

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California, 93010

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www.stcolumbaca.com

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Presented at the Parish Meeting
on January 30, 2022

The Very Rev. Canon Gregory B. Larkin

OUR MISSION

To Be Partners with Christ in a Caring and Inclusive Community

Seeking to Know Christ and to Make Christ Known Through:

Loving God and responding to God's presence in each other



Enhancing spiritual growth for people of all ages within the Episcopal context of scripture, reason, tradition, and worship



Fostering a healing and caring community within the parish and beyond



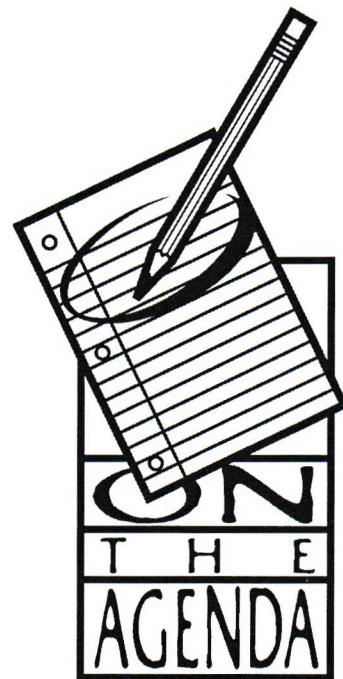
Promoting progressive, challenging, and vital ministries



Striving for justice and peace among all peoples



1. **Opening Prayers**
2. **Motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting**
3. **Special Recognition**
 - School Board Members
 - Retiring Vestry Members
 - Introduce Senior Warden for 2022
4. **Convention Election**
 - Election of Delegates for Diocesan Convention
 - Delegates: Gail Hill, Maurice Hill
 - Alternates: Bob Waite, Gwen Waite
5. **Vestry Election**
 - Present Vestry Nominees
6. **Presentation of Reports**
7. **Budget**
 - Review of the Budget
8. **Special Acknowledgements**
9. **Other Business**
10. **Adjourn with Closing Prayer**



The Vestry will meet afterwards for a brief organizational meeting.

Rector's Report

We have been through a lot this past year. Who would have thought that when COVID caused us to close our worship services in the church in March of 2020 that we would still be feeling the effects of this virus almost two years later? Indeed, back in 2020, we thought that shutting down services would be just a minor inconvenience and that we would be back up and running in a few weeks; little did we know then what we know now. As we reflect back on a full year under COVID restrictions, we can see that we have lost much of what we love and hold dear, but we have also gained new insights as we have persevered and continued to explore what it means to be St. Columba's in this time and place.



We began last year, still in COVID lockdown, only livestreaming our worship and having all our classes and meetings on Zoom. But right there are examples of the growth and learning we have achieved. A year ago, who even knew what Zoom was, other than the sound a car made in cartoons? But now, we are quite used to meeting online and even our most senior members are becoming adept at new technology. Before the shutdown, we were struggling to figure out how to put the Sunday sermons on the website. Now, each week, we have the whole service on the website, Facebook, and YouTube, recorded by three cameras. My, how time (and technology) changes—indeed, we have learned a lot.

As the year progressed, we gained new ministry opportunities with the addition of “St. Columba’s Pantry.” The Pantry began just about a year ago, serving people in Camarillo who were in need due to the COVID epidemic. You can read more about this new and inspiring ministry elsewhere in this Book of Reports. This program, funded through the City of Camarillo from a HUD grant, provides people the fruits, vegetables, and PPE items they may not otherwise be able to afford. When we learned that the HUD grant was restricted to Camarillo residents only, the Vestry agreed to continue to assist those who come to us from elsewhere in the area with Food Ministry funds we have received from other area churches for just such an instance. Once again, St. Columba’s folks stepped up to help get this program off and running. Special thanks to Maurice & Gail Hill and their jolly crew who work to bring this critical support to those who need it so much. And thanks, too, to those who keep Project Hope up and running serving, at-risk seniors and families.

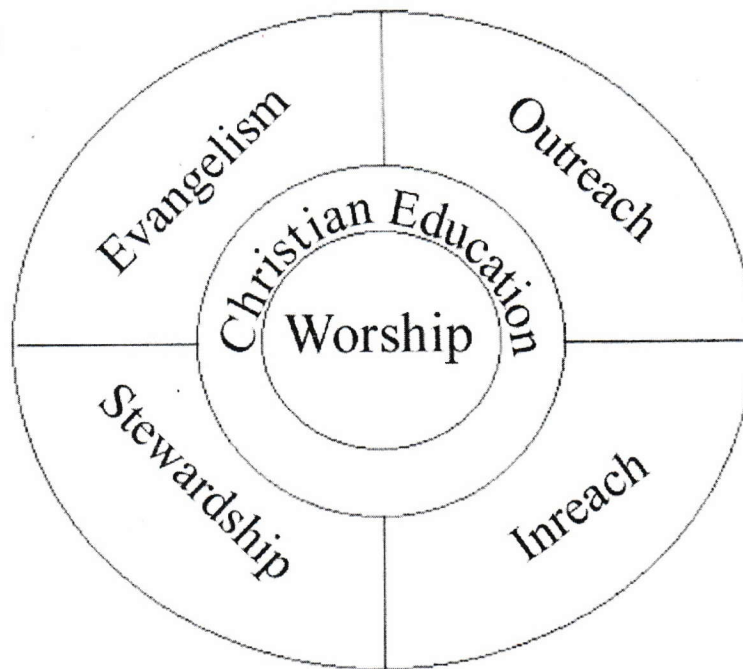
We also gained new experiences as we have developed a closer relationship with Mount Cross Lutheran Church. After a time of worshipping together in the Summer of 2020, we continued to be together from time to time. We began the year celebrating the 20th Anniversary of “Called to Common Mission” that established full communion between our two denominations. We continued our own 20-year tradition of holding joint Ash Wednesday services with Mount Cross, as well as joining together in our Lenten Study and celebrating Holy Week together. Unfortunately, these services were still in our livestream-only phase and we were not able to bring the two congregations together in person. We also held joint Book Study groups and spent time together this summer for “Stories Around the Campfire,” a time of Bible Study and reflection. It is my hope that St. Columba’s and Mount Cross will continue to look for new ways to serve God together in the coming months and years.

As we have continued this year, a sense of the “new normal” has been cautiously welcomed as some old friends were able to return. We were able to bring back the BBQ in a modified format, giving us the opportunity to celebrate being together. We were able to once again have

the Blessing of the Animals and to welcome back the Celtic Christmas Faire. But none of that compares to the joy of being able to worship together in person again, first outside on the patio on Easter Day for a glorious celebration, and then, to finally be able to return to the church for our celebration of Saint Columba's Day.

The important thing to remember in all of this is that we did not simply stand still and "circle the wagons" during this past year of COVID. We have been on the move, actively doing what we can, where we can, to help those in need. Whether providing inspiring worship, a contemplative place to connect with God, the opportunity to go deeper in our relationship with God, and living out that relationship in our lives, we, as St. Columba's, will continue to shine forth as God's beacon of love in our community. Who knows what new growth and challenges this coming year will bring, but we will face it with determination and faith in God's guidance through the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully submitted by Fr. Greg Larkin



Six Spheres of Ministry

We, at St. Columba's, respond to Jesus' call to action through our **Six Spheres of Ministry**. The ministry of St. Columba's is broken into four main categories: Evangelism, Outreach, Inreach, and Stewardship. Through these Spheres, we reach out to the sick, the friendless and the needy, as well as our own Parish family. These are upheld and supported by our Christian Education that gives us the skills and training we need to undertake these ministries. At the core of all we do is our Worship, which equips us to hear God's call and to respond as servants of all. And it is around these six spheres that this Book of Reports is laid out.

REPORTS IN ORDER OF MINISTRY SPHERES



† Acolyte Guild †



Due to the ongoing pandemic, no acolytes have been serving at our worship services. We hope that once the situation approaches normal, our parish will once again have numerous opportunities to serve our Lord and fellow members; being an acolyte is one of the most rewarding. We look forward to sharing this ministry with others in the future.

Submitted by Clifford Aggen

† Altar Flower Guild †



Our Flower Guild consists of people serving once per month to choose, buy and arrange flowers for Sundays on the High Altar and at the columbarium. Occasionally, we fill requests for arrangements on the Mary Chapel Altar as well. During Lent this year, two large green plants were placed on the High Altar instead of flowers. Due to the pandemic restrictions beginning in March of 2020, green plants were used for background during livestream productions. When we were allowed back in the sanctuary once again in May 2021, floral arrangements resumed.

A floral workshop led by Lin Bowie was held on August 22. All of our current members attended. We gained some helpful information and hints to help us create arrangements and stay within budget. We lost three members this year so most of us work alone.

Sarah and Joe Wigert provided the beautiful Fall display of gourds, pumpkins, and Fall produce around the altar there. At Christmas, Flower Power Florist supplied the flowers for arrangements at the High Altar. A pedestal arrangement was designed and prepared by Nancy Miller.

Our dedicated members this year are Fran Cogswell, Gail DeWolfe, Marjo Gardner, Ann Luthringer, and Nancy Miller. We thank them for keeping the guild going.

We seek people experienced in floral arranging to fill the empty spots.

Submitted by Marjo Gardner

† Altar Guild †



The Altar Guild continues to help prepare the church for worship and clean up following the service, even in this time of pandemic. The members of the Guild include: Barbara Amick, Fran Cogswell, Mary Steppes-Cole, Gail Hill, Beverly Pearson, and Sarah Wigert. We continue to be grateful to their work throughout the years. This past year, we said goodbye to two members of the Guild: Gail DeWolfe and Nancy Miller, who remain on standby for advice and assistance. We also welcomed a new member on board as Maryanne Hyde has joined the team.

When we were only livestreaming worship, Nancy Miller and Beverly Pearson took care of preparing the altar and vessels. Since the return of in-person worship, the Guild has worked in three teams to take care of all that needs doing for the Sunday and Thursday services. We also wish to thank those members who came forward to decorate and make the church ready for Christmas, especially Gail Hill, Mary Steppes-Cole, Marianne Hyde, Barbara Amick, and Fran Cogswell. We also thank Brett Hanley and Cliff Aggen for their assistance, especially in changing the dossal hangings to match the color of the season

We are also very thankful for the members of the flower committee whose lovely arrangements enhance our worship. If you would like to share your gifts and skills helping to prepare the church for worship the Altar Guild could use your help. Please speak to Fr. Greg.

Submitted by Fr. Greg Larkin for the Altar Guild

† Columbarium †



The columbarium serves as a repository and testament for many of the lives that blessed and enriched our parish life. The columbarium has a total of 87 niches contracted for. All have been paid in full with certificates of ownership issued. To date, fifty-three parishioners have been inured in the columbarium.

The columbarium fund started the year with \$39,971.60 and remains the same. Historically, burial inside the church was once reserved to honor noteworthy clerics and nobles. Now it is possible to grant this blessing to all God's children to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Liturgically, it sets aside a place for remembrance and love for the departed. At \$900, the cost of the niche is modest compared to a burial plot and is ecologically sound. Anyone interested in purchasing a niche in St Columba's columbarium should contact Carlos Barraza at 805-905-0068.

This year marks the end of columbarium duties carried on by Jerry Gillespie since 1995. We are grateful for the solemn and faithful manner in which he carried out his responsibilities towards those whose remains are preserved in each niche and thank him for his stewardship.

Submitted by Carlos Barraza

† Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors † † Storytellers †



A **Eucharistic Minister** is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. [Canons of the General Convention, Title III, Canon 4, Section 6]

Canon 4, Section 1 (a) specifies that this ministry is open to confirmed communicants in good standing and that they are licensed by the Bishop and under the direction of the Clergy in charge of the congregation.

Currently, COVID restrictions prevent us from having Communion in both kinds (i.e., both Bread and Wine), so the primary function of the Eucharistic Ministers is leading the Intercessions (Prayers of the People).

Currently active and licensed Eucharistic Ministers are: Paul Amendt, Lorelee Brown, Mary Steppes-Cole, Maria Fernandez, Teri Helton, Julian Hoyle, Nancy Larkin, and Nancy Miller.



Lectors are lay persons appointed by the Rector to assist in worship by reading the Old Testament Lesson and the Epistle, as well as by leading the recitation of the Psalm.

Currently, active Lectors are: Paul Amendt, Mary Steppes-Cole, Marjo Gardner, Maurice Hill, Julian Hoyle, Nancy Larkin, Diane Off, Beverly Pearson, and John Pearson.

If you are interested in being involved in either of the above ministries, please talk with Fr. Greg.



Biblical Storytelling

Our **Storytellers** have been trained by the Rev. Dr Dina Ferguson, past President of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, using a method known as Scripture by Heart. The goal is to present the text of the appointed Lesson without referring to written text or notes—and to do it accurately as to both the text itself and the story being told. There is no requirement that the presentations be dramatic, although they can be; the primary difference between a Lector's and a Storyteller's presentations is the immediacy of the words, without a lectern between the Storyteller and the congregation.

During COVID, we've become less active but hope to resume presentations this year.

Our current Storytellers are: Paul Amendt, Nancy Larkin, and Nancy Miller.

If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Fr. Greg.

Submitted by Nancy Larkin

† The Labyrinth †



The labyrinth is located behind the Children's Learning Center play yard and is open to anyone who would like to use it for spiritual refreshment during daylight hours. We hope to have copies of seasonal leaflets available on the parish website to assist walkers soon.

During COVID, monthly guided walks have been put on hold, but one evening walk was held in November. In addition, a permanent fire pit has been added and river rocks placed in the seating area. Many thanks to Paul Amendt, Adam Wheat, and Fr. Greg Larkin for all of their work to complete that project!

Jeanette Barcroft has been working hard for the past 18 months to clean up and add to the garden surrounding the labyrinth, with help on trimming trees from Brett Hanley and from Carlos Barraza tearing out overgrown ice plant, and we thank them for their work! And an additional "Thank You!" to Bill Brown for his work staining the furniture by the fire pit and making the Labyrinth sign originally built by Ted Daniel look great again!

If you haven't been out to the labyrinth and the surrounding gardens recently, stop and take a look! New plantings include a variety of succulents and pollinator attractants. Most of the plantings now have decorative circles surrounding them, and the mulch has been refreshed and augmented.

Active members of the Labyrinth Guild are Fr. Greg, Paul Amendt, and Nancy Larkin.

Submitted by Nancy Larkin

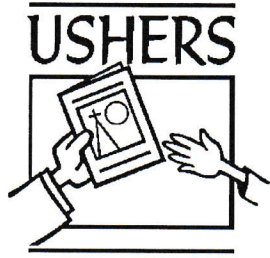
† Music Department †



This past year of music in church has had some highlights. Easter, Advent, and Christmas programs were able to field a limited number of choir singers. With very limited practice time, the singers and musicians did a wonderful job with lots of music. Some very special talents of musicians gratefully added to these services with their cello and recorder. The congregation is again singing in church, albeit with masks on. Our weekly Sunday services have generally been well attended and well received. However, we were not able to host the "Annual Parish Concert" again last year. Maybe this year? The piano was recently tuned and the organ has been trouble-free this year and working great. One concern for the future is the status of our choir. When we can finally stop wearing masks while we sing, the choir can start again, if we have enough singers. Our choir was down singers before this pandemic, and may be down more singers if we return to "normal." I'm not sure what the future holds for our choir but it's definitely a strong concern for our church that is accustomed to a traditional liturgical choir. We will need to access the situation when that time comes and go from there. Please pray for a positive outcome. The choir has been such an important part of weekly worship for many years. Overall, the music at St. Columba's has stayed strong throughout these challenging times. Fr. Greg, the video/tech crew and all of you have assisted in making Sunday morning music a meaningful collective worship experience.

Submitted by Brett Hanley, Music Director

† Ushers Report †

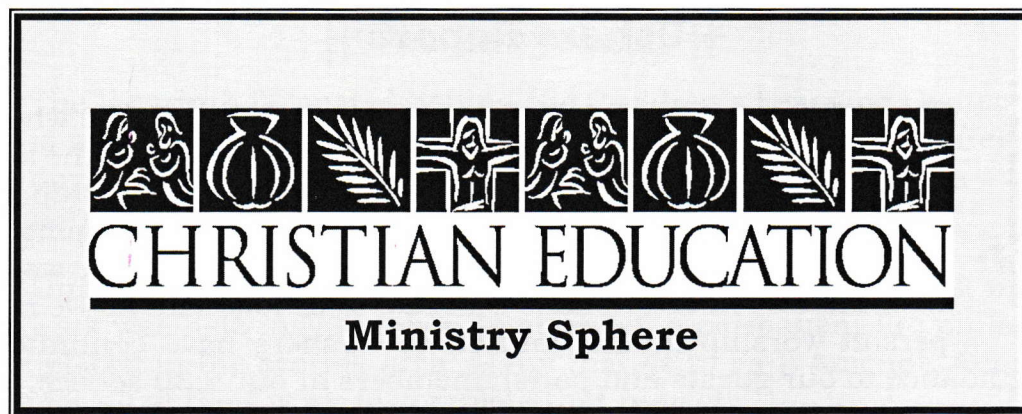


The Ushers are usually the first people who greet people when they arrive for church. Their greetings and helpfulness underscore the life and vitality of our Parish Family. When we were not able to worship together, our Ushers remained at the ready. When we began worshipping on the patio, the Ushers were there to assist in making sure everyone was comfortable with the COVID restrictions that had to be followed. As we returned to in-person worship in the church, the Ushers have continued to provide greetings and guidance to our guests and parish members at our 9:30 service.

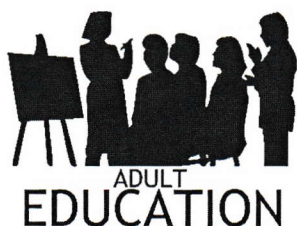
During this past year we lost some members of our team: Betty Anderson, John Dannenbaum, John Kromka, Marty Cervo, and Richard Stone (to video production). We welcomed Doug Miller on board who helps where he can in supporting our other teams of: George Anderson and Marjo Gardner, John and Beverly Pearson, Maurice and Gail Hill, Barbara Amick and Jim Cecil. If you would like to support the ministry of the Ushers, please speak to Fr. Greg.

Submitted by Fr. Greg Larkin for the Ushers





✧ Adult Education ✧



Our Adult Education efforts have been largely conducted on Zoom as we have met for book and other discussions. During the pandemic, **The Adult Forum** has been on hiatus. We did engage in a rousing rendition of “Lent Madness” on Zoom, as Absalom Jones won the coveted Golden Halo.

During Lent, we joined with folks from Mount Cross Lutheran Church for a Zoom Lenten study of “Hosanna! A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week.”

This spring, the **Book Group** read the Presiding Bishop’s book, *Love is the Way*. In the fall, we joined with Mount Cross learning about some of the shining lights of Celtic Spirituality, both past and present, as we read Celtic Scholar John Philip Newell’s book, *Sacred Earth, Sacred Spirit*. We are currently reading Rachel Held Evans’ book, *Wholehearted Faith*.

Submitted by Fr. Greg Larkin



✧ Children’s Learning Center ✧

The preschool director did not submit a report for 2021.

✧ Children’s Ministries ✧

The goal of the Children’s Ministries Programs at St. Columba’s is to involve adults and children in a common religious experience in which the primary values of childhood are predominate, especially those of simplicity, contemplation and joy.

“Catechesis” is formation in the Christian faith through interpersonal relationship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Based on the Montessori philosophy of education, the *Catechesis* program is divided into three levels of three-year cycles that correspond to the physical and mental development of children. Throughout the three cycles, the child is presented with the essentials of the faith in increasing detail and sophistication.

Celebrations or paraliturgies (Advent, Epiphany, Liturgy of the Light, and Pentecost) are held in the Atria throughout the liturgical year. In the St. Columba's Atria, the catechists are guides and the children are invited to reflect on the concepts presented with materials and then respond rather than having religious information "told to them or poured in" into their heads. Because of this, not meeting together with the materials makes the work very difficult.

In 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions continued to take over our lives, the St. Columba's goal of "catechesis" as its primary means of children's formation continued to be an incredible challenge. And, as in 2020, Fr. Greg Larkin had to postpone all presentations with classes from the St. Columba's preschool. As the year continued, parish family events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Carving, Advent Preparation Evenings were arranged to be as safe as possible, often in conjunction with Mount Cross Lutheran Church, and with the accompanying potlucks being canceled.

At the beginning of the year, the St. Columba Atrium continued to meet once a week either by video call or in-person presentations of materials, one-on-one, whenever needed. I kept in touch with my atrium child and her parents through texts and emails, sending liturgically appropriate at-home materials for At Home Church whenever possible. In January and February, we reflected on the incredible gifts God has bestowed on humans through the *History of the Kingdom of God and the Gifts*. During Lent, we spent eight weeks exploring *Reconciliation* through reflecting on Bible studies of *the Parable of The True Vine*, *the Forgiving Father*, and *the Healing of the Centurion's Servant* and then looking at how reconciliation is present in every Eucharist and can be requested privately.

Starting in September, with the COVID restrictions reduced and protocols set in place, the atrium sessions started to meet in person once a week with only potential illness affecting our in-person sessions, and later a new person was added. In October and November, we started to explore *The Plan of God*, reflecting on how, throughout history, every people and culture has discovered or created new inventions and how those works / gifts have been contributed to other peoples, other cultures, and other times, giving us insights into *The Plan of God*. Continuing our reflection, we see how the gift of the People of God is their knowledge of the light of the One God and the risen light of Christ which they have been sharing for the last 3,500 yrs + with all of the people throughout the world, contributing to God's plan.

Our future needs will continue to be about bringing new people into the atria to help out.

Respectfully,
Wendie M. Roberts
Director of Family Ministries

✧ Daughters of the King ✧



The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is an international order of the Episcopal Church, with headquarters in Woodstock, GA. It has chapters throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East (there's one in *Jerusalem!*). We in Camarillo are known as the St. Columba's Chapter, Province VIII, which was started over **30 years ago** in April 1985 with a threefold mission of **Prayer**, **Service**, and the **Spread of Christ's Kingdom**. As a group of Christian women, we strive to be a caring, nurturing, and loving group, offering support to each other in Christ's love.

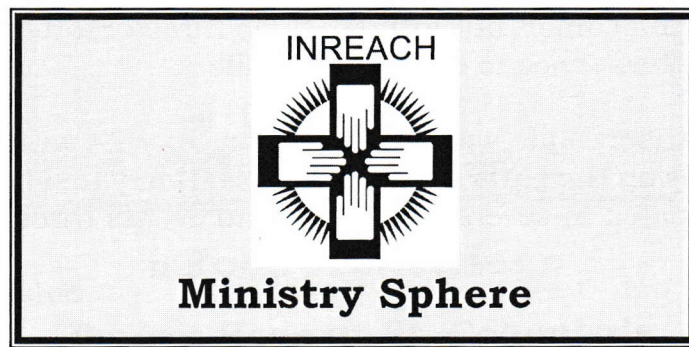
After many faithful years of service, we are now down to but a few members. Also, with the advent of COVID-19, gathering regularly has been difficult. Therefore, in December, we agreed to not officially disband but limit ourselves to our monthly meeting (usually the first Saturday of every month). We no longer read a book together but simply share our own news and prayer requests (and laugh a lot).

Also, being now “unofficial,” our meetings are open to anyone; no need to “join” or attend every month. Anyone (men and women) who needs a little fellowship (and moral support) is welcome to come to any meeting.

Please come and spend time with us—celebrate or commiserate! We’ll be in the church office the first Saturday morning of each month (10:00 to noon), unless noted otherwise in the *Celtic Courier*. Bring your own beverage and just hang.

Submitted by Nancy Miller





‡ Arts & Crafts ‡



Crafting continues weekly, sometimes on the patio, weather permitting, or in the parish hall. There is always some handwork in some stage of completion. Discussions continue about the fall craft faire and ways to improve. Ideas are welcome and attendance requires only your appearance and interest in participating. Visitors are welcome to come and see what we are creating. Men are also welcome to bring any crafting work they are working on. It is a fun time as ideas and plans are discussed. Participants do not need to sign up to attend. So, drop in and see what we are creating.

Submitted by Ann Luthringer

‡ Health Ministries/Parish Nurses ‡



St. Columba's Health Ministry has not been meeting in the last year related to the ongoing pandemic. However, good works that the team does have continued, including calls and visits to individuals and prayer with a special mention to Gail DeWolfe for the consistent and good articles in the *Courier*.

Submitted by Teri Helton, RN

‡ Lunch Bunch ‡



St. Columba's Lunch Bunch is still on hiatus due to the ongoing pandemic. Stay safe, everyone!

Submitted by Michele Hauser, Lunch Bunch Hostess

‡ Memorial Ministry ‡



A celebration of the life of Ted Daniels was held on Saturday, June 19. Ottavio's provided a lovely luncheon for family and friends, which was served on the patio. A fly-over known as the "Missing Man Formation" was provided by the local AIR group of which he had been a member.

Family and friends of Martha Lamar, our former Music Director, attended a luncheon on July 17 on the patio following the service to celebrate her life.

A celebration of Harry Daubert's life was celebrated on July 24 with a reception for a small group of family and friends on the patio after the service. Harry had been a long-time member of the church and participated in several programs and events through the years.

Submitted by Ann Luthringer

⌘ Prayer Group ⌘

Those in the Prayer Group quite simply pray for those who request our prayers. We pray primarily for those on the parish Prayer List (found in the Sunday service bulletin, in *This Week*, and on the parish website), but we also pray for those who ask for prayer without being on the list. The prayer request may be for something specific; it may be a simple "Please pray for me (or for someone else); God knows the reason!" sort of request.

If you would like prayers for yourself or for someone else, please contact Carol Browning in the parish office by phone (805-482-8831) or by email (office.manager@stcolumbaca.com)—and please remember to contact her again when the prayer request can be removed from the list!



Current members of the Prayer Group are Beverly Aggen, Nancy Hey, and Nancy Larkin.

Submitted by Nancy Larkin on behalf of the Prayer Group

⌘ Wine Fest ⌘



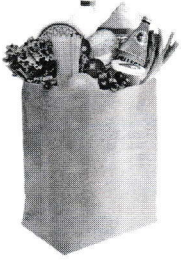
As a result of restrictions required due to the pandemic, Wine Fest 2021 was not held.

Submitted by Maurice Hill



▣ Food Ministries ▣

Project Hope at St. Columba's **A SuperPantry Collaborating with Food Share, Inc**



The Emergency Need Pantry, the Project Hope Pantry for Seniors and Families, and the new St. Columba's Pantry are all part of the food ministries at St. Columba's. All food ministries at St. Columba's receive donations in funds and food items from our parish members, Food Share, Inc., neighboring churches, and friends in the community, as well as funds from the City of Camarillo through a HUD Federal Grant. We are a partner in the Food Share Network and Feeding America. We continue to stand ready **to serve** those who come to us in need of assistance.

The manner of operation for the food ministries has remained unchanged since the pandemic hit in full force. The number of emergency drop-in requests for food and other assistance has remained very low. We stand ready to help but just about all of our assistance is now given out through regular Project Hope programs. We do not turn anyone away. We always accept food and PPE donations; those have been our lifeblood during this difficult time.

Project Hope provides food in the morning and afternoon on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Food is also delivered to seniors who do not have transportation. St. Columba's Pantry provides food and PPE assistance on alternate Thursday afternoons.

Project Hope Specifics: During 2021, we experienced significant growth in demand. Project Hope distributed food to 826 family and senior households providing food assistance for 1571 people. 14,139 meals were provided; those meals consisted of staples, canned and dried food, bread, produce, and, as available, fresh and frozen protein items. Project Hope served 967 seniors (60+ years of age), 475 adults (18 – 59 years of age), and 128 children (birth – 17 years of age).

Food Ministries at St. Columba's continued to function and grow while many of our fellow food assistance programs in Camarillo remained closed until this past summer. Special thanks to those who have kept Project Hope alive and have made sure that it supports the community:

- Food and Supplies pick-up at Food Share Warehouse on Tuesday morning: George Anderson, Robert Waite, and Cliff Aggen.
- Bag/account layout, food inventory set-up on Wednesdays—those working that part of the ministries have been: George Anderson, Gail Hill, Maurice Hill, Doug Miller, and Cliff Aggen.

- Thursday mornings for bag stuffing and parking lot distribution to clients in their cars: George Anderson, Doug Miller, Lorelee Brown, Fr. Greg Larkin, Judith Laurentowski, Bonnie Counseller, and Mary Chinakool.
- The Thursday Morning delivery crew for seniors without transportation: Lorelee Brown, Judith Laurentowski, and Tony Slade.
- The Thursday afternoon/evening distributors: Cliff Aggen, Doug Miller, and Fr. Greg Larkin.

Special thanks for super support given to:

- The Boy Scouts of Troop 262 for their annual food drive with the food being given to Food Share, Inc.
- The congregations of local churches for food and monetary donations: Trinity Presbyterian, Mount Cross Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, and Camarillo United Methodist.
- The Pleasant Valley Lions Club for their monetary gift.
- The CROP Walk and individual monetary donors.
- Members of the community for their monetary donations.
- Food Share, Inc. for most of the food that we distributed.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we gave roasted and then frozen chickens to our seniors and smaller families and turkeys to our large families. At Christmas, we gave gift cards to seniors and families that were provided by St. Columba's Food Ministries Funds.

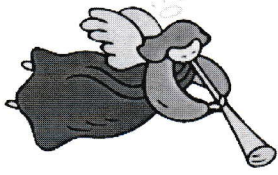
Submitted by Clifford Aggen

St. Columba's Pantry

St. Columba's Pantry held its first distribution on February 18, 2021. St. Columba's received a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Camarillo and HUD to fund the pantry for about a year. We provide PPE (e.g., face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex); food (e.g., canned tuna and chicken, canned vegetables, pasta sauce, pasta, soup, rice); and fresh vegetables and fruit (e.g., spinach, broccoli, squash, carrots, celery, fruit, tomatoes, corn, melons, strawberries) on the Thursdays that Project Hope doesn't distribute. These items were provided to low-income families in need during the pandemic. Nutritious food and fresh vegetables & fruit are critical to people in the pandemic as they strive to stay healthy and maintain their immunity to disease. We purchase fresh produce from Santiago's Produce in Ventura and from the Abundant Table in Fillmore. In the fourth quarter of 2021 (October through December), we served about 200 orders of groceries. We have served over 50 families since we started. Typically, we have about 28 families participate in the program on any given Thursday. We couldn't do this ministry for the Camarillo community without the help of several parishioners: Doug Miller, Frannie Cogswell, George Anderson, Judy LeVan, Lyle and Marianne Hyde, Max Varon, Gene Doswell, Judith Laurentowski, Gail & Maurice Hill, and Fr. Greg Larkin. Judy LeVan's grandson also helped us. One of our clients helps us by delivering food to others in Leisure Village. Many thanks to all!

Submitted by Maurice Hill

■ Heaven's Helpers ■



Heaven's Helpers

Due to the COVID pandemic, Heaven's Helpers has been suspended. We look forward to the time when we may once again work together assisting members of our parish family. While we have not been able to formally work together, the spirit of Heaven's Helpers continues every time we reach out a hand to help in whatever way we can.

Submitted by Kelly Privitt

■ Boy Scouts of America Troop 262 ■



In 2021, Troop 262 was eager to turn the page on a rough scouting year in 2020. Although we started slowly in 2021, we saw many of our scouts come back eager to get back into scouting. Here is brief year in review for Troop 262 in 2021: In February 2021, scouts organized a backyard overnight camping event. Scouts logged on via Zoom and were able to see each other set their tents up and also cook dinner for themselves. In February, Troop 262 also participated in Scouting for Food. Lead Scout Jackson Kurtz did a phenomenal job organizing and planning the event. I believe Dr. Barraza constructed stairs to help the scouts unload the donated food items into the Food Share trailer. From February 2021 to April 2021, troops and patrols were meeting via Zoom for the most part. After getting approval to meet in person, we held our first in-person meeting for the year on April 26, 2021, at the Scout Shed! Slowly but surely, the troop began holding more in-person meetings and outings, such as Memorial Day Flag Placement on May 29, 2021.

In the summer, over 10 scouts attended Summer Camp at Camp 3 Falls from July 4 to July 10. Summer Camp was memorable for both scouts and adults. A special memory that will be cherished by those who attended would be the Fire Match relay. Fire Match is a relay event where scouts and adults participate in biking, long-distance running, short-distance running, balance course, and swimming. At the end of each activity, a match must be handed to the next person. The last person would then swim across a pool or "ool" because there is no "P" in the pool! And light the match once the person reached the other side of the "ool."

Along with troop and patrol meetings occurring regularly in person, scouts were also busy holding planning meetings to ensure that the troop had outings scheduled. In September, our troop planned on attending Camporee at Camp 3 falls. Unfortunately, Camporee was canceled at the last minute due to fires in the area. Luckily, we have leaders who can adapt and are resolute! Scoutmaster Greg Diaz, along with Assistant Scoutmaster Nathan Dunne identified a local campsite in Fillmore where we ultimately spent the weekend! During that weekend, scouts hung out with each other, signing off younger scouts' rank requirements, and enjoyed each other's company as they cooked their meals.

Along with fun outings, the troop also participated in several community service events such as Scouting for Food, Taste of Camarillo, Wings over Camarillo, Flag placement events for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, assisted the church with their annual BBQ, and also helped the Camarillo House with their movie premiere, *Blue Moon*.

Scouts finished off the year by holding Webelos Camp in October at Steckel Park. In November, the troop held our annual Family Camp at Steckel Park. Scouts and adults cooked an amazing Thanksgiving dinner as well. Finally, scouts held their annual White Elephant in December.

Lastly, in 2021, Troop 262 successfully promoted 4 scouts to the rank of Eagle: Sever Scholle, Collin Wong, Jonah Sikula, and Chase Kanitz.

Needless to say, although we were still in the mists of a pandemic, Troop 262 was ALIVE AND WELL and we look forward to a great 2022!

Submitted by Eric Montero, Scoutmaster Troop 262

■ Stcolumbaca.com and Electronic Communications ■



Since August 18, 2006, the St. Columba's website has undergone many changes. On that date, *This Week at St. Columba's* began its life, with a weekly publication of events in the parish as well as from the wider church as well. The number of our email subscribers has increased considerably since our beginning.

In 2017, we rebuilt the entire website with a new hosting service. It is now more streamlined and much easier to edit and maintain. As a result, when new information is known, the website may be quickly revised. We can also add almost unlimited pages. Our website has continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of the community and the changing world with respect to the COVID pandemic. Initially, we discontinued in-person services, opting for livestreamed services via Facebook and YouTube. As the pandemic threat lessened, St. Columba's returned to in-person worship services while keeping the format of livestreamed Spiritual Communion. That has given our website a new mission—namely, to livestream our services. We will continue this hybrid format of worship as long as COVID remains a threat to the health and wellbeing of our members. Thankfully, with the features of the Facebook platform, we can livestream services or pre-record them. We are also using a channel on YouTube for replaying services, sermons, or other recorded events. While this is an inconvenience for those who are not at ease with these platforms, it does have advantages. I have noticed that former members who moved away from us years ago have found us on Facebook, and left comments in which they have thanked us for our presence on the internet. We even have had “drop-in” viewers/worshippers from as far away as the United Kingdom. Through the magic of the internet, we can attend various services or events from the diocese or from the national church.

I would like to thank those who have been the techno-wizards that make the livestreamed and recorded services possible: Tim Helton, Cliff Aggen, Nancy Miller, Richard Stone, and Vinita Bhushan. My job is to grab the links from their videos and post them on our webpage along with links to the service bulletins that Carol Browning so lovingly creates. Thanks to Maurice Hill, who edits the video of Fr. Greg Larkin's sermons, which get posted to our website along with the text of the sermons.

We also are using an online interactive calendar of Parish events. To access the calendar, simply click on “Monthly Calendar” under the tab “Upcoming Events.” Users may download

and print any part of the calendar, as well as send yourself reminders of posted events. You may also send invitations to events to fiends.

Zoom remains a platform we continue to use for some meetings.

We are making every effort to make certain everyone is "in the know" by sending the weekly e-news *This Week at St. Columba's* and Constant Contact emails from our Parish Office Manager, Carol Browning. If you are not receiving our emails, or if you know of anyone who would like to be included, please send an email with contact information to office.manager@stcolumbaca.com.

I invite each of you to take time and tour our website. Besides links to find our services, we have information posted about the church, the staff, parish calendar, Fr. Greg's recent sermons, parish history, our ministry, Vestry, how to donate, and much more. Some of the information I have posted needs to be revisited for revision, and I invite feedback so I can update what we have posted on our website. I welcome photos! If you have photos of events, email them to me and I will get them posted (within reason). In all matters, I try to keep our website up to date.

Submitted by Bob Waite
Editor, *This Week at St. Columba's*
Webmaster, <https://stcolumbaca.com>
robertwaite2@earthlink.net





‡ Annual Pledge Campaign and Endowment Fund ‡



The Stewardship Committee plans and carries out the stewardship program for time, talent, and treasure for St. Columba's. In 2021, we continued to be challenged by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, and many activities were eliminated or curtailed. However, the committee thanks all those in the parish who did contribute their time, talent, and treasure during 2021. The pledge campaign began September 19 this year. The theme of the pledge campaign was *Every Perfect Gift*. On October 26, Bishop Diane Bruce joined the parish in a Stewardship Dinner. Bishop Diane spoke to the parish on Stewardship and Fr. Greg put together a Power Point narrative budget, narrated by Paul Amendt. This year, *Merry Tuppence*, a Stewardship Skit written by Fr. Greg, was performed and livestreamed at the in-person Sunday service on November 14. We were happy to have Athol Wong join the cast in the skit. As of January 17, 2022, we received 50 pledges for 2022 for a total of \$193,617.70. This represents an average of \$3,872 per pledge; the *total* amount is considerably less than what we received in 2021 and 2020. However, we are still receiving pledges from parishioners. The reported pledge numbers are current as of the date of submission of this report.

The 2021 Stewardship Committee members were Fr. Greg, Nancy Miller, and Maurice Hill. The committee was glad to be able to meet in person this year instead of virtually by Zoom. Sarah Monroe-Allen is the Financial Secretary and the Parish Pledge Secretary. The Stewardship Committee always welcomes new members.

‡ Endowment Fund ‡

St. Columba's Endowment Fund Committee was established by the Vestry in 2005. The purpose of the Committee is to implement a Planned Giving Program for St. Columba's. The 2021 committee members were Fr. Greg Larkin, Gail Hill, Tim Helton, Nancy Miller, Doug Miller, Maurice Hill, Tom Ledsam, and Cliff Aggen. Cliff rotated off the Committee this year. Many thanks go to Cliff's commitment to the Committee over the years—we would not have such a strong Endowment Fund today without Cliff's dedicated involvement. Tom Ledsam was selected to ably fill Cliff's position. Gail Hill is the current Treasurer and, as such, is an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

All funds in the Endowment Fund are tracked in St. Columba's monthly financial report and presented to the Vestry monthly. The monies in the Endowment Fund are held in an account through the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese with the "Diocesan Investment Trust" (DIT), investments in a Vanguard exchange traded fund (ETF), a Vanguard bond fund, and in a Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund at Vanguard Group (website: <https://www.vanguard.com/>). We also hold money in the church's Bank of America account.

The Endowment Fund has money invested in the Long-Term Diversified (LTD) Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). The DIT continues to use Wilshire Associates, a Los Angeles firm, as its investment advisor. The balance for the LTD fund on 12/31/2021 was \$348,977.09. We made a new deposit of \$8,000 in the LTD fund in 2021—to further diversify our investments.

The Endowment Fund Committee also invests money in the Vanguard Total Stock Market Exchange Traded Fund (symbol VTI) and Vanguard Intermediate Term Bond (symbol BIV) using a dollar-cost-averaging method of investment. These investments provide further diversification of a portion of our funds as we strive to achieve the long-term objectives of the Endowment Fund. Cash is held in a Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund (MM Fund). As of 12/31/2021, the Endowment Fund held a total of \$220,179.59 with Vanguard. This includes \$204,659.51 in VTI, \$12,970.38 in BIV, and \$2,549.70 in the MM Fund. On December 31, 2021, the Endowment Fund also held \$14,948.74 in the church's account at Bank of America.

In 2021, the Endowment Fund received several gifts totaling \$29,528. The gifts (both stock and cash) were either from the estates of parishioners or directly from parishioners. All stocks were sold and invested in Vanguard and the DIT.

The Endowment Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, a grant from the Endowment Fund to the church for 2022 in the amount of \$20,000. The Committee will make the money available to the church upon request from the Vestry.

The grand total amount of the Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2021, was \$584,105.42. This includes the Long-Term Diversified Diocesan Fund, the Vanguard investments, Vanguard money market funds, and the Bank of America account funds. The fund grew (through November 2021) by about \$92,000 over last year's grand total. This growth was a result of generous donations to the fund by parishioners and the excellent performance of our investments.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to make funds available for ministries and other activities in the future, pursuant to the enabling resolution and Plan of Operation. In 2015, the Committee developed a policy to notify the Vestry every 4th quarter concerning funds available for expenditure for the upcoming year. In 2021, the Committee recommended an Endowment Fund Grant of \$20,000. Such grants are made from the Endowment Fund without invading the original principal—the total amount originally donated. The grant money comes from the money earned from our investments. The policy of the committee is to make available from 3-5 percent (of the average balance for the previous three years) or less each year.

Due to the pandemic, the Endowment Committee did not host the Thank-You Event or an Iona Society Celebration. We look forward to a time when we can meet in person again.

We are all happy to celebrate our *Iona Society* members: Paul and Gail Amendt, Betty* Angle, Nancy and Ed Miller, George and Betty* Anderson, Ted* and Vicky Daniel, Ann Radzienda, Harry* and Marguerite* Daubert, Steve and Michelle Hauser, Jim and Mona Cecil, Nancy Hey, Jerry and Sally Gillespie, Tim and Teri Helton, Maurice and Gail Hill, Caroline Lescher, John and Beverly Pearson, Chuck and Susan Andrews, Terry and Gail DeWolfe, Cliff and Bev Aggen, Bill* and Maxine* Himstreet, Norm and Carrie* Loughlin, George* and Ann

Luthringer, Greg* and Lucia* Mazza, Mary* Madden, Norma McQuade, Tom* and Ann* Rosser, Bob and Gwen Waite, and Joe and Sarah Wigert, Margaret Sommers* and Margie Miller (husband Dave). We now have a total of 53 Iona Society members (including the deceased* and two anonymous members).

In 2022, the Endowment Fund Committee will be actively searching for a new member to replace the member who rotates off the committee in June due to term limits. Please consider joining us in 2022 and share the gifts that God has so graciously given you! We ask you to pray about this—we need your help! Feel free to speak with anyone on either committee if you have questions, ideas to share, comments, or would like to participate. For more information concerning Planned Giving, go to St. Columba's Website: www.stcolumbaca.com/.

Submitted by Maurice Hill

‡ Building & Grounds ‡



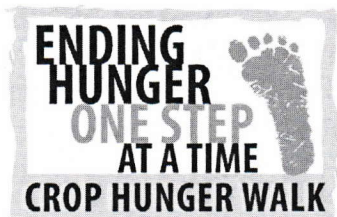
In spite of our being still in the throes of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are blessed that we were able to worship together, in person, for a bit more than half of 2021. Throughout this time, the Buildings & Grounds Committee continued to identify specific areas of concern, including both major and minor projects, some of which will be accomplished in 2021.

Building & Grounds Our Sexton, Cliff Aggen, facilitated resolution of many maintenance projects, including plumbing problems, electrical problems, gas leaks, and heating systems issues. The Monday Morning Work Group worked regularly on landscaping, irrigation systems, repairing, painting, and more.

Many thanks to Cliff, Jeanette Barcroft, Carlos Barraza, Bill Brown, Jeff Chung, Brett Hanley, Maurice Hill, Julian Hoyle, Doug Miller, Nancy Miller, and Bob Waite for countless hours spent fixin', paintin', diggin', prunin', and doin' whatever needed to be done.

Submitted by Susan Doswell

‡ CROP Walk ‡



Our CROP Walk in 2021 was severely curtailed by COVID, but with virtual walkers and generous donors, the Walk brought in a total of \$14,337, much due to the efforts of Trinity Presbyterian. The result was the distribution of \$3,500 to 7 local agencies, including our own pantry, Christians Acting Together, and Food Share. Pretty good for a virtual walk!

The CROP Walk will be back on Sunday, March 6, 2022! Mount Cross will be the host; walkers will choose between in-person (masked indoors and in groups) and virtual participation. You can even choose your own time/place. I will coordinate our efforts, and I hope we will return in force. Watch the bulletin for details. We will need workers and walkers and donors!

Submitted by John Pearson

‡ Recycling ‡



In 2021, the fund made \$573. Thanks to all the loyal donors for bring in your recyclables during the pandemic. During the year, it seems we lost a few bags of aluminum cans to someone who hopefully needed them.

Please remember that we receive NO money for 100% JUICE plastic containers, WINE bottles, ordinary glass jars, and tin cans. Please put those types of items in your home recycling trash can.

Remember, if an item does not have a CA Recycle Refund amount printed on it, then the fund gets nothing for it.

It helps to drain all liquids from containers before turning them in. If the cap to thin water bottles and large containers is taken off then it is easier to crush them. It saves room and we can get more containers in a bag.

Thank you all, again.

Submitted by John Kromka

‡ Senior Warden's Report ‡



Fortunately for us all, 2021 was a better year than the one preceding it. The year had a rocky start but as it progressed, we accepted the COVID restrictions and things started to work. Our services on the patio became better attended and we learned to dress for varying weather conditions each Sunday. The services were also available online so they could reach a broader audience. For those in attendance, we were actually having Communion again! That, coupled with the eventual move inside the church, meant we were nearly normal. A lot to be thankful for. We await further steps forward.

We are thankful for all of you whose ongoing efforts make our parish work day to day and week to week. Our services each week take the work of a surprising number of folks each time and we are blessed to have all of you.

When we noticed the glass pane had fallen out of the window frame in the east pantry of the parish hall, the repair efforts led to not only refurbished windows but also much better management of our pantry supplies. George Anderson (and others) inspected our food supplies to assure that all are up-to-date. These represent donated food for our Project Hope. The second and fourth Thursdays of each month we use these donations to augment the Food Share supplies we get from the USDA to distribute to qualified families in our area. Between 30 and 40 families each receive three bags of groceries and produce from us which we assemble starting at 7:00 a.m. on distribution day. We hand these out to the assembled families for an hour starting at 9:00 a.m. and again in the afternoon at 5:00 p.m. for an hour. Cliff Aggen guides our efforts through the bureaucratic complexities of the USDA.

St. Columba's Pantry involves giving three bags of groceries and produce to between 25 and 30 families on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays. These supplies are purchased from a grant from HUD through the city of Camarillo. Maurice Hill purchases the supplies and does the heavy lifting for this program. We assemble at 3:00 p.m. to ready this distribution. The criteria for each of these programs is different but some families qualify for both. The parish should be proud of each of these programs. They provide sustenance that these families might not otherwise receive.

The Vestry looks forward to 2022 and the challenges to come.

Submitted by Doug Miller, Senior Warden





‡ The Threshold Project ‡

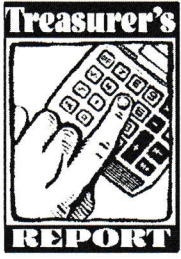


The Threshold Project continues to be another casualty of the COVID pandemic. In this time of safer-at-home, it has been difficult to invite people to join us. Now as things continue to settle down, and hopefully COVID abates, we will need to revive the Threshold Project with new energy and vitality as we seek once again to make St. Columba's known in the community. We look forward with hope that the Camarillo Fiesta will return with the opportunity to have a booth to share the good news of St. Columba's. We continue to strive to welcome people into our midst and look forward to greeting those God sends into our midst. As we pray the "Welcoming Prayer" each week, please pray for this work, and join in welcoming newcomers to our parish life. Bill Brown and Fr. Greg could use some help in reviving this all important ministry. Please let Fr. Greg know if you would like to help.

Respectfully submitted by Fr. Greg Larkin



St. Columba's Treasurer's Report



We ended up the second year of the pandemic in the black! Our income was greater than our expenses by over \$11,000. We continue to have very generous parishioners! The Children's Learning Center was also able to start giving us funds and reimbursing us for utilities, none of which we budgeted for. They made a pledge of \$1,700 per month plus utilities for the 2021-2022 school year. These contributions are greatly appreciated! We don't take any donations for granted.

We were also able to get two \$5,000 grants from the County of Ventura because we were impacted by the COVID pandemic. In the end, we were able to meet expenses but had to dramatically cut our pledge to the Diocese in 2021. Instead of 12%, we were only able to contribute just over 6% of our income. This is the main reason that we had more income than expenses. The pandemic has been a huge challenge for the parish budget. We wouldn't have survived 2020 and 2021 without each of you.

We are finally able to give our staff pay increases in 2022. We are also projecting to give the Diocese 10% of our pledge and plate income. But, as you'll hear at the Annual Meeting, we have new challenges ahead of us that we won't be able to overcome without continued help from all of you.

In other news, we received stocks from a parishioner's estate and were able to sell them and invest the funds in our Endowment investments. The parish received a grant from the Endowment in 2021 and is expecting another one in 2022. That should enable the parish to do some maintenance projects totaling about \$33,000.

The Vestry is also looking into using the excess funds from 2021 to do maintenance projects, either to add to the Endowment grant funds above or fund separate projects that need to be done. Stay tuned.

I wish to thank the Budget & Finance Committee for helping with the work: Cliff Aggen, Bev and John Pearson, Doug Miller, and our Financial Secretary, Sarah Monroe-Allen. If anyone would like to join us in this work or see what we're doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. I thank each and every one of you for your generous donations to enable St. Columba's to continue its mission as an Episcopal Parish and a member of the Camarillo community. We don't take anyone and their contributions for granted.

Submitted by Gail Hill, Treasurer