lot of fun. Questions or concerns, reach out to Sharon Armstrong.

Fellowship Special Events (Melanie Victor):

Fellowship Special Events help our community gather for fun, fellowship, and fundraising. It's an opportunity for members to invite friends and family to attend events outside of worship on Sunday mornings and introduce them to our St. Martin in the Fields community.

This year we had several special events:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (2/21)
- Easter Egg hunt 4/9
- Pentecost Picnic (6/4)
- A farewell celebration for Rev. Anna (6/18)
- Potluck/Boardgame Night 7/15
- Rockies Faith Day 8/20
- Broncos Game and Potluck after church 9/24
- Murder Mystery/Silent Auction 10/28
- Prayers & Pies 11/22

These events were made possible by many volunteers. Special thanks to the Brotherhood of St. Andrews for help with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Pentecost Picnic. Thanks to Amy and Bryan Shalanberger hiding all the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to all who donated candy to fill the eggs and to Teri and Ruth Ann for filling the eggs.

Thanks to the Brotherhood for handling ticket sales for the Rockies Faith Day, Thanks to Teri Flores and Liz Flores-Moran for doing the food for the Murder Mystery/Silent Auction. Thanks to all who found donations and helped prepare the baskets for the Silent Auction. Thank you to all who bought items at the Silent Auction.

And a special Thank YOU to all the members who came to the events, brought family and friends and put the Special in Special Events!

Women's Breakfast Club (Sharon Armstrong):

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month the ladies of St. Martin's meet for breakfast at 9:00 AM. This is a fellowship group, social group, prayer group and anything you want it to be "group".

We have been meeting for over 15 years and sometimes we have four and other times fourteen. It feeds the soul. We will laugh, we will cry, we will pray. The one thing for sure is that you will be welcome. Please join us, even if you are a man! All are welcome.

We currently are meeting at The New Day Café at Bellview and Parker. Any questions feel free to contact Sharon Armstrong

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS: Wardens are elected annually.

Candidate for Senior Warden: Ruth Ann Nelson

Candidate for Junior Warden: Thor Nelson

Candidates for Vestry:

Class of 2027

- *Sharon Armstrong*
- *Doug Meares*
- *Fred Hansen*

Class of 2026

- *two openings available for nomination from the floor*

Class of 2025

- *two openings available for nomination from the floor*

Supplemental St. Martin in the Fields Visioning Report

As part of the process established by the Priest-in-Charge Committee formed in April of 2022, we held a Visioning Workshop on February 25 using the Open Space format. Approximately 20 percent of our faith community were present and participated in this 6-hour workshop. We identified seven areas to discuss in this workshop.

- Outreach
- Children/Family/Young Adults
- Identity (as defined by us and as perceived in the wider community)
- Liturgy and Music
- Evangelism/Welcome
- Leadership Development
- Holy Spirit

As we worked through these areas, several themes surfaced that overlapped many of these areas. These are the primary themes that surfaced.

Music

The importance of music was highlighted in Outreach, Evangelism, Identity, Holy Spirit as well as Liturgy and Music.

- We seek a music program that uses a mix of musical styles that will speak to all in attendance.

Welcoming

How we express being welcoming was discussed in Evangelism, Identity, Holy Spirit, Liturgy and Music, and Children/Family Young Adults. We discussed what it means, what risks we face, how best to express welcome when inviting the community to the church and when new people walk through the door. We discussed pre-covid practices and how to incorporate new people post covid.

- We seek to proclaim our community as welcoming to all.

Culture

The culture of St. Martins was discussed in every breakout session. Many discussions highlighted that we lead with love and that is the lens through which we want to determine our actions, programs, events, outreach, inclusiveness etc... Our hope is to continue to examine our culture and work to lean into leading with love. This will require much additional formal and informal discussion and work by the lay and clerical leadership to lead the membership through example, word, and deed.

- We seek to lead with love.
- We seek to move from the “fear of the unknown” to “belief in the future”.
- We seek to have a culture of forgiving and giving grace to one another.

Children

In addition to having one breakout session devoted to discussing Children, our communities care and concern for children was expressed in the Outreach, Evangelism, Identity, Holy Spirit, and Liturgy and Music sessions as well. Additionally, we are in a neighborhood that has nearby grade schools and a high school. We are working to develop ways to serve these children as well. What we need to accomplish this is to identify what needs exist and then determine how we can assist.

- We seek to nurture the children in our community through greater inclusion in worship.
- We seek to provide opportunities for intergenerational activities.
- We seek to identify ways to serve children in our surrounding neighborhoods.

Leadership

We currently have 97 active members and a very ambitious plan for serving our members and the greater community. Many of our members have been called upon to serve in leadership repeatedly and require rest. We need to honor that and support them in their sabbatical from responsibility. We recognized that we need to define the roles of ministry leaders, communicate who ministry leaders are, and work to prevent burnout of volunteers and lay leadership.

- We seek to cultivate a culture of shared leadership and active volunteerism.

Communication

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the High Plains Commission to promote the ambitious plans we have for this year. We have established a communications committee that will be coordinating the print, website, social media, banner, signage, newsletters, and other communications used to maximize the dollars received. We need this committee to identify the best ways to spend the funds and implement the plans made. Additionally, we have Realm and are currently using it primarily for informational purposes. Some of the breakout sessions wondered if Realm could be used more effectively. We need to examine the use of Realm at the level we currently subscribe to it and evaluate the cost/benefit of increasing its use. There is also a concern about the general receptiveness of the membership to Realm.

- We seek to use available methods of communication effectively and efficiently.

Many specific questions were asked during the workshop. Not all the questions were directly addressed in the discussions. The questions asked are included in the appendix of this report so that they can be addressed later as needed. The appendix also includes the participants in the discussions and self-identified stakeholders.