



ST. MARK'S AND ST. JOHN'S

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Rochester, NY

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Rector's Report

THE REV'D. CINDY RASMUSSEN

The journey to our own heart is a journey into every heart. And in the first light of the real we see that this is the communion which is the kingdom Jesus was born to establish and in which he is born again in every human heart.

John Main OSB, Monastery Without Walls

St. Mark's and St. John's has grown over the last several years. We have grown in faith, membership, missional impact, pledges, partnerships, and understanding of the Bible and the world around us. One of the most beautiful wonders of being a Rector is to be able to listen and engage in meaningful conversations to explore sacred questions. 2021 was filled with those conversations. Conversations that revealed God's goodness through members, neighbors, community activists, gardeners, politicians, academics, and students of all ages.

This past year we made substantial investments in technology and updating our sanctuary. We now have faster wifi internet service throughout the building (including the sanctuary). A state of the art camera, new speakers, several microphones, new electrical outlets, and a control center were installed, which makes it possible for our service to be broadcast on YouTube live every Sunday morning. Our Chancel was redesigned to freshen-up the space and provide an area so we can host concerts and other community events throughout the year. Finally, on Christmas Eve the eucharist was celebrated for the first time on our beautiful round altar, designed and built by our neighbor Neal Barrett, as were the lectern (and pews).

We also welcomed Hannah Zuegel to our ministry team as our part-time Administrator/Bookkeeper. She is wonderful. And

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we've been blessed to have Siera Sadowski as our Summer VISTA/AmeriCorp Intern and Chloe Louthan-Green as our Rochester Youth Year VISTA/AmeriCorp Intern. Thank you to our beloved Deacon, Mike Finn. Mike is such a kind, tower of strength who continues to bring the love of God into the world. I also want to thank, the Rev'd Julie Cicora for her ongoing support of the various ministries here at SMSJ. Her wisdom, vision, and sense of humor are invaluable. Finally, a special thank you to Sharon Kowalski for her many years of service as one of our Wardens. She has been a wonderful teammate. I've appreciated her Christ-centered focus and deep commitment to the Christian tradition. I'm grateful she joined me for a week away at the College for Congregational Development this past summer. She is a treasure and I look forward to continuing to work with her in her role as Endowment Committee Chair.

I close my report this year by giving thanks for those who were part of our community in body and/or spirit, the saints of SMSJ who have died:

Catherine J. Edwards (5.27.20)

The Rev'd Marilyle Sweet Page (2.9.21)

Kathy Schaertel (4.11.21)

Gloria Colletta (6.22.21)

Mary Fisher (11.2.21)

"In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brothers and sisters. The Lord bless them and keep them, the Lord make their face to shine upon them and be gracious to them; the Lord lift up his/her countenance upon them and give them peace. Amen." *Book of Common Prayer*, 501

The wisdom, love, and grace of God strengthen you to be God's hands and heart in this world, and the blessing of God almighty - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with you forever. Amen

Co-Warden's Report

TERRI CENSAK AND SHARON KOWALSKI

St. Mark's and St. John's has demonstrated its resiliency throughout another challenging year. COVID-19 did not diminish our spirit, our mission or our faith. We have been blessed and have so much to be proud of. Our congregation continues to be a beacon of hope and love for our community and neighbor-hood through our weekly food shelf, farm stand, garden ministry, and much more.

We began 2021 with virtual worship and transitioned to in-person worship on Palm Sunday. Our Vestry continued to meet via Zoom monthly. Our Thursday night Bible study group uses Zoom as well. Staff and Vestry zoomed regularly for diocesan meetings and "check-ins" with Bishop Singh.

SMSJ was the recipient of a \$13,000 Congregational Development Grant from the diocese. Many thanks to Paula Valeri for sharing her grant writing skills.

SMSJ has had an exciting year of change inside our sanctuary. Early in the year, Vestry approved the funds to have a new camera and sound system installed. This has allowed us to reach a wider audience of worshipers and increase exposure for the church by live-streaming our services and posting to YouTube. We've certainly come a long way from those early days of virtual worship in 2020! And, it goes without saying, the new sound system has taken Andy's inspirational music to another level.

Other changes to our worship space include our beautifully refinished floor in the nave which was sanded, stained and resealed. The chancel floor and steps leading to the chancel area have also been refinished, and our piano has been

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moved to the chancel area to allow more room for pews. We purchased colorful banners to adorn our worship space. Lastly, our beautiful new altar and lectern were delivered right before Christmas... a present for all! We are awaiting completion of our sanctuary renovations with just the steps and area of the high altar which need to be re-built and carpeted and a railing added. More pews have been ordered for our worship space.

Several new windows were installed in the church offices. Electrical and plumbing upgrades were made. The Pike Company was hired to inspect our stained glass windows, and Vestry reviewed the subsequent recommendations for repairs to be made over a several year period.

We have expanded our staff. Vestry approved the hiring of a part-time administrative assistant for Cindy. Hannah has been a wonderful addition. Robert Thornton, our behind-the-scenes AV technician, has helped us to make our Sunday morning production the next best thing to being at 1245 Culver. We said “goodbye” to Erin and “hello” to Chloe as our VISTA fellow. In December, we wished Ja’Vyon well as he began a new job with expanded hours.

We are confident that we will have a great 2022. Vestry remains committed and forward facing. We are blessed with much talent, enthusiastic volunteers and a congregation that believes in its mission and ministries. God is good! It has been a pleasure to serve as your Wardens as we seek God together, share God’s love, and serve others.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICE AND JESUS

CREATING SPACE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Over the last several months, Chloe (our Rochester Youth Year and myself have been part of a weekly Zoom group. In attendance has been a professor of Education from the Warner School at the University of Rochester, the Executive Director of Freedom Scholars, the 4-H Program Leader from Cornell Cooperative Extension, VISTA/AmeriCorp Interns, Doctoral students compiling research, and others. What emerged has been the "Seed Sowers & Storytellers" after-school program housed at SMSJ. This "out-of-school time" program is a community-based learning space, collaboratively developed by these partners. The program will celebrate our youth and neighborhood to work together to build our collective futures while also honoring our legacies and histories.

At a meeting a couple of weeks ago, Jeremy (the Freedom Scholars' Executive Director) kept driving home the importance of Restorative Practices in the education model. He energetically put forward his ideas, and I found myself becoming curious. I wanted to share with you what I've learned. Restorative Practice is a "social science that studies improving and repairing relationships between people and communities. The purpose of such practices is to build healthy communities, increase social capital, decrease crime and antisocial behavior, repair harm, and restore relationships." It sounded a lot like Jesus' ministry to me. As a community of people overwhelmed by generational trauma, how can we find ways together to love, forgive, be redeemed, and restored? For us, the work of restoration rests on the bedrock of God's kept promises.

I believe restoration has always been our work, but I think our mission is coming into sharper focus and our faith and partners are the ones leading us into that future.

May we continue to invest in our neighbors and one another and may we continue to work and pray for justice and love so we can be God's hands and heart in this world of ours.




MUSIC AT SMSJ

ANDY LACEY

What an exciting and interesting year we have had here at St. Mark's and St. John's. After being almost fully virtual last year during the start of the pandemic, we finally were able to return to in person services; what a blessing! During the Easter season we had some wonderful services and even a baptism shortly after the holiday. Things quieted down a bit during the summer and we welcomed Nick on his cahone for several services. His additions to our music team were greatly appreciated and he will be back in 2022. We are still searching for more permanent and regular additions to our worship team, as well as people to sing and share their musical talents within our services. If that is something that interests you, feel free to contact me any time.

Our sanctuary was also upgraded with a beautiful new sound system, replacing the old PA system we had used for years with state of the art wireless microphones and new wall mounted speakers. I would like to personally thank Joe and Cindy for their work installing this system. Towards the end of the year our Advent and Christmas services were very well received, we had a musical selection from Walt Snyder and my partner, Andrea, joined us for a beautiful Christmas eve service. Thank you to the both of them for sharing their gifts!



My studio continues to be mostly virtual, although I do use the studio space often as an office and as a recording space for personal projects. Fattore's Music Room was recently gifted two, ten-week lesson scholarships by an anonymous benefactor. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in lessons of any kind, voice, piano, guitar, etc. have them contact me.

Thank you all for an incredible year and for being a wonderful community of true followers of Christ, it is a pleasure to serve with you. Let us look forward to the year to come, as uncertainty regarding the pandemic rises, may we always hold fast that our help comes from the Lord, and lean not on our own understanding. God bless.



ALTAR GUILD

MARY ESTEY

In 2021, Altar Guild had 4 members: Dorothy Barnes, Paula Valeri, Sharon Kowalski, and Mary Estey. Dorothy and Paula worked together as one team and Sharon and Mary as another. Duties were alternated on a monthly basis most of the year.

The Guild's primary purpose is to assist and work with the Pastor to prepare the Altar and location for all services. Most services are held in the Sanctuary, the Chapel, or the garden. Also included is maintaining care and seasonal changing of the Altar hangings and linens, making sure the worship space is clean and in good condition for a service, and keeping a supply of candles, candle oil, grape juice and wine.

For special occasions such as Christmas and Easter, the Guild is responsible for having the appropriate decorations put up with the help of the Congregation. In addition, any extra items needed for Baptism, Wedding, or Funeral is also the responsibility of the Guild.

Flowers can be given by Congregation members in thanksgiving, in memorial, or just as a gift and are most welcome. See Mary Estey if you would like to give flowers for a particular service.

There is always a need for additional members, anyone interested in serving on this important ministry, please contact Pastor Cindy.

Rochester Youth Year

CHLOE LOUTHAN-GREEN

Since the beginning of my undergraduate degree, I aspired to participate in a year of service. When I learned of Rochester Youth Year, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to give back to a community that I have for so long considered my backyard.

The Rochester Youth Year program assigns recent graduates to local non-profit organizations in an effort to strengthen the capacity of these entities and support their mission in alleviating the effects of poverty for those living within the greater Rochester area. A service opportunity, such as this, is often advertised as an opportunity for graduates to transform a community. However, now being halfway through my year of service, I have found that Rochester Youth Year and my time serving at St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church has in actuality transformed me and my perceptions.



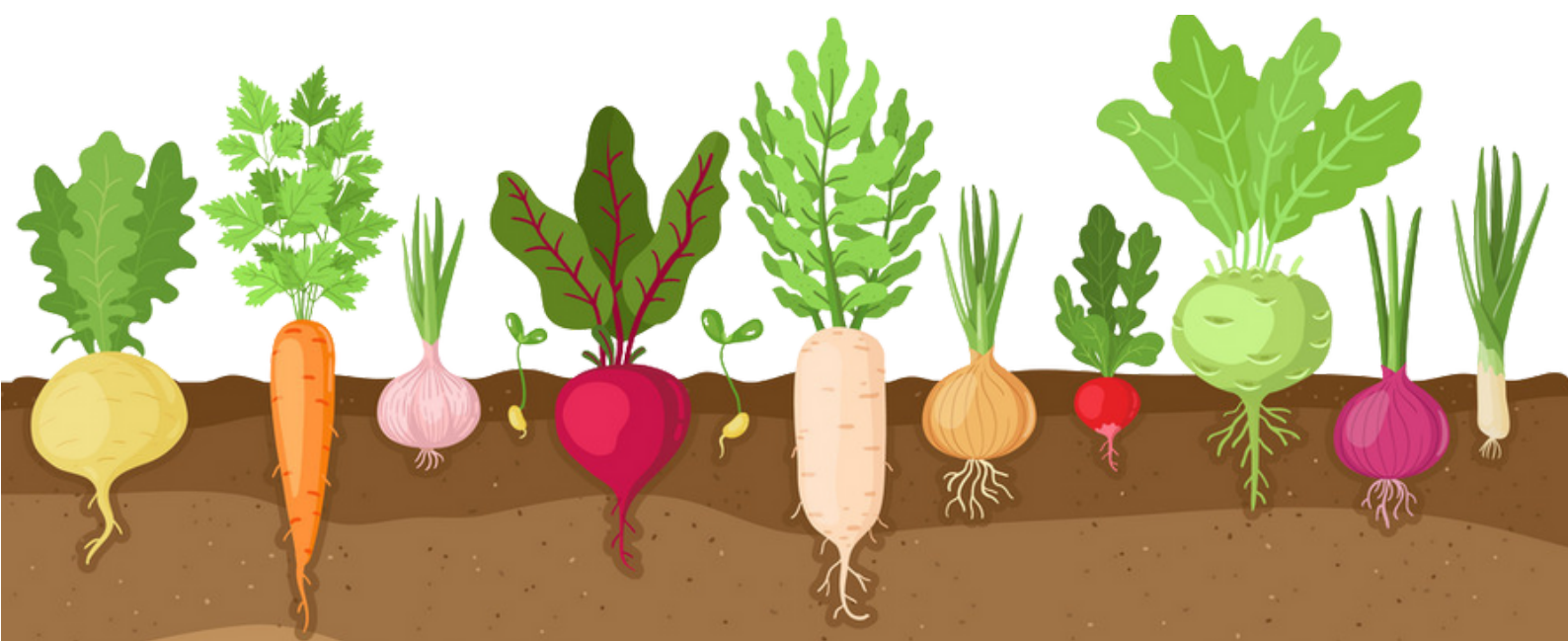
Over this past year, St. Mark's and St. John's has continuously demonstrated the role of the church as an essential social institution and an active force in generating social change. For over 35 years, St. Mark's and St. John's has fulfilled this role as a spiritual home that is driven by a thoughtful mission, commitment to service, as well as an astounding tendency to embrace everyone exactly as they are. Consistent programming through the E.D.E.N. Wellness Center has enabled St. Mark's and St. John's to strengthen community networks and revitalize the food systems existing within the Beechwood Neighborhood.

I feel immensely grateful to have the opportunity to serve alongside those who have made St. Mark's and St. John's what it is today and look forward to another successful year of programming. During the first half of my year of service I had

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the opportunity to collaborate with the staff and volunteers of St. Mark's and St. John's to:

- Document and improve business processes and procedures
- Reinforce and strengthen organizational systems
- Design mutually beneficial projects with local colleges and universities:
 - St. John Fisher College students enrolled in the Chemistry 316 course will analysis the soil composition of each of the E.D.E.N. Community Gardens
 - St. John Fisher College students enrolled in the Biology 1110 course will be analyzing this year's harvest data to determine the associated nutritional value and cost savings provided by the E.D.E.N. Community Gardens
 - University of Rochester students on the EcoRep Community Engagement Committee will be continue to complete capacity building projects
- Provide administrative support
- Oversee the fulfillment of current grants and evaluate new grants for eligibility
- Assist with the management of volunteers and visiting volunteer groups
- Maintian community partnerships
- Collaborate with others in the development of new youth educational programs



E.D.E.N. Gardens

2021 was a good year on the farm. In spite of the pandemic we were able to recruit more volunteers and bring in both school and business groups to help.

We experienced different rainfall patterns this year, fewer but more intense rainstorms. Because of this new pattern we experienced some flooding in parts of our Denver garden. This did not slow us down or hurt our harvest, but has led to some additional attention and planning around irrigation in our gardens.



3,500

pounds of produce

was harvested in 2021 from our seven E.D.E.N. garden plots across the Beechwood neighborhood.

454

individuals

received produce grown from our gardens throughout the summer. This included 271 adults (18+) and 183 youth.

908 servings
of green peppers

952 servings
of summer squash

765 servings
of winter squash

1,563 servings
of beans

3,612 servings
of leafy greens

**estimated by St. John Fisher College
Students enrolled in BIO 1100 from
2020 harvest data*



We are very grateful to our garden captains, Mary, Mary Ellen, Melanie, Judy, Deb, Alicia, Becky, Chloe, and Nick, who shepherded us through the growing season. We are also grateful to all the volunteers who worked on our weekly crews or gave us a part of their time.

This year we kept honey bees for the first time. Nick Lord was our beekeeper who navigated the church roof throughout the season to harvest honey and make sure all was well. We're grateful for his contributions to the SOOP program. He educated our teens as to the importance of bees in our ecosystem. And the honey that we had at the Farm Stand, was wonderful. Thanks Nick!

18

core volunteers

who worked tirelessly to grow, harvest, package, and distribute produce through the E.D.E.N. Gardens and the weekly food shelf.

2,666

volunteer hours

worked at SMSJ over the course of 2021 across all ministries.

361

total volunteers

working in the gardens, at the farm stand, and in our food shelf either as baggers, distributors, or emergency delivery drivers.

Food Shelf

PAULA & BOB VALERI

With no end to the pandemic insight, Food Shelf continued to serve members of the community in 2021 with pre-packed bags of groceries and pantry staples. To ensure the safety of volunteers and guests, Wednesday in-person Food Shelf remained outside the building with service set up (regardless of weather) in the Rosewood Terrace gazebo. Mobile deliveries to households in select ZIP codes took place weekly through August. In all, 885 mobile food deliveries were made by volunteer drivers to families in January through August.

Wednesdays saw a total of 2,390 in-person guests in 2021, with demand growing steadily through the year. Our food supplies continue to be purchased through Food Link for the most part, with deliveries each Tuesday averaging 1,500 pounds. After volunteers unload the truck and store supplies in the pantry room, they move cans and boxes into the Great Hall to be staged for packing. Volunteers each week then pack an average of 100 bags (two per guest) for our Wednesday Food Shelf. Early Wednesday morning (in advance of our 10:30 official opening time), volunteers pack a third bag of frozen and refrigerated items for each guest. Fresh vegetables when available are also packed and readied for distribution.



In 2021, we continued to have weekly food supply support from First Baptist Church of Rochester and financial support from the Indian American Community of Rochester, St. Paul's, St. Thomas', and Christ Church, Pittsford. Other community groups, including Episcopal Senior Life and Jefferson Road School Pittsford, supported Food Shelf by collecting canned food, socks, toiletries, and other items. We're very grateful for the volunteers that kept Food Shelf operating in 2021, including Sharon, Mary Ellen, Deacon Mike, Joe, Linda, Ella, the Censak family, the Peers family, Bob, Paula, and many delivery drivers.

Farm Stand

DEACON MIKE FINN

This year's Farm Stand ran from July 10th until September 11th. This year the neighborhood was eagerly awaiting us. We had a definite increase in business, seeing dependable returning customers and making new friends.

We were caught in heavy downpours on two Saturdays this year. That did not stop us as we set up a tent at the edge of the gazebo and sold veggies right out of the church door. The rain did not seem to dampen our customers either.

This year we raised over one thousand dollars to support our garden ministry. Our thanks to our volunteers who made it happen: Mary, Terri Steve, Joe, Deb, Walt, Ginnie, Mary, Nancy and Nick.



Savings for the community*

- \$2,000 on cucumbers
- \$500 on eggplants
- \$500 on leafy greens
- \$750 on summer squash
- \$1,000 on winter squash

**estimated by St. John Fisher College
Students enrolled in BIO 1100 from
2020 harvest data and PriceRite
pricing*

192

neighborhood residents

served by the farm stand over the
course of the 2021 season

\$1,226

farm stand revenue

reinvested in E.D.E.N. Garden
programming

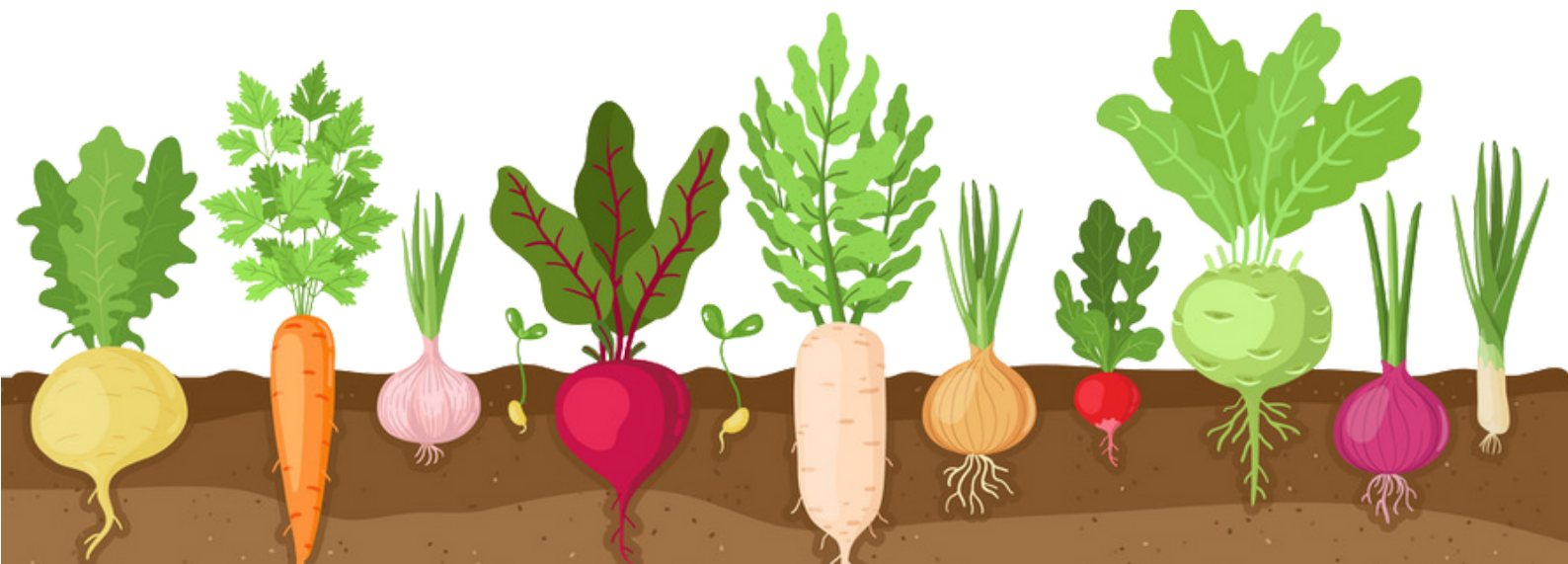
Summer of Opportunity Program



We were lucky enough to host another round of summer youth interns through the City of Rochester's Summer of Opportunity Program in 2021. We hosted five local youth this year, three of which were a part of the national program My Brother's Keeper. The summer interns were with us for six weeks across July and August and spent a majority of their time working in the E.D.E.N. gardens. In addition to gardening, the program included learning segments on financial literacy, food justice, healthy relationship building, cooking, and environmental science. The program hosted multiple guest speakers each week including two of our garden

volunteers Becky and Nick, local community development director Adrian Hale, financial counselor Cassara Cole, and City Councilman Mitch Gruber.

The program was led by this years' SOOP Coordinator Alex Carabello, an assistant teacher from Our Lady of Mercy. Alex has extensive experience in the sciences and brought his enthusiasm for STEM and his skills as an educator to the SOOP program. We are so grateful that Alex lead our group of youth interns this year.



Crossroads of Caring

THE REV. MARY ANN BRODY

This has been a year of growth and change for Crossroads of Caring.

- Crossroads of Caring, Inc. became a nonprofit corporation in NY State in March 2021.
 - We applied for 501(c)3 status in August 2021 to be recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS.
 - We began managing our own finances in September and are in the process of moving the last of our funds into our own bank account this month.
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE):
 - To date, 12 students have completed a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) unit at our center.
 - We currently have nine more students in two CPE units running simultaneously.
 - We expanded our community partnerships to include Arnot Health, Cayuga Medical Center, Cayuga Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and CareFirst Hospice in the Southern Tier. We added Compeer Rochester in the city.
- Equipped to Care – a spiritual visiting and compassionate listening workshop
 - Originally scheduled to begin in September 2021
 - Rescheduled pilot to begin on January 15, 2022
 - Seven students are registered
- Lunch & Learns for our partner organizations
 - In 2021 we hosted four Zoom presentations on spiritual care topics, including:
 - CPE and Chaplaincy
 - Call the Chaplain: Identifying Spiritual Distress
 - Spirituality & Suicide
 - Trauma in the Midst of COVID-19

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- Social Media
 - Website (www.crossroadsofcaring.org) is updated with somewhat regular blog posts, new program updates and a pop up to collect e-mail addresses for our mailing list.
 - We now have a presence on Facebook too!
- Governing Board Volunteers needed!
 - We are looking for new board members who have skills in technology, social media, asset development and fund raising.

Without SMSJ Crossroads of Caring would not exist, and we certainly would not be in the strong position we are in now. We are providing a variety of services to the spiritual care community in western and central NY because of you. Thank you parishioners and leaders of SMSJ for your gracious hospitality. We are particularly grateful for Michele Holmes, Pastor Cindy and Bob Valeri for your help managing our finances during this first year and a half.

"Spirituality is an untapped resource in our understanding of human development, resilience and illness, and health and healing"

— Lisa Miller, Ph.D., *The Spiritual Child*



Financials

2021 Year-End Financial Report

REVENUE

Pledge & Plate	99,744
Investment Draw	41,000
Food Shelf	33,578
Farm Stand	1,385
Neighborhood Development	21,140
Congregational Development Grant	15,000
Building Usage	3,000
Miscellaneous	1,753
Total Revenue	\$216,600

EXPENSES

Spiritual/Educational (inc. Worship)	11,632
Emergency Food (Direct Costs)	20,613
Neighborhood Development	16,553
Rector	86,911
Property	33,251
Administration	18,585
Diocesan Apportionment	10,704
Miscellaneous	5,842
Total Expenses	\$204,091

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

\$51,856

Refinish & Install Oak Boards in Chancel Floor, Extend Chancel Stairs, Sound/Video System with Internet Upgrades, New Mop Sink, Four Insulated Windows, Mural in Children's Classroom, Commissioned Four Large Canvas (The Seasons) for Sanctuary, Pike's Stain Glass Condition Report

Altar and Lectern, Neal Barrett	Anonymous Gift
Seasonal Banners for the Sanctuary	Anonymous Gift

2022 Approved Budget

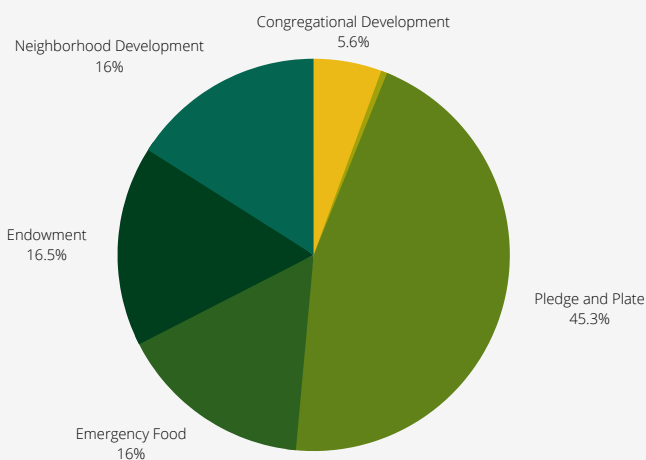
REVENUE

Pledge & Plate	104,550
Investment Draw	38,000
Food Shelf	37,000
Neighborhood Development	37,000
Congregational Development Grant	13,000
Additional Revenue	1,050
Total Revenue	230,600

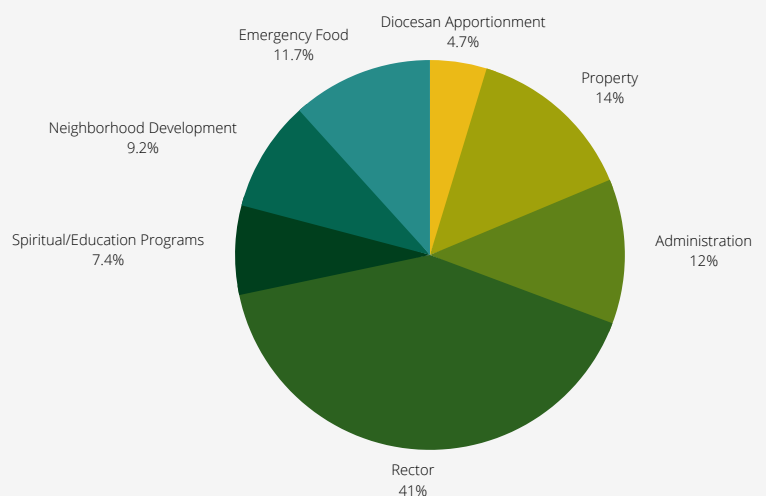
EXPENSES

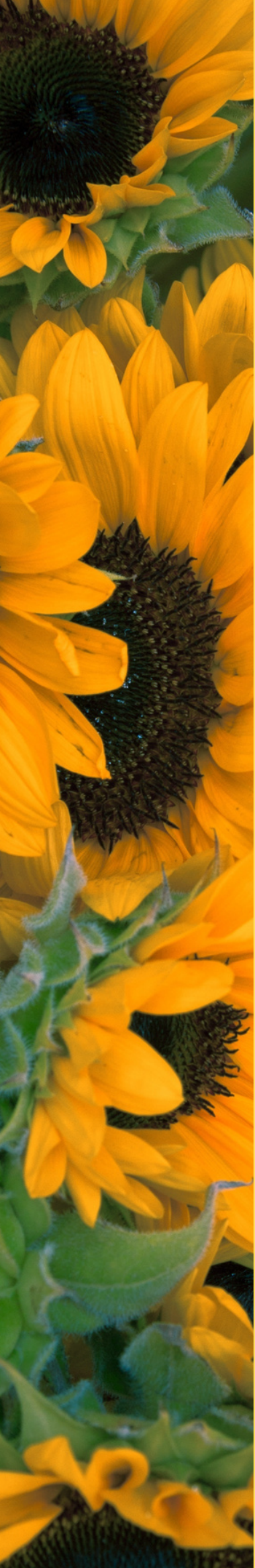
Spiritual/Educational (inc. Worship)	17,190
Emergency Food (Direct Costs)	27,300
Neighborhood Development	21,300
Rector	95,275
Property	32,500
Administration	27,840
Diocesan Apportionment	11,025
Total Expenses	232,510

Revenue



Expense





ENDOWMENT REPORT

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Parish adopted a Statement of Purpose and Policy for the Endowment Fund of St. Mark's & St. John's Episcopal Church on May 1, 2005.

In that Statement, the purpose of the Fund was defined as to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission through ministries beyond what is possible with its annual operating funds. The Statement therefore limited distributions from the Fund to providing for:

- Capital needs of the Parish
- Outreach ministries and grants
- Seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects, and
- Any other purposes specifically designated by donors to the Fund

An Amendment to the 2005 Statement of Purpose and Policy for the SMSJ Endowment was passed at the November 2021 Vestry meeting. The following was the background provided and the amendment.

RESOLUTION

We, the Vestry, amend the St. Mark's & St. John's Investment Policy to permit equity positions, when deemed appropriate, of up to 35% in the "Becker" and the "Capital Reserves" Endowment Accounts. This will allow our investment manager and Endowment Committee greater flexibility on how these accounts are invested.

The Endowment Committee is charged with overseeing the management of the Fund; seeking growth of the Fund through contributions; providing education to the Parish

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about methods of planned giving; and keeping members of the Parish informed about the existence, performance and use of the Fund.

The 2022 members of the Endowment Committee are: Sharon Kowalski (chair), Shelly Hodge, Michele Holmes (ex officio), John Becker, Cynthia Rasmussen (ex officio). Since March, 2016, our investment advisor has been Daniel Hare, Elevatus (Charles Schwab)

FUND HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE

The distribution from the Endowment Funds was \$80,500 in 2021, which covered a portion of our Operating Expenses and several Capital Improvement projects. Our total gain/loss after fees was \$78,139. This is a difference of only \$2,361. However, it was a 7.8% draw - 2.8% over what our annual target is.

MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

All the investments are in compliance with the Parish's Statement of Investment Policy Objectives and Guidelines. As of December, 2021 approximately 64% was invested in equity/growth funds; and approximately 36% in fixed income securities and cash. We review the asset allocations periodically.

PLANNED GIVING

The Endowment Committee invites you to consider making a planned gift to SMSJ to ensure our mission and ministry continue for decades to come. If you have questions about how to designate a gift please let us know. Planned gifts can be set up in a variety of ways. If you would like to learn more please contact Pastor Cindy and she will put you in touch with our Financial Advisor.