

Church of Saint Clement

1701 N. Quaker Lane
Alexandria, VA 22302

The Rev. Robin Razzino, Rector

Annual Report 2021



Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 30, 2022

All are welcome at the Lord's Holy Table

Rector's Report

At last year's Annual Meeting we broke up into small groups and discussed how we as a congregation were doing given the new reality of COVID (at that point we were nine months in). Specifically we discussed three questions:

- 1) What are we grieving?
- 2) What has brought us joy?
- 3) What do we want to do (or keep doing) moving forward:

At the end of 2020 and the beginning of this year we were grieving being unable to celebrate the Eucharist, sing in church, see the children of the church and get to know them. We were missing opportunities for intergenerational relationship building, Sunday school, the pancake supper, the thrift shop and hypothermia shelter ministries, seeing folks in-person and feeling connected. We also grieved the diminished health of some of our parishioners.



We found joy in quickly adapting to a new normal helped by the use of zoom, staying in touch online, the convenience of online church, weekday offerings of Noonday Prayer and Compline, the music program, the online book discussions, the continued meeting of the walking group, the preschool reopening, and our Christmas tree sales. We especially loved Sunday morning zoom breakout rooms which allowed us to talk to new people. One parishioner remarked about these breakout rooms, "I became more intimate with church members, met new people, and made new connections." Now that we are meeting in person, this is the one aspect of Zoom church I miss the most!

As we moved forward into 2021 we wanted to maintain these online activities (at least until all are vaccinated); continue Noonday Prayer, Compline with the New Zealand Prayer Book, online Zoom Christian Formation and our outdoor services. We wanted to share our joy, continue the peace garden, create an online Godly Play opportunity, and have post-church playdates.

As I look back over the year I know we are still grieving some of these same things; but we have had opportunities to once again celebrate the Eucharist, sing in church, see the children (though not all), and build intergenerational relationships. We are still grieving the continued inability to have robust and continuous fellowship gatherings and Sunday school.

As we move through this coming year we will also have to mark the end of two of our most important ministries due to the ongoing consequences of COVID – the thrift shop and hypothermia shelter.

We are a changed congregation.

We have pivoted and adapted and grown once again.

I invite you to read the rest of this report to remember who we are and all we have accomplished this year – despite the continued challenges of the COVID pandemic.

God is good. All the time.

Membership

We have had to say goodbye to many friends again this year and we still miss those who haven't come back to worship. Some of the goodbyes were expected: we always have to say goodbye to our seminarians. And when we welcome all of these State department families we know they too will once again move to another post!! Yet, despite not worshipping in-person very often, we *have* had some visitors over the course of the year and hope to welcome new families into the life of the parish even more wholeheartedly once we gather together again in a more regular fashion.



Over the course of the year we said goodbye to our seminarian Hailey Jacobsen and our Assisting priest Leslie Steffensen and her daughter Charlotte, who finished a year at VTS in May. We also said goodbye to State Department families Winnie Hofstetter and the Caniglia family – both of whom went to separate posts in Mexico. In June, we said goodbye to Dory Herman Sample – our preschool director of 17 years. Of course we then welcomed her back again four months later (and we are so grateful for her continued help as we look for a new director).

We look forward to getting to know the following neighbors who have started attending St Clement this year: Brad and Olya Kinder and their two children Alina and Anya; Eleanor Patterson and her son Leo; Jenny Darlington, her mother Linda, and her son Simon; Alice Kennedy; Sara and Joe Calizo; Nancy Marriner; and John and Gabriele Oneil.

Several preschool families have also checked in with us and we hope to welcome them and others from the preschool community into the life of the parish in the new year as well.

Worship



We began the year worshipping online, continuing to use Zoom as our platform of choice. We moved from only doing Morning Prayer to also offering Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion. On Easter Sunday we met outdoors for the first time and shared in the Body of Christ in person! It was a windy start to outdoor worship, but I am so glad we stuck with it – through weather forecasts and other challenges.

I am especially grateful for Kathy Keenoy who helped lead the altar guild during this time and was always available to help set up. I am also grateful for William Yagel, Rodney Legrand and Tom Greco who helped wrestle our sound system into being.

We began gathering indoors on Memorial Day weekend a few weeks before we had thought we would (due to the weather). Though there was something novel and exciting about worshipping outside, it was so much easier to prepare for worship once we were indoors; we were all so glad to be back in the sanctuary!

We gathered both online (9:00 am) and in person (10:30) over the summer. Rob and the choir continued to prepare and present musical recordings each week for online worship.

In September, the choir came back in person and we began congregational singing again at the 10:30 service. We continued with communion in one kind only. The nursery was open and staffed by Ms. Medrano.

In October, we returned to having an 8:00 am and 10:00 am service – both indoors. We offered Zoom during the 8:00 am service for those who could not make indoor services.

In the fall, some (though not all) families started to return to worship. However, we wanted to offer several outdoor services for families who did not yet feel comfortable attending services indoors.



Both of these services (one in September and one in October) were very successful and those who attended really enjoyed them. However, we were still generally attracting the same families who were already attending indoors and so we did not go through with the planned November outdoor service.

Advent and Christmas felt somewhat normal! We had two services on Sundays, acolytes and readers. We had families helping to light the Advent wreath. Rob and the choir provided amazing music and the congregation enthusiastically participated in singing meditations to start each Advent service.

We also snuck in a beautiful Christmas service before the Omicron variant sent us onto zoom again. Over 60 people gathered - old and young alike to sing ALL.THE.CAROLS, help set up the creche, listen to the message of Christmas, and share in Holy Eucharist. As we gathered in the dark church and sang Silent Night by candle light – one could feel the presence of the divine and the message of hope amidst the darkness.

Formation



As we did in 2020, we held several faith formation classes online this year. We also offered two in person. During Lent, our seminarian William Yagel led a Zoom Monday evening Lenten Program on the theme of wilderness. About a dozen parishioners participated. There were many takeaways from his class, but the most meaningful for me was the passage he shared from Deuteronomy (4:9)

“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them

slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

I thought a lot about this particular text and its relationship to the COVID wilderness we are all in and it formed the foundation for the sabbatical grant application we submitted in April. You will hear much more about that as this year (2022) unfolds!

Later in April I began a formation series with parents. The theme of this series is Parenting and Spirituality and we look at theological issues through the lens of our parenting. We meet monthly, mostly outside, and will resume when the weather cooperates.

In October I led an End-of Life series on Sunday mornings and in November Rev. Tricia Lyons led an online class on Tuesday evenings on the work of theologian Evelyn Underhill.

Pastoral Care

One of the things that is obvious about the moment we are living through is that it is touching all of us in some way or another and many of us are struggling. Parents and teachers and front line workers are overwhelmed. Grandparents miss their grandkids. People have lost loved ones who have died. Our nation faces a mental health crisis.

Though phone calls are nice and zoom check ins are welcomed, it does not seem like enough when we are all facing a crisis. I look forward to the moment we can all share the burden – and delight - of caring for each other in real time and face-to-face.

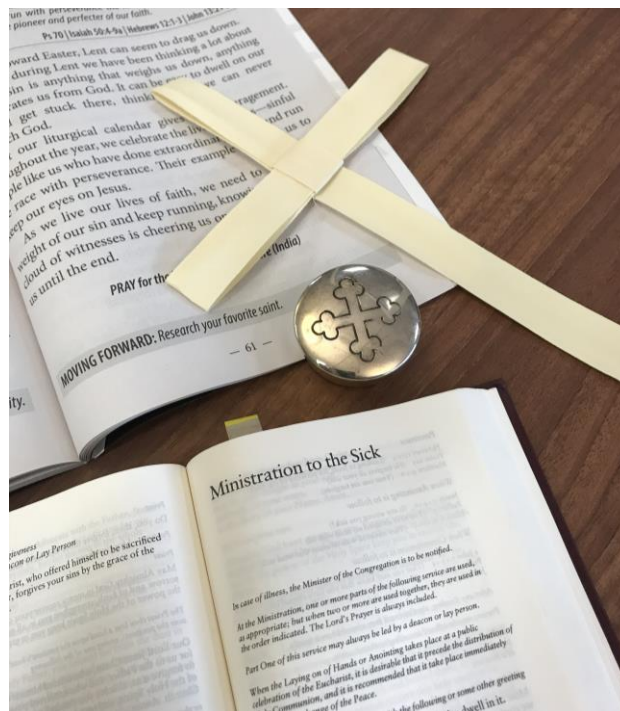
Though it is such an important part of my ministry, it was only in March that I was able to start making pastoral care visits again. I enjoyed once again bringing communion to home bound parishioners. I soon hope to once again share this ministry with other members of our congregation who serve as Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

Being vaccinated and able to move around a bit more also afforded me the opportunity to come to the Fundakoski home and say the prayers for the thanksgiving for the birth of a new child. Wyatt is a sweet baby and I cannot wait to see the rest of his family - Dan, Claire and Landon, again in church on Sunday mornings!

Fellowship

Oh to have regular fellowship opportunities again... to have picnics and coffee hours and parish dinners and pancakes and game nights and retreats! I cannot wait for the season when all resumes again.

Until then it is fits and starts.





We held successful outdoor coffee-less coffee hours in November and December and hope to resume those in February. Different parishioners signed up to bring a couple dozen donuts to have available after the service for gathering in the front of the church. It wasn't perfect – but it did provide an opportunity for folks to linger just that much more following the service. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bring the donuts!

On November 6, many of us pledged to give the hour back that we were getting for Daylight Saving Time. We spent an hour cleaning up the grounds and then we gathered for a cookout. It was a great success and again people stayed and lingered long after I thought we would be finished. It is just so nice to be together – whenever that chance comes!

Mission and Outreach

One of the things we grieved in 2020 was the fact that we were not able to serve our community as much as we had in the past. We were not able to host the overflow winter shelter. We were not able to serve meals at the carpenter shelter. We were not able to help move furniture for ALIVE! The ALIVE! walkathon was virtual. The brown bag lunch ministry was on hiatus.

Unfortunately, some of those ministries remain outside of what we can now do. But the good news is we were able to do a lot more in 2021 and will be able to do even more in the coming year.

I am so grateful for Annette Foster who has agreed to be the new Congregational Representative to ALIVE! for the next few years. Mike and Linda Oliver had served in this capacity for decades and have been ready to hand off this role for at least the last two years. This year, Annette has led us in preparing for the walkathon (we raised over \$2000) and in gathering food for their most recent food drive (257 pounds).



Monica Rusk has continued in leading our efforts with the Carpenter Shelter. It was so nice once we were able to be back inside and serving meals again. At the end of the year, the vestry voted to give an additional \$2500 to the Carpenter Shelter to help them take advantage of an end-of-the-year matching grant program.

When the city asked up to provide our collected school supplies directly to Charles Barrett we took the opportunity to strengthen our ties with this local elementary school. I got in touch with the school social worker and in addition to the school supplies, we gave them over \$1000 in McDonalds gift cards to give to students in need (these had been left over from the shelter ministry). In November we collected food to make over 70 take home weekend meal bags for the kids who otherwise would not have good food to eat. We hope to continue to strengthen this relationship in the years to come.

In addition to helping Charles Barrett, we also sent \$1000 to the Alexandria City High School College Scholarship program for graduating seniors.

Though we didn't start making Brown bag lunches until January 2022, we did welcome two new coordinators for this program in 2021: Joanne Scully and Debbie Tatum Johnson. We are grateful that they stepped up to take on this ministry and so grateful for Ellen Rayner and Sheila Kearney who led it so well for the last few years.

In November, we also collected books for the city of Alexandria's holiday toy drive.

Stewardship

Our Fall Stewardship campaign was a great success with nearly all of our parishioners making a pledge to support the life and ministry of the church – and to pay for the staff and upkeep of our building and grounds. It is always heartening to see the pledges come in – often with notes regarding how much this parish means to the people who give.



Our theme this year was "Broken Open." In my stewardship letter to you all I spoke about how I was broken open with gratitude for the many blessings showering the St Clement community. I spoke specifically of the sabbatical grant we received from the Lily Foundation and the beautiful music provided every Sunday by Lee and Cindy.

I also said: *"Despite [COVID related difficulties], we continue to gather around the table and allow ourselves to be broken open. From these broken and open hearts, I know we will have all*

we need to continue to follow Jesus in the year ahead; I am confident we will be poised to hear and respond to God in new and creative ways as a strong community based on bonds of love.

What has broken you open this year? What has caused waves of gratitude to wash over you? If you have a story to share how you have been broken open through your experiences at St. Clement, I would love to hear it and I would love to share it with the rest of the community. We grow and thrive when we share our stories with one another.

We share our stories and we share our gifts. And as the past has shown us, this parish always steps up and shares the riches with which we have been blessed. The health and future of this church relies on support from individuals, especially folks like you who declare your faithful commitment to our church through your annual pledge.”

As we begin the year, we now have 54 pledges for a total of \$175,400 (for an average pledge of just about \$3250). This is about \$10,000 more than what was pledged in 2021.

Some other folks have also said they are going to pledge but those numbers are not reflected in this total as the specifics have not been given to Virginia. If you have not made a pledge to the church you are certainly welcomed and invited to make one at any point in the year. To make a pledge to the church, just send Virginia an email (office@saintclement.org) with the total amount you plan to give for the year. You can pay the full amount at any time.

Finance

In our ongoing efforts to build a solid administrative foundation for church operations, last year during the Annual Meeting we approved new bylaws to govern the church. In line with church Canons, our new bylaws state that we need to have a Finance Committee. Early in the year the vestry passed a Scope of work for this committee. Right not, the committee includes the Rector, wardens, and treasurer. We still need at least one at-large member of the congregation to join the committee. *Is it you???*

Here is the approved Finance Committee Scope of Work:

Purpose: The Finance Committee provides leadership, guidance, and oversight of financial stewardship and operations. With the rector and vestry, it oversees long-range financial planning, budget development, financial and investment policies, fundraising, and auditing.

Membership: The Finance Committee consists of between four and five individuals. In addition to the Rector and Treasurer, the committee is open to two or three at-large members who are parishioners with financial and administrative knowledge and experience. The committee members may be Vestry members. Members are appointed by the Rector.

Terms: The term for at-large members is three years. An at-large member cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Primary Function: The Finance Committee shall prepare a budget for submission to the Vestry two days before the November Vestry meeting. The Vestry will then review the proposed budget, make any modifications as appropriate, and vote to approve the budget at their December vestry meeting. The approved budget will subsequently be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Other duties:

- Works with the vestry to identify upcoming major projects and develop a plan for covering these expenses
- Helps establish and implement stewardship best practices
- Provides monthly financial report to the vestry if Treasurer is unavailable
- Provides annual report to the vestry on the Trustees of the Fund or other endowment funds
- Ensures the church submits annual audit to the diocese

In one other effort to cross our administrative t's and dot our "to do list" i's, the vestry voted to open our safe deposit box at Burke and Herbert. It had not been open in years and the key was no where to be found. No one knew what was inside!

Monica and I went to the church hoping we might find ancient relics. But when we opened the box we found only papers: certificates for two Crypts in the Mausoleum in Falls Church Cemetery and four burial plots in the same. Mike Gray, our junior warden began research regarding how to sell them. The cemetery wont buy them back but they will help sell them for a cost of \$200 for each spot. There are websites dedicated to selling cemetery plots but we have no idea how long they take to sell. Eventually the vestry will need to decide what to do with these – sell them or give them away. They are worth at least \$2000 each and possibly much more (if there is a buyer!) Stay tuned. If you or anyone you know is looking for a final resting place, please let us know!!!

Vestry and Staff

We recruited two outstanding vestry members for three year terms beginning in 2021: Ben Brown and Michael Gray (who serves as our Junior Warden). We also brought back Peggy Nigon as the Registrar/Secretary.

These three joined Christopher Kent and Kathy Keenoy; who completed the second year of their three year terms in 2021 and Monica Rusk and Rodney LeGrand who continued as Senior Warden and Treasurer respectively for their third year.

As of the Annual Meeting, Monica and Rodney have completed their vestry terms. I am so grateful for all they have done for the church over the last three years. Monica has stepped up time and time again to take on leadership roles in areas needing a leader, most notably the Carpenter Shelter Dinner Program and the Christmas Tree Sales. Her attention to detail is amazing and her questions and comments always helped steer the good ship St Clement in the right direction. Rodney could always be counted on to show up with a smile and a hand to help. Every time we needed someone to usher, count, set up church, grill brats, sell trees, anything – he would say yes. The only thing keeping him from helping this year were temporary duty assignments to Cuba! We will miss him and his family greatly and wish them well as they move to El Paso for their next State Department assignment (I am thinking we need a satellite campus of St Clement for all of these St Dept folks heading to Texas and Mexico!)

We will elect two more vestry members at the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022: Wendy Harper and Lee Dreyfus. Chris Kent has agreed to serve as our Treasurer for 2022 and Kathy Keenoy has agreed to serve as Senior Warden for 2022. We are in a great position as we move into the new year.

Our staff of Virginia Insley, Parish Administrator; Rob Passow, Director of Music; and Gina LeGrand, Bookkeeper - did an amazing job of continuing to operate during a pandemic. No one missed a beat and I am so grateful.

Virginia was able to return to the office for regular hours in July and it was wonderful having a colleague sitting in the office across from mine. She was so conscientious in getting everything done while working remotely, but it was a joy to have her back in person. In addition to the ongoing pandemic, Virginia was absolutely instrumental in making sure the church and school were able to continue operations as we brought on - and subsequently moved on - from a new Preschool Director. It was her institutional memory and attention to detail that allowed us to move forward as quickly as we did once Dory came back.

There are no words to adequately describe the impact Rob has made on our music program, worship experience and community psyche. He has brought joy, talent and dedication to everything that has been put in front of him. I have known many church musicians and I know they thrive on routine - as do I. There was nothing routine about the last 18 months – the entire time Rob has been with us. But we have never had it better and I am grateful. However, the thing I am most grateful for is his encouragement of the



choir and this congregation – for discerning where we are and encouraging us to go further. I can't wait to see what we can do together in the coming years.

And last but not least, Gina will be so missed when she moves with Rodney to Texas later this summer. She came on board in an emergency and quickly learned all of the quirks of church bookkeeping (more than she ever wanted to know). She has pointed out best practices in finance that helps us continue to strengthen our church administration. She has promised to help us in the transition to a new bookkeeper and we are again so thankful for her calm demeanor, can-do attitude, and the warmth she brought to the office.

Building and Grounds



In an effort to protect our budget, we did not spend any money we did not need to spend in the upkeep of our building and grounds. That said we did make some improvements and addressed several weather related issues.

We were able to schedule the removal of two diseased/dying trees that were becoming safety hazards. We are grateful for the school who covered \$3000 of the total cost (\$7000).

The removal of the tree on Quaker Ln allowed passersby to see the church in a new way – which was great. But the entrance to the building was in disrepair – not great. We hired painters to pressure wash, fix and paint the ceiling over the door and the door itself. They also repaired, painted and reinstalled the metal railings. The entrance now

looks great (but we need to wait some more for the mulch pile to sink).

In August, our church sign blew over in a huge storm. The vestry toyed with the idea of an electric sign but the costs proved to be astronomical. So we went with a non electric but beautiful sign from Affordable Signs and Banners. The sign has a message board attached that will allow us to communicate more effectively with our neighbors. The best part is our insurance covered all but \$1000.

Finally, a thank you to those who have helped maintain our grounds this year. We have a local company mow, remove leaves and clean the gutters. They also weed and mulch once a year. The rest is done by all of you. Thanks for all who helped out in the Spring and Fall to keep our

grounds looking great. Special thanks to Kate Anania who weeded the beds outside the Quaker Lane entrance and planted a ton of day lilies. Now that the tree is gone, this will help make the entrance area much prettier. Thanks also to Raymond Johnson who cleaned up our memorial garden at the last minute (in the snow) to prepare for the burial of long time parishioner Jan Taylor.

Preschool

This was a difficult year for the Saint Clement preschool. COVID has had a devastating effect on child care centers around the world and our teachers and staff have not been immune from the stress and pressure of remaining open during a pandemic.

Additionally it was very hard to say goodbye in June to our Director of 17 years, Dory Herman Sample. When the new Director proved not to be a fit, it was another difficult moment. I am so grateful for all the teachers who stuck with us and continued to provide a safe and loving environment for students. And I am so grateful for Dory returning from retirement to act as an Interim Director until we get a new Director on board. And because I cant say thank you enough – I am also so grateful for Kathy Keenoy who is on board helping Dory as an Assisting Interim Director. We are excited by and look forward to an ongoing and strengthened relationship between the church and school in the coming years.

And not to be lost in the midst of the difficult year: we also give thanks for Ann Williams who retired after 40 years (!!!) as the preschool music teacher. Those of us who have had children in the school are so grateful for all the memories and videos of our preschoolers belting out Christmas and other songs at all the preschool programs. And I cherish the memories of leading chapel alongside her for the years prior to the pandemic.

Faithfully submitted by Rev. Robin Razzino, Rector

2021 Report on Finances

The final Statement of Income and Expenses by Account for 2021 will not be completed until the end of January, as all billing for expenses for 2021 have not been received and paid.

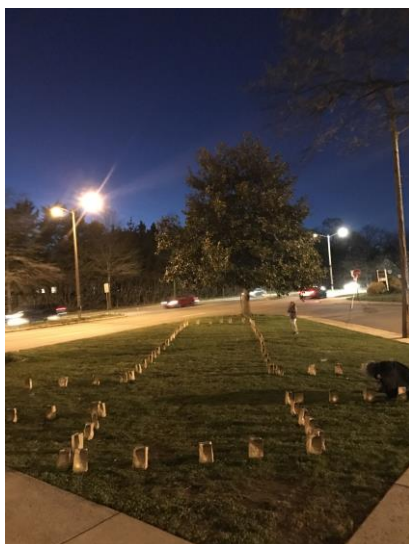
However, a summary of Saint Clement's financial picture is below:

- We brought in nearly \$299,000 and spent just over \$284,000 in 2021.
- We ended 2021 nearly \$14,000 in the black.
- As of December 31, 2021, we had a balance of \$165,186.17 in our checking account.
- Going into 2022, as a direct result of the generosity of the Saint Clement congregation, the vestry has passed a budget that continues to show growth and solid financial stewardship despite the pandemic. Like 2021, it is a deficit budget and it is tight, but we hope to come out in the black again.

- We completed our audit for 2020 but it is still with the CPA. When we get it back we will be up-to-date with the Diocese.
-

Faithfully submitted by Gina LeGrand, Bookkeeper

Senior Warden's Report



Happy New Year Clementines! This is my last report as Senior Warden. It's been an interesting and faith-filled ride navigating Covid over the last two years, but true to form, Clementines have rallied to fulfill our mission to Spread the Word of God, Share the Love of God, and Serve the People of God. I could not be more proud and more honored to be associated with the love, commitment, friendship, and faith and you all repeatedly demonstrate.

We made a hard decision last year to pass a deficit budget. With faith, careful stewardship, the generosity of the congregation, and the blessed influx of new parishioners, we exceeded expectations and ended \$14,000 in the black. This allows us to continue to put money in reserve in anticipation of a new HVAC in the next few years. Additionally, we are faced with a deficit budget again for 2022 due to lingering impacts from the pandemic, particularly in regard to our ability to rent space. We are full of faith that through continued growth and generosity we will narrow the gap. Thank you all.

Regardless of the hardships of the year, or especially because of them, the Vestry voted to approve a sabbatical for Rev. Robin this summer. Robin has worked so incredibly hard since coming to Saint Clement, and the past two years have been exceptionally challenging. With the help of an ad hoc committee, we successfully won a grant to support the sabbatical and look forward to using that time to better memorialize how Covid has changed us as individuals, a congregation, and a community and explore how best to proceed with fulfilling our mission.

We are coming to terms with the fact that some long-standing ministries are ending – our service as an overflow hypothermia shelter for the Carpenter's Shelter and the thrift shop. We will celebrate both in our sabbatical program (stay tuned). Toward this end, the Vestry was honored to approve a sizable monetary donation to the Carpenter's Shelter and we look forward to continuing monetary support of organizations in the community that cater to the most vulnerable among us as we do the head and heart work to figure out where to apply our many talents and resources moving forward.

The Vestry officially created a Finance Committee (the only standing committee required by the Diocese) and has representation on the School Committee to better harmonize the mission and

administration of the school with that of the Church. With Dory's retirement, this was especially timely and came with a host of related challenges (see the School Report for more details).

We've started to see more activity in the church this year as the community emerges from isolation. We expect a rapid return to St. Clement as a place where the whole community comes together whether for worship, school, support groups, festivities, celebrations of nature (gotta love the native plant sale), music lessons and recitals, or learning to ride bikes in the parking lot.

I have most enjoyed reconnecting with everyone in worship, fellowship, and ministry. My faith expands with the arrival of each new family and the return of the members that struggled to connect in the online environment. Please see the various ministry reports for more details on God's work done through you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and serve God as your Senior Warden. Serving on the Vestry is a rewarding and faith expanding ministry. Please let me know if you have any questions about what serving on the Vestry is like as you discern whether you are being called to serve. And thank you fellow Vestry members for your commitment, patience, wise counsel, and constant positive support.

Faithfully submitted by Monica Rusk, Senior Warden

Building and Grounds

Year-to-Date Building and Ground Expenses as of 12/31/2021 were \$39,258. While property expenses exceeded the 2021 budget of \$38,450 by a small amount (\$808) Saint Clement still spent \$6,730 less than 2021 (\$45,987). Total annual expenses included insurance (\$6,391), exterminator (\$1,932), cleaning services (\$11,626), building maintenance and repair (\$10,806), grounds maintenance (\$8,503), and facility improvements (\$0).

2021 Summary of Key Building and Facility Activities

April 2021: Harry Lambert replaced the light-fixtures in the Church Office with LED fixtures, enabling us to purchase and fit bulbs in the future. The previous fixtures took bulbs that are no longer made.

May 2021: Area Safe & Lock completed a full software update (first update in five years) and transported the lock and key programming software from the old volunteer laptop to the new office laptop. Area Safe also serviced the locks themselves and replaced the batteries in both units. EnviroGrow completed usual lawn and leaf services, in addition to a full spring cleaning and mulching of the church grounds.

Church of Saint Clement: 2021 Annual Report

June 2021: Per the Vestry vote, the Church hired Green Vista to remove the dying oak tree near the Church Quaker Lane entrance. The oak posed a debris and fall hazard both to the church building and drivers along Quaker Lane. Green Vista also completed a comprehensive pruning of trees along the Church property, including the aging oak along Oakcrest and the trees nestled in the building corner (where the Church Office meets the Sanctuary space). Finally, Green Vista removed the dying maple tree, which was located in the Church Playground.



August 2021: August was a busy month, in terms of facility maintenance and repairs. The Church Office worked hard to ramp up for the start of the program and school years in late August / early September.

- The Church Office replaced the smoke detector in the Children's Chapel; the previous detector was seven years old and beyond repair.
- The Church Office and Day School collaborated on junk removal from the Church and School buildings. The Day School hired and schedule a junk hauler to remove a significant amount of items that were unable to be repurposed / beyond their usable lives and simply taking up space. The Church was able to clear a significant number of items from the basement storage areas and library.
- At the Vestry's vote and approval, the Church Office hired a handyman and crew to power-wash, repair, and paint the Quaker Lane entrance. The team did a phenomenal job for a competitive price.

September 2021: September was a quiet month in terms of building and facility maintenance tasks, especially as compared to August.

The HVAC system that powers MR Hall failed in mid-September, but was repaired by H&M.

November 2021: Kramer & Sons completed Saint Clement's annual boiler inspection and maintenance call.

Faithfully submitted by Virginia Insley, Parish Administrator

Music and Choral Program during Covid-tide



As we cautiously tiptoed into 2021, the choir continued its Zoom music ministry. Although we had a strong library of music from our efforts in 2020, we continued to hold weekly “Zoomhearsals” and recorded music for Zoom worship. The choir worked diligently to rehearse and record new hymns, anthems, and service music for worship. In addition to preparing for and leading Zoom rehearsals, I created videos containing warmups and rehearsals for individual

anthems and hymns. I learned how to connect my home organ and digital keyboard directly to my laptop to make our recordings sound cleaner and I gained more experience with digital sound mixing. By the end of May 2021, the choir and I had enough recorded repertoire to provide music for summer Zoom worship. The choir took a well-deserved summer break.

We resumed live music in August—no singing, just instrumentals—and brought back full-on, masked, distanced singing in worship right after Labor Day. The choir started meeting in the sanctuary for Thursday night rehearsals in late August to prepare for the return of group singing. Sunday, September 12, was glorious, we all raised our voices together in song. This summer, the choir was pleased to receive copies *The New Oxford Easy Anthem Book*, given by Dory and the Pre-School staff in honor of Ann Smith. We will use this versatile collection of old classics and new choral anthems for years to come.

The choir and congregation learned even more music this fall. The choir rehearsed anthems old and new. All of us learned a new chant and antiphon for our psalm singing. We sang new service music and experienced *a cappella* singing. It is wonderful to hear our unaccompanied voices raised with other voices—instead of our one voice in our living room or den.

Speaking of a cappella singing, Advent was an adventure for us as we explored what is known as “paperless” music. Instead of listening to instrumental preludes, we sang meditative music to prepare us for worship—in parts! We also learned a new *Lord, Have Mercy*. The congregation’s willingness and eagerness to join in these new musical experiences is inspirational.

Of course, one cannot be a Director of Music without musicians. Thanks to the Zoom choir, Martha Crawley, Lee Dreyfus, Anna Dvorchik, Cindy Shaw—and guests Betty Livingston and

Jann Taylor—for meeting the challenge of weekly online rehearsals and worship for more than a year and a half. Welcome and thanks to Peggy Nigon and John Sipple, who joined the Zoomers this fall for live worship and rehearsals. And thanks to Lee and Cindy for beautiful flute and clarinet enhancements to our Sunday morning music. Finally, thanks to all the people of Saint Clement for supporting your music program so enthusiastically.

For more information about the music program and/or to participate, please contact Rob at rob.passow@verizon.net.

Faithfully submitted by Rob Passow, Director of Music

Carpenter's Shelter Dinner Program

The Carpenter's Shelter supports people experiencing homelessness and those at-risk, to achieve sustainable independence through shelter and housing placement, guidance, education, and advocacy. St. Clement continues to partner with the Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church to provide hot and healthy dinner to guests of the Carpenter's Shelter of the third Sunday of every month.

We began this year where we left off last year – expanding the ministry to include support of our local stressed restaurants and delivered wonderful food from Zoe's Kitchen, Ramparts Tavern, Voila's Bakery, Ozfeca Catering, Spring Valley Farm, Faerie Springs Farm, and Justa's Peruvian Restaurant. We slowly returned to preparing meals at home and ended the year with cooking dinner on site.

So many Clementines provided or prepared foods this year. Thank you to Chuck and Janet Ziegler, Suzanne Helier, Christina Sherlock, Lauren Borden, Dan Ziegler, Raymond Johnson, Ellen Raynor, Eleanor Patterson, Tom Greco, and Wendy Harper. Your thoughtfulness, culinary talents, and creative choices were well appreciated and garnered regular accolades. We also returned to serving meals in June (as opposed to the covid era drop-and-go). Thank you to Peggy Nigon, Eleanor Patterson, Lauren Borden, Dan Ziegler, Wendy Harper, and Debbie Tatum. Our servers were always so gracious and so thoughtful in attending to the guests' individual needs and various yens.

Our December meal service was a festive evening of chopping, slicing, mixing, laughing, and cooking. We whipped up a hot fresh, vegetable and protein packed stir-fry to great reception (like returning for seconds three times kind of reception). Thank you, Debbie Tatum and Eleanor Patterson, for your terrific dedication chopping muscle, and bringing the Christmas spirit to not quite a traditional Christmas menu.

Serving at Carpenter's is one of my favorite ministries in the community. I am reminded regularly that the line between financial stability and struggle is a thin one and that care, respect, and a helping hand go a long way toward buoying someone's spirit, capacity, and faith.

Church of Saint Clement: 2021 Annual Report

If you would like to learn more about the Carpenter's Shelter, our dinner service ministry, or other ways you can support the Carpenter's Shelter (specific donations, tutoring services, job counseling, etc), you can speak to me (or many of the above mentioned individuals) or check out <https://carpentersshelter.org>.

In 2022 I am hoping to encourage even more folks to participate in food prep, food service, or cooking on site. I am especially interested in providing opportunities for folks to take responsibility for a given meal (pulling together their own crew of food preparers/servers). I am honored and blessed to have shared this ministry with you all.

Faithfully submitted by Monica Rusk, Senior Warden

Christmas Tree Sale



St.

Clement has sold Christmas trees for over 30 years. It is one of the most joyful and inclusive community ministries we engage in. Though we rely on a profit that supports our annual budget, the financial goals are far less important than serving the community, radiating the spirit of St. Clement outside our front doors, and providing the opportunity for all Clementines – young and old alike – to minister together.

Church of Saint Clement: 2021 Annual Report

We sold 375 trees this year along with wreaths and garlands. We purchased trees from Cardinal Tree Farm in North Carolina - they really are spectacular Frazier firs. We kept prices stable from last year which meant we were selling trees far cheaper than anyone else around. We maintained some of the streamlining adopted during Covid-times - selling by size class vs. measured size, offering (and promoting) credit card transactions, and limiting other activities (e.g., cheer day, bake sale, sock and toy drive).

Given the number of trees and price-point, we sold out in two weekends. What a gangbuster of a first weekend! We netted \$12,438, just a bit shy of our expectation.

Thank you everyone that joined this ministry.

- Working directly with the farm to secure pricing sheets, place orders, and arrange delivery - this was all Virginia - thank you Virginia.
- Establishing and approving the annual order - thank you Vestry
- Finalizing pricing, days and times of sale, advertising strategy – thank you Annette, Jenny and Linda.
- New signage – Thank you Lauren

And here is where I start to be less confident of all the names...

- Lot set up, truck unloading, lot rovers, tree trimmers, cashiers, closers – there were so many of you who helped in one or more ways – thank you all, but a particular shout out to the kids who unloaded, unwrapped, sold, cleaned, and remained upbeat and patient.

Challenges (or areas of focus) for early 2022:

- We still need to take down the lights – next warmish Sunday after church
- Identify a steering committee or pair of leaders for the 2022 season – by March
- Decide whether to use the same farm and arrange our own transportation or find another farm which provides guaranteed delivery
- Determine size and composition of order (generally Vestry needs to approve expenditure in May for order placement in June)
- Establish the timeline and assign captains for the various roles listed above

If you are interested in being on the ministry leadership team please contact the Vestry or Rev. Robin. If you would like more information to assist in your discernment, feel free to ask me. Thank you again everyone for your commitment to this wonderful ministry.

Faithfully submitted by, Monica Rusk

Saint Clement Episcopal School Annual Report, 2020

The school functioned well in 2021 despite Covid. Rigorous cleaning and health procedures meant that there wasn't a single case of Covid-19 transmitted via the school, despite six families having Covid during the school year. Class size and number was kept small to reduce the risk of infection, and to make it possible for each classroom to have its' own unique play area.

The school Director retired at the end of the academic year, and was blessed with a wonderful service and beautiful, generous gifts. The Education Committee interviewed multiple candidates, and one was hired to begin in July. Subsequently, it was determined that the new Director and school were not a good match. Dory Herman-Sample agreed to return as Interim Director so the Education Committee could begin a new search.

Because of Covid restrictions, there were no Enrichment programs. We also did not hold any PTO activities. However, the school continued to operate and provide a rich, full, supportive environment for the children. We had 60 children enrolled, 31 of whom were boys, 29 girls. We had five Hispanic children, and five Asian children.

We are excited to celebrate our 70th year of operation!

Class Size and Structure

During the summer and beginning of the 2021-22 school year, we had a significant number of families withdraw, and a number of teachers resign. Classroom staffing was reconfigured, with one staff member per four/five year old class, and two staff members for younger classes. There was one staff member assigned as a floater to help in the older classrooms. In October, the returning Director hired additional staff members to return classroom ratios to two staff members in each classroom, bringing the number of staff back to 12. We have been slowly building back attendance, and by the end of 2021 we had 55 children enrolled in the program. A new school administrator was trained by Carole Stover. However, the incoming Director re-aligned the work assignment for the school administrator, and the new hire resigned because she was unable to commit to full time work. A new administrator was hired, and Carole Stover graciously stepped in to help train her, but her skill sets didn't match the job requirements. Ms. Lynne Gravina was hired, and once again Carole Stover stepped in to help train Ms. Lynne. Ms. Lynne is a wonderful addition to the school and has quickly learned the procedures and policies.

Enrichment Activities

Because of Covid, we held no school wide enrichment activities. Children did enjoy modified versions of our traditional events. We held a pumpkin patch, where children could pick and decorate a pumpkin. We had a Halloween parade, with one class at a time walking around the

sanctuary and then into MR Hall to get treats from parent volunteers. Each class celebrated Thanksgiving in their own room, eating foods prepared at school. The children learned about St. Clement in celebration of his feast day, and made mosaics to hang in the school stairwell. The children dressed in togas and had a special feast with foods typical of the time period (hummus, pita bread, honey grapes, chicken, and clementines). School photos were taken; while the photos were lovely, the distribution by the company was awful, and the school will look for an alternative for next year.

Physical Plant

Air purifiers were installed in each classroom. New mulch was installed in October. The classroom halls and doors were painted beige. In November, the classroom doors were repainted in their original colors.

Fundraising and Grants

There was no fundraising because of Covid; the PTO did not function during this time. The school received a \$2,000 grant to help supplement the outdoor education use of the playground. A “mud kitchen” was purchased, along with other materials to add to the playground. The school received a grant for \$105,000 from the state of Virginia, given to early childhood programs to support their operation during the pandemic. Funds from the grant are being used to supplement staff members’ tuition for their children, provide bonuses for the staff at Christmas, and to provide returning staff members with a 2% increase as of January (they did not receive a raise at the start of the school year). Grant funds were also used to eliminate the monthly Covid fee charged to parents (for the purchase of supplies required in response to the pandemic).

Administrative

Carole Stover retired in July, but remains available as a consultant as needed. Her help literally allowed the school to continue to function, as she corrected errors made in both payroll and tuition. Dory Herman-Sample retired in June, but returned as Interim Director in October. The Education Committee is in the process of conducting a search for a new Director. Registration for the public begins March 5. Church members and returning families may register any time in January.

We have an Open House tentatively scheduled for January, but it may be canceled due to Covid.

All staff members have had their vaccination, and all staff members are CPR/First Aid trained. The school has received the Religious Exempt certification from the Dept. of Education, which is valid until Jan. 9, 2023.

Budget

The school budget is in reasonable shape, given our reduced numbers. The school offers Health Insurance to all employees, and pays 70% for each employee. In addition, the school contributes to a 403(b) plan for all employees who have been part of the staff for more than one year. These expenses are a significant portion of our school budget. Currently, the school shows approximately \$70,000 in income over expenses; this number will decrease as we do not receive tuition in June (parents pre-pay June when they enroll); however, due to the grant and slightly expanded hours, we hope to finish the year breaking even.

Community Involvement

The Interim Director is a member of the Alexandria Preschool Director's Association. The school donated a car load of new and gently used outerwear to ASPAN, to be distributed to their target population. In October, the school rejoined MAESA.

Long Term Goals

Our primary goal is to continue to provide nurturing, professional Early Childhood education to the children entrusted to us. To do so, we continue to educate our staff in the best practices of our field. This assures parents that they are getting the best possible experience for their child and their family. We hope to be able to open our doors to welcome the families of the school back inside to enjoy community activities together.

We continue to focus on serving as an introduction and pathway to the Church of St. Clement. We continue to be committed to providing loving, joyous, nurturing care to children, despite all the limits the pandemic has placed on us. We recognize the need for a "normal" school experience for children, and the opportunity to provide parents with safe, trusted, and reliable care so that they can continue to work. St. Clement Episcopal School provides this, and so much more, to the families of our community, and we are grateful for their support and confidence.

Faithfully submitted by Dory Herman-Sample, Interim Director