

# **St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023  
January 28, 2024**

# 2024 Annual Meeting

## Agenda for Report

- 10:15 – BREAKFAST / Serve
- 11:00 – CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
- INVOCATION
- APPOINTMENTS REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTORS, CERTIFY QUORUM  
& Reading of last year’s minutes or a motion to dispense with reading
- RETIRING VESTRY – Rev. Rebecca Hansen & Dennis Landaal
- PRESENTATION OF NOMINEES & ELECTION of NEW VESTRY MEMBERS  
Delegates & Alternates
- INTRODUCTION OF STAFF  
Special recognitions
- PARISH DISCRETIONARY REPORT & SELECTION OF COMMITTEE
- TREASURER’S REPORT  
Budget Presentation
- SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT
- RECTOR’S REPORT
- REMEMBRANCES – Fr. Lonell Wright
- FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
- BENEDICTION
- 11:35 - ADJOURN
- 11:40 - VESTRY MEETING: Introduction

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## 2024 Vestry Nominees

We are fortunate to have four qualified individuals running for vestry positions at the Annual Meeting January 28, 2024. We will elect four people to serve a three-year term. The candidates were asked to answer the four following questions:

- Why would you like to serve on the vestry?
- What skills or spiritual gifts do you bring?
- In what activities or ministries do you participate?
- Which service do you most attend?

**Mary Conroy:** Our family has been a part of St. Dunstan's since we came to San Diego in 2004 with Tim's change of military orders. I am a life long episcopalian and have been involved with episcopal churches in every duty station of his military career. Moving to San Diego brought a sense of stability and struggle in equal measures. Five deployments in seven years, multiple heart surgeries for Charlotte and multiple surgeries for Abigail and now Tim, the loss of multiple family members, etc.. Our church family has helped in so many ways carrying us through with prayers and support when we needed it most. As a parent of children with special needs I have volunteered with the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, as a Special Education advocate after receiving facilitation in mediation training, and I am a 2010 Partners in Policymaking member having completed a seven-month course through the California State Counsel on Developmental Disabilities. Our family attends the 10:00 service and for the last 14 years I have been singing in the choir. For the past two years I have volunteered to clean and organize spaces within our large facility. I plan to continue this in the year to come. I previously served on the vestry in 2012, the last year of that term as junior warden. I feel that now is a good time to join the vestry once again. Not because I have lots of time, but because I want to make a difference in our church as we move forward with Reverend Rebecca.



**Julia Cain:** I am a devoted member of St. Dunstan's, having been baptized and confirmed here. Despite life taking me away from San Diego, the Episcopal church remained a constant. Returning to California and St. Dunstan's in 2009 felt like coming home. My husband and I have since started a family with the incredible support of this community.

Generally attending the 8:00 service with early rising children, it was joyful to meet more of you this Christmas at the 10:00 service as our children prepared for the pageant. Engaging with the Children's Ministry and Drop-in Bible Study has been a fulfilling part of being part of the community.

This past year, I faced a significant leg injury, and the church's unwavering support lifted my spirits during recovery. Now, back on my feet, I feel compelled to give back.

While faith is personal, I am eager to listen to both you and God as I continue to serve. Having experienced the warmth and prayers of this community, I am inspired to elevate my service as part of the vestry. I hope for your support in this endeavor.





**Michael Yang:** I am very delighted to do something for our church. Even though we met our church almost ten years ago, I am thrilled to do many things to serve our church if needed. After the pandemic last year, my wife had a very happy time in the choir. I was very excited to volunteer at our church's Rummage sale. That is a fantastic experience.

My daughter Yoyo and I arrived in America on the evening of Jan 2014. The next day, we went for a walk around. Fortunately, we encountered to find the children's playground in St. Dunstan Church. She played with other children and enjoyed her first time here. Afterward, she went to the Sunday school and learned swing from Ms. Sandia. Then, she became an acolyte, joined the children's choir and other services in our church, and continued to serve our church for years. We always support and encourage her to do more in our church. Now, she is serving in the St. James by the sea. She does a very good job; we are very proud of her.

Last year, after she graduated from high school, she decided to have her baptized in our church. My wife and I decided to do so. This is a very happy time she chose. Therefore, no one knows this is a tough way to find our heart to connect with our lord for my wife and me. Once, I had a very happy conversation with Ms. Sandia. She told me belief is a power. If we choose to believe, we can find differences in our lives. I believe her, and I believe my inner heart too. My wife Nan and I find our deep hearts have an essential voice. That is the belief of GOD. This is our Journey of heart. We are very grateful for our church's tolerance for us for a long time. Give us a long time to choose. We are thankful for Ms. Sandia and everyone in our church who inspires us step by step and day by day, close to Our Lord. Our family is very fortunate. We found a big family in our life. We are also very happy to have our new Rev. Rebecca in our church. I would be honored to serve our church as a vestry member. Thank you for giving me this chance. That is why I also needed to learn how to serve our church.

Nan and I married on April 15, 1999. This year is the silver wedding anniversary for us.



**Brooke Jarrett:** My wife Ann and I have been members of St. Dunstan's since 1976. We attend the 10 am service. I have worked with the youth group, New Beginnings, Happening, Girl Scouts, and was an after school tutor for a few years. I served on the vestry in my youth. I've been a Stephen Minister and a Reader. I've always sung in the choir, and been a member of the bell choir. I consider St. Dunstan's my family and would like to serve on the vestry.

**Voting Requirements:** Article II, Section 2 of our Bylaws states that "Voting Members of this parish shall meet all of the following requirements:

Any person of 16 or more years of age who is an attendant at worship,

A regular contributor of record,

Is registered in the congregation as a baptized person or communicant member for the previous 60 days."

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 22, 2023

After the invocation, Rev. Cathey Dowdle called the meeting to order at 10:36 am in church, followed by a prayer.

David Bagley was appointed as Parliamentarian, who certified that there was a quorum.

Greg Tuttle motioned for those who are 12 years old to 17 years old be able to participate. Ann Marie Marvin second, motion passed.

Sr. Warden Dennis Landaal thanked Jr. Warden, Guy Kelly, and the retiring Vestry members: Bob Raymond, Mindy Wilcox, Amy Lockwood, and Scott Maches. He then introduced the four new Vestry nominees: Sue Caldwell, Art Wrightson, Jennifer Gaebe, and Barbara Heiner. There were no nominees from the congregation. Motion passed unanimously and accepted by acclamation.

Tim Conroy, head of the personnel committee, introduced and thanked the staff. He acknowledged & gifted Greg Funk's 40 years as staff, Jen Bonnes's 10 years, and Greg Tuttle's 5 years.

A motion made by Bill Chisum and seconded by Emily Sampson, to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. Motion passed, received undisputed.

Vanessa Hiday, Parish Administrator and current Parish Discretionary Fund Administrator, described the purpose of the fund—a financial resource for parishioners and others in financial need. She thanked the committee members who served in 2022 and invited parishioners to become involved in this committee by placing their name in the chat. There are eight members and four rotate off each year. Current members are Bill Chisum, Sandia Tuttle, Ann Jarrett, and Christine Bagley. The new members selected are Sharyn Craig, Joy Smith, Diane Jones, and Jen Sisskind.

Dennis Landaal directed everyone to the annual report for his Senior Warden summary. He thanked our volunteers, Tim Conroy, Brian Quin, Dorothy Leonard, and all the Ministry leaders. He mentioned the search committee and Rev. Cathey's help during transition.

Brian Quin, head of the Finance Committee, spoke about the 2023 Budget. He mentioned how it is not too late to pledge if you haven't already & thanked those who have submitted theirs. There is a 6% increase in pledges and we will close with a \$40k surplus. The increase offsets the deficit for 2023, but we are still looking for new ways to increase our funds. The budget will change as time goes but is a great start for 2023. No questions regarding finance or budget. Motion to pass by Bill Chisum, seconded by Scott Maches, budget passed unanimously.

Ann Jarrett and Mark Alcorn, head of our Search Committee, gave an update. We started our search process in April of 2022 with a profile and CAT survey. Our 3 priorities: attract families with children, reach new people and incorporate them into the life of our church, and grow our Christian education & formation. Our deadline for applicants was Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.

As each applicant came in, the search committee watched online services & sermons, checked social media accounts, held meetings over Zoom, and checked references. After all the searching, it became clear a match was found. This candidate's information was then handed over to Vestry to make a final decision.

Dennis Landaal thanked the Search Committee: David Bagley, Sue Caldwell, Sue Daniels, Iris Hampton, Scott Maches, Ann Marie Marvin, Pam Matosian, Melody Quin, AJ Redwine, Jan Kapchinske, Ann Jarrett and Mark Alcorn. From the SD Diocese & St. James in La Jolla, our New Rector is The Rev. Rebecca Dinovo, she will start March 20<sup>th</sup>, her first Sunday will be March 26<sup>th</sup>. Cathey will stay on staff until June/July to help with the transition.

A video from Rev Rebecca was played.

Brian kept us in budget during negotiations, Tim kept us in line with our Handbook.

Fr. Lonell read the Saints Triumphant, those from the parish who have died since the last Annual Meeting.

Final Announcements were given by Bill Chisum

Final Prayer was given by Rev. Cathey Dowdle.

Adjourned at 11:26<sup>th</sup>, motioned by Bill Chisum, Seconded by Tim Conroy.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Hiday, Parish Administrator

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**INFORMATION SHEET**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Worship								
Sunday Total (average)	134	119	86	188	173	188	203	210
1st service average	31					66	68	67
2nd service average	102					118	133	140
Contemporary Service								
Religious Education								
Sunday (average)		69	40	70	148			
Children and Adults								
Jan-Aug						40	48	23
Sept-Dec						51		23
<b>CONGREGATION MEMBERSHIP</b>								
Total Members	428	399	454	462	475	423	456	487
Members 16 yrs & Older	398	372	369	370	371	365	387	409
Members Under 16	30	27	32	39	47	58	69	78
Total Communicants			53	53	57		415	450
<b>PLEDGING UNITS</b>	93	100	108	123	125	137	125	140
<b>BAPTISMS</b>								
Under 16 yrs of age	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	4
16 yrs & older	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
<b>WEDDINGS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>BURIALS</b>	5	8	8	4	9	13	14	5

## **Rector's Report**

It has been a joy to be called as your Rector this year and to see the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessings among us! I am so grateful for our very able staff team, Vestry, and our gifted wardens who have been invaluable in supporting me during this year of transition. I am particularly grateful for Dennis Landaal and the Rev. Cathey Dowdle's guidance, wisdom and support as I transitioned as your new Rector.

There is evidence of new life, joy, and growth among us here at St. Dunstan's with 4 baptisms this year, an increase in average attendance in our worship services (including our Easter and Christmas services with over 300 people for these special services), and the addition of new members among us along with additional children and young people participating in some of our key ministries. We added between 10-12 new members to our children's choir and the acolyte team and had 25 children participate in VBS and the Christmas Pageant this year. We trained 13 new acolytes and appointed Sophia Alcorn as the new "Lead Acolyte" to replace Nick and Isabella Alcorn.

At the end of May the staff went on retreat and together identified important goals that included a focus on organizing and improving communications in the church. This led to the launch of a new online parish calendar on our new website, a more streamlined process for communicating and reserving space/events (including an annual calendaring meeting held in August), improved scheduling procedures for our worship volunteers/ministries, and the re-launch our church newsletter, "The Mini" this fall (which had been on hiatus for several years). Special thanks goes out to Kath Maches for putting together "The Mini" every month so beautifully with the support of Vanessa Hiday. Vanessa also stepped up her focus and has made improvements to our social media posts and presence.

A "Children's Communion Class" and "Children's Communion Sunday" was held in the Spring with about 10 children participating. Each child was recognized and presented with a Communion medallion the following Sunday.

We held a special Sunday with the Boy Scouts after the group completed the "God and Me" program and were awarded their religious emblems under the able leadership of Evan Martin on Sunday, August 20th

We held our "Celebration of New Ministry" on September 9th and it was a joy to host people and clergy from around the diocese to celebrate our ministry together as a new Rector and congregation. The Fellowship Committee provided a wonderful "Pie" Reception following the service for the nearly 200 or so in attendance.

Youth Confirmation was a highlight with 7 youth completing the confirmation curriculum under Greg Tuttle's leadership and presented to Bishop Susan during her visit. It was an honor to lead the Confirmation Retreat this year with the youth and their sponsors in September and to see firsthand the depth of faith and dedication in our young people.

A wonderful 75th Anniversary Celebration was held in November thanks to the work and efforts of our Stewardship Committee (under the leadership of Jennifer Gaebe) with support from the Fellowship Committee. We celebrated with a delicious "diamond anniversary" themed dinner and a fantastic video/documentary about the parish with interviews from members both old and new, thanks to the hard work and tech wizardry of Sue Caldwell. Our inspiring speaker was the Rev. Everett Lundgren of the Volunteers of America who challenged us to let the Holy Spirit guide us in new directions for our next 75 years.

Two special liturgical services were held this year that included a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 23, 2023 and a Blue Christmas service held on December 20th to commemorate those who have died as well as provide healing prayers and space for those suffering in any way during the holiday season.

The Vestry met for their fall retreat on September 15-16 and came away with several important areas of focus and short term goals including several building/campus improvements including the completion of the chapel (to be completed in 2024), a focus on children/youth ministry, worship, and newcomer ministry.



We had several staff transitions in 2023 and said a fond farewell to the Rev. Cathey Dowdle as our “bridge” pastor and assistant, to Archdeacon Cindy Campos as our deacon, and to Greg Tuttle as our Youth Leader who faithfully served in that role for the past 7 years. We are thankful to each one of them for their ministries and service to this parish and wish them every blessing.

I worked closely with the staff at the end of 2023 to complete drafts of newly updated (or totally new) position descriptions for our staff members for review and approval by the Personnel Committee in early 2024.

2023 was a full and wonderful year. I give thanks for all the leaders and volunteers of St. Dunstan’s. God is faithful!

-The Rev. D. Rebecca Hansen, Rector

### **Senior Warden’s Report**

2023 was an exciting year in the life of our Church! God’s hand is definitely at work. One of our parishioners said it best about 2023:

“...looking back, we can truly see that God had a greater plan and his hands were leading us in a stronger and better direction, and the really cool thing is that stronger friendships and relationships have been made through it all and our faith is stronger and more focused.”

Seeing God’s hand at work was special and truly amazing.

- We are blessed that we have Bishop Susan. Through her efforts and with Gods guidance, we had Rev Cathy Dowdle guide us through the transition from Fr. Kent to Rev Rebecca. I really do not know what we would have done without her leadership.
- God brought us Rev. Rebecca (I also need to recognize that the Bishop also had a hand in Rebecca accepting our call).
- I want to personally thank the Vestry for their leadership in 2023. Transitions and bringing on a new Rector definitely has some challenges 😊!
- We have a growing church with new members, including young families.
- We had a very successful Stewardship Campaign with pledges up over 5% from last year. This increase, as well as a record Rummage sale, provides the financial foundation for Gods work through St. Dunstan’s in 2024.
- I also want to mention other important items in the life of our Church:
- We continue to support the Agape House in their transition to a new building near SDSU by providing office space. We moved their office this year from the Youth Building to the Assistant Rector office in our Admin building. This provides them better office support and lowers our utility bills by not having to provide HVAC to the Youth Building. This move also helped the rummage sale storage and sorting.
- One of the more visual “improvements” was the removal of the scaffolding on the front and back of the Church. This was quite the eye sore for many months.... But now we have a more visually appealing metal covering over the arch beam.
- We signed a new lease with DISH and should start collecting the \$2,400 monthly lease payments in January. We are also in the process of negotiating a lease with AT&T for a cell tower “tree” and separate equipment enclosure by the Youth Building. We just received the draft lease that includes a \$3,000 monthly payment. AT&T goal is to start construction the 3rd quarter of the year. With Gods grace, we should be collecting \$5,400 a month sometime in 2024.
- Celebrated our 75th anniversary! What a milestone.

It truly has been an honor to serve as your Senior Warden over the last two years. I have grown both in my faith and who I am as a person. I am looking forward to our bright and sunny future doing Gods work through our new rector Rebecca.

In your service,  
Dennis Landaal

## **Junior Warden's Report**

Walt had a heating and AC company replace 2 thermo-couples in the church furnace room, one for the southside of the church furnace, and one for the choir room and sacristy furnace.

The card reader for the Admin. building was not working so Walt had ADT come out. They rebooted the system and that cured the issue.

The Accessibility Committee had proposed moving all 4 pews in rows 3 and 4 in the church to accommodate additional disabled seating. Peggy Dermody created a drawing. This project has been completed.

A granite nitch-cover over 4 niches in the Columbarium fell out and shattered. Walt worked with the Honor Life company on getting a new niche-cover was made.

A storm revealed several roof leaks. One was outside the communion rail near the Ambo. Thanks to Mary Conroy and Nicholas for identifying the leak location. Another leak was over the sound board but did not reappear. Caulking of the Facia and vertical wall interface was complete by King of the Painters. This was an attempt to prevent rainwater entering the west wall of the church and dripping on the sound equipment.

Bee Savers removed a hive from an irrigation control vault near the playground and the Youth Lounge.

I attended the Navajo Planning Group meeting where Dish made a presentation. The Navajo Planning group gave their approval for the new Dish tower on the St Dunstans Campus. The month of July saw the scaffolding come down on the East and West faces of the church. This was after the completion of the lam-beams being covered in colored sheet metal and the facia painting completed.

Rodger Caldwell and Harry Shed, HMS Services, completed the repairs to the A/C system above the Library and Nursery in time for Rummage Sale.

ATT has proposed a tower and equipment building on our Campus. Some 25 of our neighbors attended a parking lot meeting concerning the ATT proposed tower.

Ryan discovered we had a host of black widow spiders and spiderlings. It has been the summer of spider blooms across the county and at St Dunstans as well, revealed by the numerous webs in and among the church pews. Ants in the office, ants in the classrooms, ants in the bathrooms, ants in the kitchen and ants in the donuts was enough to encourage Reverend Rebecca and Walt to investigate and initiate a pest control contract with Truly Nolan. No snakes were found nor harmed in this adventure. The transitional pew project is almost complete as a replacement support has been crafted, stained, and varnished. It only lacks being installed, and the two kneelers reinstalled. This project has now been completed.

We have been wishing for Wisner's Workshop, Glen Weischedel woodworker, sign maker, and sculpture to return to St Dunstans. He created our Alter. Sue Caldwell and I met with Glen in the church to explore a new Baptismal Font, along with the possibilities of replacing the Ambo, Lectern, and a table for the Sanctuary.

Time again for cleaning some of the public areas of our beautiful St Dunstans Campus. Walt has reached out to The Carpet cleaners who did such a dedicated job last year on our carpets in the Church and Parish Hall along with de-waxing the pews. We have asked them to consider re-cleaning the foyers of the church in front of the Library and Bride's Room, the office reception area, and the rest of the office carpet. This project was completed on December 26.

Winter is coming and with it our prayers for rain. In preparation we have asked TA Marsh Roofing to inspect the Parish House roof over the North end above West and East Rooms where we have noted recent leaks. They will present their plan to repair the flat roofs above those rooms and protect the lam-beam above them as well.

### **Moving forward in 2024:**

You have seen some of the things we accomplished in 2023.

Please see the projects that are continuing in 2024 and projects I recommend the new Vestry to pursue.

- Painting of the two westside bathrooms and designating them as all gender bathrooms. This project was approved and started before the Covid shutdown. We have Volunteers ready to do the painting.
- Completion of a new Chapel before Rummage Sale 2024.
- Completion of the siding and windowsill replacement on the East and South sides of the parish hall. We have been slowly making these types of repairs as Walt's time allows.
- Painting all the exterior doors of the parish hall.
- Providing a few chairs with armrests in the Parish House so some of our mobility-challenged members can use the arms to help them stand up.

Please encourage all not to use hot irons on our Pew upholstery and our carpets to remove wax. The material is polyester and even an iron on a low setting will and has melted those fire-resistant fabrics. This week we have a new hole in one of our pews. There are better solutions for removing wax.

Our St Dunstan's Campus has become a place teeming with activity in the last nine months. Night and day we welcome our parishioners and members of the greater community to visit and participate in both church and public events. It is certainly helping us to grow and share the Word.  
-Guy Kelly

### **Director of Children's Ministry – Charlotte Conroy**

The Children's Ministry motto is "To support parents in teaching their children to grow in their faith and walk with Christ." Our goal is to provide children (preschool-5th grade) with experiences that develop their faith and help them to know, love, and follow Jesus.

In my first full year as the director, we completed a very successful full day Vacation Bible School (VBS) in July. We expanded the syllabus for VBS to a full day (vice ½ day) and we had as many as 30 kids attending, 15 of them were from the community. I am happy to relay that three new VBS families joined our church and now come regularly. All the families who attended provided positive feedback and really appreciated the full day program. I couldn't have done it without the many contributions from the staff and volunteers – Thank you all for making 2023's VBS a great success!

Children's and Youth Ministries combined efforts to run Easter celebration, the children's portion of the Ministry Fair and Chilly Chili Cookoff. I attended the "Godly Play" training and Diocesan led children's and youth ministries retreat at Camp Stevens.

This September, we started with a Sunday school kick-off, and we began a new "Godly Play" curriculum. The new curriculum was an initial investment of core units which can be added to over the years. My goal is to continue expanding the curriculum but that will depend on my budget in 2024. During the services, we were able to staff and open the nursery again to care for children from 0 to 4 years old. We have an additional family regularly attending service and volunteering in children's ministry events.

Finally, I ran a bunch of events in my first year so far, with the help of the youth and the children's committee. We were able to host a parent's night out which was on December 9th, and we had twelve children. Everyone had a blast. I hope to be able to continue this every quarter. That is one of two new events that Children (3rd through 6th grade) are able to participate in, we also get to go up to Camp Stevens for our very own epiphany camp with other churches the second weekend in January. I was only able to do these events with the help from my volunteers and the staff. I appreciate everyone who helped me with each event. Thanks to the youth group, my supporting committee members, and other members of the congregation everything you do to make Children's Ministry successful. For 2024, I plan to keep the parent's night out up and running. In the next couple of months, I plan on getting ready for VBS and I also hope to plan a new event for the families over the Summer.

### **Youth Ministries Leader: All that you can't leave behind**

**By Greg Tuttle**

This year was huge.

In January we said thank you and farewell to the incomparable Rebecca Branstetter, one of a faithful volunteer youth ministers, as well as her husband for his service with St. Dunstan's.

Two weeks later we viewed the welcome greeting from our next rector, The Rev. Rebecca Hansen, and couldn't hold our joy once the screen went dark after seeing her smiling face and excitement for answering God's call for St. Dunstan's future.

After a spring of weekly gatherings with our student, our continued leadership with our diocesan events, an epiphany retreat, overnight at our cathedral, welcoming our brand new rector, a magnificent graduation celebration for our high school seniors, and sailing on Mission Bay.

After nine months of preparation, summer brought leading 17 San Diegans to The University of Maryland for the global youth gathering that is The Episcopal Youth Event. After a weather-related cancellation, we worked like crazy to bring each student home across 12 hours of flights. Our students supported children's ministry's offering of the diocesan Vacation Bible School. A few more sails around Mission Bay and it's time for a new school year.

Fall was filled with new St. Dunstanite student representatives on our Diocesan Youth Council, weekly gatherings in our youth center, our 50th anniversary Diocesan Convention, our 75th Anniversary as St. Dunstan's, seven students confirmed their faith, and now it's nearly time for a partridge in a pear tree.

I'm grateful to work with Kirt Mitchell and our student's parents to support and guide our students through a life of faith and discovery. We've done so much to be celebrated and I'm proud to be part of those memories.

### **Facilities Manager Report**

This year 2023 has kept us busy with many church events and various groups in the community meeting in our Parish House. I've heard people comment on how nice and spacious the Parish House is. It works well for all. Amazing, we've got plenty of tables and chairs to facilitate all of our events. This helps to meet a variety of needs. We have a system that allows us to work together as a team with church staff, members, and community group leaders. We require the necessary approval for all events that are scheduled and are inputted into our monthly church calendar as can be accessed on our church web site. We provide an event form for all groups to fill out with necessary information and requested items for use and set up.

To highlight a few events that the church held were in welcoming our New Rector Reverend Rebecca. Held in the Parish House, which was nicely decorated and delicious food was served. Also we celebrated 75 years of St Dunstan's History in a dazzling decorated Parish House and an outstanding slide show of the history and development of the Episcopal church and St Dunstan's in San Diego. What an event! Very well done.

We also appreciate our regular community groups that meet weekly, monthly in the Parish House. They all have a unique purpose and are beneficial to all that participate in these re-occurring events.

I have to say it's about the people and we're very thankful for our buildings to be able to facilitate and accommodate so many individuals and groups of people for each event. But it does require on our part to maintain our buildings. The necessary repairs, cleaning, and updating of equipment, supplies, building safety systems, pest control, and utilities are costly. So, we are thankful for that which we have generously received to keep up our Buildings this year with the needed care required.

This year we were able to complete the work of covering and preserving the two large church laminate beams with high quality factory painted sheet metal that was an excellent match. We also caulked all the gaps where water could penetrate the church. The results was no further leaking especially in the sound and media booth area.

We had an infestation of spiders and ants. We contacted our pest control company and they quickly responded targeting these pests with increased treatment spraying, baiting and were able to knock down these pests.

We were able to professionally clean all the carpets in our Office spaces with The Real McCoys Carpet cleaning company. Spots removed and sanitized.

Also, there was some needed organizing of spaces in some rooms in the church and Parish House. A children's classroom was refreshed with new paint and set up as a children's chapel by team Conroy!

We were able to throw away an accumulation of unused, outdated items that were only taking up needed space. This allowed us to free up some more space to store and organize updated usable items. Many thanks to Mary Conroy for her huge help in accomplishing this phase of cleaning out and organizing these spaces.

We will continue to work towards the care of our Buildings and Grounds that so wonderfully provides the space to do a variety of ministry in serving God and people.

Happy New Year

Walt Coblentz, Facility Manager

### **Acolytes**

Karen Mitchell assists with scheduling, but all Acolytes are able to sign up for the Sunday's they wish to serve on their own. We are so thankful for all the new additions to this ministry. Acolytes assist at the Sunday morning services, at funerals and at special services such as Lessons & Carols, Epiphany, Holy Week and Christmas. Serving as an acolyte provides an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the liturgical traditions of the church while acting as servants, ministers and leaders. If you or your child is interested in being an acolyte or if you have any questions, please contact the church office.

### **Adult Christian Formation**

This year we re-launched a more formal adult education program with several major efforts.

In the Spring of 2023 we held several adult formation classes during the 9am hour on Sundays including a Newcomer/Introduction to the Episcopal Church series during the month of May.

In the fall we began a year-long program to read through the entire Bible called the "Bible Challenge" which coincides with a year-long course through the Bible using "The Path" Bible. Over 50 people signed up to participate.

The 2023-2024 Adult Education series started this fall called "The Journey Through the Bible" that provides an overview of the entire Bible. It meets (most) Sundays at 9am in the Parish Hall as well as by zoom. In 2023 we covered Genesis through Ruth. The classes have been taught by Rev. Rebecca Hansen and Fr. Lonell Wright.

Throughout the program year Mark Alcorn held a "Drop In Bible Study" on Sundays at 9am for adults in the conference room/zoom. Many thanks to Mark for his dedication to this discussion based study.

In 2023 we also re-launched the Wednesday evening program for the season Advent with a Supper Study Series studying the Advent texts in the Gospel of Luke and looking at the spiritual practices found in the Episcopal Church's "Way of Love."

-submitted by the Rev. D. Rebecca Hansen

### **30s-50s Saturday Social – Mark Alcorn**

This fellowship group is a quarterly gathering of people in the 30ish-50ish age group including their families. The group is hosted at a home where everyone shares a meal and fellowship. We were able to have two gatherings in 2023, and look forward to more in 2024.

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild performs a behind-the-scenes ministry from the sacristy, maintaining and preparing the sanctuary, narthex, altar, candles, priests' vestments, holy vessels and linens for all worship services.

The guild also prepares for weddings and funerals. Members of the Altar Guild are vital to passing on the tradition and ritual of the Episcopal Church. New members to the Altar Guild receive individual training with an experienced Guild member and are placed on a team with three or four experienced guild members. Each team serves one week a month with a time commitment of about 2 hours, which



includes service preparation and clean up. The Altar Guild has two meetings and an annual luncheon to help maintain a sense of community for the Guild. Members serving included Stephanie Bass, Gerri Faucett, Susie Haaland, Barbara Heiner, Margaret Henson, Bea Coke, CJ Lowder, Christine McMillen, Kay Muir, Nena Harris, Cindy Bond, Melody Quinn and Amy Lockwood and Karen Seidman. New members are always welcome and are greatly needed. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Christine McMillen or Barbara Heiner. Also, please feel free to stop by the sacristy to talk to one of the Altar Guild members at any time.

### **Angel Tree**

Children's Ministries ran the Angel Tree again this year. We identified needy families and Christmas gifts were donated to families experiencing financial difficulties from San Carlos KinderCare and three outreach programs related to St. Dunstan's: ECS, Afghan Relief, and Teen Shelter. Over 4,000 dollars' worth of gifts and gift cards were kindly donated this year. We increased our families this year at San Carlos KinderCare from two to four. We also reached out to Green Elementary where in fact the families from that school donated to our own Angel tree as well. I was able to fill my car twice. The families were very surprised and moved to tears when the gifts were delivered. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to making this year's Angel Tree a great success.

### **Bread Ministry**

The people of the Bread Ministry provide the communion bread each week. Darin Marvin, Nancy McLees, Stephanie Landaal, and Sandia Tuttle each bake bread for a month in rotation. We would love to have more members. Contact Sandia Tuttle.

### **Coffee Hour Volunteers**

Each Sunday after our 10:00 a.m. worship service we offer a coffee hour. Our volunteers bring donuts, prepare additional coffee, tea and juice as needed, clean up the coffee hour supplies and are reimbursed for the cost of the donuts. We are in need of more volunteers to keep this ministry going. Contact Guy or Annalise Kelly if you are able to help out.

### **Communications Ministry**

In 2023 we had a lot of great success online! We launched a new website design with the help of Darin Marvin and Ray Sifton. It gives our church a more modern look and keeps us appealing to new members. We also brought back the Mini Newsletter! Kath and Tori Maches bravely stepped up to revive this much needed source of communication. We also help keep our paper waste footprint down by only mailing the mini to those who truly need it while everyone else can read online and printing on average 100 per month vs the 350-380 before we stopped production in 2021. We are happy to continue offering our services online at 10am on Facebook and YouTube. We continue to get the word out with some of our parish still worshipping online by mailings & eblasts. To keep the parish connected that are not online, we mailed out important information that went out in our weekly eblasts. If you know someone who hasn't been getting church information, please call the office to add their address to our mailing list.

### **Creation Care/Environmental Evangelism Ministry**

Members: Neomi Alcorn, Denise Fletcher, Ray Henson, Sunny & Russ Finch, Pam Matosian, Margaret Smith, Sandia Tuttle, Mary Porter Lisa Chaddock, Advisor

Our Vision: We are a group committed to connecting with & caring for our neighborhood. Using both old & new ideas since 2020 we've worked to re-introduce St. Dunstan's to those around us. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 7pm on Zoom.

### **Past Projects:**

Mass Post Card Mailings to Surrounding Neighborhoods in the fall of 2020, Gathering members Faith Stories, We have offered the **Community Conversations** here at the church beginning in the fall of 2021. (Presented live online & later posted on the Church Website)

Addressing various current topics as:

Homelessness & Community Housing Projects, Climate Change Issues & Possible Solutions, San Diego River Estuaries Importance, Pollution Issues in our Bays, Estuaries & Beaches, 2 Different Native Garden Plantings Offerings

Joint Projects with Patrick Henry High School Environmental Club:

Climate Discussion Panel of Students (included in our Community Conversations), Trash Pick Up at Lake Murray, Planting our Native Garden here at St. Dunstan's

Large Mail Box for Prayers *(on east side of Sanctuary in the shape of our sanctuary)*

Offering a non-threatening Option to Care for Our Neighbors & Students Passing By. We will work to improve our carbon footprint at St. Dunstan's

**CREATIVE CALL**

Creative Call, co-led by Bette Boucher and Bette Jo Garrett, was a small but active group this year. Highlights for 2023:

- **Easter Season:** Bette Boucher hand-painted an Easter Poster that showed St. Dunstan's nestled in its neighborhood under a glorious dawn, printed at 3x4 foot size and displayed through Easter season. Bette also painted an Alleluia altar banner during a Sunday service.
- **July:** Held a Rock Painting Party to refresh and add to the Painted Rock Garden; created a giant floral farewell card for Rev. Cathey's going-away.
- **September:**
  - Coordinated Creation Season art with Sue Caldwell, printing and re-using 3x4' altar posters and 16x20" climate action posters for display in the church.
  - Created an 18-foot banner and several pie-themed posters for Reverend Rebecca's Celebration of New Ministry, with Sue Caldwell's help.
  - Took part in the Ministry Fair and designed 16x20" tabletop posters for the Anglican Prayer Beads Group, the Tuesday Noon Book Study, the Climate Care and Evangelism Committee, the Answer Hymn group, and Creative Call, and a three-fold brochure for Creative Call.
- **November:** With Sue Caldwell, Bette B. and the group made an 18-foot banner for the Stewardship Dinner and 75th Anniversary Party.
- **December:** Bette B. helped Sandia Tuttle organize the Annual Christmas Craft Fair, and several members sold crafts to help support the church.

**Cursillo**

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity designed to renew the Holy Spirit within you and develop Christian leaders. Some people who have attended Cursillo remain active in the ministry, others have become more active in their churches and communities. More than 60 St. Dunstan members have attended Cursillo over the years. Prospective candidates for Cursillo must be sponsored and approved by clergy. The Cursillo gatherings have resumed in person. Please go to [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org) or contact Bette Jo Garrett, your Parish Representative, for more information, brochures, applications and sponsorship details.

**The Daughters of the King**

The Order of the Daughters of the King, organized in 1885, is an order for women in the Episcopal Church and churches with the historic Episcopate. Every Daughter pledges herself to a lifelong program of prayer, service and personal evangelism, dedicated to the extension of Christ's kingdom and to the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. By the reaffirmation of promises made at confirmation, every Daughter undertakes a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. There are more than 26,000 of us in the United States and throughout the world who are enabled by God's grace to do His work.

The 45 Daughters of St. Mary's Chapter at St. Dunstan's pray on a daily basis for those in our church and community and most of us are engaged in ongoing monthly devotional studies. We meet on the second Monday of the month—at 10 a.m. and at 4 p.m. In December we completed our book study entitled "The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak" and in January 2024 we will begin a new book study. In 2023

we hosted 3 funeral receptions. For further information on the Daughters of the King, please contact Bea Coke at [beatricebcoke@gmail.com](mailto:beatricebcoke@gmail.com). Phone #: 619-697-2317

### **El Nido – Christine Bagley**

El Nido is a safe haven for homeless women with children who are fleeing domestic violence. Since 1997 St. Dunstan's (Ray Henson got us started) has been a sponsor of Apartment #7.

We completely furnish the apartment with everything a family needs (including a computer, tool kit, food, toys and clothing). The family can take everything when they have successfully completed the program and move out usually after 12 months, but can be extended until 18 months. We also help with Christmas gifts, a Mother's Day celebration and any other needs that arise.

The program offers trauma-informed, culturally competent case management which includes psychological counseling, financial planning, housing search and life skills and referrals to additional services such as legal assistance, medical and dental services, educational programs, job training and employment readiness programs. Survivors recover from trauma, build skills and income and acquire permanent housing for their families.

We always need volunteers to help with providing items, transporting and moving donated furniture and setting up a welcoming home for a new start for our guests. Please contact Christine Bagley to get involved in this rewarding Outreach project!

### **Eucharistic Visitors Ministry**

The Eucharistic Visitors (EV) Ministry is a pastoral care ministry of licensed members of the congregation who bring Holy Communion to those members of the congregation who, because of illness or infirmity, cannot be present at the Sunday worship services. All our EVs are trained by the Diocese and are licensed by the Bishop.

### **FACADS**

This group activity is open to all adults at St. Dunstan's. We meet the first Friday of every month except August because they are sitting up for the Rummage sale we have every year in August. We meet at 5:30 p.m. for approximately two hours. Light appetizers, dessert, beer, wine, soft drinks, water and sometimes soup are served. These are provided by individuals that sign up on a monthly basis that come to the monthly activity. The drinks are provided by money set aside in the FACADES account. We charge \$5 per person if they are not providing food for the monthly get together. It is a very friendly, casual activity where we eat, drink, and socialize with one another throughout the evening. We meet at the Parish House every month unless someone offers their home to have FACADES. Katie Pianka and Nancy Wilder provide the decorations every month to put on the tables to go with a theme or the holiday in each month that we meet.

### **Finance Committee/Treasurer Report**

We anticipate a \$19,000 surplus for 2023, despite the lingering effects of inflation and a second consecutive year of dramatically increasing employer healthcare contributions. On another positive note, and for the second consecutive year, more than 95% of pledges were fulfilled and next year's pledge amounts are on track for a significant increase. We believe that both of those trends are indicative of the confidence that this congregation has in the vitality and future of this parish. Two new cell tower leases have also enabled us to send Vestry a balanced budget for 2024. If pledges continue to come in at the pace they have been as of this writing (mid-December), we could see another surplus for 2024, which would help replenish our savings for long term projects and continued community engagement. The parish is on a good financial footing in the near term, and is well-positioned to fuel growth that will help us improve our reserve funds for major repairs and facility maintenance. Faithfully submitted, Brian Quin, Treasurer

### **Flower Delivery**

Volunteers needed! Jillian Belding would like to retire from this ministry, and we would like to add more dedicated members. The altar flowers are taken from the church, rearranged into smaller arrangements

and delivered to people not only members of St. D's but also others in our community. Sometimes, for happy occasions and sometimes for sad, always to show that we care and want the recipient to know we are thinking of them. I thank each and everyone who helps make this such a joyful ministry. No experience is needed to participate.

### **Flower Guild Ministry**

The flower guild makes the large flower arrangement for the altar area for Sunday service and funerals. The flower delivery program (headed by Jillian Belding) breaks down the altar arrangement after church each Sunday and makes several small arrangements to send out to parishioners. Anyone who wants to join the fun and make a small arrangement on Sunday after the second service is welcome. No ongoing commitment is expected. Anyone interested in making the altar arrangement can contact Mary Kaonis. No past experience is necessary. We will train you and there is very little time commitment, three hours one Friday per month.

### **2023 St. Dunstan's Investment Committee Report**

Investment Committee members: Dorothy Leonard (Chair), Donna Agan, Jim Haaland, Rob Seidman, Senior Warden Dennis Landaal, Rev Rebecca Hansen.

The Investment Committee met quarterly with our financial advisors from Thrivent Financial Investment Group to monitor the progress of the Endowment, Liquid Asset, and Cell Tower investment accounts.

Endowment Account – In 2023, \$13,114.81 was disbursed to designated St. Dunstan's accounts, based on the Endowment Account value as of December 31, 2022.

The St. Dunstan's Investment Policy stipulates that "Up to, but no more than, five percent of the principal and interest balance of the Designated/Restricted Endowment Investment Account as of December 31 of a given year may be allocated for operating and program expenses per fiscal year." Based on this policy, in February 2023 the following distributions from growth in our endowment funds as of December 31, 2022, were made: \$4,306.47 from the Parish Endowment Fund for parish operations; \$2,826.84 from the Youth Endowment Fund for the youth programs; \$52.35 from the Adult Education Endowment Fund for adult education programs; \$2,590.07 from the Outreach Endowment Fund for Outreach programs; \$1,256.37 from the Parish Discretionary Endowment Fund to the Outreach Discretionary fund; \$2,082.69 from the Vince and Beverley Biondo Scholarship Endowment Fund to the Biondo Outreach Scholarship Fund.

### **Liquid Asset Investment Account**

The purpose of the Liquid Asset account is to provide the capital necessary to provide cash for general operations on an ongoing basis. In other words, to invest cash not needed for day-to-day operations in-order-to generate additional income. This includes the following funds shown on our St. Dunstan's Balance Sheet: Undesignated General Fund, Designated Clergy Housing, Buildings and Grounds, Ministry Transition, Seminarian, Memorial and Music.

Cell Tower Account – In 2023, \$24,000 was distributed to the parish operating account.

In July 2017, the Vestry approved investing funds earned from the sale of the Sprint Cell Phone Lease Agreement with Thrivent. Income earned from the cell-tower accounts is distributed quarterly for General Operating expenses.

Dorothy Leonard, Chair

### **La Vida Real Monthly Service**

On the first Monday of the month, Rev. Rebecca and/or Fr Lonell, and a group of parishioners from St. Dunstan's conduct a worship service at La Vida Real at 11:15am.

### **Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearers)**

The role of a Lector is to assist in the liturgy by reading either of the Lessons or the Prayers of the People. Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearers) administer the chalice at the Eucharist. Lectors and Chalice

Bearers must be baptized members of the parish. Training is required. If you wish to serve in this ministry, please contact the Rector.

### **Library**

Our church library is open to all parishioners. We have a wonderful selection of books and resource materials on spiritual growth, pastoral ministry and sermons, music, church history, Christian vocations, family life and marriage, social concerns, autobiographies and biographies and many more subjects.

### **Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study**

On Thursday mornings the men of the parish meet at 8 a.m. to study the lectionary for the following Sunday. All men welcome to join.

### **Money Counters**

Every Monday morning these faithful volunteers meet to account for, record and deposit all monies received the previous week. During 2023 the counters included Joan Jones, Jean Igoe, and Joy Smith. Mindy Wilcox and Kay Muir also helped as substitutes.

### **Music Ministry**--Gregory Funk, Parish Musician

The year 2023 felt the most normal after the previous three. Although many of our regular activities were restarted during 2022, there were nevertheless limitations in the early months of that year.

The year's highlight: we welcomed the new leadership of Rev. Rebecca with a festival service in September.

St. Dunstan's Music Ministry is blessed to have so many talented volunteers contributing to the Parish Choir, children's Victory Choir, and Handbell Ringers, as well as a number of instrumental and vocal soloists.

Members of the Parish Choir donate several hours a week preparing for and participating in over fifty services per year.

The children's Victory Choir, led by Debbie Berglund, restarted in the fall of 2022, grew in membership considerably this past fall. In addition to singing, the choir learns about music reading and the church calendar.

While handbells are often heard at worship, guitars are usually heard at worship, thanks to a group of dedicated ringers and strummers.

A special thanks to Roger and Sue Caldwell, whose tireless weekly involvement with the production of the service overlaps significantly into the music realm.

The Music Series presented Trio Arpavioluta (Laura Vaughan, harp, Päivikki Nykter, violin/viola, Cathy Blickenstaff, flute) on Mother's Day, the San Diego Concert Band in its annual Independence Day concert, and the Pacific Coast Chorale in "Sing of Peace" in August. The Parish Choir led Advent Lessons and Carols, an annual occasion, on the first Sunday of Advent.

### **Office Helpers**

The office staff is truly blessed every day of the week with wonderful, gregarious *Office Angel* volunteers who sit at the reception desk in 3-hour shifts, answer the phone and do other light clerical jobs as needed. While every shift of the week is covered, we are always open to substitutes to help give our regular receptionists some days off. A big thank you to those who volunteered in 2023: Ellen Single, Mindy Wilcox, Nena Harris, Jen Sisskind, Bea Coke, Linda Shirley, Joy Smith, Jan Kapchinske, and Ann Jarrett. A big thank you to our substitutes who also helped.

### **Outreach to Mercy Hospital**

For over thirteen years St. Dunstan's have been supplying baby hats and blankets to the Family Birth Unit of Mercy Hospital in Hillcrest. The premature unit of the hospital is gifted with many baby items, but the full term baby unit needed help. That's when St. Dunstan's stepped up to help. Many of these babies are born to indigent mothers and the hats and blankets are the only new items the parents may have for their newborns. Several people, both from in the parish and from the surrounding community make and donate the baby hats and blankets for full-term babies. In 2023 I delivered 2234 hats and 35 blanket/hat



combinations. When you take into consideration that Mercy births approximately 2400 babies a year, we are falling short of the need. For further information about how you can help out, please contact Sharyn Craig.

### **Outreach Ministry**

The St. Dunstan's Outreach Ministry team meets six times a year and is responsible for raising and spending funds that support our Mission: To build and nurture a community of Christians that spreads the word of God by ministering to the physical needs of the church family, the surrounding community, and the world. Members in 2023 were Andrea Muir (chair), Christine Bagley, Laura Fields, Ray Henson, Dorothy Leonard, Diane Jones, Sandia Tuttle, Nancy Wilder, Amy Lockwood, and vestry representative Nancy McLees. The committee extends our sincere thanks to all who enthusiastically assume leadership roles even though not a member of the Outreach Committee, as well as all who give willingly of their time, talent and treasure which makes our St. Dunstan's Outreach Program so successful. In 2023 St. Dunstan's supported the programs shown below with cash, food, supplies and in-kind services. Funding for these programs came from our very successful Rummage Sale, our annual Outreach Endowment Fund distribution, and individual donations.

Net income from the 2023 rummage sale was \$36,797 with \$31,278 designated for outreach programs, \$3,679 for church operations, \$1,840 for building maintenance. Other income came from our St. Dunstan's Outreach Endowment Fund and generous cash donations, some designated and some undesignated.

### **San Diego County Programs**

- **ECS (Episcopal Community Services)** serves persons in need through programs that foster hope, dignity, and independence, by providing vital, high-quality social services that encourage healthy interdependence. The ECS mission is to break barriers and transform communities through programs rooted in our tradition of action and faith in God.
- **ECS Uptown Safe Haven** is a residential facility that assists chronically homeless single adults living with mental health issues in developing independent living skills and connecting them with the resources necessary to establish and maintain permanent stable housing.
- **RefugeeNet** equips San Diego's refugee families to become self-reliant, engaged, and contributing citizens through academic support to kids, organizing weekly food distribution, and offering case management and job development services to help parents increase their earning capacity.
- **St. Paul's Senior Chaplain's Fund** supports the St. Paul's Chaplain who is responsible for delivery of spiritual care to program participants, their loved ones, and staff.
- **San Diego Youth Services Youth Emergency Shelter** – Gift cards are sent to the program manager to purchase food and snacks for the youth temporarily residing in the shelter.
- **San Diego Interfaith Shelter Network (ISN)** coordinates the rotational winter/spring homeless shelter program and the El Nido transitional housing program for abused women and their children.
  - **El Nido** is an ISN transitional housing program for battered women and their children. St. Dunstan's sponsors a two-bedroom furnished apartment. New and gently used furnishings are provided for new families. In addition, St. Dunstan's volunteers provide birthday and Christmas gifts.
- **ISN Rotational Homeless Shelter** – St. Dunstan's supports a two-week program to house homeless men, women, and families. The guests spent two weeks at St. Dunstan's and were provided breakfast and dinner and had overnight hosts to make sure they were comfortable.
- **Helping Empower Community Refugees** is an organization committed to assisting refugees resettle in east San Diego County. In 2023 St. Dunstan's continued to work with this group of dedicated volunteers to help recently arrived families get settled into an apartment by providing furnishings, toys, and sewing machines as they start a new life in the United States. They also use our Parish Hall to prepare food for distribution to an average of 50 families a week.

- **Amikas** is a San Diego County program which provides housing options for homeless women and children (especially women veterans) and advocates for public policies regarding homelessness.
- **CODA, Alcoholics Anonymous, AI-Anon and Co-Ed AA** - St. Dunstan's provides meeting space for these local support groups.
- **National and Global Projects**
- **Anglican Church in Puerto Vallarta** is the only English-speaking Anglican Church on Mexico's West Coast. St. Dunstan's has provided financial support for their facilities and their outreach programs, as well as layettes for newborns at Majesterio Regional Hospital.
- **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** is empowering the vulnerable in the Middle East through support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities.
- **ROWAN (Rural Orphans and Widows AIDS Network)** is registered with both the Ugandan government as an NGO and a 501(c)3 non-profit in the United States. Through both in-person and financial assistance, ROWAN provides access to education, health care, nutrition and clean water for residents in a rural area of eastern Uganda.

### **St. Dunstan's sponsored programs.**

- **Angel Tree** – Children's Ministries ran the Angel Tree Program this year. We identified needy families and Christmas gifts were donated to families experiencing financial difficulties. The families were very appreciative. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to making this year's Angel Tree a great success.
- **San Diego Agape** – supports SDSU students through this Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry.
- **Patrick Henry High School Scholarships** – Funds from the annual rummage sale provide scholarships for graduating seniors from Patrick Henry High School. Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded in 2023.
- **Vince and Beverley Biondo Scholarship Fund.** – A fund established by the estate of Vince and Beverley Biondo to provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors who attend St. Dunstan's. Two scholarships were provided in 2023.
- **Emergency assistance:**
  - **Gas and food cards** are distributed to those in need upon referral by St. Dunstan's staff or a social service agency.
  - **St. Dunstan's Parish Discretionary Fund** - Up to \$500 per request can be given for emergency needs.
  - **St. Dunstan's Ministry Discretionary Fund** - Up to \$50 per request can be given for emergency needs by St. Dunstan's staff.

## St. Dunstan's Outreach Program Support January 1 through December 31, 2023

### Diocesan supported programs

Episcopal Community Services (ECS)	\$5,000	
ECS Uptown Safe Haven	\$2,876	New freezer
Refugee Net	\$2,500	
St. Paul's Senior Services Chaplain's Fund	\$250	To support seniors in the PACE program
St. Paul's Senior Services Celadon Bridge Housing	\$476	Food and cleaning supplies for new residents
St Paul's Senior Services PACE program	\$953	Support services for low-income seniors
St. Mark's Backpack Program	\$1,050	Backpacks with school supplies
St Mark's Food Pantry	\$1,000	
Total	\$14,105	

### St. Dunstan's programs

Ministry Discretionary Fund	\$400	8 checks for \$50 each
Parish Discretionary Fund	\$5,000	10 checks at \$500 each
Food Cards	\$3,100	62 food cards at \$50 each
Gas Cards	\$3,050	61 gas cards at \$50 each
Patrick Henry High School Student Scholarships	\$2,000	2 at \$1,000 each
Biondo Fund Scholarship	\$2,000	2 at \$1,000 each
Total	\$15,550	

### Other programs

Helping Empower Community Refugees	\$2,951	Mattress and sheets for new refugee families
ISN Rotational shelter	\$952	Plus food and clothing donations
Interfaith Shelter Network	\$2,000	
ISN El Nido	\$3,413	
Teen Shelter	\$1,200	
Ignition633 Ministries	\$1,000	2022 Advent ingathering
Anglican Church in Puerto Villarta	\$2,000	
ROWAN (Rural Orphans and Widows Aids Network -Uganda)	\$1,500	
Amikas	\$917	
Heifer International	\$1,000	2023 Lent ingathering
Total	\$13,982	

### **Total - All programs**

**\$43,637**

*Above numbers do not include all in-kind, gift card, and cash donations from parishioners.*

### **Parish Discretionary Fund Committee**

We help with their rent, credit card debt, and temporary hotel stays. Please remember that we do have this resource at St. Dunstan's to help those in immediate emergency need. On the committee for 2023 were Bill Chisum, Christine Bagley, Sandia Tuttle, Ann Jarrett, Sharyn Craig, Joy Smith, Diane Jones, and Jen Sisskind. Members serve for two years, with half the committee rotating off at the Annual Meeting, when four new members are selected. All communication is by phone or email.

### **Personnel Ministry – Tim Conroy, Chairperson**

I am happy to report to the Parish that 2023 was a productive year for the Personnel Committee - your committee members are Tim Conroy, Ann Jarrett, and Mindy Wilcox. We also are joined by Rev. Rebecca, Dennis Landaal (Senior Warden), Derek Vlasek (our Vestry liaison) and Brian Quinn (Finance Committee Chair).

In 2023 we started the year with a review and update to our Personnel Handbook. We managed a draft update until we completed the onboarding process for Rev. Rebecca (shout out to Vanessa and Ray to help make this a smooth process). We did arrange for Rev. Cathy to remain on staff into July to help with Rev. Rebecca's transition.

We met regularly in the Spring and Fall to review personnel status, review policies, and provide updates to account for changes in California and federal labor laws. There were changes this Fall to our Health Benefits offers to employees as we aligned to the Diocese's policy, and we worked with Rev. Rebecca to communicate the changes with our staff prior to the open season.

As we step into 2024, our goals are: 1) Continue assisting the Vestry and the Rector on personnel matters – our focus will be to assist Rev. Rebecca with a review of job position duties and to chart a path forward to fill the Youth Director position; 2) account for changes in California Labor Laws; and 3) to account for updates in health care policies and benefits for the staff.

I am happy to report that Derek Vlasek will join the Personnel committee in 2024. We welcome volunteers to join us and assist with our ministry. If you might be interested, please reach out to me @ timconroy@cox.net or call me @ 619-341-4857 if you have any questions.  
May you have a blessed 2024

### **Prayers and Squares**

Prayers and Squares meets on the first and third Mondays of each month from 9-noon. At our Monday meetings, we “stuff and put in ties” into the quilt tops. Several of our members (led by Sharyn Craig) make tops, and the backs are made by a team led by Nancy Lujan. The bindings are hemmed by Betty Stevens, Shirley Benning, Jen Sisskind, and others. The quilt table crew is led by Diane Wrightson. We have a “membership” of 42. About 8 people are needed to create one quilt for the congregation to tie on Sunday mornings. We gave out 109 quilts this year. Thank you for your participation.

The Congregation is the key to the ministry as it is YOU, the congregation, that ties a knot and says a prayer for the recipient. After all, this is a prayer ministry. It is not about the quilts, but about the prayers! The recipients tell us frequently how comforting it is that people who do not know them have prayed for their healing.

Our Vacation Bible School children this summer made Prayer Bears and the Junior Daughters of the King have as well so that Mercy Hospital continues to receive bears for children in trauma situations. We welcome anyone to join us on Monday mornings

### **Prayer Beads Group**

The Prayer Beads Group is an hour for renewal, prayer, and fellowship that meets on Zoom every Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Bette Jo Garrett is the leader. We have had a core group of 6-9 attendees since we started during the first pandemic lockdown in 2020.

In 2023, the group continued to be full of vitality. Intercessory prayer has become an important part of the hour, as has the opportunity for attendees to bring inspiring readings and art to share. Bette Jo is compiling a booklet of the prayers written for the group. Visitors and new members come occasionally and are always welcome.

## **Rummage Sale 2023**

### **Funding St. Dunstan's Outreach Programs**

Thank you to all who made this annual fundraiser such a wonderful success! This includes not only the committee of coordinators and department chairs, but 146 volunteers who assisted with managing incoming rummage, unloading the bin, sorting and pricing merchandise, working on the Thursday evening Gala for members of St. Dunstan's and their friends, assisting with security/hospitality, working in the check-out area, assisting in setup and cleanup, providing lunches for volunteers during our setup operation, as well as picking up large donated items and running other errands as needed.

Thank you to all who made donations, both rummage and monetary, who made purchases, and who attended the Gala. Without shoppers and donors, our fundraising goal would not have been achieved.

Not only does this annual rummage sale serve the greater San Diego Community by offering good quality items at affordable prices, it attracts others in the community who are not members of St. Dunstan's but volunteer year after year because they enjoy the fellowship it provides and believe in our mission. They have become part of our Rummage Sale family. In 2023, 26 of our 146 volunteers were friends of parishioners who volunteered with sorting, pricing, security, and checkout, and a few also took on leadership roles as merchandise department heads.

Because of the support from so many parishioners, their family and friends, and our rummage sale shoppers from throughout San Diego County, we had gross income of \$41,408.46 with a net of \$36,701.02 after expenses, a record for this event that has been the main source of income for our St. Dunstan's Outreach Ministry for over 30 years.

Proceeds are being used to fund St. Dunstan's outreach programs as well as providing support to agencies with whom we have partnerships. Information about these programs is included in the Outreach Ministry report in this 2023 St. Dunstan's Annual Report.

Dorothy Leonard, Nancy McLees, Anne-Elise Kelly  
Co-chairs/Rummage Sale Leadership Team

### **SCRIP Program** – Jen Sisskind

SCRIP – is an avenue by which money can be earned for the general fund, and parishioners can conveniently purchase gift cards for hundreds of businesses including department type stores, restaurants, travel, fast food, grocery stores, entertainment, and miscellaneous other retailers. Each vendor dictates what percentage of the face value of the gift card will be contributed to St. Dunstan's from 1% to 20% per gift card sold. A small selection of popular gift cards are immediately available to purchase, and take from the "Pay Now – Take Now" inventory box. Many others can be ordered and paid for, then received through delivery or pick-up. During this challenging time, Scrip was sold by email or cell phone ordering throughout the year.

The plan developed in 2020 continued to be used for sales and receipt of gift cards. Order requests were sent to Jen Sisskind via email or text, and checks were sent/delivered to her house. Upon receipt of the gift cards, each order was picked up by the requestor or personally delivered by Jen who had become known as the Stealth Elf as she left Scrip envelopes under front door mats from El Cajon to La Jolla. This manner of ordering/selling gift cards worked particularly well during this Christmas season! A sincere note of appreciation is offered to the coordinators of the Teen Shelter Program (Bette Boucher), the El Nido Ministry and Episcopal Community Services (Christine Bagley), the Grocery/Gas Program (Vanessa Hiday), and the Angel Tree Project (Charlotte Conroy). These ladies worked in partnership with Scrip to ensure their programs benefitted from gift card sales!

Whether you purchased often or occasionally, your support is VERY important, and extremely appreciated! Sales will continue with the no-contact method until it is safe to return to in-person sales. With your continued support, faith, trust, and purchase of Scrip, we hope to surpass 2022 sales in 2023! THANK YOU, and God bless you all!!



### **Tuesday Noon Book Study**

The Tuesday Noon Book Study meets weekly in the Conference Room and on Zoom to discuss thought-provoking books about Christianity, a chapter at a time. We have no formal leader; Bette Jo Garrett is the contact person and meeting arranger.

In 2023, we read and discussed *The Episcopal Story: Birth and Rebirth* by Thomas C. Ferguson, *A Faith for the Future* by Jesse Zink, selected parts of *God in the Dock* by C. S. Lewis, and *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien. We are currently discussing *The Problem of God* by C. S. Lewis. We welcomed two new members this year, and we are always hoping for more.

### **Teen Shelter**

The Storefront Shelter, a program of San Diego Youth Services is San Diego's only emergency shelter for homeless runaway, missing, and exploited youth. The Storefront's 10 bed facility is responsible for fulfilling every basic need for the youth in the program . . . shelter, food, clothing, school enrollment, crisis counseling, case management, and helping them access medical care. Additionally Storefront operates a drop-in program. For many years, as part of St. Dunstan's Outreach Program, we have been supplying meals on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Did you know? Since early in 2020 we have been able to purchase St. Dunstan's Scrip for Teen Shelter meals, benefiting both Storefront and St. Dunstan's! This we do through the backing of Outreach, and the generosity of those who donate by purchasing Scrip for Teen Shelter. This year's generous donors paid for 6 months of meals!!!! THANK YOU AGAIN, ST. DUNSTAN'S!

Bette Boucher and Wendy Yoon

### **Vestry**

Twelve electors of the parish are elected as Vestry members at the Parish Annual Meeting to serve a three-year term. This is accomplished rotationally with four new members elected each year.

The Vestry serves as the governing body of the church along with the rector. They meet once a month. Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners. A Vestry retreat is held each year to bring together new and already-elected members.

### **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee seeks to discern ways to create a meaningful worship experience for our members and visitors. It examines Eucharists and other services and suggests ways by which each service is coordinated with the various ministries involved. It advises and makes recommendations to the Rector. The meetings are open, by request or invitation, to all members of the congregation.

### **Wedding Guild**

The function of the Wedding Guild is to assist the bride, her wedding party and the clergy with preparations for the wedding rehearsal and the wedding ceremony.

## DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH FUNDS

### ST. DUNSTAN'S ENDOWMENT FUNDS

#### Designated and Restricted Funds

Over the years, St. Dunstan's has received generous gifts and bequests to establish and support endowment funds. Funds received are held in perpetuity for the purpose for which each fund was established. Up to five percent annually can be used to support the programs affiliated with the funds purpose, but the corpus (original gift) cannot be spent. St. Dunstan's endowment funds are invested in a single Endowment Investment account managed by Thrivent Financial. Donations to any of the endowment funds can be made at any time.

The **Parish Endowment** was established many years ago to support and supplement St. Dunstan's operating budget.

The **Youth Endowment** was established in October 1995 from a donation from the estate of Rosetta Dancer designed to benefit St. Dunstan's Youth Programs.

The **Outreach Endowment** was established in 1999 by a donation from Harry Wurtz in memory of his wife Alice, to benefit the larger community for charitable purposes through St. Dunstan's Outreach programs.

The **Parish Discretionary Endowment** was established in 1995 by David and Helen Gilman to provide supplemental funding for the Parish Discretionary Fund.

The **Adult Education Endowment** was established in 2005 in memory of Edith Cushing to support St. Dunstan's adult education programs.

The **Dr. Vincent F. and Beverley T. Biondo Scholarship Endowment** was established in 2016 from a bequest from the Dr. Vincent F. and Beverley T. Biondo estate. The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarships to deserving students to further their education beyond high school. Distributions from this fund are deposited into the Dr. Vincent F. and Beverley T. Biondo Scholarship Fund. Scholarships from this fund are awarded according to the Outreach committee's scholarship guidelines.

#### **OTHER INVESTED FUNDS**

These funds are invested with and managed by Thrivent Financial as Liquid Asset funds. The purpose is to provide the capital necessary for general church operations on an ongoing basis.

The **Seminarian Fund** was started in memory of Charlotte Currier Phillips, a former Director of Religious Education at St. Dunstan's, for the purpose of assisting in the theological education of men and women. Distributions from this fund can be in the form of a loan or a gift.

The **Memorial Fund** receives donations given in memory or in honor of loved ones. Donations to this fund can be designated or undesignated. Funds are managed by the St. Dunstan's Memorial Committee with final approval for expenditures made by the Vestry.

The **Buildings and Grounds Fund** is a combination of the former Plant, Building and Columbarium Funds. It is used for major upkeep of St. Dunstan's facilities including the Columbarium / Memorial garden. Funds from facility rentals and columbarium niche purchases are deposited into this fund.

The **Ministry Transition Fund** is a fund to cover the costs of calling a new Rector. This fund was more recently established during the search/calling of Fr. Kent Branstetter. The funds remaining were set aside in this fund to offset the cost of searching/calling of a new Rector after the retirement of Fr. Kent.

The **Designated Clergy Housing Fund** was established as part of the 2016/17/18 Capital Campaign Drive. The purpose of this fund is to offset some of the expected housing costs of a new Rector post Fr. Kent retirement.

The **Undesignated General Fund** was established in 2016 from undesignated funds, originally invested in Vanguard funds before being transferred to Thrivent Financial. These funds can be used for any purposes as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Vestry.

**Cell Tower Funds** – In July 2017, the Vestry approved investing funds earned from the sale of the Sprint Cell Phone Lease Agreement with Thrivent Financial. Income earned from this investment account are distributed quarterly to St. Dunstan's checking account.

#### **OTHER FUNDS – Not Invested**

**Parish Discretionary Fund** – This fund was set up to provide assistance to persons who have an immediate emergency need. Persons submitting a request should be a parishioner, the clergy, or a person known to the church with full knowledge of the recipient's situation. There is a committee of eight, each member serving for a period of two years. Four members are chosen each year at the parish annual meeting. The account is funded by donations from parishioners, the Outreach Ministry, and the Parish Discretionary Endowment Fund. Monies are given as grants and are not to be repaid.

**Designated Funds** – The church holds in its checking account funds for various programs of the church. The Balance Sheet in this report includes a list of these accounts. Monies are disbursed as requested by those responsible for the group and monies received for these accounts are deposited directly into the account. A printout of receipts and disbursements for these accounts is available upon request.

**General Checking Account** – The church's checking account is held at Bank of America.

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**  
**San Diego, California**  
**Budget and Expense Summary for 2023 and 2024**

	<b>2023</b>				<b>2024</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>		<b>Actual</b>		<b>Budget</b>	
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>						
Basic Revenue	514,000	79.3%	499,937	67.0%	554,600	77.3%
Other Revenue	64,100	9.9%	58,625	7.9%	57,291	8.0%
Non-Operating Revenue	70,000	10.8%	187,927	25.2%	106,000	14.8%
	<b>\$648,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$746,489</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$717,891</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>						
Worship Expense	10,300	1.6%	14,846	2.0%	15,700	2.2%
Community Engagement (Common Life Share)	65,080	10.0%	64,876	8.9%	67,000	9.3%
Membership Care, Stewardship, & Education	12,050	1.8%	8,370	1.2%	13,200	1.8%
Program Staff Compensation and Benefits	250,463	38.4%	252,762	34.8%	277,858	38.7%
Administration Staff Compensation	160,912	24.7%	162,314	22.4%	166,061	23.1%
Other Clergy & Staff Expenses	3,500	0.5%	1,122	0.2%	5,500	0.8%
Administration & Property Management	15,600	2.4%	15,183	2.1%	17,600	2.5%
Utilities, Services, & Insurance	93,700	14.4%	104,068	14.3%	104,100	14.5%
Maintenance & Supplies	16,700	2.6%	22,205	3.1%	19,100	2.7%
Non-Operating Expenses	24,250	3.7%	80,153	11.0%	31,680	4.4%
	<b>\$652,555</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$725,899</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$717,799</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$4,455</b>		<b>\$20,590</b>		<b>\$92</b>	