

January 19, 2025

# Annual Meeting



ST. CATHERINE'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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CLERGY



The Very Rev. Sarah Fisher  
*Rector*



The Rev. Trey Phillips  
*Associate Rector*



The Rev. Jess Speaker  
*Deacon*



Shannon Darke  
*Seminarian*

STAFF



Dr. Chris Walters  
*Organist & Choirmaster*



Rachel Hutton  
*Executive Assistant*



Lucy Alexander  
*Youth Coordinator*



Bill Ivey  
*Facilities Manager*



Pam Kulpa  
*Preschool Director*



Pat Pepper  
*Newcomers Connection*



Joseph Hegedus  
*Ministry Team Coordinator*



Bayton  
*Chief Joy Officer*

VESTRY AND COUNCIL



Nelson Gale  
*Senior Warden & Finance*



Linda Scott  
*Jr. Warden & Stewardship*



Ellen Adams  
*Adult Education*



Maria Salgado  
*Community Life & Stewardship*



Victoria Lennon  
*Outreach*



Fred Lopez  
*Youth*



Michael Wherry  
*Liturgy & Music*



Rebekah Fontenot  
*Children & Families*



Karen Friend  
*Pastoral Care & Community Life*



Lisa Johnston  
*Pastoral Care*



Greg Stewart  
*Facilities & Grounds*



Barb Perry  
*Adult Education*



Tom Donoghue  
*Treasurer*



Frances Bowden  
*Clerk*

- **11:30 AM Call to Order**
- **Appoint the Scribe**
- **Approve 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**
- **Vestry Election**
- **Reports**
  - Senior Warden Report
  - Associate Rector Report
  - Finance Report
  - Rector Report
- **Table Discussion**
- **Fun Stuff**
  - Musical Interlude
  - Introduce the Staff
  - St. Catherine's Cross Awards
  - Thank Outgoing Vestry Members
- **Adjourn**



## 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 21, 2024

**Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 11:30am by The Rev. Sarah Fisher

- Appoint Scribe – Rosemary Wolfe. Motion by Margaret Shaw. 2nd by Steve Diffley. Vote Unanimous
- Thank you to the team for delicious brunch

**Approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Lisa Spessard. 2nd by Maria Salgado. Vote Unanimous

**Telling Our Stories** - Elizabeth Lopez shared her story

**Senior Warden Report** – Margaret Shaw

- What didn't we do in 2023!
- Margaret reminisced with ALL that happened in 2023 and ALL the volunteers, staff and clergy that made that happen.

**Vestry Elections** – the slate for the class of 2026

- Karen Friend, Greg Stewart, Lisa Johnston and Rebekah Fontenot.
- Motion by Mel Paris. 2nd by Bill Selby. Vote by acclamation – Unanimous

**Rector's Report** – The Rev. Sarah Fisher

- Dave Daniel's stepped down from Vestry in the Fall of 2023. Barbara Perry (who was due to roll off) has agreed to fill his remaining term.
- Early in 2023 we looked at the budget and found that there wasn't room for an Associate Rector.
- We switched Bookkeeping Services
- We switched Treasurer – we are grateful for Chuck Zimmerman and we welcome Tom Donoghue.
- Pam Kulpa and Rachel Bagby have had to step up with extra duties
- Lay Pastoral Care has been revitalized (especially with Rector Sabbatical approaching)
- Drs. Jana & Brian Williams retired and we welcomed our new Director of Music, Dr. Chris Walters

Looking towards 2024

- Continued growth (rebuilding post Covid)
- Continuing to work on structures
- Return of Vestry Liaisons with ministries
- Return of Quarterly Ministry Team Meetings with regular budget updates
- Ministry Renewal – look, find and help grow in a ministry
- Return of Sunday Morning Greeters
- Growing our Acolyte Program – children, youth and adults
- Sabbatical – Sarah received a Lily Grant for her upcoming Sabbatical – her leave taking service will be April 14 – she will be gone 3 months

- Staffing:
  - Pay increases for staff for 2024
  - Hired Senior Associate Rector: The Rev. Trey Phillips for Education, Stewardship & Evangelism. He is stepping down as Director of Youth and we will hire a Part Time Youth Coordinator
    - Trey is delighted and will work to underscore our practices that are already in place
    - It will take time to fill coordinator position and that position will work closely with Trey during the transition.

## **The Rev. Trey Phillips** – looking forward

- Youth Leadership
- Working with Families with Young Children
- Bring back VBS
- Experimenting with Adult classes – deep theological learning
- Evangelism – reclaiming and redefining
- Collaboration with local schools
- Make St. Catherine’s a household name
- Stewardship – Bloom where you a Planted for future generations

## **Musical Interlude with Dr. Chris Walters** – Rise & Shine and Give God the Glory

## **2023 Finance Review** – Nelson Gale

- Thank you to Chuck Zimmerman for all his hard work during the transition from Rosemary Wolfe to outsourced bookkeeping service.
- Welcome to Tom Donoghue – new Treasurer
- We need to keep our campus and buildings in good shape – thank you Bill Ivey for all your hard work.
- Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for new and creative ways
- Thank you to Shannon Darke, our Seminarian who has stepped up to help with Strategic Planning
- **2023 Budget**
  - Income: Budgeted \$782K – Actual \$846K
  - Expense: Budgeted \$770K – Actual \$804K
  - Strategic Reserves – moved \$380K from checking account to Treasury bills earning 5% interest
  - Now checking accounts are within range of FDIC insured
  - Completed “clean” audits for church (Dec 2022) and preschool (July 2023)
  - Completed several repairs for the church – Thank you Bill Ivey
  - Great Oak Endowment Fund – grew to \$218K as of YE 2023
    - Great Oak dispersed monies to:
      - All God’s Children to support Family Promise’s new halfway house and supplies.
    - MLK Service Day
    - New Clergy Vesting closet
- **2024 Peak Ahead**
  - Income is up 8%
  - Other Income is up 87% due to Trinity Fellowship Grant and T Bill interest
  - Expense is up 10%
  - Salaries are up 12%

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## **Listening Builds Trust – Strategic Planning Feedback with Shannon Darke**

- Margaret Shaw
  - Who do we want to be
  - Over past 6 months we have had input and ideas from different groups
    - InReach / OutReach, Music (to be scheduled), Fellowship, Youth, and Children
  - Problems to be careful of
    - Staff burnout; Don't take joy out of how we welcome; Financial growth; Aging buildings
  - Continue to work on
    - Engage and reengage; Volunteers needed; Succession Planning; Storytelling; InReach & OutReach – lot of passion for Habitat for Humanity, Must Ministries, Family Promise and collections. Our challenge is inclusivity.
- Nelson Gale
  - Education
    - Youth – program is great; group leaders and WNL
    - Children – CGS is growing, passion for Director of Children's Ministries; bring back VBS and need more volunteers
  - Storytelling
    - We want help
    - Share your Story – reflect on how we proclaim the Gospel through God in our lives
- Shannon Darke
  - Will continue listening sessions, building roadmaps and action statements for next 3-5 years

## **Telling our Stories – Wade Reck shared his story**

### **Staff – The Rev. Sarah Fisher introduced**

- Dr. Chris Walters, Pat Pepper, Bill Ivey, Rachel Hutton, Joe Hegedus, Shannon Darke, The Rev. Trey Phillips, The Rev. Jess Speaker, Pam Kulpa

### **Outgoing Vestry**

- Barb Perry, Margaret Shaw, Harry Tear & Allen Jablonski
- They were thanked and presented with a pottery piece made by Mel Paris
- Huge Thank You to Margaret Shaw, Senior Warden for her hard work

### **St. Catherine's Cross Presentation – The Rev Sarah Fisher**

*There will be two crosses awarded. The recipients were not at Annual Meeting, so they will be awarded during a Sunday morning service.*

### **Adjournment – Motion by Nelson Gale. 2nd by Rebecca Riney. Vote Unanimous**

Submitted by: Rosemary Wolfe



# Candidates.



Scott Caffey



Mark Stuckey



Jennifer Tear



Dennis Young

# Our Values.

## Loving.

We love through our actions, serving each other and the world. We live the Gospel with our minds, words, hearts, and hands, embodying sacrificial love that seeks the good and well-being of our neighbors.

## Courageous.

Courage is needed to embody Christ's challenging teachings of love for all people, and the challenges that come with following Jesus' example to embrace and respond to a changing world.

## Nurturing.

We are best nurtured by being in community. We are dedicated to growing the faith of all, especially our children and youth, and reflecting our call by Christ to care for one another and the world around us.

## Generous.

We believe that all things belong to God. Our generosity is a faithful expression of the gifts given to us. We thankfully give what we have first received.





## Rector's Report

The Very Rev. Sarah Fisher

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As I look back at 2024, I see a remarkable year. It is marked, for me, as the year St. Catherine's got out of Covid/post Covid mode and moved swiftly into growth mode. It has been the most alive the parish has felt to me since at least 2019 and I am hopeful, inspired and grateful.

We have welcomed so many new faces—people from all ages and stages of life. We have welcomed new staff members. We have continued to grow and strengthen Caritas Connections, our lay pastoral care ministry, our Seniors on the Go ministry continues to connect people in fun and meaningful ways, we have experimented with new ways to connect with people throughout the community with our reimagining of our social media presence. We have worked to ensure the safety of all who dwell in these walls—church, preschool, scouts, Family Promise and other members of the community that call St. Cat's home. We began work that will continue into 2025 at looking at how to grow and strengthen the Preschool and our connection to it. And we experimented with ways to better serve and connect with the community of East Cobb. We welcomed Trey Phillips as Senior Associate Rector and I went on a 3-month sabbatical.

In the parish profile that drew me to St Cat's one of the tasks this church asked of its Rector was to “help us gently move out of our comfort zone” and help move out the parish out into the world. We continue to look at the needs of the world, even when it sometimes makes us uncomfortable. All God's Children continues its work, including book studies and challenging conversations. AGC embarked on its 3rd Pilgrimage, this time to Charleston. As I reflect on what AGC does, for me, it asks the question again and again—who is my neighbor and equips us to begin to “go and do likewise.” Sometimes the question—who is my neighbor—is a challenging question. Sometimes it's a hard question. It's always a good question and usually brings us to new places of connection with the community and the Holy in our midst.

And in trying to be a bit more outward facing: we tried some new experiments. We sent home candy and prayer flags for All Souls, and Advent wreaths and prayer materials for Advent and Christmas to our Wheeler parkers, Preschool Parents and a couple of other community groups that meet at St. Cats.

We had three times more flags this year than usual and had to create new places to hang them up. We ran out of bulletins at the late Christmas Eve service. Our newcomers ministry got an overhaul and so did our newcomer gatherings. Deep bow of gratitude for Trey and team for one of the best newcomer events I've participated in during my 20 years of ministry.

Throughout the year we had many invitations to the community of East Cobb: we offered cooking classes for all ages. We offered yoga classes—free of charge during my sabbatical. We continue to have three yoga classes here weekly, open to the entire Marietta community. Two are offered on a sliding scale and one is free of charge. People who have never been to St Cats before have made their way here via yoga mat. And we began a new relationship with Coro Vocatti, who now calls St Catherine's home. From rehearsals to concerts, we are delighted to be known as a place with great music in East Cobb.

I have said, multiple times, that I want St Catherine's to be the premiere place for families with young children to come and learn about Jesus, community, spirituality and love. I think we are well on our way. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at St. Cat's is one of the finest in the Diocese. A friend of mine recently opened a CGS classroom. As they were showing it off to families, one of the kids, who sometimes attends St Cat's, said "it looks just like St. Catherine's Atrium!" My priest friend said there was no better compliment she could receive than to hear her CGS space compared with ours. I say this not to brag (well maybe a little to brag) but also to remind the parish that we have one of the most theologically sound curriculums being offered in our church. This year we added an atrium or classroom for toddlers. We are growing spiritually as well as numerically.

We continued with Choristers, who grow with God through song and help lead us in worship and we continued Parents Night Out. We added Wonder Church, as space for kids and their adults to explore faith and church outside of the traditional Sunday morning liturgy. We added a soft space. Last week, every single rocking chair was filled with a parent rocking their baby. This Lent we will experiment with a Children's Chapel format. Look for workshops for parents, open not only to St Cat's parents but also to Preschool parents. Our relationship with the Preschool continues to grow and I hope to strengthen the connection between Preschool and Church, between parents, students and this community. Our youth went on pilgrimage and earned house points. New faces and returning ones join us on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Perhaps less visible, but truly essential—we strengthened our financial and administrative processes. I joke all the time that when I'm long gone, St Cat's will refer to me not as the former Rector, but as the Policy Queen. But yes, we made more policies that we hope will ensure the financial stewardship, safety and strength of the parish for years to come. We had our 2023 audit done ahead of schedule and passed with flying colors.

“The work before us in 2025 is exciting, large, and doable.”

The work before us in 2025 is exciting, large, and doable.

We need to continue to be a place that welcomes people of all walks of life into our midst. The world is hurting. People are looking for connection, community and meaning. St. Cat's is uniquely positioned to be a place of hope, healing, and compassion in East Cobb. Our programs are a balm for the epidemic of loneliness in our world. We will double down on what we know is a source of healing, hope and joy. Small groups, from Foyers to Being With, will continue and I anticipate will continue to grow, as we journey together.

Our beloved building needs some care. Our rugs in the narthex and surrounding area are as old as the space...and they look it. The parking lot needs some major love. I dream of a place where people who have mobility challenges can find an easier entrance to our space. Our mortgage is so close to being paid off...and yet so far away. All to say—the building that holds us for worship, and enables us to be a space for community—it needs some care. Bill Ivey will rightfully retire mid-year and we'll be looking for a new Facilities Manager, and we'll be looking at ways we might care for our facility so that it can carry us into the next 60 years of ministry.

And, one of biggest and loftiest goals is to bring back a full-time programmatic position. While the details of this position are flexible, the bottom line is that we need the return of a third full-time position to meet the many pastoral and programmatic needs of this growing and vibrant parish.

And we need you. We need people engaged in ministries, big and small. We need people engaged in ministries that delight, challenge and help us grow,

both as individuals and as a church community. I hope that as we step fully and joyfully in to 2025, you will consider where your heart is calling you and where your curiosity is inviting you to explore, both at St Cat's and in the world.

**A few thank you's that need to be made:**

**Tom Donoghue** for saying yes to being Treasurer and working tireless hours to get our financials in shape and our procedures efficient and our policies clear. There were times I think he wanted to throw the towel in, but he didn't. He hung in there with us and has made us stronger and more transparent.

**Margaret Shaw**, who co-wrote the Lilly Sabbatical Grant with me. Margaret—thank you for not-so-gently pushing me to do this.

**The St Cat's Vestry and Staff:** We will be here until Tuesday if I name everyone by name and gift. But suffice it to say that the staff and Vestry continue to rise to what is before them and this happened during the sabbatical as well.

**Trey, Annie & Rowan Phillips:** While I never had any doubts or worries about the care the parish was receiving in my absence, what Trey gave to this place exceeded expectations. I try not to take it too personally that Sunday attendance numbers skyrocketed in my absence! Trey's preaching, pastoral care and leadership were evident to me from the moment he walked through the door. And he exercised those gifts with such graciousness in my absence. I am in his debt. Being a priest takes a toll, often on your family. Annie and Rowan—thank you for sharing Trey with us. We could not have done it without him and he could not have done it without the two of you.

**Nelson and Emily Gale:** It is a truly brave soul who is willing to serve as Senior Warden during the Rector's sabbatical. Perhaps even braver is the spouse of the Senior Warden. On my sabbatical, I reached out to Nelson twice. Twice I was told to leave work alone and that y'all were just fine and to return to my sabbatical at once! Because of Nelson's strong and faithful leadership, I was able to experience a once in a lifetime sabbatical. A deep bow of gratitude to the Gale family for all they've done during Nelson's tour of duty as Senior Warden, but especially for his time during my sabbatical. Nelson—I don't think you have any idea how much respect and love I carry for you. You are one of the greatest gifts of getting to do ministry in this place. You teach and lead with integrity, kindness, clarity and love. I am better for your love of this place. St Cat's is too.



# Senior Warden's Report

Nelson Gale

We had so many new faces join us at St. Catherine's in 2024.

This includes:

- Mature Adults
- Empty Nesters
- Young Couples
- Young Families

We also had many new faces join in our many ministries. New growth is a sign of vitality. We are so blessed with this vitality because of all the new friends we have gained this past year.

There were many other things that qualify as new for our church in 2024. We have a new bright attention getting road sign to invite guest to come try us.

Our Pathways to Connection program invites visitors. It also helps connect those newcomers, and those of us who have been here awhile, to find our passion in ministry. (It is no secret this is Trey's way to get the Baptist out that is trapped inside him.)

The new St. Cat's branding that was born out of planning for Pathways to Connection. The new logos are really fresh and very cool!

Sarah's sabbatical planning was involved and detailed. It really prepared us (the members of St. Cat's) for traveling a parallel path with Sarah while she was away. Father Trey led us through our three+ months of separation doing some of the same things Sarah was doing. We were still doing church, but we were introduced to healthier living classes including yoga, healthy eating with Sue Snape and Tai Chi with Helen Slaven.

Sarah's much anticipated return from her sabbatical was a glorious celebration.....especially for Trey!!! As Sr. Warden I had the pleasure of working closely with Father Trey. I had a front row seat to see Trey bloom into the superb Sr. Associate Rector he is. He took to this new responsibility with such ease, grace and wisdom beyond his 30 years.

## More news for 2024:

- In the fall there were new and valuable education classes for adults on Sunday morning.
- We kicked off our Welcoming and Safety Initiative
- The merging of Boy Scout Troops 433 and 713 into the new very active and vibrant Troop 433 with approximately 55 members.
- Financial: We Increased staff pay to be more competitive. We increased the budget for children and young families. Lucy Alexander was a wonderful addition as our new Youth Coordinator. Tom Donoghue volunteered to become our Treasurer. He guided our finance committee very ably with his professional leadership and extensive financial knowledge. Tom will now begin transitioning his position to Mark Singleton as our new Treasurer. You will hear more about our banking initiatives and facilities improvements during the finance report later.

I review all of this to answer Sarah's request that we share with you where we saw God's transformational love in our church in 2024.

See all the above. In all of these special and not so special events, you could see The Holy Spirit moving in this place to help us truly live out our values:

- **Love**
- **Courage**
- **Generosity**
- **Nurture**

I want to thank you for your suggestions, your questions, your support and your patience this past year.

It has been my pleasure to serve you the past three years, and especially in 2024 as your Sr. Warden.

With deep gratitude,  
Nelson Gale



## Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Trey Phillips

### Families with Young Children | Youth

*St. Catherine's as a leading Episcopal destination for families with young children.*

#### **2024 Highlights:**

- Hired Youth Coordinator
- Brought back VBS (impacted the lives of 27 children)
- Kristi Johnson opened a toddler atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Launched Wonder Church
- Introduced “Pray and Play” Soft Space
- Faith Formation @Home—resource hub on our website for families
- Better integration between church and preschool
- Offered greater support to parishioners who were pregnant or families undergoing major transitions
- Playground fellowship during the summer

#### **2025 Vision:**

- Faithful Families workshops
- Inviting our preschool more into the life of St. Catherine's
  - Mother's Day
  - “Blessing of the Animals” Show
- Experiment with Children's Chapel

### Adult Education

*St. Catherine's as a center for deep theological learning.*

#### **2024 Highlights:**

- Maintained a robust catalog of educational offerings: All God's Children, Finding God... series, Bible/Book Studies, etc.
- New Adult Education Offerings
  - Radical Hospitality (Connect Team training)
  - Finding God in the Liturgy
  - Mary, Mother of God (+guest speaker)



- FOUNDATIONS (confirmed/received 5 adults in December)
- Launched Being With Small Groups (currently have four trained facilitators with more to come!)
- Sarah's Sabbatical Offerings

## **2025 Vision:**

- Strengthen our robust culture of small groups:
  - Being With
  - Foyers
  - Bible/Book Studies
  - Life-Stage Cohorts
- Experiment with creative ways to get the best theological knowledge to our parishioners

## Evangelism and Newcomers

*St. Catherine's as a "household name" to our neighbors in East Cobb.*

## **2024 Highlights:**

- *Path to Connection*—a strategic process to welcome and integrate those new(er) to St. Catherine's
- Connect Team Ministry
- The Connect Center
- The Welcome Table—newcomer event
- Church re-brand
- Newcomer promotional materials
- The "Big 5" Strategy
- New website
- New social media presence (more "outward" facing)
- ASA increase of +8.5%

## **2025 Vision:**

- Everyday Episcopal Evangelism (experimenting around that "E" word)
- Continue offering big community reaching events



## Music Director's Report

Dr. Chris Walters

I am happy to celebrate and summarize the highlights and accomplishments of the choirs and music ministry programming at St. Catherine's during 2024; and a bullet-point summary of that report might look as follows...

### Music in Worship

- Continuing to strengthen the congregational singing of our parish through “pre-Eucharist teaching sessions” and the singing leadership of Choristers and Chancel Choir.
- Exploring and expanding the hymn “repertoire” of St. Catherine's by prioritizing the selection of hymns that magnify and support the Lectionary (even when those hymn selections are less-familiar).
- Welcoming special guests (my friend, Taylor Grant in February and June).
- The major Feast Days of our calendar (Christmas, Easter) feature lovely music-making by our parish choirs at “full-strength” accompanied by professional musicians (Christmas Eve string quartet, Easter trumpets).
- A robust “summer season” in 2024 that featured 6 soloists (of all ages)!

### Choristers and Chancel Choir

- Chancel Choir is one of the GREAT treasures of this parish!
- Welcoming more singers in 2024 into BOTH groups!
- Two “Try the Choir” events in summer and fall for all ages.
- Choristers continuing to ring handchimes (twice for Christmas Eve 2024).
- Santa made an appearance at the Christmas Chancel Choir party this year - we must be doing something right!

### Jubilate

- Continuing to lead Easter Sunrise
- Led worship at 8:30am on September 8 to an enthusiastic reception.
- Provided music for Trunk or Treat AND Back-to-School Bash events.

### Concert Series

- Amadi Azikiwe in February (from NYC)
- Amadeus String Ensemble in October
- Gate City Brass in December (and a HUGE crowd three days before Christmas)
- Welcoming Bill Forrester as the new chair of the Friends of Music Committee
  - GLADLY welcoming new additional members to Friends of Music
  - Improved procedures, vision, and division of labor among “sub-committees”

### Instruments

- Pianos and organ remain in good working condition.



## Facilities (Building & Grounds)

Bill Ivey

*Facilities Manager*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Our facilities team are stewards of the building and grounds where we have been planted since 1961.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

A new sign and new banners for the front of the church. We shine our light from the hill in front of the church.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

Our plan is to continue to care for the buildings and grounds we have been given - to be good stewards both of the facilities and of the funds that have been given to us to care for those.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

God works in our midst through the joyful hearts and smiling faces of our volunteers. We've been blessed by new volunteers and long-standing ones. Thank you all for your willingness to do the work of keeping us looking great!

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

Many people have been generous with their time and talent this past year.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

We'd like to especially thank Marlene Stuart, Harriett Pyburn, Linda Scott and Richard Ehrman for their willingness to help keep our church beautiful - inside and out. THANKS!





## Youth

Lucy Alexander

*Youth Coordinator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Creating a beloved community devoted to God and each other as we grow, pray, serve, and play.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

I have loved seeing these youth bond on trips! I was able to attend the Lake Logan trip and loved watching the youth and leaders grow even closer. It is a joy to see these youth and leaders mingle every Sunday and see the love leaders pour into this ministry.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

I would love to have the youth take more ownership of the youth house. I'm hoping to organize several events for the youth to clean and organize their space and take pride in their space. I would also like youth to potentially lead WNL events or Sunday announcements to practice some leadership skills.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

I see God every Sunday when I see the way our youth leaders interact with the youth. They care deeply about each kid and take the time to ask how school, sports, band, and more are going. I see God in the laughter and smiles in our group gatherings, and the way the youth community takes care of each other and value every member.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

I have experienced the nurturing value of St. Catherine's frequently in my work this year, as I see youth nurturing each other, and leaders nurturing youth. In the wake of the Apalachee High School shooting, I saw this community come together in prayer and in grief. Whether a youth has had a bad day at school or a loss of a family member, these youth and leaders take care of each other.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

I would love to thank all our youth leaders, but especially Caroline Brennan! Caroline always encourages youth to step outside their comfort zones and try new things. She is always telling youth about the magic they should experience

at Camp Mikell and promotes retreats there continuously. She's always sending me ideas for fun things to do with the youth and helps keep our youth excited about all the great things they're doing in life. Caroline, thank you for the joy you radiate out into our St. Catherine's youth.



## St. Catherine's Preschool

Pam Kulpa

*Preschool Director*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

To provide a warm, loving environment for children to learn and grow.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We are excited to be offering a one year old class in the 2025-2026 school year. We are also celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2025 so we hope to plan and celebrate with our community.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

The relationships that are within our preschool are wonderful and I think that is always God.

### **How have your experienced our core values in your work this year?**

It is wonderful to form relationships with families and extended families. They always extend their thanks for keeping the important children in their life happy here at the preschool.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

Bill Ivey is always there when we need him and that is so helpful while running a busy preschool. I am so thankful to have his expertise and thoughtfulness.

## Stephen Ministry

David Moore

*Stephen Leader*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry. Equipped and empowered volunteers provide high quality confidential Christ-centered care to people who are experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

As of 2024 we had 12 active Stephen Ministers who provided 347 hours of care. We provided 18 hours of Continuing Education to our current ministers and 50 hours of training to two new ministers.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

Our ministry was the recipient of a bequest under the will of former parishioner and longtime Stephen Leader, John Rae, to provide continuing education and training of Stephen Ministers at Saint Catherine's. We will use this money as stipulated to help fund a retreat in the summer to educate and hone our skills as caring people of Christ and to explore emerging social concerns of our congregation, to insure we are providing the most inclusive and understanding level of care. A congregation wide educational opportunity is also being planned.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

In the work and consistent dedication each Stephen Minister brings to our supervision group meetings twice a month.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

Being present with someone once a week for an extended period of time embodies all 4 of our core values.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

Terri Gabrielson, who implemented a more structured and organized meeting schedule which allowed everyone in our group to participate and kept us focused on our principles.

## Proofreaders

Joseph Hegedus

*Scheduling Facilitator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

We do our best to catch "oopsies" in the Wheel and the Church Bulletins. Sometimes we are even successful!

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We might leave a few "oopsies" in this year to make sure everyone is reading the Wheel!

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Being a proofreader means to try our best knowing that no matter how hard we try we won't be 100% successful and that's ok. Next week we will try our best again. What could be more representative of the Christian life than that.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

I would like to thank Ruth, Karen, Stephanie and Alison. You never hear about them, but they are always working behind the scenes chasing perfection. With a special shout out to Rachel. Rachel you make the magic happen!

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Joseph Hegedus

*Scheduling Facilitator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

We help the clergy to offer the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation during Communion.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

A new Lay Eucharistic Minister joined the ministry this year and when he serves he touches my heart because he has the biggest smile on his face. When I mentioned his smile to him he had no idea that he was smiling. This joy he feels is the core of serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister!

## Sunday Readers

Rebecca Riney

*Reader & Facilitator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

We read from the Old Testament, New Testament and serve in the role of Intercessor.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We are excited by all the different voices who bless us each week!

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

I am amazed by the constant desire of the people in this ministry to serve each and every service!

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

I would like to thank Rebecca Riney for the care she puts into making sure that all the Sunday Readers have what they need to be prepared. She really works hard and unseen in her duties. On behalf of all the Readers thank you for all you do!

-Joseph Hegedus, *Ministry Team Coordinator*

## Ushers

Joseph Hegedus, *Usher Scheduler*

Jim Kareken, *Head Usher*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

We seek to serve the people attending our services and we hope that you feel well cared for when you are with us.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We are excited by all the new faces and returning smiles we see each week!

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Ushering may seem like handing out bulletins and passing the offering plate, but it is so much more. We get to see and often speak with so many people when we are serving. If you are able to attend services in person we want you to know that we see God at work in you and we are thankful and so very happy to see you!



## Acolytes

Joseph Hegedus

*Acolyte and Facilitator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Help assist and lead in the worship service by carrying the processional cross and torches, lighting and extinguishing candles, and assisting the clergy in the preparation of the altar for communion.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We are thankful for all the adults who have joined our youth in serving this year! The youth are the core of who we are, but we have loved to mentor our adult acolytes!

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

I have been overjoyed to see parents serving with their children (Monica, Ina, Caroline) and adults from the Daughters of King and All God's Children all helping to bring joy to our services by serving as Acolytes!

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

I would like highlight our Acolyte Captains especially Luke Mikkelsen, Emma Mabry, Nat Whitlow, Jessica Speaker and Bourke Brennan! If I forgot anyone please forgive me!!!

## Outreach: Family Promise

Margaret Shaw

*Volunteer Coordinator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Family Promise of Cobb County provides housing, support and life-skills counseling to families experiencing homelessness. St. Catherine's support this program financially and via hosting families in our Youth House 4 weeks throughout the year.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

The families' appreciation for the space (in Youth House) that we provide, and their delight in the delicious meals provided every night.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

I hope to expand the volunteer base at St. Catherine's - there is literally something for everyone, from doing laundry, to making beds, to giving 2 hours in the evening, and more...

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

I see God in every "yes, I can do that" response from our volunteers who are already busy with their own families and needs, taking time to serve our Lord by serving our sisters and brothers. We are being "doers of the Word" in this work. God smiles.

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

Our Family Promise guests are loved and nurtured while with us. Our volunteers give so generously of their time and financial resources to support this ministry.

## **Who deserves special thanks?**

All volunteers are valued and appreciated. That said, driving a van with a trailer attached, and backing it into place, moving it gracefully through traffic and parking lots is a special skill not everyone has; special thanks go to Maria Salgado, Helen Slaven and Joseph Hegedus who faithfully do this for us. AND IF ANYONE ELSE has these skill -- let me know!

## **Outreach: Collections**

Molly Banko

*Collections Coordinator*

## **What is the mission of your ministry?**

The mission is to identify needs within our community, organize collection efforts and allow St. Catherine's parishioners to contribute.

## **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

The Angel Tree collection is always a highlight as we fulfill Christmas needs and wishes for families in our local schools. This year, 98 gifts and over \$2000 in gift cards were donated.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

Continue supporting ministries St. Catherine's has a relationship with - Simple Needs, Wheeler food pantry, Family Promise, local schools...

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

In the abundant generosity and giving enthusiasm of our Parish.

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

Typically, we have asked that gift requests be less than \$50 for the Angel Tree. This year, some higher priced gifts were requested including a bike and a tablet. The bike was one of the first gifts returned to the church and every single gift request we received was fulfilled.



## **Must Dinner**

Stephanie Langmaid

*Co-Coordinator*

## **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Serving dinner to the residents of the MUST Ministries Hope House homeless shelter once a month.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We hope to encourage groups within St. Cat's to claim months to volunteer together as a fellowship exercise, and to inspire new volunteers to participate.

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

Love, nurturing, and generosity are at the core of feeding the hungry. While our interactions with the Hope House residents are limited, St. Cat's participants share smiles and kind words with everyone who comes through the dinner service.

## Who deserves special thanks?

Tracy Buckelew, co-coordinator, Fred Massey who underwrote much of the cost of the food last year, faithful volunteers Mark Stuckey, Deborah Weigel, Bettye Harris, and Glenice Andrews.



## St. Cat's Active Seniors

Linda Scott

*Co-Coordinator*

### What is the mission of your ministry?

The Active Seniors ministry at St. Catherine's began when at the last Annual Meeting we heard about all of the new and wonderful things that were happening with the children and youth, and so we decided we wanted to have something new and wonderful for our 55+ folks as well. This past year has given us the opportunity to see how many seniors there are in our parish who thoroughly enjoy eating, visiting, exploring, hiking, sight-seeing and greeting new people. New friendships have been created, new connections made, new foods tasted, new sights experienced as well as much laughter and stories shared. In this time of life, we have found new interests as well as common bonds to be shared, in addition to the bonds we already celebrate every Sunday at Holy Communion.

## **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

It's difficult to choose one or two since our "Seniors...on the Go" activities have been quite varied but here are a sampling: 1) the coordinated staff sponsored event, "All we go down to the Dust", a workshop on funeral planning and planned giving, followed a couple of weeks later by a trip to Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, with tours led by our own Marion Hegedus and David Moore, Oakland's retired Executive Director; and 2) a Hibachi luncheon at the Orient Restaurant with two entertaining chefs flipping shrimp, chicken, and veggies in and amongst three-foot high flames. After being led around a virtual reality trip down the Nile, a walk around the Savoy Automobile Museum and other trips, we ended the year at the Perry's for a Christmas food and beverage extravaganza after the Christmas concert by the Gateway City Brass.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

Activities suggested for 2025 include the Atlanta History Center, Rhodes Hall, hikes, virtual reality visit to the Titanic or Life Chronicles exhibit, Etowah Indian Mounds, Smith-Gilbert Gardens, and local restaurants. One event that took place was the 26-week Tai Chi class led by Helen Slaven. It was fun for the 15+ folks who graduated and a gentle but effective way to keep ourselves moving without overdoing it. Helen will be leading an 8-week "A Matter of Balance" course beginning in February- watch for it in The Wheel.

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

God has been present both with us on our trips and gatherings and is always evident on Sunday mornings as we greet each other with smiles and hugs at both the early and late services, but especially at those ONE St. Cats 10am services when we join for meals in the Parish Hall. Viewing the beautiful family photos on the Christmas tree in the foyer, brought such a warm feeling to see so many faces on the tree that we all could recognize and name, knowing we were one big family here at St. Cat's from the newborn to the eldest.

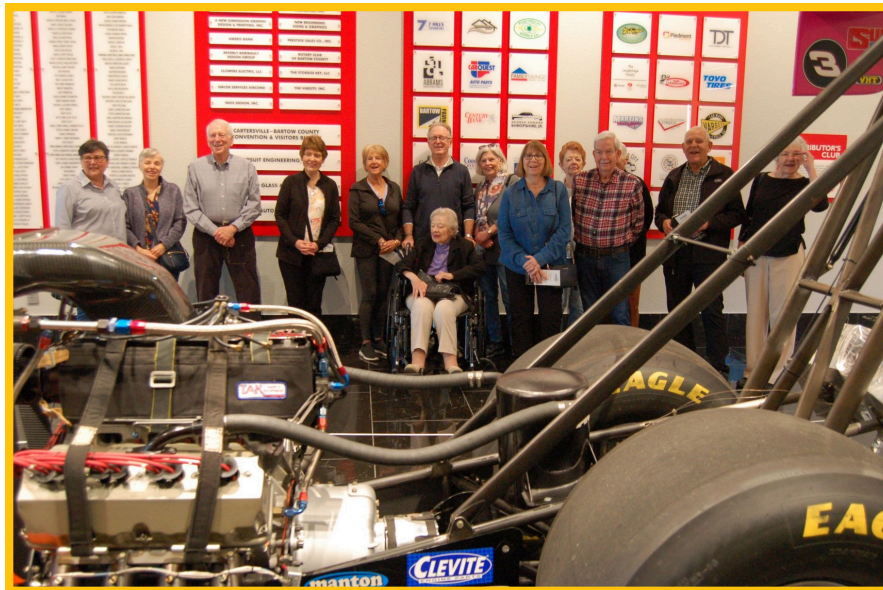
## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

All of these values apply to the seniors in our parish. They are so loving and nurturing towards each other and their own families and generous both in spirit and in financial terms, but I think courageous is one of the most profound ways this ministry has brought out the adventurous spirit in many of us. It's easy as you age to get set in your ways and to hunker down with a good book and stick to what you know. This ministry has taken many of us

out of our comfort zones and shown us that we can learn new tricks and see new sights and we can have a whole lot of fun doing it!

## Who deserves special thanks?

Bruce and Barbara Perry and Linda Scott coordinated the ministry this past year and Barb and Bruce will carry on with it along with Pam Phillips in 2025. Linda will send several emails through the year but events will be publicized in The Wheel so don't miss any issues. Special thanks go to Marion Hegedus for guiding us around the Oakland Cemetery, helping us learn how to use our iPhones to take pictures, and for taking such wonderful photos of us seen on the Christmas tree.



## All God's Children

Lisa Spessard

*Leadership Team*

### What is the mission of your ministry?

To engage the St. Catherine's community in the Episcopal Church's work of racial healing and reconciliation, diversity and inclusion and economic and social justice to ensure that we are catalysts for change at St. Catherine's and beyond.

## What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?

1. Our most recent formation was digesting and discussing the book, *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers. The class discussions were rich, respectful, and deeply meaningful for the 30 of us in regular attendance. They focused on understanding the history of our faith, where we have been, and where we are going. The most profound moments occurred when members dug deeply into what Christianity means to them personally—how to live out the love of Jesus and share it with others. 2. Selected by Vestry for Great Oak Grant funding to install new artwork in the building portraying more diverse images of Christ and Christ's kingdom, new art is located in Catechesis wing (good shepherd images as well as young Jesus in temple), Narthex soft space (good shepherd with children), and hallway to Parish Hall (Old and New Testament stories). The artist of Parish Hallway art (Michael Collie) was able to attend St. Catherine's and be introduced to our congregation in October.

## What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?

We will perform service work in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and plan to volunteer with Love Beyond Walls in April. Our annual pilgrimage will likely be held in October 2025 as we remain faithful to our mission of modeling Christ's active and justice-seeking love in our community and building beloved community.

## Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?

We have had several new members feel called to join AGC and their presence has been a blessing in many ways. As we have mourned and missed our beloved Althea Dillard who passed away last spring, we continue to come together in love to live into our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.



## Caritas Connections

Tom Hunter

*Head Volunteer*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Our mission is to make caring connections with the members of St. Catherine's parish. Each week we contact people on the Prayer List and families on the Parish Cycle of Prayer.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

Last year our thirteen volunteers made over 500 phone calls. We had a lunch with our Clergy and we were officially commissioned as a Ministry of St. Catherine's.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

To continue building relationships and to include more shut-ins in our calls.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

We have discovered people with needs we were not aware of and we have had many caring conversations that were greatly appreciated.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

We have had many loving conversations with people suffering with loneliness or temporary needs that St. Catherine's can help with, and we have made connections with resources of the parish to help.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

Joe Hegedus has done an outstanding job coordinating our calls every week and, along with Deacon Jess, has maintained our connection with the Clergy.

Our thirteen volunteers have been very faithful and caring in making their calls.





## Red Cross Blood Drive

David Banko

*Coordinator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

To coordinate and facilitate the bi-monthly blood drives to support Red Cross efforts to keep up the blood supply.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

In September we had collected above our goal and was awarded a \$100 Amazon gift card for the church.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

It is always a goal to get enough volunteer staff to help with the event. I'm proud to say we have already filled the 2025 calendar with some wonderful St. Cats volunteers.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Knowing that this is one thing we can do that actually saves lives in our community is a strong motivator.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

The generosity of our volunteers giving up their time to help with this ministry is amazing.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

Our Volunteers: Alan Jablonski, who volunteered for every drive. Molly Banko, Jennifer Tear, Eleanore Pearson, Jean Anderegg, and Rhonda Robinson.

## Mentoring

David Banko

*Coordinator*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

To find adults in the parish to mentor youth age 13-18 through their teen years and be a friend and trusted person in their lives.

**What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

Getting new mentors involved.

**What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

To continue to expand the program to include those turning 13 in the youth program as well as better nurture our relationship with East Cobb Middle School.

**Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Watching the youth speak so highly of their experience with the mentor program.

**How have your experienced our core values in your work this year?**

This is no small undertaking for our mentors. They are often tasked with supporting their mentees through challenging times and walking alongside them on this journey.

**Who deserves special thanks?**

All of our volunteer mentors.

## Sonshine Meals

Jennifer Tear

*Ministry Team Lead*

**What is the mission of your ministry?**

To provide meals to parishioners in times of need - illness, surgery, death, birth, hardship.

**What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

In 2024 we added a few new Sonshine chefs to our team. We also had a stocked freezer throughout the year from rotating contributions from team members.

**What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

If/when our freezer stock gets low or runs out, we would like to have a "stock the freezer" fellowship event and host an afternoon of cooking in the St. Catherine's kitchen to make Sonshine meals to have on hand when needed in 2025.

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

I saw it in the overwhelming response to the Perry family when they lost their daughter. Sonshine Meals worked closely with Daughters of the King to provide many meals for the Perrys during that most difficult time.

Additionally, I get random emails from Sonshine chefs saying that they have added something to the freezer - Sonshine angels I like to call them!

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

We are so blessed to have so many generous people on the Sonshine team-we served at least 7 different families this year and had 16 different volunteers prepare and/or deliver food.

## **Who deserves special thanks?**

There are many people who faithfully serve on the Sonshine team so I thank all of them!

# Adult Formation

Elizabeth Lopez

*Formation Facilitator and Leader*

## **What is the mission of your ministry?**

To engage adults in our parish in the good news of Jesus through study, reflection, and fellowship. To deepen adult engagement in the liturgical life of the parish by increasing literacy of Scripture and tradition, developing deep spiritual and reflective practices, and fostering a courageous Christian ethic.

## **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We held a planning meeting for all levels of Christian formation in December (children, youth, and adults) to share our plans and hopes as related to the larger vision for formation for the parish. It was wonderful to see our many areas of common ground and the innovations planned in each area. Another highlight was when we brought the adults of the parish together in two church-wide Sunday morning offerings in Lent and Advent that were well-attended and offered a chance for us to connect with others that we might not see each Sunday. Both of these highlights of the year emphasize our continued connection and collaboration as a faith community.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We will continue with our robust Sunday and weekday offerings and plan parish-wide classes again in Lent and Advent. We are discussing ways to enhance intergenerational formation and fellowship as well as collaborations between education levels (Catechesis, youth classes, and adult formation).

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

In every conversation, shared story, and connection made between people attending our offerings.

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

We offer three adult classes on Sunday mornings, four weekday study groups, and numerous additional opportunities for spiritual development throughout the year. Every offering is planned with such love and grace, with an eye toward supporting and connecting adults in our parish, nurturing them in their spiritual lives. Facilitators and leaders are generous with their time and talent. However, everyone who attends an offering is making the time to come and share something of themselves. This is an act of generosity and courage. We are experiencing impactful and brave conversations each time we gather, helping us all to live our lives in faithful ways.

## **Who deserves special thanks?**

All who give of their time and talent to lead or facilitate a class or offering and all who attend a class or offering, ready to share something of themselves whether or word, deed, or simply their presence.

# Stewardship

Maria Salgado

*Vestry Liason*

## **What is the mission of your ministry?**

To nourish the spirit and act of sharing our resources of wealth, wisdom, and works within and outside of our community.

## **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

The Stewardship Soiree - with the leadership of Mo Sarah, staff, and Stewardship team was wonderful. So far, final numbers will be provided at the annual meeting, Walk in Love campaign has been very successful.

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

To continue to build on the success of this year by growing our pledgers' group.

## **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

The generosity of the time, support of the various ministries, and the nurturing of the St. Cats' community and those of greater Marietta.

## **Who deserves special thanks?**

Linda Scott, a very busy person, encouraged, supported the team with her kind guidance.

## **Streaming**

Frances Bowden

*Queen of Streaming*

## **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Our mission is to provide access through live streaming to parishioners who (for whatever reason) are unable to make it to the building for services.

## **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

One highlight this year has been watching Scott Caffey run video while also wrangling James and Sarah during the services. Seeing his small children take part in it by wearing headphones and looking at monitors is sometimes the highlight of my week.

## **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

I would love more people on the team so we can cover sound at the early service and sound and video at the late service.

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Marion Hegedus, sitting in the narthex, watching the feed and replying to comments.

## **Who deserves special thanks?**

All of my volunteers: Phil Spessard, Frank Adams, Scott Caffey, David Moore, James Martin, and Anne McDougald.



## Altar Guild

Kelly Iacobelli & Katja Michael

*Co-Chairs*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

The Altar Guild is a quiet ministry that works behind the scenes to care for the vessels and other objects needed for the sacraments. We set the credence table before services, prepare for baptisms and funeral services. We also care for the silver, brass and linen treasures of the church.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We are a small team that pulls together to ensure that all services are covered with care.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We hope to add new members to our team to help us continue in our important work.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Many of us cherish our quiet time in the sanctuary. God seems to speak to us in that sacred space.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

The Altar Guild is very dedicated and generous with their time and talent.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

We welcomed several new members this year and we greatly appreciate all they do.



## Flower Guild

Emily Gale

*Ministry Head*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Our mission is to enhance our worship using God's handiwork. I call our work visual liturgy or "icing on the cake."

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

We have worked hard as a team to accomplish our work.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

I am optimistic about continuing our work and adding a couple of new members

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

When our flower arrangements bring joy or comfort to those for whom they are intended. For instance, in the case of a particular donation or funeral.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

All of our wonderful members: Emily Gale, Kristen Hester, Pam Phillips, Harriett Singleton, Karen Manno, Linda Scott, Lisa Messinger, Susie Davis, Joy Ettel, Victoria Lennon—Wildflowers - Eleanore Pearson, Sally Powers, Annie Smith, Jean Eddereg.

## Daughters of the King

Carla von Hoffmann

*President*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Pray for needs, be of service to clergy, and evangelize.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

All activities are highlights because we join in with joy.

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

Initiate seven new members, host the Agape Dinner, serve dinner at Hope House, and assist with funerals.

## **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

How God brings us together when called for church activities and prayer warriors always ready.

## **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

Karen Maxwell

*Team Leader*

### **What is the mission of your ministry?**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to faith formation for children ages 18 months to 11 years old that helps children come to know God through Jesus as proclaimed in the Bible and through the Liturgies of Baptism and the Eucharist. All that is presented to children in a specially prepared sacred space called the atrium is designed with their developmental and spiritual needs in mind.

### **What have been 1 or 2 highlights of this year?**

This year we began a toddler atrium for our youngest members of the church, 18 months to 3 years under the direction of Kristi Johnson. We now have four atria for children: toddler atrium, Level I for 3-6 year old children, Level II for children 6-9 years (or first through third grade children) and Level III for 9-11 year old children (or fourth-fifth grade children).

### **What are any plans/ideas you have for the coming year?**

We continue to not only look at ways that we are engaging our children and nurturing their prayer lives in the atrium but also how to involve them in the life of the church. All that is offered to children at each level indirectly prepares children for greater participation in the life of church as well as nurtures their awareness of God's love for them.

### **Where have you seen God at work in your ministry?**

Most notably we observe God's work through the children - through the connections they make from the Gospel announcements or the liturgical presentations that they hear or see and through their verbal and art responses as well as through their work with the materials in the atrium. J. in Level I, a 4 year old, often gathers materials like a small chalice, paten, Bible from different areas of the atrium - the baptism area, the altar area, and puts them on the prayer table or on the small altar while singing Hosanna in the highest!



Another time he has used the Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd materials to offer the people communion and pulls significant materials from other presentations to be part of the small altar (see photo). We give children the sacred space and time to contemplate the mysteries and realities of our faith.

### **How have you experienced our core values in your work this year?**

As catechists serving children in each of these atria our very work with them is loving, nurturing, generous and even courageous. We proclaim the Gospel with children of all ages and we listen with them to the Word of God allowing space and time first for children to respond to what they are hearing of God's Word. Children don't often get this opportunity because adults don't often know how to listen with children. We pray with children and as they get older they prepare their own prayer services. We notice with them the signs and symbols and the meaning behind them to the liturgies of Baptism and Eucharist and do this according to their developmental needs. What we offer children and the manner that we do it is courageous and generous.

### **Who deserves special thanks?**

All of our catechists and assistants have made a commitment to serve children each Sunday. They show up ready to be with children so all our catechists deserve special thanks for their ongoing commitment and love for the children of St. Catherine's.

For the toddler atrium: Kristi Johnson.  
For the Level I atrium: Claire Paglia and Amy Mikkelsen. For the Level II atrium: Alison Harris, Ina Bachman, and Dennis Freeman. For the Level III atrium: Karen Maxwell and Hannah Caffey.



The St. Catherine's Cross is given in recognition of outstanding leadership and contribution to our life as a community. The cross was designed by Dean Motter, son of Roger and Eileen Motter. It is given by the Rector with the consent and advice of the Executive Committee of the Vestry.

The following persons have received the Cross over these many years. We list them in our Annual Report because we want to celebrant the contribution to this body of Christ each of these names represents. When you see these people thank them for their commitment to and love of this congregation.

We are very much aware that we may have missed some names because a master list wasn't kept in the early years. If we have missed a name or your name please forgive us and let us know so that we can add it to the list and celebrate the outstanding leadership and contribution to our community this achievement represents.

Recipient	Year	Ministry Area	Recipient	Year	Ministry Area
Bobbye Greene	1985	Christian Ed Director	The Rev. Jim Nixon	2004	Leadership-Building/Fire
Bette Hamilton	1985	Volunteer Treasurer	Margaret Caudle	2005	Choir – 20+ years
Liz Rea	1985	Sr. Warden	Greg Caudle	2005	Choir – 20+ years
Eileen Motter	1988	Christian Ed Director	Jim Greene	2005	Sr. Warden
Bill Drew	1989	Woodworking	Joan Nixon	2006	Fellowship/ Receptions
Pat Drew	1989	Altar Guild	Hale Sanders	2006	Mentoring
Ron Cook	1990	Sr. Warden	Nelson Gale	2007	Chair, Faithful Mission
Roger Motter	1991	Building & Grounds	Jennifer Massey	2007	Chair, Faithful Mission
Gene Wood	1991	Stewardship Chair	Mikel Parker	2007	Finance Chair, 6+ years
Dick Kareken	1993	Business Manager	Meg Ramsay	2008	Grounds/Faithful Mission
Frank Brent	1994	Parish Life Council	Ron Bergeron	2008	Webmaster
Verla Hale	1994	Jr. Warden/Outreach	Tom Hunter	2009	Finance/S.M. Leader
Rosemary Wolfe	1994	Volunteer Bookkeeper	Ron Brannock	2010	Grounds
Roger Wagner	1994	Grounds/Mem. Garden	Gail McGill	2010	Grounds & Gardens
Connie Bergeron	1994	Outreach & Jr. Warden	Joyce Hendricks	2011	Audit & Finance
Vera Bibbings	1995	Assimilation	Ellis Kilgore	2012	Youth Ministry
John Rea	1996	Pastoral Care	Keith Dumke	2012	Youth Ministry
Meg Boyd	1996	Sonshine Committee	Emily Gale	2013	Flower Guild
Martha Bowden	1996	Youth Choir	Al Jones	2013	Building Maintenance
Marion Cook	1997	Prayer Chain	Marilyn Hunter	2013	Stephen Ministry
Ginney Linstrom	1997	Parish Secretary	Bill Ivey	2014	Sound/Communications
Bob Crowe	1997	Stewardship	Karen Maxwell	2015	CGS (awarded June 2015)
Melissa Packard	1997	Receptions	Ana Martin	2015	CGS (awarded June 2015)
Laura Mawhinney	1998	Youth - Volunteering	Tom Blackstock	2016	Sr. Warden, thru Interim/Master Planning
Mark Ranney	1998	Capital Campaign	Dani Dickson	2017	Congregational Nurses
Judy Padgett	1998	Acting Verger	Daniel Mikkelsen	2017	Sr. Warden, Interim Time
Bill Krupp	1999	Sr. Warden	Paul Manno	2017	IT Management – 12 yrs
Joyce Reinkemyer	1999	Preschool Director	Bill Lee	2017	Chair, Rector Search
Anne Burlas	2000	Wheel Coordinator	Pat Pepper	2017	Volunteer Coordinator
Brad Crandell	2000	Sr. Warden	MaryLou Shannonhouse	2018	Children's Chapel
Bob Bibbings	2000	Volunteer Auditor	David Moore	2018	Stephen Ministry
Stan Dickson	2000	Building Maintenance	Elizabeth Lopez	2018	Adult Education
Bill Linstrom	2001	40 yrs of volunteering!	Stephanie Yucius	2019	Senior Warden
Pam Phillips	2001	Altar Guild	Karolyn Olliffe	2019	Preschool Director
Sharon Parisi	2001	Emmaus Project – Chair	Frances Bowden	2020	Website
Fred Massey	2002	Outreach	Tami Mace	2020	Bldg/Grounds Convener
Susan Greger	2002	MPST	Tom Snead	2020	Bible Study/Stewardship
Bill Bowden	2003	Sr. Warden	Maureen Donoghue	2021	Senior Warden amid pandemic
David Craig	2003	Co-Chair, Faith Builds!	Bill & Barb Selby	2022	Studies/Family Promise
Allen Jablonski	2004	Building Chair	Chuck Zimmermn	2023	Treasurer volunteer
			Harriett Pyburn	2023	Sr. Warden Work
			Kelly Iacobelli	2024	Youth, AG, Website
			Bill Sapp	2024	Mem Garden, Finance

# Appendix

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## *2025 Budget*

## St. Catherine's Episcopal Church 2025 Budget (1/15/2025)

	2024 Bgt	2024 Act	2025 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Act
<b>Revenues</b>					
<b>Contribution</b>					
1-400100 - Pledge	650,000	657,543	680,000	30,000	22,457
1-400105 - Preschool Pledge	25,000	29,366	27,836	2,836	(1,530)
1-400110 - Givers of Record	90,000	149,876	122,000	32,000	(27,876)
1-400120 - Plate Cash Offering	8,000	8,353	8,000	-	(353)
1-400130 - Prior Year Pledge	20,000	29,334	5,000	(15,000)	(24,334)
<b>Total Contribution</b>	<b>793,000</b>	<b>874,472</b>	<b>842,836</b>	<b>49,836</b>	<b>(31,636)</b>
<b>Other Income</b>					
1-410115 - Misc. Income	2,300	3,325	2,000	(300)	(1,325)
1-410125 - Trinity Leadership Fellow Grant	32,000	32,049	24,000	(8,000)	(8,049)
1-420100 - Interest/Net of Service	20,000	22,969	17,500	(2,500)	(5,469)
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>54,300</b>	<b>58,343</b>	<b>43,500</b>	<b>(10,800)</b>	<b>(14,843)</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>847,300</b>	<b>932,814</b>	<b>886,336</b>	<b>39,036</b>	<b>(46,478)</b>

<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Human &amp; Financial Resources</b>					
<b>Rector</b>					
1-500100 - Rector - Salary	58,290	58,000	62,720	(4,430)	(4,720)
1-500110 - Rector - Housing	44,708	45,000	48,106	(3,398)	(3,106)
1-500120 - Rector - Travel & Expense	3,000	3,031	3,000	-	31
1-500130 - Rector - Cont. Education	1,800	2,541	1,800	-	741
1-500140 - Rector - Life/Health Ins.	20,000	22,677	25,000	(5,000)	(2,323)
1-500150 - Rector - Pension	19,956	22,645	21,475	(1,519)	1,170
1-500160 - Rector - SECA	7,884	7,879	8,478	(594)	(599)
1-500170 - Rector - Sabbatical Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-
<b>Total Rector</b>	<b>156,638</b>	<b>162,773</b>	<b>171,579</b>	<b>(14,941)</b>	<b>(8,806)</b>
<b>Assoc. Rector</b>					
1-500200 - Assoc. Rector - Salary	50,004	50,000	50,004	-	(4)
1-500210 - Assoc. Rector - Housing	24,996	25,000	24,996	-	4
1-500220 - Assoc. Rector - Travel & Expense	996	512	996	-	(484)
1-500230 - Assoc. Rector - Cont. Education	1,000	1,105	1,000	-	105
1-500240 - Assoc. Rector - Life/Health Ins.	408	612	408	-	204
1-500250 - Assoc. Rector - Pension	14,532	14,541	14,533	(1)	8
1-500260 - Assoc. Rector - SECA	5,736	5,737	5,738	(2)	(0)
1-500270 - Assoc. Rector - Sabbatical	800	800	800	-	-
<b>Total Assoc. Rector</b>	<b>98,472</b>	<b>98,308</b>	<b>98,474</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(166)</b>
<b>Administrative Staff</b>					
1-500300 - Exec Assist - Salary	39,516	39,261	40,116	(600)	(855)
1-500310 - Exec Assist - Social Security	3,024	1,871	3,069	(45)	(1,198)
1-500320 - Exec Assist - Pension	2,760	2,757	2,808	(48)	(51)
1-500330 - Exec Assist - Life Ins/Health Ins.	20,400	24,228	25,000	(4,600)	(772)
1-500335 - Exec Assist - Cont. Ed.	204	175	200	4	(25)
1-500340 - Deacon - Salary	300	300	300	-	-

# Financials

# Appendix-2

	2024 Bgt	2024 Act	2025 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Act
1-500350 - Parish Admin - Social Security	-	23	23	(23)	0
1-500360 - Parish Admin - Pension	-	156	54	(54)	102
1-500400 - Youth Dir. - Salary	12,500	11,250	12,500	-	(1,250)
1-500410 - Youth Dir. - Social Security	956	876	956	0	(80)
1-500450 - Youth Dir. - Mileage	-	110	-	-	110
1-500500 - Deacon Expenses	2,520	2,618	2,500	20	118
1-500700 - Music Director - Salary	45,000	45,000	45,000	-	-
1-500710 - Music Director - Social Security	3,444	3,458	3,443	2	15
1-500711 - Music Director Pension	-	1,208	3,150	(3,150)	(1,942)
1-500720 - Facilities Manager	39,552	39,515	39,552	-	(37)
1-500721 - Facilities Manager - SS	3,024	3,046	3,026	(2)	20
1-500722 - Facilities Manager - Pension	3,564	3,966	3,560	4	407
1-500723 - Facilities Manager - Mileage	24	-	-	24	-
1-500724 - Facilities Manager - Life Ins.	324	332	324	-	8
1-500750 - Nursery Workers	5,675	4,034	5,675	-	(1,641)
1-500760 - Nursery Workers - SS	433	535	434	(1)	101
<b>Total Administrative Staff</b>	<b>183,220</b>	<b>184,720</b>	<b>191,689</b>	<b>(8,469)</b>	<b>(6,969)</b>
<b>Other Staff &amp; Benefits</b>				-	-
1-500810 - Supply Clergy	500	601	500	-	101
1-500820 - Supply Organist	1,000	1,500	1,500	(500)	-
1-500830 - Professional Fees-Accounting	50,400	47,020	46,800	3,600	220
1-500900 - Long Term Insurance	948	-	-	948	-
1-560130 - Clergy Conference Expense	500	175	500	-	(325)
1-560160 - Bonus and Gifts	1,500	2,030	1,500	-	530
<b>Total Other Staff &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>54,848</b>	<b>51,326</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>4,048</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Financial Resources</b>				-	-
<b>Mortgage Payments</b>				-	-
1-520110 - BB&T Mortgage Payment	44,100	44,335	46,700	(2,600)	(2,365)
1-520120 - BB&T Mortgage Interest	14,148	13,936	11,575	2,573	2,361
<b>Total Mortgage Payments</b>	<b>58,248</b>	<b>58,271</b>	<b>58,275</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Other Financial Resources</b>				-	-
1-520100 - Audit	9,500	9,218	9,200	300	18
1-520105 - Bank Fees	4,332	3,249	3,500	832	(251)
1-520128 - Penalties & Late Fees	-	50	-	-	50
<b>Total Other Financial Resources</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>12,517</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>(183)</b>
<b>Total Financial Resources</b>	<b>72,080</b>	<b>70,788</b>	<b>70,975</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>(187)</b>
<b>Total Human &amp; Financial Resources</b>	<b>565,258</b>	<b>567,915</b>	<b>583,517</b>	<b>(18,259)</b>	<b>(15,602)</b>
<b>Christian Formation</b>				-	-
Adult	996	1,827	1,000	(4)	827
Youth	4,008	2,144	2,000	2,008	144
Children	2,246	1,422	1,400	846	22
<b>Total Christian Formation</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>993</b>
<b>Outreach</b>				-	-
1-550120 - General Outreach	9,996	9,898	8,000	1,996	1,898

	2024 Bgt	2024 Act	2025 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Act
1-550100 - Diocesan Pledge	81,348	81,589	82,236	(888)	(647)
1-560150 - Council Delegation	1,000	875	1,000	-	(125)
1-560240 - Vestry Expense	4,000	1,649	2,500	1,500	(851)
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>96,344</b>	<b>94,011</b>	<b>93,736</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>				-	-
1-540110 - Altar Guild	-	2,020	2,000	(2,000)	20
1-540120 - Choir - Adult	-	196	1,000	(1,000)	(804)
1-540170 - Piano/Organ Maintenance	-	1,183	1,500	(1,500)	(317)
1-540180 - Sacramental & Liturgy Supplies	-	1,330	1,000	(1,000)	330
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>(1,996)</b>	<b>(771)</b>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>					
1-580160 - General Pastoral Care	1,200	1,012	1,200	-	(188)
<b>Total Pastoral Care</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(188)</b>
<b>Facilities &amp; Grounds</b>					
<b>Administration</b>					
1-560050 - Subscriptions Licenses Registrations	-	730	1,500	(1,500)	(770)
1-560095 - ACS/ADP Maintenance	3,420	4,547	4,500	(1,080)	47
1-560140 - Copier/Equipment Maintenance	10,020	6,246	6,200	3,820	46
1-560200 - Office Supplies	3,816	7,020	7,000	(3,184)	20
1-560210 - Postage	852	644	650	202	(6)
1-560220 - Printing	2,100	3,899	4,000	(1,900)	(101)
1-560260 - Liability & Property Ins.	28,230	35,636	41,000	(12,770)	(5,364)
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>48,438</b>	<b>58,721</b>	<b>64,850</b>	<b>(16,412)</b>	<b>(6,129)</b>
<b>Utilities</b>					
1-560500 - Electric	17,400	16,221	16,000	1,400	221
1-560510 - Gas	6,775	5,766	6,800	(25)	(1,034)
1-560520 - Telecommunications	10,537	9,027	9,250	1,287	(223)
1-560530 - Trash Service	5,520	3,958	4,250	1,270	(292)
1-560540 - Water	3,096	3,293	3,300	(204)	(7)
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>43,328</b>	<b>38,266</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>(1,334)</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>					
1-560120 - Building Maintenance	15,600	22,386	17,500	(1,900)	4,886
1-560125 - Building Repairs & Replacement	18,000	52,290	20,000	(2,000)	32,290
1-560126 - HVAC Replacement	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	(5,000)
1-560170 - Grounds Maintenance	14,000	10,715	14,000	-	(3,285)
1-560175 - Garden Keepers	600	91	600	-	(509)
Security Equipment			-	-	-
1-560190 - Janitorial Services	16,200	19,484	17,250	(1,050)	2,234
1-560230 - Vehicle Expense	250	114	250	-	(136)
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>64,650</b>	<b>105,081</b>	<b>74,600</b>	<b>(9,950)</b>	<b>30,481</b>
<b>Technology</b>					
1-560180 - IT Equip/Maintenance	1,500	5,649	2,500	(1,000)	3,149
<b>Total Technology</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>3,149</b>
<b>Total Facilities &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>157,916</b>	<b>207,718</b>	<b>181,550</b>	<b>(23,634)</b>	<b>26,168</b>

	2024 Bgt	2024 Act	2025 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Bgt	Variance vs. '24 Act
<b>Master Planning</b>				-	-
1-520111 - All God's Children	3,000	1,826	3,000	-	(1,174)
1-560265 - Strategic Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Master Planning</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,174)</b>
<b>Invitation/Fellowship/Stewardship</b>				-	-
1-530100 - Invitation Ministry	1,152	7,123	3,000	(1,848)	4,123
1-560100 - Advertising/Publicity	996	105	-	996	105
1-520150 - Stewardship	3,000	2,493	3,000	-	(507)
1-570110 - Fellowship	4,500	4,843	6,500	(2,000)	(1,657)
1-510455 - Epiphany/Pentecost/Advent	300	295	300	-	(6)
1-510456 - Senior Ministry	300	-	600	(300)	(600)
<b>Total Invitation/Fellowship/Stewardship</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>14,859</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>(3,152)</b>	<b>1,459</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>844,720</b>	<b>897,463</b>	<b>886,303</b>	<b>(41,583)</b>	<b>11,159</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>35,352</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>(2,547)</b>	<b>(35,319)</b>

ST. CATHERINE'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

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