

The Interim Rector's Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as your interim rector since September of last year. The time between rectors is often little more than a holding pattern, a time when Sunday attendance declines, along with plate and pledge income, and the Every Member Canvass for the coming year's support of the parish lags far behind the results when there was a permanent rector on board. Usually support for programs lags, and, in general, a sort of haze hangs over everything.

However, none of this has happened at St. Andrew's. Sunday attendance remained high; plate and pledge collects remained ahead of projections; the Every Member Canvass has produced not only more in pledged income but in pledgers as well, and the programs here—especially the outreach which is an integral part of this parish—has continued unabated.

In addition, as others will mention in their reports, the campus itself is in far better shape than it was a year ago. St. Andrew's House has been repainted; the stained glass windows have been removed, cleaned and restored in the Church, and the addition to the staff of a sexton, shared with St. Andrew's School, has made the entire facility cleaner.

And, after a transition guided admirably by the president and board of St. Andrew's school, its business manager and lead teacher, St. Andrew's School begins the new year with an excellent new head of school.

A good search team is in place, and all is in readiness for the search for your next rector to enter its next phase. There will be no shortage of good candidates for the committee to choose from. The problem the committee will face is choosing the best from among the best.

In other words, this has been an excellent year for this parish, and all of us owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the lay leadership here during this time of transition. As the debt of gratitude is great, so also is the list of those who deserve our thanks long, and giving each one the recognition deserved would probably entail my reading to you the entire roster of our membership. It is easier, and no less accurate, for each of you to turn to those seated to your left and right and simply say "Thank you for all you have done."

Now all of this does not mean that there are not challenges ahead for St. Andrew's, and I want to highlight the challenges I see facing the parish in the year to come.

First of all, as we all know, the Stewarts will be leaving the parish and headed to the frozen wildernesses of Canada, and, as we also know, they have been the backbone of our Christian Education program at St. Andrew's. There is a great need for someone to step up to replace them when they leave...to lead Children's Church with the same attention to excellence and devotion the Stewarts have had. This is critical. Without a sustainable program for children in place here, the parish cannot grow. Somewhere out there lies the answer to this challenge. I urge you to ask yourselves if that someone is you.

Secondly, while we have made progress this year in strengthening the ties between our school and our parish, much more needs to be done. Too many people still regard the school as little more than a

tenant, rather than as a part of the mission of this parish. This challenge can be met, I feel sure, by our new Head of School, but not without the support of the vestry of this parish, and this support must be tangible. For example, in its operating budget, the vestry should consider a line item of scholarship support for the school, and the vestry should cooperate fully with the school in the allocation of space to enable the school to function more smoothly.

Thirdly, the parish must embrace newcomers more than it does. A parish has roughly five weeks to engage a visitor in such a way that she or he will become involved in the life of the parish. This means a system of follow-up contacts with visitors needs to be in place, beginning with personal contacts being made during those critical five weeks and with offering opportunities to serve being given to newcomers. This requires gathering information from visitors so that more contacts can be made, and it requires being willing to share the ministries of the parish with those who are new. The Diocese of Texas has excellent resources available to train parishioners in these acts of hospitality. I hope that the vestry will take the lead in designating a newcomer team and see that its members receive or renew training in this important ministry, and I hope that the leaders of the ministries here will embrace newcomers.

Finally, while stewardship is good here, it could be better. In fact, it must be better. One of the few obstacles facing the search committee for the next rector of this parish is the compensation packet to be offered. True, in any call there is a spiritual component...does the spiritual temperament of the next rector align with that of the parish...but there is also an incarnational component...does the parish plan to offer the incoming rector a salary sufficient to meet the incarnational, the fleshy side, of being a rector of a parish in what is a highly desirable, and therefore expensive, part of Houston? Look at what you have pledged for the year to come: could you increase that amount by one percent, by five percent perhaps, to meet this need?

These four challenges are all summed up, really, in our baptismal covenant, and in the promises all of us renew whenever a baptism takes place. We are asked, "Will you continue in the apostles' teaching (Christian Education and support of the ministry of St. Andrew's School) and fellowship (incorporation of newcomers fully into the life of the parish, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers (providing a properly compensated priest to lead these things))?"

In the Baptismal Covenant, we answer, "I will, with God's help." May that answer ring true for you in the year to come.

Let me end where I began: it has been my joy and my delight to walk with you during this interim period, and you will remain in my prayers, even after this interim period has ended.

In His love, and mine,

Ken +

Annual Parish Report

January 12, 2014

The mission of St. Andrew's Episcopal School is to be a welcoming, faith-based Montessori school that educates and nurtures the whole child and family with love and respect.

The School offers a Montessori education for children from the age of 12 months through 5 years.

The 2013 Faculty and Staff:

Amanda Thorburn, Business Manager

Maryuri Duran, Administrative Assistant

Tuan Vu, In-House Support Teacher

Cindy Babbitt, Art Specialist/All Classrooms

Christa Wilson, Lead Teacher/Toddler II Community

Monica Chapa, Co-Teacher/Toddler II Community

Jessie Bonilla, Assistant Teacher/Toddler I Community

Michelle Balch, Lead Teacher/Toddler I Community

Michelle Hlavenka, Lead Teacher/Early Childhood Community

Martha Pena, Co-Teacher/Early Childhood Community

Edith Orozco, Assistant Teacher/Early Childhood Classroom

THE 2013 GALA WAS HELD AT TREEBEARDS ON APRIL 13TH WITH EARNINGS NETTING \$31K. THE HOUSTON PROUD THEMED GALA FOR 2014 WILL BE HELD AT THE CADILLAC BAR ON MARCH 1ST.

THE TURKEY TROT HELD IN NOVEMBER WAS WELL ATTENDED AND NETTED \$11K.

THE SCHOOL WILL BE INSTALLING NEW PLAYSTRUCTURES ON BOTH PLAYGROUNDS AND A SHADE STRUCTURE ON THE EC PLAYGROUND IN 2014.

THE MEMBERS OF THE 2013 SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

INTERIM RECTOR: THE REVEREND KENNETH FIELDS

PRESIDENT: MARY PAULINE MCELROY

SECRETARY: ERIN CRAIG

TREASURER: CHRISTEN SIEGEL

David Roberts

Jennifer Perry

Jennifer Stewart

Byron Leger

David Webber

Amanda Thorburn

Michelle Hlavenka

Our sincere thanks to Jennifer Perry and Chris Gingrich for their generous service to the Board, and we welcome as a representatives of the School, Shayn Robinson, and from the Church, Cathey Harrison.

End of Year Jr. Warden Report for 2013

From January through December, the following problems, projects, and items for work days, were repaired or resolved:

New fixtures for commode tanks in six restrooms; Leaks under S. A. House sink; Altar Guild sink; and under coffee pot in parish hall. New faucet in Altar Guild sacristy. Leak over Altar and leak from ceiling into school office. Two doors in church building would not shut. New flooring buckling. Elevator problems and now under new management. Problems with every air conditioner, several times, and management changed. Rent house under new management. Problems with rats, mice, roaches and ants. Exhaust fan in restroom quit. Cooler removed from S.A. House back "porch". "Porch" floor holes patched. Six soap dispensers placed in six restrooms and S. A. House repaired and put on timer. New sign in sheet for all vendors. Two furnaces with bad switches. Cleaning for both school and church now under new management. Lighting changed in the church nave. Outside, rotting landscape timber replaced. Tree limbs trimmed on all trees. Mulch spread on beds. In the parking lot, three concrete block stops, were re-sealed. All through the year, lighting for the church and house replaced; ballasts replaced; doorknobs replaced; kitchens cleaned; chairs in S. A. House re-glued; and pictures, drawings, and other items re-hung. Many thanks to the work crew, and especially to **Jerry Gallagher**. Large projects completed: S. A. House foundation checked and the house painted. The stained glass windows were removed, repaired and replaced.

One last item, although it took place this past Wed, New Year's Day. For the second time this year, The Fire Alarm Co. called me that the alarm had gone off at the church, and the fire department was on its way. We arrived at the same time. No fire. Our new custodian was sanding the parish hall floor, and the dust set off the alarm. It also happened when the school was having a new restroom installed for the classroom, and that too was dust. Both times, I lost at least a month off of my life, and the firemen were treated to a wild looking woman, beating on her chest, panting.

I have survived three years as Jr. Warden, and I have cared a great deal about the job. It's been a learning experience, and it's been fun also. I have a great big respect for everyone who helped me and got me through these years.

Dorothy Yannuzzi, Jr. Warden

Outreach

The parish provided 203 volunteer hours at the Heights Interfaith Ministries' Food Pantry through October, working one Saturday a month. In addition, one person delivers parish food donations once a month to the pantry. Two parishioners served on the planning committee for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Service which benefitted community food pantries. Several choir members, the choir master, and a pew-full of parishioners attended the service.

During 2013, 150 wool hats have been knitted or crocheted and distributed to neighbors who come to the House for sack lunches. Yarn is provided by either the crafts person or the deacon's discretionary fund and instructions are available in the yarn basket.

3650 Sack lunches were packed and distributed from the House during the year. A new team was formed to purchase and deliver product for the lunches which are prepared each First Sunday after church. A chart is posted on the back entry hall bulletin board to sign up for lunch item donations.

Deacon Sweet and two parishioners serve on the Board of Directors for heights Towers and Heights House. The Board meets six times a year. Heights Towers was founded by a former rector of St. Andrew's. These facilities provide affordable independent living housing to qualified persons, especially older neighbors. Funding is also provided by various government entities.

Twelve carloads of clothing and personal hygiene items were delivered to Lord of the Streets/Community of the Streets. Two parishioners provide monthly delivery of items donated by generous parishioners.

Anyone wishing to participate in any of these ministries or to initiate a different outreach effort, please contact Deacon Portia Sweet. Christ taught that when we have fed, clothed, given drink to, visited, or otherwise reach out to any of the least of these our brothers and sisters, we have done so to him, and he will recognize us at the last judgment.

The Rev. Portia Sweet, Deacon

**Usher/Greeter
Annual Report 2013
Submitted by John Stephenson, Usher/Greeter Coordinator**

2013 was a great year for the Usher/Greeter team at St. Andrew's. We have a solid roster of committed individuals who serve during all regular and special services greeting newcomers, distributing service bulletins and assisting during the Eucharist and Offertory. I can't thank them enough for this critical assistance.

Earlier this year, Teri Jo Nicholson stepped down as the Usher/Greeter Coordinator after more than 10 years of service. **Thank you so much, Teri Jo** – you left the team in great shape and made it so easy for me to take on the assignment.

We continue to look for more volunteers for the Usher/Greeter team – if you have any interest, please let me know. I would be happy to talk to you about it!

8:30 Service	10:30 Service
Team 1	Serves the First Sunday of every Month
Rex Hall	Cort Peavy
Diana Burton	Richard Molinaro
	Mandi Peavy
	Lisa Mustacchia
Team 2	Serves the Second Sunday of every month
Bob Johnson	Lynn Ringh
Addie Smith	Elizabeth McCormick
David Roberts	Jack McCormick
	John
	Stephenson
Team 3	Serves the Third Sunday of every month
Diana Burton	Todd Saha
Joel Flavin	Michelle Hitt
Maria Peavy	Kayla Hitt
Cathy Fawcett	Olivia Jordon
Team 4	Serves the fourth Sunday of every Month
Don Chevalier	David Barnett
Stuart Sherrick	Marianne Haynes
Diana Burton	Liz Dennis
Rex Hall	Ben Parks
	available for substitute - Lucy Matte

2nd SUNDAY BREAKFAST 2013

OPENING BALANCE 142.75

	EXPENSES	DONATIONS
JANUARY--NO BREAKFAST		
02/06	\$ 26.12	
02/10		\$ 63.00
03/05	\$ 31.50	
03/10		\$ 55.00
EASTER FLOWERS	\$ 40.00	
APRIL -- NO BREAKFAST		
MAY -- NO BREAKFAST		
06/06	\$ 25.11	
06/09		\$ 41.00
07/14	\$ 30.37	
07/14		\$ 22.00
AUGUST -- NO BREAKFAST		
09/04	\$ 27.52	
09/08		\$ 26.00
OCTOBER -- NO BREAKFAST		
11/05	\$ 26.87	
11/10		\$ 14.00
12/04	\$ 23.12	
12/08		\$ 45.00
TOTALS	\$230.61	\$ 266.00
BALANCE FORWARD TO 2014		\$ 107.00

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Annual Report From The Choir 2013

The Parish Choir continues it's dedicated service to our worship community throughout the year.

In addition to providing music for the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the choir also supply music for other special occasions.

The choir participated in Houston Heights Interfaith Thanksgiving service at All Saints Catholic Church.

The Angel choir was invited by Elizabeth Lutz to sing at her wedding on Sunday, September 1 at St. Andrew's.

The handbell choir provided music for our worship service in August. Also, our choir member Patricia, and her husband, Rev. Rich Houser added a new baby girl to their family. Three new members joined our choir in 2013: John Ibanez, Chase Duffin and Ed Amash.

Henry Washington
Choirmaster

I greatly appreciate having choir members that are dedicated, and Dr. Bill Gilbert, our organist, who provides leadership on the organ and piano. The choir is always open to new singers. Do come and help us continue the fine tradition which St. Andrew's celebrates.

St. Andrews Quilting Guild
Annual Report
January 1 – December 31, 2013

January 23, 2013

\$100.00 to the church for the organ fund in memory of Dale Lee

January 25, 2013

\$35.00 for food for the Lee Family funeral

April 6, 2013

\$50.00 to the church to help with the soft drinks and water for Spring
Church Bazaar

April 7, 2013

\$80.00 to the church for Easter Flowers

October 1, 2013

\$50.00 to the church Fall Bazaar for soft drinks and water

November 27, 2013

\$80.00 to the church for Christmas Flowers

Submitted by St. Andrews Quilting Guild
Sarah J. Salisbury

Communications Report 2013

Monthly Newsletter

Production has continued on The Voice, thanks to Laurie Hardwick and Teri Jo Nicholson.

Holy Folders

The “holy folders” have again taken on the newsletter challenge, handling folding and labeling each month - led by Chris Barker.

Weekly Emails

Weekly email announcements are sent out to close more than 250 email addresses—coordinated by Trish Merhkam and Laurie Hardwick

New Parish Website

A newly designed website, created by Richard Molinaro, was launched in November. We regularly update the content on the parish website to make it both timely and informative for current and prospective members.

Parish Brochure

The Rector/Parish Brochure was completed. It is pending final approval by the Search Committee.

Ad Coordination

- Communications ran write-ups for the Spring and Fall Bazaars in The Leader in the weeks leading up to the events.
- We also ran write-ups in The Leader for our Christmas Hurts service.
- On the weeks of 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21, we promoted our Christmas and Advent services with advertising in The Leader.
- Communications also placed an online advertisement in The Houston Chronicle (Chron.com’s Lifestyle section) - advertising St. Andrew’s Advent and Christmas services.

Facebook Page

In coordination with the new website, Communications created a new public Facebook page to better connect with current and prospective members.

Stained Glass Windows Brochure

Communications, along with Cher Duffin, created a brochure explaining the meaning behind our newly refinished stained glass windows.

Marketing Support

Communications worked with a number of ministries to provide publicity and marketing assistance throughout the year.

The Order of the Daughters of the King Transfiguration Chapter Annual Report

DOK Transfiguration Chapter celebrates 100 years and continues to grow, nurture and “open the bubble” through the commitments of prayer, service and evangelism at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in the Houston Heights! With daily prayer, DOK stays present and available to assist with the requests from our Priest, parishioners and those who communicate with us. Providing receptions, giving support to organizations in our community, and offering our time and talents For His Sake remains foremost on our agenda. DOK does not fundraise; it is through gifting that we maintain a balance for supplies and materials.

DOK 2013 Balance = \$1,452.90

It has been a great privilege to serve as President for the past two years, stretching my compassion level and helping me become more aware of the needs of others. When I became a Daughter, in 1985, I really had no idea how much God would reveal to me. So,
“Thank you, with all my heart.”

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Galbraith
DOK President 2012-2013

The dedicated members of St. Mary's Altar Guild have had a busy year. The Altar Guild teams do the "behind the scenes" work before and after each Holy Eucharist service at St. Andrew's. We also assist with decorating the church at special times such as "Greening of St. Andrew's" and at Easter, for wedding and other special events. This year, 2013, the Altar Guild prepared the church and participated in the retirement service for our Rector, Barbara Lewis. It was her last service at St. Andrew's.

The Altar Guild has added some new members this year, Michelle Hitt, Elizabeth McCormick and Kevin Robertson. We are always delighted to have new members to share our joy of serving the Lord in the Altar Guild ministry.

As of January 1, 2014 Dorothy Yannuzzi and Susie Fowler will be retiring from the Altar Guild ministry. They have been loyal and dedicated team members, thank you for your service. Also on January 1, 2014, Rebecca Robertson will become Altar Guild Director. I have served on the Altar Guild for twenty-five years, and this ministry is truly "where my heart is" but it is time for new people, new ideas and new energy. I will remain a team leader for team 4. I would like to thank the congregation, clergy and staff that have helped in so many ways so the Altar Guild could do our work.

The Altar Guild is open to women and men who are interested in participating in an active, prayerful ministry. For information, please contact the church office or Rebecca Robertson.

Marianne Haynes, Director

Fundraising

In 2013, we hosted several events that brought in additional funds for our parish ministries and activities.

We hosted a Spring Bazaar on April 6 and an Autumn Bazaar on November 2. Both events attracted close to 40 vendors and provided a great opportunity for shopping on our parking lot. In addition to vendor income, we earned money through food, bake and drink sales. Our net income for both events was approximately \$5,000.

On August 3, we provided convenient parking to those attending White Linen Night. Income was approximately \$1,100.

We hosted our first Lenten Fish Fry on March 2 with the help of the men's group from St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Earnings for this event were approximately \$600. We may try to expand the fish fry to the community as a whole in 2014.

I cannot say thank you enough to all those that came and donated their time to make these events work so that we can help make our annual budget!

Todd Saha

2013 Annual Report Liturgical Ministers

Many thanks to the faithful souls who served as lay readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and acolytes at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services and for special services throughout the year.

We welcomed several new participants to this ministry in 2013.

Special thanks to Elaine Massey who coordinates the 8:30 service liturgical ministers.

We rejoice in the faithful service of all of the liturgical ministers and hope that others will be called to this ministry in the future.

If you would like to serve at either service in any capacity, we would love to hear from you. We are happy to provide training.

Pat Caver
Coordinator
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713/655-1121 (home)
Patricia.E.Caver@uth.tmc.edu

P.J. Arendt-Ford
Greg Bayles
Ward Birkett
Priscilla Burroughs
Diana Burton
Greg Caudell
Don Chevalier
Rosina Chevalier
Cher Duffin
Gracie Gallay
Christina Garaghty
Deidre Grawl
Brian Harrison
Marianne Haynes
Kayla Hitt
Michelle Hitt
Anne Jones
Kyle Jones
Olivia Jordan
Georgia Kirk

Paul Kirk
Margaret Kroehler
Byron Leger
Elaine Massey
Chad Meyer
Jessica Miner
Teri Jo Nicholson
Megan Parks
Jere Pfister
Collin Ricklefs
Austin Robertson
Kevin Robertson
Rashmi Saikia
Nancy Simpson
Susan Young

If anyone's name has been omitted, my deepest apologies!