



2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

52 GOULD ROAD  
PO BOX 294

NEW LONDON, NH

603-526-6344

[office@standrewsnl.org](mailto:office@standrewsnl.org)

[www.standrewsnl.org](http://www.standrewsnl.org)

## Report from the Rector

Submitted by Jay MacLeod

The Sunday after last year's Annual Meeting we heard these words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "You are the salt of the earth. . . You are the light of the world." Salt is a preservative that also makes food tastier. Spread on our roads and walkways, it helps us get through the winter in ways that would have surprised Jesus. Light is amazing, especially when it illuminates something else. Neither salt nor light exist for themselves. They fulfill their purpose when poured out. Jesus isn't just complimenting the crowd when he calls them salt and light. He is defining discipleship. As God's servants we are to season life so that God is made manifest in this world. We are to shine the light of hope where there is darkness.

The wardens' report recounts how St. Andrew's has overflowed with blessing in 2023. How? Why? Because you have answered God's call to bring forth light, flavor and zest. You are the salt and light of the world. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you, especially those who are the secret, unseen ingredient that helps make this church so special.

Liturgy literally means "work of the people," and I am grateful to all who play an integral role, seen or unseen: verger, altar guild, acolytes, lectors, intercessors, musicians, choir members, ushers, chalice bearers, coffee hour coordinators and providers, decorators and live-streamers. Thanks to those who don't appear to be doing anything special but are doing the most important thing of all — praying. The presider and preacher may get the credit, but it's the undercurrent of prayer that makes our Eucharists so special. Thanks to every single person who has graced our pews.

I want to express my gratitude to those who were unable to worship with us in 2023. I speak of those who would have attended Monday Meditation or the midday Thursday Eucharist which are both continued casualties of my knee replacement surgery. In the midst of a recovery that has proved much more challenging than expected, it was a great joy to be the focus of our celebration of a decade of shared ministry in September. I don't know of any other priest or pastor that has been so honored! Thanks, also, to our wonderful resident clergy who support me and St. Andrew's in all sorts of unsung ways.

Christian formation, worship and mission come together on pilgrimage. Thanks to those who journeyed to the Holy Land in January and to St. Christopher's Mission in April. *The Chosen* TV series became a powerful tool of Christian formation, thanks largely to the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak who led the weekly discussion sessions throughout the Spring. Our Faith & Issues group reads widely and meets on Saturday mornings via Zoom throughout the year. Special thanks to the Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner who leads the group.

The Thrift Shop had a great year, thanks to its leaders and workers. It was good to get back to our pattern of two fairs (summer and St. Nicholas) which raised lots of money and were lots of fun, thanks to the Best of volunteers. Two groups of Boston youngsters enjoyed summer camping trips courtesy of St. Andrew's; as usual, the hosts enjoyed the outdoor adventures as much as the kids!

Our Braver Angels team was featured at the national organization's convention in Gettysburg and at our diocesan convention in Claremont. Our Outreach Commission raised over \$100,000 in 2023, thanks to your monthly contributions and the anonymous donors to the Matching Fund. Our partnership with Voorhees University was dramatically deepened by our inaugural summer internship program. Thanks to everyone who supported Jameikah and Shemar, especially those who opened their homes to them.

Thank you to George Jamieson and his team for keeping the lamp of legacy giving burning. Kudos to those who created a 25-year plan for our buildings and grounds. Amongst the achievements of our Green Committee were the hosting of the WindowDressers Community Build and the installation of our solar array (special thanks to the anonymous donor). "You are the light of the world."

I'm delighted that so many people are enjoying the fellowship of Foyer Groups, including new church members. "You are the salt of the earth!"

There were many shining moments in 2023, but I'll never forget Aldyn Frenkiewich bringing the lost sheep to life on Hospital Day. We distributed a thousand copies of *Syd the Sheep: Lost, Loved and Found* to families along the route which included an invitation to our next day's Messy Church worship. Sloane Estilow's Baptism was wonderfully vibrant and joyous, but we attracted no new families. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to our Messy Church ministry in 2022 and 2023. As always, ministry carries its own rewards, but these folks worked particularly hard without achieving much by way of external "success." We crafted inspiring liturgy on the cutting edge of mission, but whether Zach Gobeil or I was at the helm, we failed to attract many new families to our Messy Church worship. Exactly why is a mystery, but a small group convened by Karen Zurheide will evaluate our Messy Church ministry. I suspect that we've already learned some lessons. Certainly the phenomenal early success of our new Youth Choir suggests so!

Karen Zurheide (warden), Alice Perry (clerk), Morris Edwards and Lin Potter are stepping down from the Vestry. This is a quartet of remarkable competence and commitment. We shall miss them on the Vestry, but their lights will continue to shine in our ministry and mission.

The life of a parish is all about its people. Faithful souls brought St. Andrew's into being, and it has been faithfully passed down from generation to generation. Now it's our turn. This is not the time to lose our flavor, diminish our zest, or put our lamp under a bushel basket.

Who are you? *You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.*

## Warden's Report

Submitted by Karen Zurheide and Claire Pace

2023 was another year for our parish that overflowed with blessing, both in regular ongoing activities and in other special ways such as these:

- Pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine, including young adults and other community members, to start off the year
- *The Chosen* video series discussions over many weeks, featuring Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak
- Braver Angels seminars led by our own team, helping bridge political divides, and opened to the community
- “Pilgrimission” to St. Christopher’s parish in Bluff, Utah in “Navajoland”
- Inaugural summer intern program for two students of Voorhees University
- Joy-filled celebration of Jay MacLeod’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving as our Rector
- Many delightful new parishioners among us
- Resumption of Foyer Groups to enhance our connections

In addition, there were these highlights of caring for our physical plant at Gould Road:

- New roof and installation of solar panels
- Repair and renovation of back steps, stone wall and patio
- Comprehensive 25-year report from Capital Needs Task Force

While not possible to mention all else we continued to enjoy together, notably Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner led thoughtful Faith and Issues discussions; our revived Eucharistic Visitor program met many needs; we offered after-school and summer programs for children; Last Sunday Outreach offerings strongly supported 11 varied missions. Under the direction of Will Ogmundson, we enjoyed excellent music from staff and volunteers in the context of meaningful liturgy, along with engaging sermons that both challenged and comforted. And to support our ambitious overall agenda, our budget was adequately funded.

The bottom line for our parish for 2023: We have so very much for which to be grateful! Clergy, other staff and lay leadership guided us with capable commitment, the parish responded with generous participation, we grew together as we followed Jesus in the way of love—within the parish, in the local community, and beyond into our personal orbits and this broader world of ours.

We look forward in 2024 to our new Junior Choir program led by Nicole Densmore and a book study group exploring finding meaning in the last third of life, along with exploration of a Montessori preschool program that might become housed at St. Andrew’s.

For all of this and much more, thanks be to God!

**Treasurer's Report**  
Submitted by Michael Quinn, Treasurer

In the year just passed, 2023, we saw our congregation's continued financial support. We exceeded our budgeted pledge revenue, while other operating revenue sources held steady.

On the expense side, overall, we underspent versus budget. The savings were concentrated in Buildings & Grounds expense and Program expense.

As a result, we finished the year with a slightly larger surplus than budgeted.

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges (prior & current)	\$443,064	\$435,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$534,990</b>	<b>\$541,706</b>
Investment Income	53,699	46,547
Personnel Expense	\$341,533	\$335,458
Administration/Finance	174,017	165,674
Buildings & Grounds	32,950	43,560
Program Expense	20,370	26,310
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$568,870</b>	<b>\$557,992</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Outreach</b>	<b>\$19,819</b>	<b>\$17,261</b>
Outreach revenue	\$107,491	\$106,000
"Last Sunday" beneficiary grants	\$91,647	\$70,000
Other Outreach expenditures	\$17,157	\$34,860

Our presentation is slightly different this year. We have chosen to highlight, within our financial reports, our Outreach activity. This is actually a substantial part of St. Andrew's financial life and well worth comment. We slightly exceeded our revenue targets. Thanks to everyone's generosity each month, the funds available for "Last Sunday" grantees significantly exceeded expectations.

In addition to these good results, St. Andrew's benefited from one-time special purpose and planned giving. While these offerings are not considered operating revenue, they will be reflected in the financial statements for 2023 and will benefit the church over time.

**Music at St. Andrew's**  
Submitted by William Ogmundson

2023 was a banner year for music at Saint Andrew's! The choir has remained strong, both in numbers and spirit, and enlivened the 10am services each Sunday, while Jennifer Giles brilliantly carried the 8am. Nicole Densmore sparkled on the flute, (and numerous other instruments as well), and laid the groundwork for starting Saint Andrew's Youth Choir, which had 37 participants at the first rehearsal in January 2024.

I continued my quest to vary the instrumentation of the service music, and almost every type of percussion under the sun was used, but the autoharp was most beloved for its gentle accompaniment. Vocal soloists included Linda Barnes, Russ Potter, Nina Rogers, Elizabeth Keegan, while instrumentalists included Oliver Andrews, Kathy Thomas, Russ Potter, Karen Lemaire, Michael Todd, and the whole choir on percussion and chimes. I hope to increase the size of the choir and continue to diversify the styles and instrumentation for the services in 2024.

**Youth Music at St. Andrew's**  
Submitted by Nicole Densmore, Director

Words make you think a thought. Music makes you feel a feeling.  
A song makes you feel a thought. ~ E.Y. Harburg

In the spring of this year, our church welcomed area children who embarked on a transformative journey through the activities of Dodge, Drum, and Sing (DDS). Over an exuberant six-week period, 32 elementary students immersed themselves in a musical odyssey that transcended mere vocal exercises. The lush grass became the canvas for honing team-building skills, while the rhythmic beats of the Malinke people of West Africa echoed through the air, stirring the spirits of our young choristers.

Amidst the beauty of the spring weather, the youth of DDS harmonized not only in song but also in the art of togetherness. Snack breaks turned into moments of camaraderie, fostering connections that would resonate beyond the duration of our sessions. As the clock struck 4:30, a collective crescendo marked the end of each day, leaving our young musicians enriched with the joy of shared musical expression.

Transitioning into the vibrant days of summer, St. Andrew's extended its reach with two immersive week-long sessions of DDS. Guided by the skillful hands of Voorhees students, Shemar Stewart and Jameikah Smith, our choristers were not only introduced to the enchantment of musical exploration but also embraced the ethos of teamwork and collaboration. The bond formed during Field Day at the elementary school in New London blossomed into lasting relationships as Shemar and Jameikah seamlessly integrated into the fabric of our summer camp, becoming mentors and friends to our cherished young choir members.

As the seasons turned, 14 children embarked on a new chapter, joining the Tone Chime Choir. Commencing rehearsals after Veterans Day, their dedication and passion culminated in a lovely performance at the Christmas Eve 4:00 pm service, a cornerstone of our spiritual calendar. Their instruments blended seamlessly with their voices, enhancing the festive aura of that sacred night.

Thank you to all the volunteers who not only witnessed but were active participants in the symphony of our youth choir's remarkable journey. Here's to the harmonious melodies that await us in the coming year.



### **Altar Guild**

Submitted by Becky Rylander & JoAnn Hicks, Co-chairs

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to prepare the sanctuary for services, care for the altar linens, and prepare for special services. Following services, we clean up and deliver altar flowers. Members are assigned to one of four teams and each team serves for 2 weeks at a time. There are usually two members serving at each service.

New members are always welcome. We especially need members that attend Sunday's 8:00 service. Maybe there is a small voice speaking to you asking you to serve in a small way. This might be the way. If interested, speak to any member or after a service stop in the sacristy to see what we are doing.

After many years of serving St. Andrew's on the Altar Guild, most recently as co-chair, Judy Ackroyd is moving away. We will miss her calm, helpfulness and friendship!

Current members are:

Rosie Best, Judy Brown, Diane Caldwell, Marni Eaton, Lisa Gover, Janet Miller Haines, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Marilyn Paradis, Alice Perry, Lin and Emmy Potter, Nonie Reynders, Becky Rylander, Lynn Salo, Joanne Schuyler, & JoAnn Hicks.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Submitted by Harvey Best

2023 was another busy year for the Building and Grounds Committee at St. Andrew's.

Starting with the renovation and rebuilding of the stairways and patio on the rear entrance to the Gould Road church. Concrete steps and railings were torn out and foundations were rebuilt to support new stairs. Solid granite steps were installed in place of the crumbling concrete. The cracked concrete patio was removed and a new block masonry floor was installed. Stone walls were rebuilt and capped with flat granite slabs.

New iron railings were designed and installed on both upper and lower stairways. A level masonry block path was installed at base of stairway that leads to edge of driveway.

New rain gutter system was also installed on roof edge to direct water and snow-melt away from patio area.

Both Gould Road and Old St. Andrew's buildings were re-roofed, repaired and re-shingled. Old shingles were removed and new shingles installed including repairs to sheathing and flashing.

The Gould Road church also had a major Solar Array installed on the south facing roof section. The panels will generate electricity to help reduce demand on the power grid and reduce our monthly electric bill. Let the sunshine down!

Also at the main church, we excavated a pipeline that normally carries ground water away from the building. The pipe was crushed and clogged and no longer functional. A new pipe was installed and water flow restored.

On-going work in 2024 will include the relocation of electric power meter from basement of main church to exterior location by the swing set. Our power company, Eversource, requires outside access to the meter. The relocation will also stop damage caused by water flooding through electrical conduit during heavy rains and spring runoff.

Old St. Andrew's will be examined for masonry and stone restoration work as needed to prevent deterioration.

Many thanks to Paul Catsos and Bob Feuerstein for their on-going help and assistance for the care of our facilities at St. Andrew's Church.

Over the last year, the B&G Capital Needs Assessment Group made up of a small group (Harvey Best, Bob Feuerstein, Mary Eysenbach, Ed Hoyt, and Becky Rylander) studied maintenance issues--especially those involving capital expenses--at both of our buildings. The result is a report on each building that outlines projects that will have to be repeated periodically and suggests appropriate timing for each. The reports are intended to help the vestry manage planning and budgeting for major projects while remembering the smaller ones.



## **Green Committee**

Submitted by Ed Hoyt

The Green Committee coordinated the installation of the 45-panel solar array which was installed on the parish hall roof in July and will provide solar energy over the next 25 years.

For a week in November, the parish hall was buzzing with activity as 209 low-cost window inserts were assembled for 29 local families. This “Community Build” project was designed by the non-profit WindowDressers, and was led by local sponsoring groups Kearsarge Climate Action and Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners. Recipient families participated in the work and were joined by volunteers from the sponsoring organizations, Rotary Club, St. Andrew’s, Colby-Sawyer and others. Planning is already underway for the 2024 Kearsarge Community Build, which will again be hosted by St. Andrew’s.

The Green Committee was represented on the Buildings and Grounds Capital Needs Assessment Group, described elsewhere in the annual report.

## **The Network Newsletter**

Submitted by Alice Perry, Editor

*The Network* is St. Andrew’s bi-monthly newsletter and regularly includes “Jay’s Say” from our Rector, “Wardens’ Words,” parish updates such as marriage, memorial service and baptism, and birthdays. Contributions from all of the groups represented in this annual report, highlights and photos of recent activities, a two-month calendar plus some Diocesan news, an occasional “lay contemplation” piece, items of community interest and suggestions for community service and outreach are all featured as well.

Each issue is posted on our website at [www.standrewsnl.org](http://www.standrewsnl.org) under the Inform tab close to the first day of the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November) with notification arriving within a standard parish email. (Please be sure the office has your current email address.) Printed hard copies are also available. Please check out the current issue if you haven’t already.

The newsletter welcomes your submissions. To ensure timeliness, the announced deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every even-numbered month (February, April, June, August, October and December) – although extensions are readily granted. You are encouraged to share something of interest with our parish community by sending text (Word format) and/or photos (jpg) electronically to the editor at [perry46@tds.net](mailto:perry46@tds.net). Please let me know if you would like to be added to the distribution list for emailed reminders before each issue. Thanks to everyone who has or will help keep the church community informed of our mission, our programs, our people, our service: all that constitutes the life of the church. – *Alice Perry, Editor*

## **Eucharistic Service Ministers** **Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, and Eucharistic Ministers**

Submitted by Anne Hall, Verger

An important ministry is that of **ushers**, who serve at both the 8 & 10 services and other services such as a celebration of life. Basically they keep the service running smoothly starting with greeting those arriving while keeping the sanctuary quiet prior to the service. They seat latecomers at an appropriate time, present the elements, collect and present the offering, regulate the traffic flow to and from communion, and assist the Altar Guild with cleanup after the service. Many thanks to Susie & Jim Aubuchon, Billy & Lisa Kelly, Susan Schweizer, Susan & Jack Feyrer, Mary Bayerl & Peter Ruth, JoAnn Hicks, Diane Caldwell, Rosie & Harvey Best, Maureen Strachan, Louise & John Moses, Jackie Thompson, Marilyn Paradis, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Gail Goddard, Tina & Bill Helm, and Ellen & Gardner Yenawine who served in the past year. That list may look long but it covers those who served at one of the two services and maybe both. There are times when it becomes shorter due to vacations etc. New ushers are welcome and would receive instructions on serving this ministry. Please email [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org) if you would like to serve.

As an **acolyte** individuals carry the cross as crucifer or bear the torches, participate in the Gospel processional, assist the presider preparing the altar for communion, handle the collection plates, assist the presider after communion, and light and extinguish the candles. If a person is willing to serve and is at least 8, St. Andrew's will provide training. We welcomed James Wassell who is serving at the 8 am service along with JoAnn Hicks and Anne Hall. Serving at the 10 am service are Aldyn and Kelby Frenkiewich, Cecelia and Anne Kellett, Claire Pace, Gardner Yenawine, and Lynn Salo. Helping out during college vacation were Katy Potter and Jenna Wheeler. Our thanks go out to them and those chalice bearers who carried torches when needed. If you would like to serve St. Andrew's as an acolyte or have any questions, please contact the verger at [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org).

Although the roster of **intercessors and lectors** is large, new volunteers are welcome. With vacations, there are times the roster shrinks. Training is provided to those who wish to serve as a reader. There is no age requirement. As with the other ministries, in addition to serving at the Sunday services, both are called to serve at other services throughout the year. Our thanks are extended to Jim Aubuchon, Harvey Best, Sharon Blain, John Bouton, Suza Bowser, Missy Carroll, Jody Cooper Rubin, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Morris Edwards, Ginny & Randy Foose, Gail Goddard, Ayla & Kylin Frenkiewich, Janet Miller Haines, Tina Helm, JoAnn Hicks, Mark Kellett, Elizabeth Lowell, Julie & Peter Machen, John Moses, Alice Perry, Russ Potter, Nancy Rollins, Nina Rogers, Becky Rylander, Susan Schweizer, Andy Seward, Karen Floyd Shepherd, Leslie Smith, Maureen Strachan, Jackie & Chuck Thompson, Katrina Wagner, Ellen & James Wassell, Loa Winter, Ellen & Gardner Yenawine.

The initial license for being a **Eucharistic Minister** is recommended by the rector, approved by the vestry, and then sent to the Bishop for his approval. A candidate must be 16, is trained by the rector and verger after the license is approved. The Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy with the administration of the sacraments during the Sunday and other Eucharistic services. Our thanks are extended to Marni Eaton, Anne Hall, JoAnn Hicks, Mark Kellett, Nola Jordan, Claire

Pace, Alice Perry, Emmy Potter, Theresa Quinn, Karen Floyd Shepherd, and Gardner Yenawine. As you can see, the roster is short. Please email [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org) should you have questions about this ministry or wish to serve in it.

### **Eucharistic Visitors**

Submitted by Ginny Register

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements of the Communion to homebound parishioners. Each Eucharistic Visitor should receive Safe Church training, undergo a background check, and receive training in the parish. They should also be endorsed by the Vestry and licensed by the Bishop.

We provide time for homebound church members to take a moment out of their lives to pause and connect with the Holy Spirit while they receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We currently have 10 people receiving Home Communion and 12 people actively assigned as Eucharistic Visitors to those at home. Most of the visits are monthly, some are quarterly, and a few may be weekly. Sunapee Cove residents are also served on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month by Pastor Jay and Eucharistic Visitors Ginny and Russ Register. Current list of eligible Eucharistic Visitors: Bonnie Chappell, Jennifer Giles, Pat Goodwin, Nola Jordan, Fifi Mitchell, Bill Morgan, Claire Pace, Alice Perry, Ginny and Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Jackie Thompson, and Gardner Yenawine.

Being a Eucharistic Visitor enables us to visit socially with a St. Andrew's parishioner, and also to connect on a deeper, more spiritual level. If you think you might want to become a Eucharistic Visitor, or would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Pastor Jay at [jay@standrewsnl.org](mailto:jay@standrewsnl.org) or by phone at 603-748-8754 or at church at 603-526-6344.

### **Faith and Issues**

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

During 2023 our group of roughly 10 members continued to meet regularly to share our impressions of six Faith-based books and four Issue-based books. All books are suggested and then chosen by vote, and each book is read over a 3-5 week period. We also took breaks between books, sprinkled throughout the year. Details of our latest choice, dates and readings can be found under F&I and Learn on the church website. We'd love to have you join us via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:30.

### **Landscape & Garden Committee**

Submitted by Mary Eysenbach

The new trees along the border with the New London Inn have grown despite damage from snow removal. There was also damage to the small arborvitae by the church entrance from icicles. No new trees are planned. Wonderful volunteers again spread the watering work around

which was easy in 2023 as Mother Nature did most of the work. My thanks for all who volunteered whether they had to work or not! A special thanks to Judy Brown for keeping the front and memorial gardens in good shape with weeding and to Susan Aubuchon and Cynthia Canaday for taking care of the planter and bed at OSA.

## **Braver Angels**

Submitted by Woody Canaday

St. Andrew's Braver Angels team includes David Balford, Jeannie Sperry, Jennifer Giles, Peter Ruth, Paul Catsos, and Woody Canaday, with Jay as our advisor. We are committed to depolarizing public and private discourse through workshops, discussions and debates. In these venues, we learn and practice skills for communicating with people we disagree with – including looking for common values so that we “respect the dignity of every human being” as our baptismal covenant calls us to do. We believe that Braver Angels' collective work in New Hampshire is making a difference and are grateful to be part of an initiative that was proposed to Jay and St. Andrew's by Bishop Rob Hirschfeld and retired Bishop Mark Beckwith at the end of 2021.

Highlights of 2023 include:

- Four workshops at St. Andrew's and one for the town of Brentwood at the request of its state representative. These collectively engaged over 120 people.
- Paul Catsos completed training as a Moderator, joining Jeannie Sperry. Paul also stepped up to co-lead the NH Braver Angels Alliance which holds respectful online discussions of challenging topics monthly (email: [nh-alliance@braverangels.org](mailto:nh-alliance@braverangels.org) for more information).
- Jeannie was our delegate to Braver Angels' national convention at Gettysburg in July, where she and St. Andrew's were already well-known for our work.
- St. Andrew's team members participated in bi-monthly meetings with other Episcopal churches that ally with Braver Angels, under the leadership of Mark Beckwith. Our methods are diverse, and we benefit from sharing ideas. David Balford, Jeannie, and Steve Vangel (St. George's, Milford, MI) coordinated on drafting a common Episcopal mission statement.
- At Bishop Rob's request, St. Andrew's representatives discussed Braver Angels at the Diocesan Convention in Claremont in November. Jay, Jennifer, and Woody also offered our team's assistance to parishes that want to host a workshop. Four churches have taken up our offer and so our calendar for 2024 is filling up.

In 2024, we plan to offer one or more workshops at St. Andrew's and to host a debate in the fall.

## Thrift Shop

Submitted by Jackie Thompson and JoAnn Lyon, Co-Managers

This is the second year that JoAnn Lyon and I have shared the duties as co-managers of the thrift shop. We work together very well, both separately and together, to make things happen in the shop. It is our pleasure to be involved in the thrift shop.

John Ellis is a local gentleman who also lives and works in Egypt for companies as a sustainability expert hoping to make the country more productive and efficient. Whenever he comes to his New London home, he visits the thrift shop hoping to buy clothes for the maids who work in his facility and ladies in the village who don't have more than one outfit to wear. We have helped him several times fill a suitcase with clothing with long sleeves, high necks, and no bright colors.

We have the best volunteers in the thrift shop. The average age is in the upper 70's, and each and everyone is 100% willing to volunteer for their shift and/or cover someone else's when needed. One (Lin) needed a substitute so she could take her husband to the hospital in Boston, and of course, her partner for the day (Kris) came early so she could leave. Another (Kathi) wanted to go to a funeral, so her partner (Gail) stayed late until she arrived. When Jeannie asked for a sub the night before because she was sick, Kathi stepped up. When JoAnn and Jackie went through the process of changing seasonal clothing in the shop, several volunteers offered to come in and help fill those bags for Listen, a thrift shop in Lebanon, where we donate our non-saleable items for resale. Two special volunteers take these bags to Listen whenever we need their help. We welcomed a new volunteer, Beth, who is a great addition to our group. Our bag sales are still very popular as are the BOGO sales. We try to have something on sale as often as possible, which includes clearance racks at the end of a season.

Our donations total \$14,000 for 2023. For the first time, we will offer a scholarship to a worthy senior at Kearsarge Regional High School who has an outstanding history of community service.

### SUMMARY OF 2023 THRIFT SHOP DONATIONS

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH	\$10,000
SCHOOL NURSES EMERGENCY FUND	\$ 2,500
KEARSARGE REGIONAL PARTNERS	\$ 1,000
KEARSARGE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP	<u>\$ 500</u>
TOTAL FOR 2023:	\$14,000

## **The Outreach Commission**

Submitted by Elizabeth Lowell

The Outreach Commission is grateful for the joyful response to the Last Sunday Outreach Offering. Parishioners responded generously to needs both near and far. In January through November, we supported the following entities:

- Willing Hands
- Dismas Home
- Overcomers
- Voorhees University
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
- St. Christopher's Mission in Navajoland
- The Haven
- Clinique Saint Esprit, Haiti
- Pendembu Clinic, Sierra Leone
- El Hogar
- Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministry (KREM)

With our generous anonymous donors' match to what our Offerings raised, we gave \$100,864!

On the Commission itself, we waved good-bye to Janet Heyl who moved to Vermont, and we sadly buried our beloved Christine Kellett. Both had contributed greatly to our discussions, research and writing about Last Sunday candidates. We happily welcomed Jerry Coogan and Jim Mathias to the Commission, and they jumped right in, immediately volunteering for the work. Members include: Jerry Coogan, Elizabeth Lowell, Jim Mathias, Tom Rubin, Russ Potter, Becky Rylander, Karen Zurheide.

## **Other Outreach Projects**

Submitted by Becky Rylander

In addition to funds donated for each Last Sunday offering, St. Andrew's engages in a number of other outreach projects, some of which you can read about elsewhere in this report. The following chart outlines all of those other opportunities to give—time or funds or both. If you have questions or are interested in participating in any of them, please contact the people mentioned in the chart.

### Outreach Projects at St. Andrew's

<i>Project</i>	<i>What it is</i>	<i>What is needed</i>	<i>St. Andrew's Contact</i>
<b><i>In our parish:</i></b>			
Meals to the Rescue/Meal Train	Provides meals for parishioners who are ill or otherwise in need of help.	Help with cooking and delivering meals.	Sharon Blain
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Provides prayer shawls to parishioners or community members for whom we are praying.	Knitting or crocheting. See <a href="http://www.prayershawlministry.com">www.prayershawlministry.com</a> for sample patterns and come work with the Craft Group.	Craft Group & others
Loafers	Welcome for newcomers.	Deliver fresh bread and information to new members. Answer any questions.	Marilyn Paradis
<b><i>In our community:</i></b>			
Thrift Shop	Sells used clothing and uses the proceeds to benefit St. Andrew's outreach and many local philanthropic organizations.	Clean, gently used clothing appropriate to the season. Volunteer time working in the shop.	Jackie Thompson JoAnn Lyon
KREM (Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries)	A consortium of local churches providing emergency assistance.	Prayerful support of our representative(s) and donations at ecumenical services and events and other times.	Froncie Quinn Jackie Thompson
Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry	Provides food to needy in the area via a food pantry located at the First Baptist Church.	Food, funds, & time. Non-perishable food, especially peanut butter, tuna fish, and other protein items. A collection box is located in the hall. Also \$\$ and volunteer time.	Gail Goddard
Thanksgiving Food Baskets	Collection of \$\$ for grocery gift cards that are distributed to more than 100 families.	\$\$ when requested in November.	Mark Kellett
The Giving Tree	Community Christmas Project for needy families.	Christmas gifts matched to identified wishes following instructions provided in Nov by LSRVNA.	Judy Wheeler
Pocket Crosses	Pocket-size crosses available in the hall in exchange for a free will gift to benefit LSR Food Bank, KREM, and the Friendly Kitchen.	Buy a cross or two and/or lend woodworking help.	Harvey Best
Dodge, Drum, & Sing	An after-school program held at church on Friday afternoons in spring and fall.	Help with activities and snacks.	Nicole Densmore
Youth Choir	Choral instruction for 2-5 <sup>th</sup> graders; rehearsals on every Monday after school and on the Friday prior to performing in church on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.	Help as requested by Nicole.	Nicole Densmore

***In our state and beyond:***

The Friendly Kitchen	Provides dinner bimonthly for 100-120 homeless and needy in Concord.	\$\$ and help preparing and serving food on the fourth Friday of every other month.	JoAnne Hicks
ChiPs –Toys for Children of Incarcerated	A collection of toys for incarcerated parents to give their children for Christmas.	Unwrapped toys collected in October and delivered to Diocesan Convention in early November.	Volunteers
Phillips Brooks Partnership	Outdoor experiences for inner city children.	Volunteers and equipment for hiking, camping, swimming, tubing, sailing and cooking out	The Rev'd Jay MacLeod Lisa Kelly
The Seamen's Church Institute	The Institute provides spiritual, social services, and professional support to seafarers and river mariners.	Knitted hats and scarves, For patterns and info see website, Becky or Shelly: <a href="http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea">www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea</a>	Becky Rylander Shelly Boucher
Annual Crop Walk	Regional, intergenerational walk around Pleasant Lake to raise funds for hunger relief. First Sunday in October.	Walk and/or donate \$\$.	Alison Seward

***In the world:***

Clinique Saint Esprit, Haiti	Funding of a pediatrician's salary for a project to save infant lives.	\$\$ from Last Sunday donations and other	Elizabeth Lowell Becky Rylander
El Hogar	A residential and day school in Honduras that equips very poor kids to succeed.	\$\$, support for a possible service trip, and becoming familiar with their programs.	Becky Rylander
Navajoland	Support work of Episcopal Church in Navajoland, especially at St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, Utah.	\$\$ and possible participation on service teams. Learning about Navajo traditions and spirituality.	Lisa Kelly, Becky Rylander, Nancy Rollins

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
29 January 2023**

Noting that attendance exceeded our quorum of 50 and included many new faces since last year, Jay opened the meeting in the parish hall with words of welcome and a prayer.

***Motion*** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2022 as a true and accurate record, written and received.

***Motion*** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Annual Report of 2022 as written and received.

The following slate was presented by Jay, reading from the screen where it was projected for all to see.

Claire Pace, Warden for two years



Mike Quinn, Treasurer for a second two-year term  
Nonie Reynders, for a second three-year term on the vestry  
Fifi Mitchell and Nancy Rollins, to serve three-year terms on the vestry  
Russ Potter, to serve a two-year term on the vestry (to complete Claire Pace's term)  
Marni Eaton and Alice Perry to serve two-year terms to Western Convocation

Jay made note of the vestry decision to waive the recently discovered by-law limit on the Treasurer to a single three-year term, noting that several prior Treasurers had all served two terms, noting also that the vestry will propose amendment to the by-laws to be brought before the 2024 annual meeting.

There being no nominations from the floor, ***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to approve the entire slate as presented.*

Senior Warden Karen Zurheide thanked outgoing Warden Joe Daly for his commitment to the role. Jay thanked outgoing vestry members Chuck Thompson and Chris Heyl (who had resigned in September) and outgoing Western Convocation delegates Pat Goodwin and Karen Floyd Shepherd.

Last week's meeting to ask questions of Treasurer Mike Quinn about the 2023 vestry-approved budget had been well attended. With no further questions or discussion, ***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to receive the proposed budget for 2023.*

With live piano music provided by Will Ogmundson to accompany it, a slide show in text and pictures of the church's activities in 2022 was projected on the screen.

When the meeting was opened to questions and comments, Chuck Thompson noted that Will as music director is a "terrific asset" and also asked that the slide show be posted on the website.

Jay responded, noting that the vestry had recognized the importance of worship at their June retreat, thanking all who contribute to that aspect of church life, whether through music, the altar guild or in other ways and made special note of and thanks to Anne Hall, verger. He also thanked retired clergy for their wonderful support and advice.

Brian Frenkiewich commented on the lack of young families in church (not only at St. Andrew's but nation-wide) and also stated that there is a significant lack of childcare in the local community (in part responsible for the hospital's difficulty in recruiting nurses and doctors). He asked if St. Andrew's might consider providing childcare services. Jay assured the meeting that the vestry will look at this possibility and assess its viability.

Jackie Thompson, after participating in Safe Church training, stated that St. Andrew's is a very safe church. As coordinator of Safe Church training, Anne Hall reminded those who have roles where such training is required to fulfill those responsibilities and help us keep it so safe.

Fran Wilson thanked Emmy Potter and her mother Lin for being present every Sunday to provide childcare during the 10 AM service.

Jen Giles noted that she had attended a privately-run kindergarten here and joined the church later in life.

Jeannie Sperry complimented Jay on his thorough involvement and huge investment of time in all the activities of the church. Jay responded saying this is a wonderful place to serve – and how thankful he is to have scheduled midday prayer rather than morning prayer so that in winter he can get some early skiing in.

Gardner Yenawine reminded all to greet people they don't know when in the hallway or parish hall during coffee hour, stressing the importance of reaching out enthusiastically to extend the love of Christ to all.

Fran Wilson offered thanks to Jay's wife Sal for her assistance with filming services. Jay added that Sal has her own ministry in the work she does outside church walls.

There being no further business, Jay closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk