



Church of the Epiphany



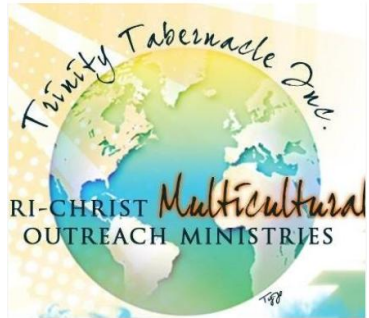
DORCAS INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND



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EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Rhode Island



Little Scholars Preschool



2023 Annual Reports
presented at the
18th Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2024, 11:15 a.m.

Our Mission: "We welcome all for Christian

worship,



Palm Sunday beginning in the Labyrinth



Faith & Food: Community Potluck Meals

fellowship,

and service,



Blessing of the Bread of Life Food Pantry donations

trusting God to transform our lives and the world."

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A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY: 2023

January

- Baptism of Jamison Rodrigues
- Good Book Club Epiphany Study: Read Ruth and Esther
- Phil's Music Series: The Music Man



THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB



February

- Annual Meeting
- Ministry Survey
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March

- Lenten Formation Series: "Just As I Am"
- Vestry Retreat @ St. Margaret's, Duxbury, MA
- Introduction to the Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer



April

- Read Across Rhode Island book, *True Biz* by Sara Novic
- New Retaining Wall at the Parish Hall Entrance



may

- Lectionary (or The Bible in Worship) Class
- Pentecost & Baptisms

june

- Former Deacon Intern, Andrea Hutnak ordained at All Saints', Providence
- Review of Parish Survey Results
- Little Scholars' Preschool Graduation



july

- East End Theatre Summer Camps
- Worship in the Round for Summer months
- Christmas in July, Outreach collection

august

- Summer Outreach Project: Supply Books to Young Children
- Mary Therese, our Music Director, returns from sabbatical time abroad.



september

- Mass on the Grass for Labor Day Weekend
- Youth Saturday: Communion Bread Baking
- Faith & Food: Community Meals Series begins on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

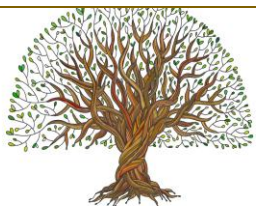


october

- Pet Blessing for St. Francis Day
- Sunday Wedding of Adrianne & Leo
- East End Pumpkin Patch Sale & Activities
- Diocesan Convention

november

- Diaper collection for St. Peter & Andrew's Food Pantry Ministry
- Thanksgiving Sunday



december

- Training Class, New Acolytes
- Advent Quiet Day
- Youth Advent Night
- Formation Class: Jesus' Genealogy

**Agenda for the Eighteenth Annual Meeting
Church of the Epiphany, February 4, 2024, 11 a.m., Parish Hall**

1. Opening Prayer – The Rev'd Jennifer Zogg
2. Determination of a Quorum – Linda Mendonca, Senior Warden
3. Acceptance of Minutes-Church of the Epiphany's 17th Annual Meeting (2023)
4. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Parish Leadership
5. Table Questions & Discussion
6. 2023 Financial & Endowment Reports & 2024 Budget Presentation –Kristen Dee, Treasurer
7. Upcoming Dates and Events
8. Blessing and Dismissal – Rev'd Jennifer Zogg

Becoming a People and Following a God of....

CREATIVITY, COMPASSION

&

CONNECTION

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting February 5, 2023

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Reverend Jennifer Zogg at 11:35 a.m. The meeting took place in the Parish Hall immediately following 10am worship. There were 35 people present.

Opening Prayer: The Reverend Jennifer Zogg led the opening prayer.

Determination of a Quorum: J Hogue declared a quorum to be present.

Acceptance of minutes of the last (fifteenth) Annual Meeting: Phil Campbell made a motion to accept the minutes of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Church of the Epiphany on February 5, 2022 as presented. Beverly Fairhurst seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Vestry on Parish Representation:

The Nominating Committee consisted of outgoing members of the Vestry. All members were rotating off except for Kristen Dee (Treasurer). Thus the following slate of leadership for 2023 has been approved by the Vestry and reported to the congregation:

Warden: Linda Mendonca (term ending in 2025)
Clerk: Karen Virtue (term ending in 2024)
Treasurer: Kristen Dee (continuing to 2025)
Vestry: Karen Virtue (term ending in 2024)
Jaime Davin (term ending 2025)
Erin McNeil (term ending 2026)
Open (1 – Class of 2024, 1 – Class of 2025, 1 – Class of 2026)

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:

J Hogue & Kristen Dee
Alternate: Open

Auditors: Marilyn Fuller (term ending 2024)
Suellen Franze (term ending 2025)
Bill Dench (term ending 2026)

Ministry Survey

2022 Financial and Endowment Reports and 2023 Budget Presentation

Kristen Dee, Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance Committee, presented the year-end reports, which were contained in the program distributed at the meeting, and will be on file for the auditors' review. She reviewed certain highlights.

Financial Highlights 2022

Kristen commented on the following elements:

- Parishioners faithfully fulfilled pledges during a pandemic year for a 101% collection rate! Thank you!
- Rental Groups resumed regular meeting and rental payments
- Received \$2,000 in rental income for allowing Disney to use the unfinished sanctuary and our parking lots for staging an overnight shoot
- Many expenses remained lower due to lower use of the building for ministry and worship. Snow plowing expense remained well under budget (by \$5,000) allowing us to absorb unexpected maintenance needs (boiler, gopher relocation, etc)

- Linney Trust generated more income than expected
- Some giving down due to smaller in-person attendance
- Starting pledge number continues to fall year over year
- Resulting in \$13,530 operating budget surplus!

Summary of 2023 Budget

- Stewardship 2022 = 81 Pledges for \$139,042
- Income from the Linney Trust will be approximately \$26,600 and will offset lost pledge income in the last 2 years (\$21K and 12 pledges)
- Need to finish paying for the replacement of the air conditioning units (\$14,000)
- Projecting a net operating loss of -\$5,878

Transition of Renovation Reserve Fund to Capital Projects Fund

- Vestry designated the creation of this fund from remaining Renovation Reserve Funds and 50% of the 2022 surplus funds. Capital Projects Fund stands at \$13,061 at the beginning of 2023.
- Funds will be used for future capital expense projects and/or to fund past debt from previous capital projects

Finance Motions for the Annual Meeting

The following motion was presented as recommendations from the Vestry and therefore, did not require a second. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

Allocation of Memorial Gifts

The Vestry recommends the 2022 Memorial Gifts and Thrift Shop income in the amount of \$742 be transferred to the DFMS 1024 Endowment Fund.

Parish Questions and Answers, Upcoming Events

The Rev'd Jennifer Zogg previewed the following planned events and provided information on some of the following topics:

- Pancake Supper returns & Ash Wednesday in-person
- Altar flowers are becoming plants and other seasonal arrangements to be more sustainable and economical as our flower provider has retired
- Plans for Lent and other Formation programs
- Progress of Union Primary School reconstruction and shared parking lot implications

With few questions or comments and little discussion, the meeting was concluded.

Adjournment

There being no additional new business, the Rev'd Jennifer Zogg closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Jennifer Zogg

Rector

Sacramental/Vital Records

Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) - 57/66*

Sunday Holy Eucharist – 59

Sunday Morning Prayer – 2

Outdoor Holy Eucharist – 2

Private Home Communion Visit- 26

**includes livestream Facebook viewers*

Baptism
Jameson Rodrigues*
Skyler Johnson-Cummings
Greyson Govey
Thomas William Croak



Marriage
Adrienne Walker &
Leo Fernandes

New Members
Adrienne Walker
Diana & Jim Felix
Patricia Cinq-Mars
Katelyn McCrae
Nancy Caswell
Mike & Sharon Hicks

Burial of the Dead
Lowell Hill Anness
Marie Orticerio
Gary Johnson
Gilbert Ron Bodell
Gladys Barone
Jane Snape
F. William Cockayne

Nominating Committee Report

The Vestry served as this year's Nominating Committee. The Vestry and Rector carefully discerned candidates, approaching them in early January and was gratefully able to fill at least one position to replace the member rotating off.

Vestry Continuing their Terms:

Senior Warden: Linda Mendonca (continuing to 2025)
Treasurer: Kristen Dee (term ending 2025)
Vestry: Erin McNeil – (term ending 2026)

Vestry Open Positions:

Junior Warden: Open
Clerk: Jaime Davin – (term ending 2026)
Vestry: Open – (term ending 2027)
Lisa Pucino – (term ending 2027)
Jaime Davin – (term ending 2026)
Open – (term ending 2025)
Open - (term ending 2025)

Vestry Terms ending at this Annual Meeting:

Vestry: Karen Virtue (term ending 2024)

Other Nominees for Other Positions:

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention (1 Yr)

Karen Virtue
Kristen Dee
Alternate: J Hogue

Auditors:

Bill Dench (term ending Feb. '25)
Marilyn Fuller (term ending Feb. '26)
Suellen Franze (term ending Feb. '27)

Respectfully submitted, Vestry of Epiphany

Rector's Annual Report

This whole document is a wonderful testament to the collaborative efforts of so many in our community who support the ministry of Epiphany. It is an honor to serve as your Rector and witness your faithfulness and growth in Christ. In 2023, it felt like we were able to engage in ministry with renewed energy and purpose after enduring the



changes over the last three years of pandemic adaptation. Gatherings like the Pancake Supper and our new monthly Community Potlucks were enthusiastically attended and especially joyful. We are building and renewing bonds of fellowship. We were delighted to witness the incorporation of a number of new members into our parish community and helped support them as they became active in liturgical and outreach ministries. Worship ministries are growing in participation again. It is wonderful to see some of our youngest members become active acolytes and altar servers. Eucharistic Ministers provide excellent weekly care and setup of the altar as an expanded part of their ministry. Each week we livestream our 10 a.m. Holy

Eucharist which is reaching an increasingly larger audience (30+ per week). Parishioners unable to attend for any given reason on a Sunday will tune in and remain connected. Others who will likely never attend in-person, are able to support their spiritual lives through what we offer. Far away family members have been able to witness a baptism thanks to our livestream. This will be one of the last blessings of the tools we developed through that pandemic.



Our Parish Ministry Survey in January at the Annual Meeting provided the foundation for the new Vestry to build a renewed program of formation, fellowship and outreach. The Vestry was blessed to enjoy an overnight retreat at St. Marina's House of the Society of St. Margaret in March. Through 24 hours of spiritual

contemplation and retreat, they built bonds with one another that have served us in our continued work. I believe Jesus teaches us that the busier we are the more need we have to pause and seek God's wisdom.

As the Vestry analyzed our Ministry Survey Results (that had over 50 respondents!), we learned that short-term formation classes were best, simple fellowship opportunities over a meal were desired and outreach was most accessible when done through donation-based projects. In the summer and fall, we planned various monthly donation opportunities partnering with different service agencies in the area (St. P&A's Food Cupboard, EBCAP, Amos House, etc). While not hands-on, direct ministry, the donations made a big impact in the lives of those who received them through other ministries. There are many ways to serve our neighbors. Meanwhile, we continue to provide a large and reliable set of volunteers to the Bread of Life Food Pantry as our cooperative ministry with other Rumford churches.

The Vestry and I were so moved all year to witness your continued faithfulness to Epiphany as your spiritual home. We are indebted to the Property Team who offers their skills, physical labor and time to the maintenance and repair of our property. With so many groups using our building throughout the week, this is an even more important ministry to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons.



Our property is now VERY busy! East End Theatre is rehearsing or working here nearly every evening and on weekends. Trinity Tabernacle Ministries has now worshipped here for nearly two years on Sunday afternoons and has used the sanctuary for special services and conferences. There are now 12-Step groups meeting at Epiphany seven days a week. We agreed to welcome a new morning group six days a week this fall, so that makes our space even more full for more of the day. Our building was constructed through the hard work and sacrificial donations of many parishioners over the years, so it is our sacred responsibility to continue to maintain it and offer it for the good of our community.

The Vestry and I also thank you for sustaining us financially all year with your ongoing pledges and holiday offerings, enabling us to end the year in a healthy financial position and enter 2024 able to adapt to new and more significant financial pressures. We are particularly indebted to our Treasurer of more than nine years, Kristen Dee, for managing our entire financial picture with skill and faith. Her work is supported by Beth in the Parish Office and the faithful, weekly work of our Pledge Clerk, Janice Johnson. Janice spends time in the office each week recording each parishioner's pledge payments throughout the year, sending quarterly statements and helping us with the weekly deposit since the beginning of the pandemic. Each Thursday afternoon, she joins the "Fabulous Folders" to fold the Sunday bulletins and prepare our printed materials for worship.

A cornerstone of my ministry has been and will always be the pastoral care I offer to those in any need, illness or near death. While we celebrated many new members, baptisms and marriages this year, we also lovingly bid farewell to dear ones as we commended them to God's care in eternity. I continue monthly Eucharistic and pastoral visits to our homebound parishioners living in nursing homes or at home and unable to come to church regularly. I also serve as the Pastoral Associate/Chaplain for the Aldersbridge Communities in East Providence providing monthly Bible study and Eucharist.

Part of my ministry is in service to the wider Episcopal diocese and denomination. In addition to my continued service on the Disciplinary Board and the Compensation and Benefits Committee, I was elected this fall to serve on the Standing Committee of the Diocese. In July, I was honored to be invited back to Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin to serve their Clergy Renewal Program as the Program Host, supporting and mentoring a new cohort of pastors (I participated in the 2022 cohort). This experience reinforced my interest in contemplative ministry and practice.

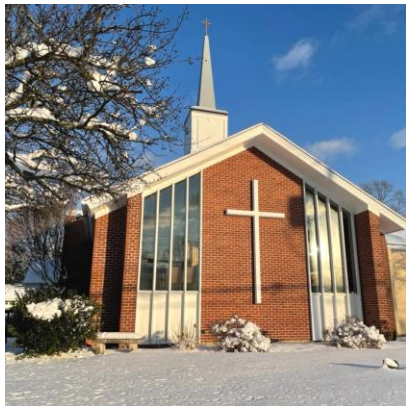
The Vestry leadership and I will continue to root ourselves in prayer as we follow Christ and lead the parish as best we can toward rejoicing in deeper spiritual lives and reaching out faithfully to the needs around us.

Yours in Christ, *Rev'd Jen*

Senior Warden's Annual Report

Dear Epiphany Community,

It has been a pleasure and honor to have served this past year as Senior Warden at Church of the Epiphany. Working alongside the leadership of Reverend Zogg, the vestry, and staff has been spiritually inspiring. As we have been evolving out of the COVID-19 pandemic and able to gather in person a lot has happened in the past year. We



have welcomed new members, gathered for monthly community potlucks, introduced a monthly 8:00 AM Eucharist service to meet the needs of parishioners, just to name a few. Additionally, our church building (by the way, well looked after by the Property Team) is bustling on a daily basis with various community groups renting space to carry out their mission.

Our finances met challenges over the past year, as we were all faced with the rising costs of everything in our lives. The commitment campaign last fall and financial strategies helped to close some of the deficit gaps. You can read our Treasurer's report and hear more about this at the Annual Meeting.

As I end writing this message for our annual report, it is a week after the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) holiday. This brings to mind the concept of community.

During his lifetime, MLK spoke of a *beloved community*. This is demonstrated to the extent in which all individuals need the support of their community in order to survive. Here at Epiphany, we need all of you to continue to help make this community thrive and be sustainable. Each one of you shares gifts and talents that you bring to this beloved community to fulfill our mission and vision and for that I am grateful!

I look forward to this upcoming year and what we as a community, with God's help, can accomplish and thrive in 2024. Please feel free to reach out to me any time with questions, thoughts, or concerns – linda.mendonca58@gmail.com or mobile # 401-374-2179.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Mendonça
Senior Warden



Junior Warden's Annual Report

This position remained vacant in 2023.

PROPERTY TEAM

Lead: George Nunes

Team Members: Kevin Kelley, Fran Motroni, Mark Brown, Bill Dench

Mission: *Our team is responsible for maintaining all church properties in a safe, comfortable and welcoming manner and improving the facilities as needs arise. Our method is to plan, do, check and act.*

Before we get into the report of Property Team and its accomplishments over the past year as listed in the summary below, please join me in thanking and recognizing the team members who make this group tick. They are Fran Motroni, Kevin Kelley, Mark Brown, a recent addition Bill Dench; and another who is not a bona fide member, but has helped me on numerous occasions, my wife Carol.

Again I am happy to report the Property Team had a very productive year with many accomplishments as evidenced by the following summary. We continue to live up to our Mission to ***“Maintain all church properties in a safe, comfortable and welcoming condition.”*** When addressing a maintenance issue, our goal is to not just “fix it,” but to make it better than we found it. Consequently, we strive to continuously upgrade. In the end, our goal is to migrate from tribal knowledge of how things work, known only by a few, to a common knowledge among many.



We are indeed fortunate that collectively we have skills that address electrical maintenance, carpentry, painting, general construction, landscaping and (a little) plumbing (so we often subcontract those tasks). Although difficult to quantify, I am confident that having these in-house skills, we have cost avoided many maintenance expenses by being able to do it ourselves. When tasks are outside our capabilities, we out-source the task to others who are more qualified and better equipped.

In closing, we are here to serve you and the guests of Epiphany. Should you have a Property issue, please feel free to bring it to our attention.

Respectively submitted,
George Nunes
Property Team Leader

Summary of 2023 Property Team Completed Tasks

Routine & code compliance tasks:

These are tasks that are typically coordinated with a contractor to assure Epiphany meets code requirements as related to fire and/or physical safety. They include, but are not limited to; inspection of fire alarms and all fire extinguishers, emergency lights, elevator inspection and setting up; teardown and maintenance of the nativity set. We also put out the trash, recycling and lawn waste barrels for weekly collection.

Interior Facilities:

These include tasks completed to address repairs and/or improvements to all Epiphany structures. This year we traced and identified the mysterious location (*ground level in the acolyte room*) of the water meter and shutoff valve feeding the sanctuary and sanctuary basement, replaced the electrical circuit controlling the fire exit lights, maintained the mini-splits filters in the parish hall, repaired one mini-split which was not responding to the remote control, coordinated the replacement of “clean-out” door in boiler chimneys, repaired pilot light in kitchen gas oven, coordinated the replacement of a bathroom faucet in the rectory, installed 2 additional GFCI

receptacles in the sump room, removed a lot of junk from the sump room and continue to identify electrical faceplates and fixtures with corresponding electrical panel and circuit breaker numbers.

But, clearly the main event of interior repairs this year was the replacement of the sump pumps. The sump pumps had always been a source of annoyance, but this past summer during the June-July monsoons, they became a crisis when **BOTH** pumps failed and the water kept rising in the sump well to the flood stage level. Not only did we have to address the rising water by installing temporary sump pumps and drawing water out



Before Sump Pump After

using garden hoses, we also installed a transfer pump drawing water from the cistern well. Additionally, we had to deal with flooding in the boiler room (*that was new*) and coordinate with a contractor to mediate mold and air quality issues. Monitoring of the water level and pumping became a daily duty during the months of July and August. We had some very anxious moments but, had the team not come together to address this crisis, we could have been using the sump room as a fishing hole. By the end of August, we finally had a whole new sump pumping system in place. Our Church Insurance quickly responded to our claim and helped us meet the financial cost of remediation and replacement of the pumps.

Exterior Facilities and Rectory:

This year was a major concentration on upgrading and improving the outward appearance of Epiphany. Along with the weekly maintenance of lawn mowing, we did accomplish many other tasks to enhance the curb appeal of Epiphany. **A single major** improvement was the removal of the old railroad tie retaining wall along door #8 (Parish Hall),



which was rotted, collapsing and loaded with yellow jackets; replacing it with a curved concrete block and capped wall. We, along with added volunteers Phil Campbell and Bill Dench; cleared, replanted, reconstructed, and mulched flower beds adjacent to the Parish Hall entrance. We “thinned” the overgrown plantings along the front of the church and cleared a 12 x 25ft. area in the front of the church to accommodate the East End Theater group stage during the pumpkin sale. We also, cleared and created a “welcome /relax” corner patio seating area by door #8, removed a dead apple tree in the front yard, removed a long-standing water pipe in front rectory lawn, (mowing hazard), repaired the fascia on the front rectory window, replaced the light at the rectory back door and coordinated the replacement of a faucet in the rectory bathroom.

Acknowledgement:

I've mentioned this in all past reports, but once again I would like to recognize the lawn mowing team volunteers. Each year these people show up on hot humid days during the summer to mow and clear our lawns. Without them, we would be required to hire a landscaping company incurring a higher cost that we can ill afford.

The mowing members are Kristen and Liam Dee, Tim and Jaime Davin, Kevin Kelley, Mark Brown, Phil Campbell, Bill Dench and yours truly.

By the way, additional volunteers are always welcome!

2024 Improvement Plans

The property team held a brainstorming meeting to identify some improvement for the next 1 – 3 yrs. The focus was improvements to our infrastructure, safety issues and appearance enhancements. Some of the major suggestions for improvement are as follows, subject to Vestry discussion and financial feasibility:

1. Assess the suitability of the exterior sanctuary stairs and improve lighting. Assess walkway access from the parking lot to door #8/Parish Hall
2. Paint the parish hall and hall ways
3. A supplemental power source to assure sump pumps would continue operating in the event of a power outage.
4. Landscape the front flower beds & construct a low profile stone patio for East End Theater group stage.
5. Replace shutoff valve upstream of water meter to sanctuary
6. Address issues with the handicap door and door frame at the ramp entrance
7. Replace hallway incandescent light fixtures with LED lights
8. Replace all float operated refill valves in toilets with new refill valves

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Youth Formation

Teachers/Mentors: Rev'd Jen

This year we crafted a formation program for the young people at Epiphany who span early elementary to high school ages. We focused on seasonal activities of service and learning sometimes directed at various age levels and other times fostering mutual relationships. Our annual Pancake Supper is a favorite of younger and older members. Epiphany's teenagers have become skilled pancake chefs while our younger members are fantastic servers. Each year we burn last year's palms together to remember the connection to Lent and Easter. Rev'd Jen hosted a Communion Bread Baking workshop at the Rectory in September for our elementary-age students to introduce them to the sacred practice of Holy Communion. Likewise, in Advent we returned to our contemplative evening practice of labyrinth walking and a night of seasonal activities. Faith formation of our youth happens on a weekly basis in worship and in individual homes. We strive to support parents and families in

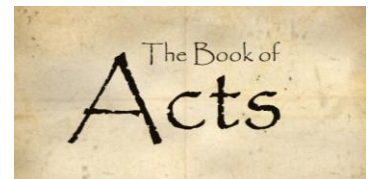


including spiritual practices and language in their everyday lives and routines. As important as these seasonal activities, we strive to include our youth in as many worship ministries as possible. In the later half of the year, we have trained several new acolytes who have aged into the program and renewed the ministries of others. Contributing to our common life as equal members of the parish communicates how much we value and take joy in the youth of the parish.

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Leaders: Carol & Richard Marsland

Last year the Sunday Adult Bible Study finished its study of the Gospel of John on a chapter-by-chapter basis. In the fall we began a study of the Book of Acts and have been continuing this year with the same book. The Bible Study meets at 11:00 after Church in the Living Room downstairs in the church.



All who are desiring a deeper knowledge of the Scriptures and enjoy engaging in a lively discussion are welcome to join us any time.

Adult Forums and Adult Formation took place this year through the offering of seasonal, short-term programs on specific themes. Our Parish Ministry Survey at the 2023 Annual Meeting revealed a preference for one- or two-week courses directed at a specific theme and taking place after worship. The Rector offered a Lenten series based on the hymn “Just As I Am” and followed that with a “New Member” course that was open to all covering “An Introduction to the Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer”. During Advent, we gathered to learn about the Genealogy of Jesus as presented in two of the Gospels. Formation takes places through all of our ministries, but we especially enjoy learning about the Bible, prayer, liturgy and the history.

MINISTRIES OF CARE

FELLOWSHIP & CARING

Coffee Hour: Julie Trudeau

Special Events: Members of Epiphany

Collations Members of Epiphany

Thursday Bulletin Folders: Janice Johnson, Virginia Rocha, Fran Motroni & Marilyn Fuller



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Beth Dench, Coordinator

Given to people celebrating life, grieving a death, suffering an illness or recovering from surgery.

Each is crafted with prayers and the hope that those who receive them “...*be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.*”

Knitters: Barbara McGrath, Janice Johnson & Beth Dench

Prayer Shawls Given in 2023: **6**

OUTREACH

- **The Bread of Life Food Pantry:** Church of the Epiphany has been one of the more active parishes in the Food Pantry group in terms of monthly donations and in the number of our members who volunteer at the pantry’s bimonthly openings.
- **Christmas Adopt-a-Family:** Coordinated by Maggie Holmes
72 Christmas gifts collected for East Bay CAP
- **East Bay CAP project (hats & mittens):** In October we donated 81 hats, mittens, scarves and gloves.
- In November we collected **diapers for children and adults to donate to St. Peter & Andrew’s Food Cupboard** in North Providence.
- **Thrift shop:** Co-Leads, Rhoda Bucci & Michelle Callahan
Leslie Brickley, Janice Johnson, Donna Lancaster, Barbara Plante, Lisa Pucino & Charlene Underhill.



Thrift Shop

The Thrift Store at Epiphany has continued to grow this year since we are open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We have had returning customers asking about the ladies that were here before COVID, relating wonderful memories of them. We have new customers saying they are glad they found us and will be returning. We have also received many compliments on the quality of products we sell. In addition to serving our community by providing quality items at reasonable prices, we were able to donate to EBCAP (hats, scarfs, mittens and gloves), Amos House (books and DVDs), Newman Church and DIIRI clothing collaborative (clothes).

We served 523 Customers during 2023 and raised \$2,605.72.

Thank you to all those that donated items to the Thrift Store, your support is very much appreciated by the people we serve. We welcome new volunteers as regular members of the Saturday morning sales team or as an occasional helper. Please contact any of the team members for more information.

The Thrift Store Team: Rhoda Bucci, Michelle Callahan, Janice Johnson, Lisa Pucino, Donna Lancaster, Charlene Underhill, and Leslie Brickley



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Music Ministry

During the first half of 2023, while Mary Therese was on sabbatical with her husband, we were pleased to welcome our dear friend Kay Standifer as our organist and choir director. Under Kay's fine leadership, our music program didn't miss a beat (pun fully intended).

There were many highlights, including a visit by Alexia B. Motley - one of Kay's students - during Black History Month. Alexia sang a lovely solo, "I Need You to Survive," and led the parish in a rousing rendition of "Children, Go Where I Send Thee." On another Sunday during that month, we sang "We Are Marching in the Light of God" (Siyahamb' ekukhanye' kwenKhos) as a Recessional. Special choir anthems were prepared for Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost. And we were delighted that Art Aldrich, our favorite trumpeter, was with us for our Easter services.

Peace always,
Phil Campbell

Returning to Epiphany after a wonderful sabbatical (3 months in London with our daughter Liliana and 3 months in Bologna with our youngest, Cecilia) I was very happy to resume my ministry. Highlights of our season included the wedding of Adrienne Walker and Leo Fernandes during our Sunday liturgy on October 8, with music that was



meaningful for the bride and groom. Also in October, responding to the terrible situation in the Israel/Palestine, we sang peace themed hymns at each service.

Advent brought back some lovely traditions, with service music from the Iona Community and refrains from *Taizé*. We welcomed back the East End Theater's "Overtones" A Capella group on the last Sunday of Advent, when they sang both lively and serene carols during the service. Christmas Eve once again saw prayerful and festive celebrations, with our friend Bill Maker playing classical guitar for the 4 p.m. service. The later, more contemplative service at 10 p.m. was well attended, with plenty of beautiful singing from



the choir and congregation.

I also wish to note the choir's leadership throughout the year. Our choristers include Abbey McGrath, Erin McNeill, Linda Vaughan-Dubois, Maggie Holmes, Shirley Baker, Bill Patterson, and Phil Campbell. Emily Dench also joined us for the Easter and Christmas services.

Faithfully yours,
Mary Therese Martinez

Care for the Sanctuary, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Ushers and Lectors

These worship ministries worked together to provide liturgical leadership as readers, ushers and Eucharistic Ministers. We thank Bill Dench for continuing in his role as Usher Coordinator and Rhoda Bucci for spearheading the Eucharistic Ministers including adding and training new members. Care for and setup of the altar is now performed weekly by the Eucharistic Minister assigned to that particular week. Christopher Utter takes a particularly active role in overseeing the seasonal design of the sanctuary in the Christmas and Holy Week/Easter seasons.



Healing Prayer Ministry

Carol Marsland and Denise Messier, Team Leaders



Epiphany's prayer ministers continue to meet monthly for training and prayer. We finished our study of the book "Handle with Prayer" by noted pastor and writer, Dr. Charles Stanley and began a study of "The Prayer Life" by Andrew Murray. This book covers such topics as The Causes of Prayerlessness and Christian Spiritual Growth. We are continuing to pray for those on the community prayer list and for specific needs at Epiphany as they become known to us.

Carol Marsland along with co-leader Denise Messier and faithful ministry members Shirley Baker, Beverly Fairhurst, Janice Johnson, Virginia Rocha and Linda Vaughn-DuBois offer prayer at both the 8 and 10am services. We ask you to join us at the back of the church during Sunday services to share prayers for healing and/or thanksgiving to the glory of God. If you are interested in learning more about the Healing Prayer Ministry, please speak to one of our members.

STEWARDSHIP

To be transformed into joyful givers in gratitude for God's gifts.

Team Members: Rev'd Jennifer Zogg & Vestry

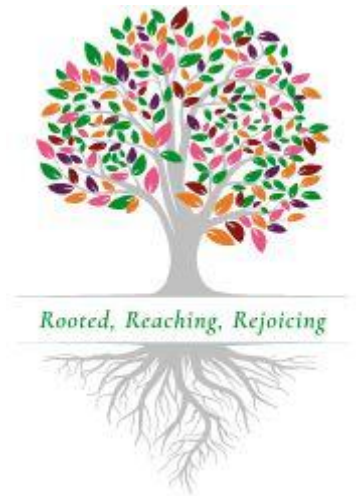
Pledge Clerk: Janice Johnson

The Vestry created a Stewardship Campaign to stretch and challenge us to give generously and gratefully in 2024. We called it "Rooted, Reaching, Rejoicing." In contrast to previous pandemic years, when we assumed pledge continuation unless we heard otherwise; we required responses from all parishioners again this year. As we entered the Annual Funding Campaign, we were aware that there were about \$24,000 in annual pledge income from pledgers in the previous year that we would not be receiving (due to parishioners moving or no longer attending). This proved a fiscal and fundraising challenge. We were so proud of the parish who responded generously as over 50% of pledging households increased their 2024 gift.

Additionally, in recognition that households sometimes prefer to give in different ways, we created two types of gifts in our 2024 campaign. We were all asked to make a "Sustaining Gift" (this is our traditional annual pledge) as well as offering an opportunity for an additional "Focused Gift." Focused Gifts would be one-time gifts in 2024 in an amount that represented a part of Epiphany's expenses that may be meaningful to the giver (ie: candles for the altar, coffee for coffee hour, etc). All gifts will be counted equally as Operating Income and not designated specifically, but amounts were suggested to help givers who prefer to know more directly what their gift might represent.

2024 Sustaining Gifts: 76 pledges, total \$122,400

2024 Focused Gifts: 21 gifts, total \$ 6,800



Year	Number of Pledges	Total Amount Pledged	Average Annual Pledge	Average Weekly Pledge	Change in avg. annual pledge over previous year
2024	76	\$122,400*	\$1,610	\$31	-6%
2023	79	\$135,209	\$1,711	\$33	-2.7%
2022	79	\$139,042	\$1,760	\$34	0%
2021	87	\$153,064	\$1,759	\$34	0%

* does not include Focused Gifts

FINANCE

Team Leader: Kristen Dee, Treasurer

Team Members: As a result of pandemic constraints on availability and meeting, the Vestry now serves as Finance Commission to the parish. Receiving monthly detailed financial statements and endowment reports, engaging in annual financial evaluation of investments, they function in the role of financial oversight and advice to the Treasurer and Rector. Volunteers not on the Vestry serve as independent auditors according to diocese protocols.

MINISTRIES

- Auditors: Bill Dench, Suellen Franze, Marilyn Fuller
- Counters: Dawn Campbell, Diana & Jim Felix, Suellen Franze, Theresa Mello, Fran Motroni
Alternate: Marilyn Fuller
- Endowment & Finance Committee: The Vestry of Epiphany

Audit

The annual audit of Church of the Epiphany was completed on June 17, 2023 ~ *record time!* The certificate can be found on the Vestry Bulletin Board outside the church office.

Counters

While the pandemic caused us to suspend the Counters ministry as we knew it on Sunday mornings, through the diligent work of our Pledge Clerk and Parish Administrator, the Counters ministry was renewed in 2023. They recruited and trained several new teams of Counters and welcomed back former members of the ministry. Teams now count the weekly collection and income on Tuesday mornings and prepare the weekly deposit. This schedule allows greater flexibility for the members and the ability to interact with the Pledge Clerk and Parish Admin for any questions or concerns.

Treasurer's Report

Please see addendum.

*Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make
our common supplication to you;
and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that
when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them:
Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,
and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.***

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. **Amen***



 Church of the Epiphany

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Ministers

The People of Church of the Epiphany

Staff

Parish Administrator Beth Dench
Music Director Mary Therese Martinez
Rector The Reverend Jennifer Zogg