



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

2023 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

## **2023 Year in Review**

*The year 2023 seemed to fly by! This year was the first year that we felt a sense of normalcy after the disruption of the pandemic, and we were all ready for it! ECA seemed to seamlessly jump right back into doing what it does so well: being faithful servants in Christ's body, the Church.*

*We gave of our time in ways that ministered to both our parish and our community. We shared our talents in multiple areas including maintenance and projects around our campus and in leading projects for the community. We gave financially with a generosity that a lot of churches no longer see. This church showed its true roots; roots of generosity, which so fittingly matched our Stewardship campaign for the year, "Rooted in Abundance". "They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."*

*- Jeremiah 17:8*

*In the following pages you will see how the ministries and committees at ECA revealed our deep roots steeped in generosity. You will see where we have been and our vision for the future. We are deeply grateful and thankful to take this journey with you all.*

*Thank you to all who are rooted with ECA!*

*Fr. Paul, Vestry, and Staff*

### **CLERGY AND STAFF**

**Bishop of Atlanta** – The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright

**Rector** – The Rev. Paul McCabe

**Pianist & Choirmaster** – Joe Lozier

**Communications Coordinator** – Pamala Foye

**Youth Coordinator** – Search in Progress

### **WARDENS AND VESTRY**

**Senior Warden/Vestry Liaison to Faith & Spirituality**– Robin Keith  
**Junior Warden/ Vestry Liaison to Parish Life Ministry** – Chris Renaud  
**Vestry Liaison to Children & Youth Ministry**– Molly Norman  
**Vestry Liaison to Finance & Stewardship**– George MacDonald  
**Vestry Liaison to Reach Ministry** – Nicole File  
**Vestry Liaison to Connecting Ministry** – Horace Higgins  
**Vestry Liaison to Buildings & Grounds** – Kate Martiny  
**Vestry Liaison to Worship** – Foster Peterson  
**Vestry Liaison to Servant Ministries** – Wanda Ziembinski

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# Stewardship and Finance

Respectfully Submitted by George MacDonald, Vestry Liaison for Stewardship & Finance



*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.*  
- Jeremiah 17:8

The Stewardship and Finance committee exists to help navigate the time, talent, and resources of ECA. The Finance Committee meets on the first Sunday of each month at noon after services. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. The Stewardship campaign theme for 2023 was “Rooted in Abundance” which is taken from Jeremiah 17:8. This is a reminder that we should not fear or be anxious, but to trust in God. We are inspired to give because so much has been given to us.

This year we again exceeded our stewardship pledge goal for our campaign. Thank you for your amazing generosity. We received 85 pledges totaling \$258,765 which is \$6,491 more than last year’s numbers. This is great news as we will be able to fund our proposed 2024 budget and provide a cost-of-living increase for our Rector, Music Director, and our Sexton.

During 2023, our cash flow remained strong thanks to everyone who kept up their pledges and all who donated. We had a challenging year, providing a well-deserved sabbatical recharge for Father Paul and funding the replacement of the church building Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System. Our Finance Committee (consisting of Sue Tidwell, Foster Petersen, Wanda Ziembinski, Ron Sedgley, Jane Whisler, Jeff Whittingham, Fr. Paul and George MacDonald) did a great job, and we enter 2024 in good financial shape. Once again, Thank you for your incredible generosity and commitment to ECA. Together we can support the ECA mission in 2024 because we are “Rooted in Abundance”.

As of: <b>02-Jan-24</b> For 2024		Pledges :	86	90%			<b>Still Outstanding Pledge Info:</b>	
Total \$\$ Pledged to date :			\$258,765		Average	Extended	Previous year Pledges still Remaining	1
\$252,274 Proposed 2024 Pledge Budget	44%	Increase :	38		\$496	\$18,856	Past Pledge Amts Remaining	\$3,600.00
	2%	New :	2		\$2,900	\$5,800	Each Averaging:	\$ 3,600.00
	7%	Decrease :	6		(\$1,075)	(\$6,450)		
	5%	Lost:	4		(\$1,383)	(\$5,530)		
Avg. Pledge for 2023 :			\$3,008.90		Net:	\$12,676		
Overall 2024 Avg. Pledge change vs. 2023 Avg. :			\$270.10 9.86%					
						\$262,365		\$3,600.00

**Episcopal Church of the Annunciation  
2024 Budget - Final Dec. 2023**

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Accounts	Annual Budget 2023	Total Actual 2023 YTD*	Annual Budget 2024
<b>REVENUES</b>			
<b>Contribution Income</b>			
400100 - Plate Offering	\$5,000.00	\$5,465.00	\$5,000.00
400200 - Pledge Payments	<b>\$252,284.00</b>	<b>\$251,844.93</b>	<b>\$258,765.00</b>
400300 - Non Pledge Payments	\$20,000.00	\$14,027.95	\$20,000.00
<b>Total Contribution Income</b>	<b>\$277,284.00</b>	<b>\$271,337.88 *</b>	<b>\$283,765.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
410650 - Music Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
410800 -Interest Income	\$0.00	\$37.42	\$0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$37.42</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$277,284.00</b>	<b>\$271,375.30 *</b>	<b>\$283,765.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Mortgage Expense</b>			
500100 - Loan #700028 Principle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
500200 - Loan #700028 Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Mortgage Expense</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Diocese</b>			
500500 - Diocesan Pledge	<b>\$21,443.00</b>	\$21,443.00 *	<b>\$22,176.00</b>
590500 - Diocesan Functions	\$1,000.00	\$463.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Diocese</b>	<b>\$22,443.00</b>	<b>\$21,906.00 *</b>	<b>\$23,176.00</b>
<b>"Reach"</b>			
510200 - Yard Sale Income	(\$3,500.00)	(\$2,334.00)	(\$3,500.00)
510300 - Outreach Expenses	<b>\$16,000.00</b>	\$13,022.09 *	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
510400 - Inreach	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	\$590.23	\$2,000.00
590100 - Scrip Program Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total "Reach"</b>	<b>\$14,500.00</b>	<b>\$11,278.32</b>	<b>\$15,500.00</b>
<b>Clergy Compensation</b>			
520100 -Clergy Salaries	<b>\$48,441.75 *</b>	\$48,441.72	<b>\$51,333.83</b>
520150 - Rector Housing	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	<b>\$28,000.00</b>
520200 - SECA Rector	<b>\$5,954.89</b>	\$5,954.88	<b>\$6,252.64</b>
520250 - Assistant Priest Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520300 - Assistant Priest SECA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520400 - Mileage & Cell Phone	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
520500 - Rector Medical Insurance	\$3,900.00	\$4,540.16	\$3,900.00
520600 - Rector Pension	<b>\$15,083.40 *</b>	\$14,375.76	<b>\$15,838.40</b>
520601 - Assistant Priest Pension	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520602 - Assistant Priest Health Ins.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520603 - Assistant Priest Life Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
520650 - Rector Term Life Insurance	\$238.50	\$238.50	\$238.50
520801 - Associate Priest Housing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Clergy Compensation</b>	<b>\$103,018.54</b>	<b>\$102,951.02</b>	<b>\$107,963.37</b>
<b>Clergy Expense</b>			
520775 - Clergy Cont. Education	\$1,000.00	\$10.00	\$1,000.00
520800 - Supply Clergy Expense	\$7,500.00	\$4,875.00	<b>\$4,500.00</b>
800350 - Rector Sabbatical Fund	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Clergy Expense</b>	<b>\$13,500.00</b>	<b>\$9,885.00</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>
<b>Worship</b>			
530100 - Music Director	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	\$20,125.00	<b>\$21,000.00</b>
530150 - Outside Musicians	<b>\$2,400.00</b>	\$1,550.00 *	\$2,400.00
530200 - Music Choir Supplies	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$401.00</b>	\$250.00
530300 - Piano/Organ Maintenance	<b>\$250.00</b>	\$250.00	\$250.00
530400 - Bulletins and Printing	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
530500 - Spiritual Life & Acolyte	\$1,000.00	\$336.95	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$24,100.00</b>	<b>\$22,662.95 *</b>	<b>\$25,100.00</b>



**Episcopal Church of the Annunciation  
2024 Budget - Final Dec. 2023**

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Accounts	Annual Budget 2023	Total Actual 2023 YTD*	Annual Budget 2024
<b>Altar Guild</b>			
530700 - Altar Expense	\$750.00	\$830.95	\$750.00
530800 - Flowers	\$1,500.00	\$1,052.45	\$1,500.00
530801 - Flower Income	(\$2,500.00)	(\$1,540.00)	(\$2,500.00)
530900 - Altar Guild Other	\$0.00	(\$30.00)	\$0.00
<b>Total Altar Guild</b>	<b>(\$250.00)</b>	<b>\$313.40</b>	<b>(\$250.00)</b>
<b>Evangelism</b>			
540400 - Web Page Expenses	\$250.00	\$89.80	\$250.00
<b>Total Evangelism</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$89.80 *</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Office &amp; Admin Expenses</b>			
550100 - Checking Account Service Charge	\$0.00	\$9.00	\$0.00
550200 - Parish Administrator Expense	\$17,056.00	\$9,842.50 *	\$17,056.00
550300 - Telephone & Internet Exp.	\$1,200.00	\$1,495.57	\$1,200.00
550400 - Office Expenses - Copier lease	\$5,750.00	\$5,045.77	\$5,750.00
550500 - Postage	\$200.00	\$155.45	\$200.00
550700 - General Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
550800 - Equipment Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Office &amp; Adm. Expenses</b>	<b>\$24,206.00</b>	<b>\$16,548.29 *</b>	<b>\$24,206.00</b>
<b>Parish Life</b>			
560300 - Coffee Hour	\$200.00	\$97.63	\$200.00
560400 - Parish Life Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,049.85	\$1,000.00
560500 - Membership Directory Exp.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
560600 - Stewardship, CDC, Nametags	\$750.00	\$165.50	\$750.00
560700 - Vestry Activities	\$2,500.00	\$1,867.81	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Parish Life</b>	<b>\$4,450.00</b>	<b>\$3,180.79 *</b>	<b>\$4,450.00</b>
<b>Building and Grounds</b>			
570100 - Fire & Liability Insurance	\$8,000.00	\$8,431.25	\$8,300.00
570200 - Propane Gas	\$1,500.00	\$1,048.66	\$1,500.00
570201 - Garbage & Recycle Exp.	\$1,000.00	\$898.96	\$1,000.00
570202 - Power	\$7,750.00	\$7,197.88	\$7,750.00
570203 - Water	\$1,200.00	\$977.96	\$1,200.00
570300 - Maintenance Exp. Equipment	\$4,250.00	\$13,842.87	\$4,250.00
570400 - Maintenance Exp. Buildings	\$4,250.00	\$13,610.62	\$4,250.00
570500 - Custodian	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,300.00
570501 - Cleaning Supplies	\$600.00	\$460.71	\$600.00
570600 - Grounds & Landscape Exp.	\$7,000.00	\$6,210.68	\$8,000.00
570700 - Pest Control	\$2,700.00	\$2,303.00	\$2,700.00
570900 - Room to Grow	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Building and Grounds</b>	<b>\$44,250.00</b>	<b>\$60,982.59 *</b>	<b>\$45,850.00</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>			
580200 - Adult Education Exp.	\$250.00	\$54.06	\$250.00
580300 - Youth Christian Ed. Exp.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
580400 - Nursery Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
580500 - Nursery Worker Exp.	\$4,410.00	\$4,740.00	\$4,880.00
580600 - Youth Coordinator Compensation	\$20,000.00	\$0.00 *	\$20,000.00
580601 - Youth Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$22.52	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>\$26,760.00</b>	<b>\$4,816.58 *</b>	<b>\$27,230.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$277,227.54</b>	<b>\$254,614.74 *</b>	<b>\$283,975.37</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$56.46</b>	<b>\$16,760.56 *</b>	<b>(\$210.37)</b>

# Buildings & Grounds

## Respectfully Submitted by Kate Martiny, Vestry Liaison to Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry is essential for the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful church grounds. This ministry meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Activities Building. All are Welcome! We are always looking for volunteers! Thank you to all parishioners who rolled up their sleeves and helped make our buildings and grounds what it is in 2023. As the structures on this property reach their 50+ years of age, we now consider taking a more proactive approach to their upkeep.



In 2023, this amazing ministry and volunteers accomplished the following:

- Replaced the HVAC system in the church.
  - Replaced the top beams of the swing set.
  - Cleaned out the Activities Building kitchen.
  - Replaced the keypad lock.
  - Cleaned and painted the Sacristy.
- Had productive work days in March and August.
  - Replaced the playground equipment and installed new mulch under it.
  - Installed new flowering plants in the Butterfly Garden & the bridge pots.
  - Repaired the leak in the roof & damaged ceiling in the Swift Building.
  - Replaced boards on the walkway bridge.
  - Replaced the pine tree with a blooming cherry tree.
  - Repaired the leaking toilet in the Activities Building.
  - Replaced the front entrance signs and installed lighting.
  - Replaced blinds, fluorescent light ballast, leaf blower batteries, hoses & vacuums.





# Parish Life

Respectfully submitted by Chris Renaud, Vestry Liaison for Parish Life

Parish Life exists to encourage and promote a sense of community and life together within ECA. We meet periodically throughout the year with planned social gatherings. This year we had our Easter reception and hosted Fr.Paul’s return from sabbatical.



Activities include monthly Dominoes Game Night on the last Friday of each month at 7pm, the Cultured Pearls book club on the Third Thursday of each month at 2pm (thanks to Lillian Stanton for facilitating and hosting), the Annual Ladies British Tea, a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social, and the Men’s Fishing Trip.



Parish Life is always looking for ways to help connect the parishioners of ECA and foster a sense of community. We welcome volunteers and ideas! Feel free to reach out to Chris or Fr. Paul with any ideas or to volunteer to help make this parish feel like family.



# Connecting Ministry

## Respectfully submitted by Horace Higgins, Vestry Liaison for Connecting

The Connecting Ministry is pivotal to welcoming and connecting those visiting ECA or looking to get more involved in ECA. During 2023, those who signed our guest book were contacted via phone, text, or email and made to feel welcome. We are always seeking individuals who would like to greet and welcome guests who attend Sunday services at ECA. When new guests arrive at ECA we welcome them to a quarterly luncheon and share information about our ministries and mission at ECA.

In 2023, the Connecting Ministry worked with Parish Life to co-host a fish fry that was well attended. This helped to not only build a bridge to our local community; but offer a vehicle for parishioners to reconnect with those who go to different services.

We had several guests to ECA in 2023 as a direct result of an invite from other families. This is a perfect example of how you can partner with the Connecting Ministry! As parishioners of ECA, we are all capable of helping to 'connect' others. Please feel free to introduce newcomers to any Vestry member and reach out to the Connecting Ministry to continue the work and purpose of inviting and connecting others to our parish family.

The plan is to work closer with other ministries during 2024 to present more / updated opportunities to become acquainted with our church. If you would like to learn more, or volunteer to help connect others to ECA, reach out to Horace Higgins.



# Reach Ministries

## Respectfully Submitted by Nicole File, Vestry Liaison

Reach is ECA's out-reach and in-reach ministry group. We look for ways to care for parishioners who may have needs, as well as serving both ongoing and urgent needs in the community. We meet at noon on the second Sunday of each month. Contact Cindy Lippert to learn more or volunteer.

Reach had a very active 2023, beginning with the joyous reunion of the Demidovich family in January. After almost a year apart, Volodymyr and Mark were reunited with Irina, Tymur and Natan. No dry eyes were present, including among the passersby in the airport. The Demidovich family is thriving. Irina works for a top-tier florist and Volodymyr and Mark both have jobs as appliance repairmen. The men are taking English classes, and all three have secured drivers' licenses and vehicles. They have taken over paying most of their bills, with the church helping out with a few remaining



expenses. The boys are excelling at Mabry Middle School, with Natan even being named Student of the Month. Recently, some ECA members privately sponsored Mark's girlfriend to come to the United States under the State Department's United for Ukraine program. Mark and Alina were married in November, and they are working to get her settled and into English classes as well.

Our mission serving homeless neighbors at Shady Grove Baptist Church has expanded significantly. We are now serving up to 70 people at our hot dinners on the fourth Wednesday of each month. In addition to the dinner, we provide bagged breakfasts for the following day, and usually have a selection of toiletries, jeans, socks, underwear, and other supplies as well. We have also supplied water-resistant, insulated sleeping mats through our partnership with Softer Streets. For Thanksgiving, we even provided a selection of coats which were greatly appreciated. We are sometimes joined by volunteers from outside the church, such as a Girl Scout troop and some college students. We also often have younger members of the church join us to volunteer, and their presence is greatly enjoyed by our guests.

We also served twice this year at Church of the Common Ground, and apparently the fact that we brought meat-and-cheese sandwiches instead of peanut butter and jelly was unusual and very appreciated. Reach plans to resume our COCG lunch outreach next year, planning on at least three lunches.



We also sponsored two missionaries this past year with ties to the parish, Samantha

Wells who is in Greece, and Grace Laminak, who is in Germany, she plays yearly at our Christmas eve services.



Our October food drive was a success again, although we are no longer doing an item or weight count. We no longer have a bank partner rewarding us. Many items from the food banks' most-needed list were donated, and we also had numerous donations of baby formula and diapers.



Our Open Hearts Camp for underprivileged or homeless children had over 20 attendees this year. Over two weeks, we did crafts, music, games, sports, a water day, first responder day, nature day, and provided lunch and two snacks each day. Due to the increased turnout, we will likely set aside more money in the budget for Open Hearts next year.

Our yard sale did well again this year, providing a fun outlet to share our treasures with the community while raising thousands of dollars for Reach. Even though Father Paul could not be with us that day, Horace Higgins made sure to keep the “silly hat” tradition alive.



We continue our support of Emmaus House, hosting the summer cookout at the end of the Freedom School session, and the Grandparents' Dinner in December. We also continued our annual Angel Tree and Thanksgiving Dinner ministries, helping numerous families pay for holiday meals and get Christmas gifts for their families. Thank you to ALL who help with our REACH efforts in our communities and around the globe.



# Faith & Spirituality

## Respectfully submitted by Robin Keith, Vestry Liaison to Faith and Spirituality

Faith and Spirituality is a ministry at ECA that helps parishioners to develop deeper, more meaningful aspects of their own faith. The year 2023 has been a wonderful year to share in fellowship, exploration, and grow our relationships with each other as a parish, thus deepening our own personal walk of faith.



In 2023, we continued to offer options for Christian Education. For those adults looking for a more laid-back setting, we offered a weekly class at 9:45am lead by Ron Allen where we discussed events in our community and around the world; and how we as Christians respond to that. These types of discussions open our minds and hearts as we hear each other's perspectives and experiences in life. It's an amazing opportunity to learn from each other. For a more formal Christian Education experience, we offered Education for Ministry (EFM), which concludes with a four-year learning certificate in theological education. The course is taught within a small group consisting of participants at various stages of the four-year program. We currently do not have an instructor for EFM, but can work with you on other opportunities to pursue this course.



The Bible Challenge completed reading the entire bible this past year! This was a challenge Bliss Petersen invited people to join her on. The goal of the challenge was to read the entire bible, with reflections along the way. Now that they have finished the bible, the Bible Challenge group will begin a "The 50 Day Bible Challenge: A Journey with Matthew". This group will continue to meet on Sunday's in-between services. Anyone can join at any time.

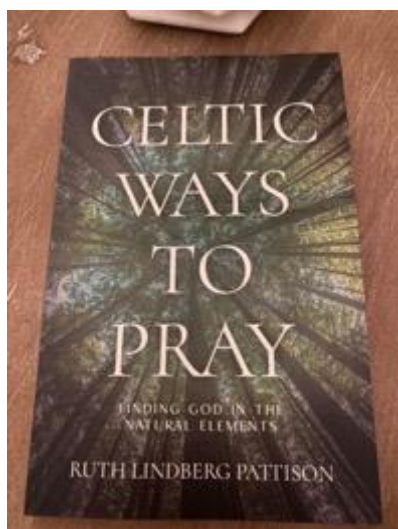


We celebrated our one-year anniversary of Faith, Food and Fellowship, which is a monthly dinner for people to gather, eat and share in fellowship. Faith, Food, and Fellowship meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. The purpose of these free dinners is to provide the opportunity to share a meal with someone you may not have as much time to talk to during coffee hour, or who attends the opposite service as you. Our monthly dinners will resume the third Wednesday in January 2024. Also, during Lent of 2023, we offered a Lenten Series on Wednesday evenings with a simple dinner and discussion. This will continue for 2024 as well.





New in 2023, we hosted two different “Days of Reflection”. The first one was offered after Easter, and was a reflection on the resurrection. We had various facilitators who shared readings related to the resurrection, followed by a quiet activity and time to reflect. In December, we offered an *Advent Day of Reflection*. This event focused on the Advent readings and traditions and helped us to reflect how we can best prepare our hearts for Christmas. This ministry is always looking for participants and volunteers. We hope you will join us for more of these events and activities! Contact Robin Keith to learn more or to volunteer.



# Children and Youth Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Molly Norman, Vestry Liaison to Children & Youth



This year, the children and youth ministry worked to engage children in the parish in monthly Christian Formation (Sunday School). Through the end of the 2022-2023 school year, we met on the first Sunday of the month for Sunday school at 9:45 between the services. In that time, we focused on reviewing the Gospel and helping the students develop a deeper understanding of the teaching.



At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, we began meeting the first and third Sunday of the month. For this school year, we are learning about the important people and stories of the Old Testament. We have five children who consistently attend with a couple of visitors that come with family from time to time.

The older youth of the Parish were given several opportunities this year to engage in community outreach and inreach. They met to prepare and serve pancakes at the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Open Hearts Summer Camp gave the youth two weeks of opportunities to serve as camp counselors in the month of June. They were invited monthly to help prepare and serve meals to the unhoused at Shady Gove as well as monthly opportunities to help a local school complete a reading certificate.

Of course, the end of the year always brings the Annual ECA Children's Christmas Story. This year was no different. We had a successful service with children telling the story for all to see and hear. It is always a joy to see the children of this parish excited about the gospel of our Lord. We are excited to move into 2024 and anticipate more in the coming year for the children and youth of ECA!



## Servant Ministries

### Respectfully Submitted by Wanda Ziembinski, Vestry Liaison for Servant Ministries

Servant Ministries at ECA serve as the ‘hands and feet of Christ’ to the parishioners in various areas and consist of several groups and ministries. The groups who make up Servant Ministries would not happen without the help and organization of many people who accomplish so much behind the scenes. Each one of the ministries listed below happens because individuals and families in our church needed some kind of assistance during the year, and without hesitation, the people who make up these different ministries reached out and filled their needs.

- **Cards From The Heart** – A big thank you must go out to Jan Thurmond for her many years of sending out the beautiful cards you received for your birthday, anniversary and get well wishes. Jan retired from this ministry at the beginning of the year. Lucky for us, Linda Harris has picked up her pen and has continued to insure everyone at ECA is congratulated or wished well.
- **Caregivers** – This ministry provides to parishioners who are in need of information dealing with the care of family or friends. Meetings are not held on a regular basis, but you can reach out to Robin Racoff, if you are requiring information regarding being a caregiver.
- **Daughters of the King (DOK)** – Members of the DOK promise to take part regularly in the worship and work of the church. They also assist Fr. Paul to give support to families before, during and after a funeral. Pam Weed would like to start a new member class in 2024. If you would like more information about the DOK, please contact Pam.
- **Eucharistic Visitors** – Eucharistic Visitors assist Fr. Paul by taking communion to parishioners at home who are ill, or otherwise unable to attend church services. Thank you to George McDonald, Linda Harris and Foster Peterson who continue to bring solace to our homebound parishioners. Contact Fr. Paul or Foster Peterson if you would like to help out with this important ministry.
- **Holly Haulers** – Members help parishioners get to church on Sundays, as well as appointments during the week. It doesn’t take much time to help out a fellow parishioner who is in need. If you have some extra time during your week, think about volunteering for this very rewarding ministry. A special thank you to Ron Allen, Janet Livingston and George McDonald who continue to help out some of our parishioners on a regular basis.
- **Journeys** - is a support group which helps parishioners communicate with others who are also having a difficult time dealing with some of life’s events. Journeys meets the second Saturday every month, and is headed up by Suzie Hart, a professional Social Worker.
- **Meal Preppers** - provides meals to anyone in our parish who is going through a difficult time and is in need of a home cooked meal prepared by someone else. Brenda Pinkston and Megan Miller, with occasional help from others, makes sure the meals are delivered when needed.

This ministry is always in need of volunteers! If you would like to help, contact Wanda Ziembinski to learn more.

# **Worship Ministry**

## **Respectfully submitted by Foster Peterson, Vestry Liaison to Worship**

Worship in 2023 continued in person with regular and wonderful contributions from our altar guild, service volunteers, the choir, our pianist, Joe Lozier, and our new supply priests Fr. Roger Allen and Fr. Frank Baltz. Highlights of the year include:

### ***Altar Guild***

The Altar Guild is led by Bliss Peterson and Brenda Pinkston and consists of 4 teams who handle the work of preparing the church for worship. The Altar Guild performed a major project in our worship space this summer. They, and several additional volunteers spent the week of June 26-31 working on a sacristy cleaning/repainting project. They completed projects ranging from cleaning the floors, repainting the entire room, replacing the ceiling tiles, and installing a new sink/faucet. The sacristy is now amazing, clean, and well-organized!

### ***Choir/Music***

We continue to be blessed with Joe Lozier as our pianist and choirmaster. The choir practices on Thursday evenings at 7:15 pm. The size on Sundays fluctuates but there are currently 11 members. There were multiple music offerings during the Holy Week/Easter services including Bliss Peterson singing the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil. On Easter Day, we had 2 trumpet players at the 9 and 10:45 am services in addition to Scott Lozier on violin. The choir prepared and performed several special pieces for the 9 pm Christmas Eve Service and were joined by guest musicians Emily Laminack Wetzel, violin; Grace Laminack, viola; Jennifer Davenport, cello; Charles Laux, double bass; David Wetzel, trumpet; Scott Lozier, violin/conductor.

### ***Worship Services***

We continue with 8:30 and 10:30 am services on Sundays. Continued thanks to Horace Higgins who live-streams the 8:30 service on our Facebook page. We held the full complement of Holy Week (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday (Stations of the Cross and service at noon and 6 pm) services and Easter services (8:00, 9:00, and 10:45 am).

We had a good summer of worship while Fr. Paul was on sabbatical. Fr. Frank Baltz was our supply priest on June 4, 11, and 18, while Fr. Roger Allen handled the remainder of Sundays from June 25 to September 3, 2023. Attendance hovered around 20-25 at 8:30 and 40-45 for the 10:30 service. Fr. Roger is now generally available to fill in when Fr. Paul is out; Foster Peterson covered with Morning Prayer the few times a priest was not available. Fr. Paul returned to lead worship on September 10, 2023. The choir resumed as well on September 10 after their summer break.



We held 3 services on Christmas Eve: the Traditional Children's Christmas Story at 5pm followed by Traditional Carols & Holy Eucharist Rite II Service at 7 pm and the Festive Carols & Traditional Rite II Candlelight Service at 9 pm.

### ***Worship Volunteers***

The 8:30 am and 10:30 am services continue to have regular volunteers in the service volunteer positions: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Acolytes (youth and adult), Intercessors, and Vergers. We remain most in need of servers and Eucharistic Ministers at 10:30 AM but have added three new adult servers/EMs this year in addition to 3 new lectors.



Announcements continue to be made in ECA News, bulletin, and in church for service volunteers. Training for new and returning volunteers has been handled by Foster Peterson and Fr. Paul on an individual basis thus far and will look to do a larger in-person day of training for those interested in 2024. Please consider giving of your talents to volunteer in our corporate worship!





## **Rector's Report**

### **Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Paul McCabe, Rector of ECA**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! This past year our stewardship campaign theme was *Rooted in Abundance*. I reflected on the purpose of roots that serve as an anchor but are also life producing. Our faith in God in Christ anchors us in our beliefs that in turn produces life giving ministry amongst our parish and out in the world. As your Rector, I often experience the blessing of being able to see the bigger picture of our congregation, the ministry we bring to our neighbors, the impact we have on our community, and the ways that week after week - we come together to celebrate our faith and praise God. This past year was truly a blessing for me. I was able to take some time off and renew my faith as well as my passion for ministry. I never realized how tired and worn down I was until it took me over a month to decompress from all that had happened in the past six years. I was glad to get back and truly appreciated the fruits of a hard-working Vestry. I am proud of the ministry and mission we do, as the phrase goes, "*it's what we do!*".



I am in my 14<sup>th</sup> year here at ECA after arriving in March of 2009 and have never looked back concerning what we are called to do. Last year my priorities were to refocus on our fellowship and worship participation as well as our children and youth programs. We have been building back our programs but this also presented us with a new challenge, "What Now?" These past few years have challenged the "Church" in many ways. Attendance and participation in both fellowship activities and worship is still lower than we would like. Individuals and families have changed routines and we need to think not only about short-term needs, but also long-term needs.

Additionally, it is clear that we have aging buildings and property. We need to re-evaluate our needs and prioritize what needs to be done to our buildings and property. It is my goal to work with the Vestry and our Buildings & Grounds Committee to make a list of all the work that needs to be done and put labor and monetary figures with the proposals. It is my hope that we will be able to accomplish some of the work because of all the gifts we have at ECA, but the larger projects will take some time to plan and implement in a way that serves the parish and our needs. My hope is that as we refresh and renew our buildings and property, it will also renew our own faith and keep us strong for many years to come so others may experience the joy and love we share in our worship with one another.

We are very blessed with deep roots here at ECA and I want to personally thank all members of the parish for your unwavering support both financially and spiritually. These deep roots have produced incredible ministry and mission at ECA that has branched out far and wide. I also want to especially thank the vestry



for the incredible and tireless work that continues to take place amidst the unprecedented challenges we have had and continue to face with volunteerism and worship service attendance. I would like to thank our outgoing Vestry members, Robin Keith our Sr. Warden; and Nicole File, liaison for Reach, for their contributions they have made these past three years. I also want to thank Wanda Ziembinski, liaison for Servant Ministries, who filled in a one-year vacancy slot. I cannot

thank them enough for their dedication and hard work at ECA and especially for Robin and her incredible servant heart, leadership, and friendship. Thank you to all for continuing to trust me and our work together as Rector of Annunciation, I am deeply thankful for all your love and support. 2024 will be a better year because that is what we do! To God be the Glory!

Fr. Paul+

