

Sunday Forum:

Seasonal Update from Parish Leaders

November 19, 2023

Markers of parish vitality



Standing Committees and Ministry Night

- Adult Formation, Buildings and Grounds, Communal Care, Family Ministry, Finance, Front Porch Ministry, Hospitality, Outreach, and Stewardship
- Committees feature staff liaisons, vestry liaisons, and at-large members
- Broadening the base of engagement and ownership, and expanding communication, collaboration, and synergy
- Begins with a meal (5:15–6:00 p.m.) and parish updates from staff, and then divides into committee meetings (6:00–7:00 p.m.).
- Nights are open to all, especially newcomers and others looking to connect
- Next evenings are scheduled for February 1 and May 2, 2024

“We are all members of one Body...”

Outreach Updates

Our farmers market has averaged 834 people each Saturday since January (up from 759 last year) and was named among the city's best! In addition:

- 280 people are served through the fruit ministry each month; 95 at Virginia Supportive Housing.
- 180 households (up from 136) were served by our pantry January-September, with 844 total visits (up from 648) to the pantry in that time.
- DoorDash makes 15-24 additional deliveries from our pantry each week, and customers in the farmers market have spent \$885 in SNAP + Virginia Fresh Match benefits since May.
- We will deliver 200 turkey boxes to families at Fairfield Court and Anna Julia Cooper School on Tuesday, and our Christmas Shop will take place December 22 with both groups.



Children and Youth Formation (weekly averages for September–November 2023)

- Sunday Children's Formation: 47 children active in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- New opportunities for 4th and 5th graders: acolyte captains and eucharistic assistants in Palmer Hall, with Catechesis and outreach engagement as a group.
- Sunday youth Confirmation class: 28 per week/avg.
- Sunday youth acolytes/ushers: 18 per week/avg.
- Sunday evening youth group: 17 per week/avg.

Adult Small Group Ministry

- Three kinds of small groups: Emmaus, Focus, and Being With
- 97 people registered this fall; we now have 20 active small groups.
- In spring 2024, we are moving to a model of two covenant periods: Fall = October to December; Spring = February to May.
- We will offer more Being With groups, new Emmaus groups (hopefully including groups for retirees and groups at Westminster Canterbury and Cedarfield), and more focus groups, like Sacred Ground or book study/poetry groups.
- Interested in facilitating? Let Cate Anthony know!

Average Sunday Attendance September–November 2023

- Our ASA (in-person) for Sunday services September–November (thus far) is **750**
- Our ASA (virtual) is **333**
- ASA combined is **1083**
- The same figures last year at this time were
689 + 338 = 1027



Annual Giving Update as of November 15

	Count	2023 Pledges	2024 Pledges	Difference	% Change
Increase	181	\$722,430	\$839,634	\$117,204	16%
New	72	\$0	\$186,432	\$186,432	100%
No Change	199	\$600,785	\$600,785	\$0	0%
Decrease	40	\$172,480	\$118,071	(\$54,409)	-32%
Subtotal	492	\$1,495,695	\$1,744,922	\$249,227	
Not yet responded	361	\$884,093	\$0	(\$884,093)	-100%
Total	853	\$2,379,788	\$1,744,922	(\$634,866)	

2023 Year-to-date Income & Expenses

	Oct 2023	Oct 2023	YTD Budget
	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Unallocated			0.00
Pledged Income	2,012,636.00	2,004,408.00	8,228.00
Plate & Other Gifts	288,798.00	263,690.00	25,108.00
Endowment & Other Invest.*	252,959.00	252,959.00	0.00
Other Contributions	163,406.00	160,759.00	2,647.00
Other Income	138,983.00	145,259.00	(6,276.00)
Total Revenue	2,856,782.00	2,827,075.00	29,707.00
<u>Transfers and Allocations</u>	(79,168.00)	(9,000.00)	(70,168.00)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Unallocated			0.00
Staff/Clergy Comp. & Benefits	1,806,316.00	1,837,000.00	30,684.00
Outreach	300,850.00	316,000.00	15,150.00
Worship & Music	121,255.00	145,279.00	24,024.00
Family and Other Ministries	89,385.00	57,270.00	(32,115.00)
Administration	213,824.00	219,657.00	5,833.00
Communications	40,834.00	56,340.00	15,506.00
Bldg. & Grounds, Contingency	322,095.00	313,570.00	(8,525.00)
Total Expenses	2,894,559.00	2,945,116.00	50,557.00
Rev/Exp Variances	(\$116,945)	(\$127,041)	\$10,096
*Endowment draw for Oct is in transit			

Other Updates: Financial Position & Endowment

- Endowment results – our Endowment Fund is down the last few months but up for the year, from \$5,589,155 on 12/31/22 to \$5,762,137 on 10/31/23.
- Church has additional \$2,191,242 in liquid assets against \$160,717 in liabilities.
- The Endowment Committee is initiating a Request for Proposal (RFP) to understand the market/competitive landscape and ensure we are working with best partner.

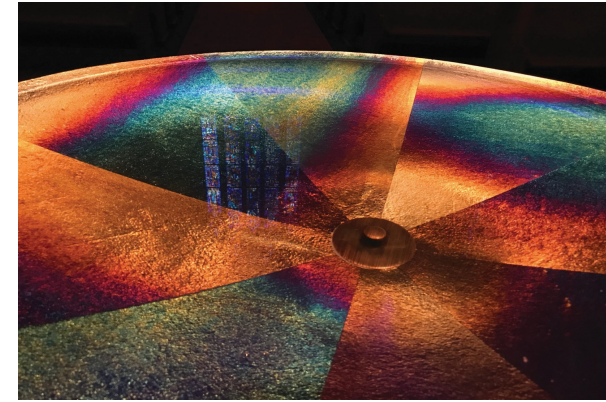
Other Financial Updates: Audit

- Wells Coleman is completing the 2021 audit. As reported to the parish in August, we will receive a qualified opinion.
- We are in discussion with three other firms for audits of 2022 and 2023, as Wells Coleman has indicated they are shifting away from not-for-profit work.
- We are confident in the financial accounting systems and personnel we have in place today, and we're grateful for the hard work of the vestry, finance committee, and staff.

Diocesan Convention Update

- A delegation of 11 lay people and five clergy from St. Stephen's attended of the annual diocesan convention in Fredericksburg on November 3-4.
- This was the first convention in office for Bishop Mark Stevenson. In his inaugural pastoral address, he focused on the ministries of racial healing and discipleship/spiritual formation, each of which is connected to a new canon-level member of the diocesan staff.
- The agenda, approved diocesan budget, video recaps, and all resolutions and nominations considered can be viewed at the following webpage: <https://www.episcopalvirginia.org/who-we-are/governance/annual-convention/229th-annual-convention-2023/>
- Thanks to our clergy and lay delegates!

Website Development Update



- After an RFP process, we selected Landslide Creative, whose clients include a host of not-for-profit organizations and commercial businesses.
- [Episcopal Diocese of Maine](#): the name says what it is!
- [Capital Pres Family](#): a multi-campus church, very different from St. Stephen's; evangelical churches place a premium on sophisticated media.

Website Development Update, continued

- The new site will be better organized and the main menu on the home page will be more streamlined.
- The graphics will be vibrant but readable.
- Landslide has developed the sitemap and wireframe, and staff are in the process of gathering images and collaborating on the content to populate the new pages.
- At the most recent Quarterly Ministry Night, we asked standing committees and ministries to consider what content they want on the new site.