

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California 93010

Phone: (805) 482-8831 Fax: (805) 482-1288

www.stcolumbaca.com

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Presented at the Parish Meeting
on January 29, 2023

The Rev. Canon Mark Asman, Interim Pastor

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



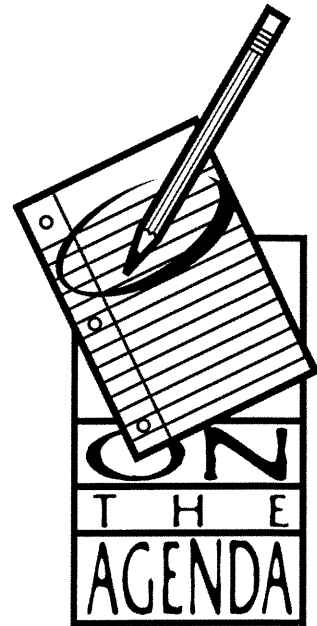
Promoting progressive, challenging, and vital ministries



Striving for justice and peace among all peoples



1. **Opening Prayers**
2. **Motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting**
3. **Special Recognition**
 - School Board Members
 - Retiring Vestry Members
 - Introduce Senior Warden for 2023
4. **Convention Election**
 - Election of Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Convention
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**



Almighty God, giver of every good gift, you have brought St. Columba's to this important time in our history. Look graciously on us, and guide us through our search, that it may enable us to grow in commitment to one another and to the work of Christ in our community. Help us to hear your gentle voice and to be obedient to your will. Bless us in this search, that we may choose a faithful pastor to join us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Vestry will meet afterwards for a brief organizational meeting.



**St. Columba's Episcopal Church
1251 Las Posas Road
Camarillo, CA 93010**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 30, 2022**

The Annual Meeting of St. Columba's Episcopal Church was opened at 10:51 a.m. with prayer by Fr. Greg Larkin with an Opening Prayer.

Fr. Greg prayed for all the parishioners who had died this past year.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting was moved, seconded, and passed.

Fr. Greg thanked members of the School Board for their service, as well as thanking retiring Vestry Members Barbara Amick, Deborah Brown and Fran Cogswell. He announced that Susan Doswell will be the new Senior Warden for the upcoming year. He also thanked Doug Miller for his service as Senior Warden this past year.

Next item of business was to elect Diocesan Delegates for the upcoming 2022 year. Maurice and Gail Hill will serve as Delegates, with Gwen and Bob Waite as Alternates. It was moved and seconded that these parishioners serve in these capacities; the motion passed.

New Vestry member nominees were introduced: Paul Amendt, Marjo Gardner, and Marianne Hyde. Deborah Brown moved and Barbara Amick seconded that these three nominees be accepted as new Vestry members for upcoming three-year terms; the motion passed.

Presentation of annual ministry reports was the next agenda item. Parishioners had the reports in hand with the Annual Report. Maurice Hill further explained the ongoing Food Ministries—funding from various sources, generally how the program runs, etc. He thanked everyone for their continued support of our program and the outreach we extend to the community.

A review of the Budget was presented. Overall, we are in good shape, and appreciation for continued support was expressed by Treasurer Gail Hill. Complete financial information was included in the Report for all to review.

Fr. Greg expressed hope that we will soon be able to return to “things we have had to put on hold” for the past two years, returning to old events and making our face known in the community again. He wanted to especially thank Bill Brown for his work on restoring the outdoor altar and Jeanette Barcroft for her continued, unwavering work on the labyrinth, also Brett Hanley for his assistance in that area.

At this time in the meeting, Fr. Greg commissioned the new Vestry—Paul Amendt, Carlos Barraza, Loralee Brown, Susan Doswell, Marjo Gardner, Teri Helton, Marianne Hyde, Doug Miller—which will serve for the upcoming 2022 year.

Following the Commissioning of the Vestry, Fr. Greg announced that he would be retiring on July 1, 2022. He went into a short explanation of what will occur, explaining briefly about the search, interim situation, and how this will be a time of work for each and every one of us. He thanked everyone for his journey with us and stated that he will still be hanging around!

As there was no further business, Barbara Amick moved that the meeting be adjourned, Deborah Brown seconded; the motion passed.

Fr. Greg led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma McQuade

Interim Pastor's Report

Dear friends,

In my first sermon in August, I drew upon the image of the coracle, the small boat that St. Columba and a few monks set sail in from Ireland as a metaphor for our journey through transition. I invited us to imagine that we are all together in a 21st century coracle sailing across the sea of transition. During this voyage, we are led by your faithful Vestry and other leaders of the parish. When your search is done, our aim is to land the boat safely and securely on dry land as you welcome your new Rector.

From the

Interim Pastor



Alongside the important work of transition, parish life and ministry has continued. This Annual Report is important evidence of your life together this past year. 2022 began the final year of Greg's faithful ministry with you. You celebrated and honored his 22 years of remarkable leadership as your pastor. In August, you welcomed me as your Interim Pastor for the next 12 months. Thank you for your warm and generous welcome.

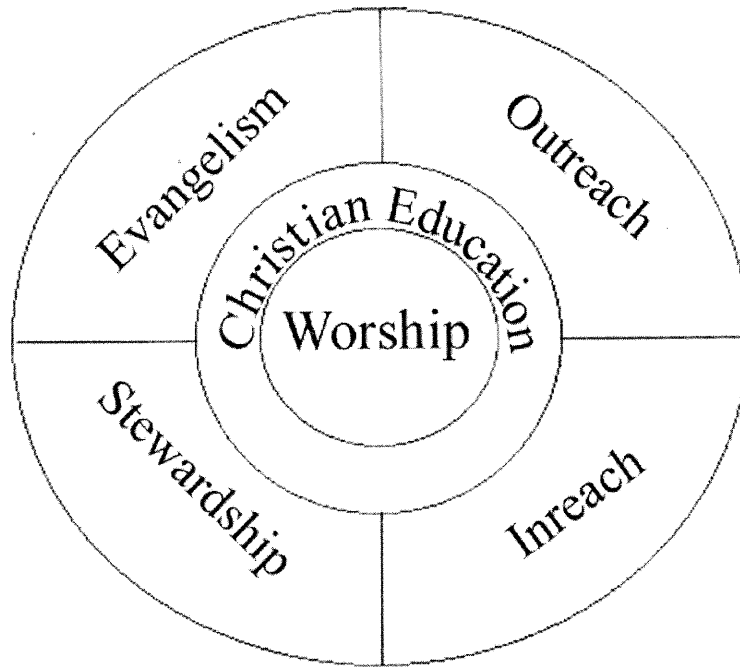
Here is what I have learned first-hand from you. Your connection and care for one another is remarkable. There are any number of examples I can give, here is one. You report faithfully prayer requests for one another that go to the prayer chain and onto our Sunday prayer list. We pray from these lists on Sunday and our Thursday service. Generally, we review parts of the prayer list at our staff meeting on Tuesday. This is a level of intentional caring that I have not often seen. Across all levels of the parish, your commitment and regular involvement in ministry is outstanding. Your new Rector will be blessed to share life and ministry with you.

To this end, your leadership and I are involved in reorganizing following the untimely death of our beloved Cliff Aggen. Fortunately, we have a strong organizational structure and a solid base of volunteers to start with. As we do this reorganization, we are identifying where we need to add new volunteers. In the weeks ahead you will be hearing about new volunteer opportunities. We ask you to prayerfully consider if this is your call to serve St. Columba's at this important time. Regardless, we are asking everyone to pray that new volunteers will be raised up to sustain our parish ministries, programs and building and grounds.

As I have gotten to know you and the parish, in my mind you have a secret weapon that will be important for your future with your new Rector. Your Children's Learning Center, which you can read about in this report, is among the most highly regarded preschools in the area with a robust waiting list. With your new Rector, Rebecca, the Director of CLC, and the leadership of the parish, you have a tremendous opportunity to deepen, expand and explore new ways to incorporate this vital ministry into your parish life. You are blessed with this unique gift.

Lastly, I am privileged to work with a great staff who are hardworking and critical to our life together. With their support we are all able to do our work together as the women and men of St. Columba's.

*Faithfully in Christ,
Mark Asman*



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



✦ 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. A flower chart is posted in the narthex for members to sponsor flowers each Sunday.

During Lent this year, two large green plants were placed on the High Altar instead of flowers. At Easter and Christmas, Flower Power Florist supplied the flowers for arrangements at the High Altar. Sarah and Joe Wigert provided the beautiful Fall display of gourds, pumpkins, and Fall produce around the altar there.

Lin Bowie, daughter to Ann Luthringer, has given us some helpful information and hints to help us create arrangements and stay within budget. She also prepared an artificial floral arrangement to be used occasionally when no one signs up to sponsor flowers.

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

We seek people willing to learn the art of floral arranging to fill one or two empty spots.

Submitted by Marjo Gardner

✦ Altar Guild ✦



As we have moved back into the sanctuary for services, the Altar Guild has continued to set up for, and clean up following services on Thursdays and Sundays. The Guild also assists with special services such as funerals and weddings. Active members of the Altar Guild are Beverly Pearson, Fran Cogswell, Mary Steppes-Cole, and Marianne Hyde, with Gail Hill and Sarah Wigert as Co-Directors following Fr. Greg's retirement.

We were able to return to having wine at Communion this year, which entailed coming up with a way to do individual servings. Carlos Barraza stepped up and made us several lovely wooden boxes that hold individual cups. Thank you, Carlos! Thanks also to the LEMs for helping to fill them on Sunday mornings.

In addition to the wine and bread, the Altar Guild also provides all the candles and linens that are used. To this end, we are most grateful to all who sponsor flowers for the Altar, as this is our primary source of income. Financially, we remain solvent and self-sustaining. We began the year with \$4,409.97 and ended with \$4,917.67.

We are also so very appreciative of all the help and support that we have received over the years from Cliff Aggen and now from Brett Hanley. If you would like to join us in the privilege of serving St. Columba's in this way, we would love to have you! Please speak to Gail Hill or Sarah Wigert.

Submitted by Sarah Wigert

† Columbarium †



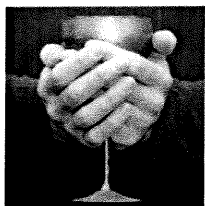
The columbarium serves as a repository and testament for many of the lives that blessed and enriched our parish life. The columbarium has a total of 120 niches of which 86 have been contracted for. To date, fifty-nine parishioners have been inurned in the columbarium.

The columbarium fund ended the year with \$40,266.53.

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 \$1,200, 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.

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 using the common cup. Instead, we are using small individual cups for wine. The Eucharistic Ministers leads the Intercessions (Prayers of the People) and prepares wine cups for Communion.

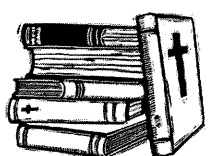
Currently active and licensed Eucharistic Ministers are Paul Amendt, Mary Steppes-Cole, Maria Fernandez, Teri Helton, Nancy Miller, and Bob Waite.



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, Diane Off, Lara Tyas, Maria Fernandez, Beverly Pearson, and John Pearson.

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



Biblical Storytelling

Our **Biblical 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 and Nancy Miller. If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Pastor Mark.

Submitted by Bob Waite

† The Labyrinth †



The labyrinth was renamed The Larkin Labyrinth in 2022 in honor of Fr. Greg and Nancy. Thank you to Jeanette Barcroft for the beautiful sign designating the new labyrinth name. We hosted a guided labyrinth walk in March as part of our Lenten Journey, which also included members of Mount Cross Lutheran Church. Another guided walk was hosted for World Labyrinth Day on May 7, 2022. Both walks were open to the public and the parish and included an inviting campfire in our new firepit, along with coffee and treats for fellowship.

The Labyrinth tab on the St. Columba's website now hosts a general guide to walking a labyrinth, as well as themed prayers and meditations for seasons of the church, seasons of the year, and other common themes such as peace, thankfulness, and acceptance.

A huge thank-you to Jeanette Barcroft for her continuing work in the Labyrinth Garden. Jeanette has been very active in caring for the plants in and around the labyrinth, constructing a trellis, putting in seeds, flowers, and cultivating trees, as well as adding wood chips. It has been transformed into a beautiful, tranquil space. Thank you also to Brett Hanley and all others who have contributed to its maintenance and beautification.

The labyrinth guild is looking for new members. Its current members are Paul and Gail Amendt. Please contact Paul or Gail if you are interested in sharing in this ministry. We are hoping to host guided labyrinth walks seasonally, in addition to bringing back Stories Around the Campfire in conjunction with Mount Cross Lutheran Church during the summer months.

The labyrinth and garden area are located behind the Children's Learning Center play yard and are open to anyone who would like to use them during daylight hours.

Submitted by Gail Amendt

† Music Department †



St. Columba's has seen some steady change this past year. The congregation can now sing hymns with or without masking. Our choir will soon start rehearsing again and be a part of Sunday worship. The organ is still in great shape and sounds and plays well. Our long-time cello player, Lorelee Brown, has moved out of state and her contributions to our church will be sorely missed. Lifelong choir member and all-around music/sound man Cliff Aggen will be truly missed by all and I thank the Lord for all of his wonderful service not only to the music program, but the overall church throughout his lifetime. We have enjoyed the continuing musical gifts of Marjo Gardner, Jeanette Barcroft, and Jeffrey Chung, among others. Again, we did not have a summer Parish Music Concert. Maybe this summer? I look forward to working with a new Rector and the vision they will bring to the music worship. Hopefully with God's grace, more people will find St. Columba's and join with their voices to sing out loudly and with great joy.

Submitted by Brett Hanley, Music Director

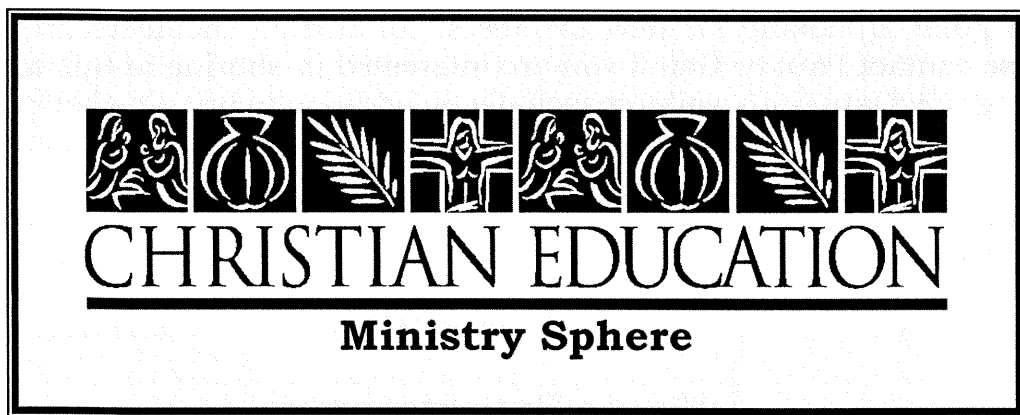
† Ushers Report †



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. Now that COVID isn't such a factor, we are able to worship together, and our Ushers are at the ready at our 9:30 service on Sundays and for special occasions. The Ushers have continued to provide greetings and guidance to our guests and parish members.

Currently, our ushers are the teams of: George Anderson and Marjo Gardner, John and Beverly Pearson, Maurice and Gail Hill, Lyle Hyde and Jim Cecil. Doug Miller and Tim Brown are always available to be present and help. If you would like to support the ministry of the Ushers, please speak to Pastor Mark.

Submitted by Bob Waite for the Ushers



✂ Adult Education ✂



In the first half of 2022, Fr. Greg Larkin oversaw the following Adult Education offerings.

January – June 2022

- Book Group for Epiphany 2022—*Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans—joint study with Mount Cross (mid-January to end of February)
- Adult Study for Lent 2022—*Embracing an Adult Faith*, video series by Marcus Borg—joint study with Mount Cross (Wednesday In-Person at Mount Cross including Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer options following; Thursday Zoom initially offered but canceled because there were no takers)
- Lent Madness Adult Forum, February 27-March 27—on Zoom

Confirmation/Inquirers Class, selected Sunday afternoons, February 6 – June 5, 2022

After the classes, the following individuals were Received/Confirmed by Bishop John Taylor on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

- Confirmed (3) – Bill Brown, Richard Stone, Eleanor Tyas
- Reaffirmation (6) – Carlos Barraza, Frances Cogswell, Lyle Hyde, Marianne Hyde, Doug Miller, Lara Tyas

Contemplative Offerings (besides regular Celtic Contemplative Prayer and Prayer in the Style of Taizé digital offerings)

- Lent *Lectio Divina*, Mondays, February 28-Monday, March 28—including Mount Cross
- Guided Lent Labyrinth Walk, March 19
- World Labyrinth Day, May 7

From August 15, 2022, to the end of the year, Mark Asman, Interim Pastor, oversaw the following offerings.

August – December 2022

- Book Study from September 25–October 30—After church on Sunday, a book study of *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings* by John Philip Newell
- From October 23-30—A short Introduction to Centering Prayer after the book group
- Adult Forum on December 4—A forum after church to introduce biblical images of the feminine divine and introduction to inclusive language liturgies. We used inclusive language Eucharistic prayers in Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Submitted by Mark Asman, Interim Pastor

Children's Learning Center



The staff, School Board, and I have continued our mission to make St. Columba's Children's Learning Center Camarillo's premier Christian-based program.

This year, we began building our outdoor classrooms. Outdoor play provides essential support for children's health and wellness, including brain development, social and emotional development, appropriate risk assessment, gross and fine motor development, coordination, and self-confidence. As they play outdoors, children observe physics, geometry, biology, and so much more. A growing body of research demonstrates how physical activity activates the brain. We know that young children learn best by DOING. Their interactions with the natural world provide invaluable opportunities for growth and learning. An Outdoor Classroom is a space for children to interact with the natural items through play-based and multi-sensory activities. The goal of the Outdoor Classroom is simple: to increase the quantity, quality, and benefits of outdoor experiences for children. Outdoor education and play support emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development. Studies have shown that students who learn outdoors develop: a sense of self, independence, confident, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline, and initiative. In the outdoor classroom, children connect to the natural world and learn from what nature has to teach us. We envision a world where all children have access to the rich developmental opportunities that come from engaging with the natural world. This project will be continuous and will grow with our program for years to come.

Our major social events were brought back over this year were well attended by staff, parents, family members and friends. Everyone enjoyed Back to School Night at the beginning of the year where the teachers introduced themselves and set goals with parents. Trunk-or-Treat was once again a huge success for all. This year we once again had our very own pumpkin patch and it continues to be a huge success! We were able to celebrate the Harvest Festival/Pumpkin Patch for two weeks and the children were able to participate in so many fun events. The Christmas Program and Holiday Bundt Cake Sale were not only well received, but the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, raising over \$5,000. This year we brought back Mom's Night Out fundraiser, moms from our program got together and played Bunco

and donated the proceeds to our program. These events help give our school a sense of community and are also a lot of fun! We have continued to hold events where we participate in conjunction with the church, in doing so to we are working towards maintaining a strong partnership.

Our summer program was once again a hit! Many families stayed throughout the summer and enjoyed the activities we provided. Over the summer each week the classes had different “camps.” We offered Authors and Artists, Music, Sports, Fun in the Sun, VBS and so many other camps. We transformed the classes into underwater adventures, castles, camping grounds and much more!

CLC is in a strong financial position, and has continued to have positive cash flow. Enrollment has continued to stay full for the 2021-22 school year, this is including our summer program. Some of the major expenses we were able to accomplish this school year were landscaping and adding synthetic grass/turf to our outdoor classrooms.

The school provided a monthly pledge of \$1,700 per month to the church, as well as contributions towards the telephone, Xerox, utilities, supplies, and gardener bills. We increased our monthly pledge in September 2022 to \$1,950.

Our teaching staff consists of ten teachers and one part-time occupational therapist who assists the staff and myself. I have continued to attend meetings with local Preschool Directors Group allowing me to network, offer and receive support, information and maintain genuine friendship. We were able to provide tours to staff and school boards from Mount Cross, Good Shepherd and PV Christian.

Going into the 2022-2023 school year, we are currently fully enrolled, numerous children on our waitlist and many families needing/wanting more days.

I want to thank all of St. Columba’s Church parishioners and our wonderful School Board Members for their knowledge, patience, support and dedication over the past year– I could not have done my job without all of you!

Faithfully, Rebecca

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.

In the St. Columba’s Atria, the catechists are guides and the children are invited to respond rather than have religious information “poured in” into their heads.



At St. Columba's the children's formation program is *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

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 our faith in increasing detail and sophistication. Celebrations or para-liturgies (Advent, Epiphany, Liturgy of the Light, and Pentecost) are held in the Atria throughout the liturgical year.

As in 2021, 2022 saw the presentations with classes from the St. Columba's Preschool postponed or cancelled. As the year continued, parish family events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and 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.

In the atria, the year was one of continuing to update and fill in the materials (resources), primarily for the Level III *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* atrium in preparation for young adults being presented at Confirmation in June. We also had a new child in the Level I Atrium, so with the help of parents, and being very flexible week to week, presentations were given in each atrium.

The Level I presentations included Parable of the Good Shepherd, Psalm 23 vs 1, the Parables of the Kingdom—for the Mustard Seed and the Grain of Wheat, and the presentation of Baptism, when we come to belong to the Good Shepherd.

In the Level III Atrium we continued to explore more of the specifics of various cultures, The People of God, various peoples throughout time, including the people of the last Century and their contributions to *The Plan of God* and God's plan of Cosmic Communion, "a time when God will be all in all." Finally, we reflected on our own lives, the contributions made to us and by us, and re-establishing our own commitment to live as one of God's children, adding to our knowledge of the Rite of Confirmation.

Building a spiritual community for children, as with adults, requires commitment. As a Christian Formation program, the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* requires the same kinds of commitments: primarily a commitment on the part of the parents and child to have the child in the "Atrium" or classroom on a regular basis. Many thanks to our parents who struggle with early morning time crunches, scheduling conflicts, no free days, and who see that their children do come on a regular basis to class.

Future needs will continue to focus on bringing new people with children into our parish so our program may grow. If you are interested, there are two ways to participate. I am eager to train an interested party as an assistant for the atrium. Additionally, I would love to speak with any individuals who are willing to help us by making materials that are used week after week.

I invite you to become more like a child. To come, see, explore, learn more about Jesus, the Kingdom of God and The Plan of God by doing Christian Formation with us!

Respectfully, Wendie M. Roberts, Director of Family Ministries

✧ Daughters of the King ✧



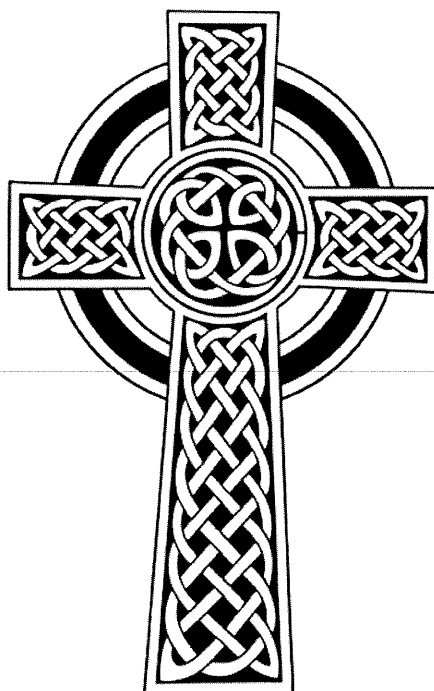
The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is an international order of the Episcopal Church, with headquarters in Woodstock, GA. It has chapters throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East (there's one in *Jerusalem!*). We in Camarillo are known as the St. Columba's Chapter, Province VIII, which was started over **35 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.

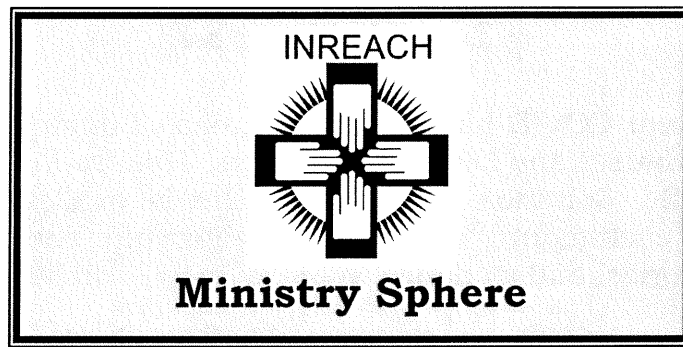
After many faithful years of service, we are now down to but a few members. During the COVID pandemic, gathering regularly was difficult, and a year ago, we agreed to not officially disband but limit ourselves to our monthly meeting (usually the first Saturday of every month). We no longer read a book 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 a.m. to noon), unless noted otherwise in the *Celtic Courier*. Bring your own beverage and just hang.

Submitted by Nancy Miller





⌘ Arts & Crafts ⌘



Each Wednesday afternoon a group of parishioners meet in the parish hall at 2:00 p.m. for a couple of hours to create, plan, or maybe resolve their project's issues with other experts or just begin a project. Having someone else review your project sometimes provides the insight needed to correct or resolve the current issue you are experiencing. You will hear lots of awe and praise for your skill. Or maybe you just come for companionship and talk. In the two hours from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., conversation flows, ideas are shared, and fellowship is experienced among the attendees. Lots of laughter can be heard over funny stories or happenings in our lives at times. The atmosphere may seem slow and quiet, but underneath is a reservoir of experience available for sharing when asked or needed. You will find knitters, sewers, painters, quilters, and other skills in progress. Come and join us for a couple of hours with or without your project if you wish. This is a come-as-you-are time without refreshments being served. You may bring your own as you wish. We look forward to seeing you sometime on a Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. Come and join us. Bring your friends.

Submitted by Ann Luthringer

⌘ Health Ministries/Parish Nurses ⌘



The Health Ministry of St. Columba's Episcopal Church is centered on a holistic approach to achieving wellness in mind, body, and spirit. To that end, we will teach and provide resources, as well as comfort and encourage members of our congregation in an inclusive relationship. We demonstrated this in 2022 through restarting regular HM meetings with a focus on hearing from the congregation members about what they believe would benefit St. Columba's and themselves. The most important item taken from the survey is that we all want connections with others and to know and feel we are being cared for. In fact, one parishioner stated, "Connecting is caring." Because of the survey results, the Health Ministry began to focus their energies on more consistent connections with congregational members, especially those who are unable to attend services regularly or at all. The Health Ministry Program of St. Columba's Episcopal Church is composed of nurses and congregants who want to serve their fellow parishioners and the surrounding community in various supportive and loving means. Please contact Teri Helton if you are interested in being a part of the Health Ministry.

Submitted by Teri Helton, RN

‡ Lunch Bunch ‡



After a three-year COVID hiatus, St. Columba's Lunch Bunch is being reinstated with Michele Hauser and Diane Off as hosts. This "re-invented" Lunch Bunch will include any St. Columba parishioner who is available at noon on the last Wednesday of each month for lunch and fellowship. The cost is \$4 and includes a meal, song, stories, and a chance to get to know each other better. Come join us!

Submitted by Michele Hauser, Lunch Bunch Hostess

‡ Memorial Ministry ‡



The Memorial Ministry provides assistance to our parishioners for Celebration of the Life of their loved family member for a meaningful event in the time of sorrow. Our small group of church members are available to assist with food selection and placement of memorabilia that provides insight of the life of our church member. Linens are provided as needed. The Boy Scout troop (much appreciated) provides set-up and take-down of furniture. Use of the patio has been well received by attendees and facilitates easy social interaction.

Jerry Gillespie ensures a continual supply of hot coffee and tea as needed. Refreshments are provided by many church members: Julie Russell, Margie Hanley, Jeff & Grace Chung, Barbara Amick, Nancy Hey, Gail DeWolfe, Nancy Miller, and many others. Carlos Barraza provides assistance in managing the many details that are required to provide a successful event as well as many people involved behind the scenes. You are all very appreciated for your continued assistance and support that insures a meaningful event for family and all attendees.

You are most appreciated by Chairperson Ann Luthringer. Thank you.

Submitted by Ann Luthringer

‡ Prayer Group ‡

St. Columba's Prayer Group is committed to pray daily for those who request prayer for themselves or on behalf of someone else. Whether or not we know the exact need, our prayers are offered with the assurance of God's attention and grace.

The parish Prayer List appears in the Sunday service bulletin, in *This Week at St. Columba's*, and on the parish website.

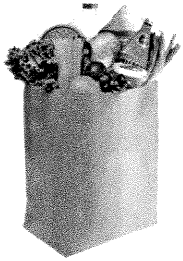
If you would like prayers for yourself or for someone else, please contact Carol Browning in the parish office by phone (805-482-8831) or by email (office.manager@stcolumbaca.com). When there is no longer a need for continued prayer, please contact Carol again so she can remove it from the list.

Submitted by Nancy Hey and Susan Doswell



▣ Food Ministries ▣

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



The Emergency Need Pantry, the Project Hope Pantry for Seniors and Families, and the newer 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 and USDA, 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 be ready to serve those who come to us in need of assistance. All people are welcome to receive food from one of our ministries. We always accept food and PPE donations. 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 (1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays).

Project Hope distributed staples, canned and dried food, bread, produce, and as available, fresh and frozen protein items. Typically, we serve about 35 families on each distribution day. Special thanks to those who work faithfully on Project Hope and have made sure that it supports the community. Food and Supplies pick-up at Food Share Warehouse on Tuesday morning: George Anderson and Cliff Aggen. Bag layout, food inventory set-up on Wednesdays—those working that part of the ministries have been: George Anderson, Doug Miller, and Cliff Aggen. Thursday mornings for bag stuffing and parking lot distribution to client's cars: George Anderson, Doug Miller, Lorelee Brown, Fr. Greg Larkin, Judith Laurentowski, Marjo Gardner, Michele Hauser. The Thursday morning delivery crew for seniors without transportation: Judith Laurentowski, Lorelee Brown, Tony Slade, and Marjo Gardner. The Thursday afternoon/evening distributors: Cliff Aggen, Doug Miller, and Fr. Greg Larkin. Special thanks for super support go to: The Boy Scouts of Troop 262 for their annual food drive with the food being given to Food Share; and the congregations of local churches for food and monetary donations: Trinity Presbyterian, Mount Cross Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, and Camarillo United Methodist; the CROP Walk and individual monetary donors; members of the community for their monetary donations; Food Share and USDA for most of the food that we distributed.

Cliff Aggen has been managing Project Hope for many years since he took over for Harry Daubert. Cliff has been critical to this food program, and everyone—the clients, the volunteers, the community, and Food Share—will truly miss Cliff and all he has done for the ministry and the community.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we gave roasted and then frozen chickens to our seniors and smaller families and voucher for turkey dinners to our large families. At Christmas, we gave gift cards to seniors and families that were approved by the Vestry and provided by St. Columba's Food Ministries funds. Parishioners gave gifts to the children of Project Hope, and Laura Jones generously and tirelessly made wool watch caps for the Project Hope families.

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. In 2022, we received a second grant for a smaller amount of money which will fund us into February/March 2023. 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 the community. Nutritious food and fresh vegetables & fruit are critical to people as they strive to stay healthy and maintain their immunity to disease. We purchase fresh produce from Santiago's Produce in Ventura. We have served over 60 families since we started. Typically, we have about 32 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, Lyle & Marianne Hyde, Gene Doswell, Judith Laurentowski, Richard Stone, Pam Smith, Gail & Maurice Hill, Fr. Greg Larkin, and Interim Pastor Mark Asman. Many thanks to all!

Submitted by Maurice Hill

■ Boy Scouts of America Troop 262 ■



As we enter 2023, we have 25 scouts and 26 adults registered as members of Troop 262.

In 2022, the majority of scouts advanced in rank and of those, five attained the rank of Eagle. Our current Scoutmaster is Steve Downs and our Committee Chair is Jessica Diaz.

In 2022, the troop went hiking, biking, and participated in numerous volunteer projects totaling 360 hours of community service. In February, we were the central delivery point for Scouting for Food for which the scouts loaded 5,150 pounds of food in the truck. We went to Camp Olijato for summer camp. The High Adventure Team (HAT) went to Philmont National Scout Camp for a two-week event with 100-plus miles of hiking. Some of our scouts served on staff at summer camp. We look forward to more outdoor activity and plan on going to Camp Whitsett in the Southern Sierras next summer.

We appreciate St. Columba's Episcopal Church for sponsoring us and are grateful for the support provided by the parishioners.

Submitted by Carlos Barraza, Charter Organization Representative

▣ 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. During the time we could not meet in-person, we opted 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 primarily for those with health issues that prevent them from attending in-person, as well as those who may be scattered across the world. Because our services are recorded on Facebook and YouTube, they are available at any time for viewers to access. We will continue this hybrid format of worship as long as COVID remains a threat to the health and well-being of our members. 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 and Africa. 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 on the Stream Team that make the livestreamed and recorded services possible: Tim Helton, Nancy Miller, Richard Stone, Vinita Bhushan, and Carlos Barraza. 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 sermons, which get posted to our website along with the text of the sermons (when available). We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Cliff Aggen for all the time and effort he put into making all our technology function seemingly effortlessly and mostly flawlessly. (There are always unforeseen "bugs" that arise in this process.)

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 friends.

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.

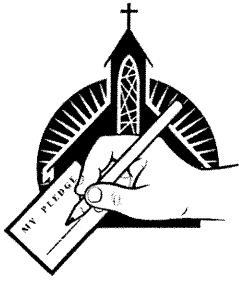
I invite each of you to take time and tour our website. Besides links to find our services, we have information posted about the church, the staff, parish calendar, recent sermons, parish history, our ministries, Vestry, how to donate, and much more. Some of the information I have posted needs to be 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. Look for more changes to our website in the future and for updates on the Rector Search.

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. The committee graciously thanks all of you in the parish who contribute your time, talent, and treasure during 2022. The pledge campaign began September 11 this year. The theme of the pledge campaign was *More Than Enough*. This year, during Sunday services, Paul Amendt and Maurice Hill shared with the congregation their personal journey with Stewardship. As a most memorable piece, Paul also entertained us by singing new lyrics to his Stewardship song to the tune of "Memory" from the Broadway show "Cats" ... "*Tithing. Tithing time, talent, and treasure....*" Gail Hill gave the congregation a Narrative Budget during Sunday service. Jeff Chung strummed his ukulele and sang "Here I Am, Lord" as a stewardship song; Brett Hanley accompanied Jeff. As of January 15, 2023, we received 52 pledges for 2023 for a total of \$194,183. This includes five new member pledges and two current members who made new pledges. The total represents an average of \$3,786 per pledge; the *total* amount is similar to what we received by this date in 2022. However, we are still receiving pledges from parishioners. The reported pledge numbers are current as of the date of submission of this report.

The 2022 Stewardship Committee members were Nancy Miller and Maurice Hill; Carlos Barazza was the Vestry representative for Stewardship; Sarah Monroe-Allen is our Financial Secretary and Parish Pledge Secretary; and Gail Hill is Treasurer. Our interim pastor, Mark Asman, supported the committee's efforts through sermons, advice, and example. 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 2022 committee members were Fr. Greg, Gail Hill, Tim Helton, Nancy Miller, Doug Miller, Maurice Hill, and Tom Ledsam. Susan Doswell joined the committee as CEO once Fr. Greg retired in June 2022. Gail Hill is the current Treasurer and, as such, is an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

We recognize the significant impact that Cliff Aggen has had as a founding member of the Committee. Cliff's support has been unparalleled throughout the years and we are forever grateful.

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 11/30/2022 was \$307,360.09. November is the most recent date for which we have DIT statements.

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 11/30/2022, the Endowment Fund held a total of \$204,046.19 with Vanguard. This includes \$177,588.92 in VTI, \$8,792.55 in BIV, and \$17,664.72 in the MM Fund. On November 30, 2022, we held \$0 in the church’s account at Bank of America, as all funds were transferred to Vanguard for investment.

In 2022, the Endowment Fund received a gift totaling \$40,000 from the estate of a parishioner, and we received notices that we would receive additional funds from this estate at a later date. We also received notice that we would receive a gift from the estate of another parish family in the near future.

The Endowment Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, a grant from the Endowment Fund to the Church for 2023 in the amount of \$15,000. 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 November 30, 2022, was \$511,406.28. This includes the Long-Term Diversified Diocesan Fund, the Vanguard investments, Vanguard money market funds, and the Bank of America account funds. Similar to the entire stock market, our fund declined in 2022 (through November 2022). With the anticipated generous donations to the fund by parishioners and the improved performance of our investments, we expect a significant increase in 2023.

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 2022, the Committee recommended an Endowment Fund Grant of \$15,000. The Vestry approved this amount. 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.

The Endowment Committee looks forward to hosting a Thank-You Event and an Iona Society Celebration in 2023, time permitting.

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 Michele 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, Joe and Sarah Wigert, and 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 2023, 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 2023 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 ‡



Building & Grounds

This report begins with an expression of profound gratitude to Cliff Aggen, who provided decades of service in building, maintaining, repairing, and guiding the development of our campus and programs. His knowledge of the many systems that support our parish was encyclopedic in nature. His presence is greatly missed.

There are many others who contributed to the effort of maintaining the facilities. It was a pleasure to watch the craftsmanship with which Bob Waite approaches repairing windows and pews. Julian Hoyle and Jeanette Barcroft's expertise in horticulture is amazing. Maurice Hill and Jeff Chung puzzled out some of the intricacies of our irrigation system which helped solve some of the challenges we face in keeping our campus beautiful. Gene Doswell spent hours making sure plants were watered in the face of searing heat this summer. Bill Brown has helped in multiple areas, including assisting the CLC in various ways. Jeanette Barcroft has devoted hours in adding beauty to the upper campus and ensuring that butterflies are attracted to our gardens. Brett Hanley's strength has been essential in digging and filling holes, as well as trimming some of our trees and clearing brush. Lyle Hyde worked hard in cleaning out gutters before the rains began. Paul Amendt cleaned off our street sign, which added much needed sparkle to our public message.

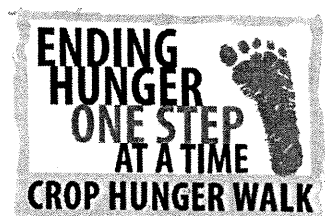
Contractors have been busy restoring the parish hall and CLC facades. Green Tree trimmed back the flaming amber and sycamore trees. Mr. Lopez excavated some Brazilian pepper trees and replaced a leaning wall with a new sturdy one. Work on a new Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system was begun in December and completed in January.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the assistance others have provided in formulating the planning and execution of many tasks. After Cliff entered the hospital, multiple protocols were developed to keep our services going that required feedback from many in correcting them. Tim Helton and Vinita Bhushan deserve most of the credit in problem-solving the myriad challenges we faced in restoring livestreaming of our services over a period of many weeks.

Cliff loved this parish and devoted his time and talent to its furtherance. While no one can fill his shoes, we must not only follow in his footsteps but create new paths in the future. We begin 2023 with resolve to continue our efforts in maintaining and improving our parish grounds.

Carlos Barraza, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

‡ CROP Walk ‡



After a COVID Walk in 2021, we had a successful “normal” walk hosted by Mount Cross in 2022. St. Columba’s played a strong role and helped to raise a total of \$24,000.00—bringing in about \$800.00 each to our pantry, Food Share, and Christians Acting Together, among others.

In 2023, the Walk is from Padre Sierra on March 12, just six weeks from today. Currently we do not have a member on the executive committee, but I will be responsible for providing walker envelopes and supporting materials. At this point, I would appreciate anyone willing to walk in or work on this, our 40th walk!

Submitted by John Pearson

‡ Rector Search Committee ‡



Susan Doswell, our Senior Warden, selected the members of the Rector Search Committee in Spring of 2022. The function of the Committee is to review applications, conduct interviews, conduct campus tours, and recommend final candidates for Rector to the Vestry. The members are: Maurice Hill (Chair), Norma McQuade, Diane Off, Sarah Wigert, and Tim Helton. The committee is trained by the Rev. Canon Tom Quijada-Discavage from the Diocesan Office of Formation and Transition Ministry. The committee will not begin its work until the Transition Committee completes the parish profile in 2023.

Submitted by Maurice Hill

‡ Rector Transition Committee Report ‡



In June of 2022, a small group of us came together as the Transition Committee to help get the parish ready to search for a new rector after the previous rector—of 22 years!—retired. Our charge was to write a new parish profile to share with prospective candidates, one that would detail how St. Columba’s came to be, who we are now, and what our collective vision is for the parish going forward.

Our committee consists of Marjo Gardner, Richard Stone, Lyle Hyde, Jeff Chung, and myself. With guidance from Fr. Tom Discavage, Canon for Formation and Transition Ministry of the Diocese of Los Angeles, we embarked on a journey of understanding and articulating who we are as a parish. After some initial planning meetings, we held a Story Day, a day-long event for everyone in the parish to meet in the parish hall and share stories about how each one of us came to St. Columba's, what some of our best memories are, and why we remain here. The day was facilitated by Fr. Tom, and a bit over 30 folks attended.

At the same time we were preparing for Story Day, we also crafted a survey for everyone in the parish to complete, to tell us what each of us likes about St. Columba's, how we might improve, and the qualities sought in the new rector. The survey was first distributed after church on November 27 and for some weeks after that, with it also being posted on the St. Columba's website and eventually mailed to parishioners that could not get one at church or via the website. Of the roughly 110 surveys that went out, 61 were returned—over 50%. We have now finished compiling the data from the surveys, and we will soon write the parish profile, have it reviewed by Fr. Tom of the Diocese and the Vestry, make whatever revisions are appropriate, and turn it over to the Search Committee that will begin advertising for rector candidates. The parish profile will also be posted on the St. Columba's website for everyone who is interested to review.

Submitted by Nancy Miller

‡ Recycling ‡



In 2022, the fund made \$580. Thanks to all the loyal donors for bringing in your recyclables during the pandemic.

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.

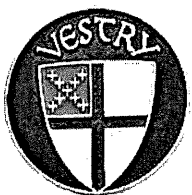
Remember, if an item does not have a CA Recycle Refund amount printed on it, then the fund gets nothing for it.

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 ‡



The year 2022 began with big news when, at our Annual Meeting on January 30, Fr. Greg Larkin, our faithful rector and friend for the past 22 years, announced his upcoming retirement on July 1.

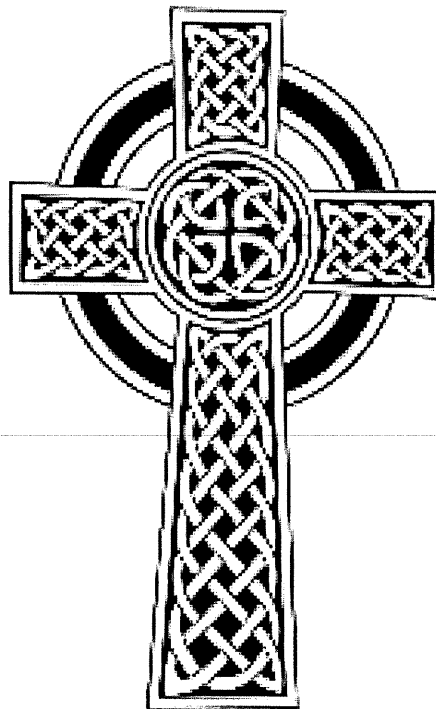
Faced with a time of uncertainty and self-evaluation, the Vestry and other parish leaders went to work preparing for activities and changes that lay ahead. We initiated communications with The Rev. Tom Quijada-Discavage, Canon for Formation and Transition Ministries in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Preparations began for our annual St. Columba's Day celebration on June 12, including a visit from Bishop Taylor, Confirmation, and Fr. Greg's last service. A committee was formed to plan a farewell event for Fr. Greg and his family. On July 10, we joyfully and tearfully celebrated Fr. Greg and his 22-year ministry with a grand Dodger-themed party in the parish hall. A Transition Committee and a Search Committee were appointed, and, on August 15, we were blessed to welcome The Reverend Canon Mark Asman as our Interim Pastor.

In 2022, St. Columba's experienced and embraced a myriad of changes. Numerous parishioners, with Mark's capable guidance, have been proactive to ensure a smooth transition in all areas of our parish life.

St. Columba's looks forward into 2023 with anticipation and optimism as we search for, and ultimately welcome, a new rector.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, you have brought St. Columba's to this important time in our history. Look graciously on us, and guide us through our search, that it may enable us to grow in commitment to one another and to the work of Christ in our community. Help us to hear your gentle voice and to be obedient to your will. Bless us in this search, that we may choose a faithful pastor to join us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by Susan Doswell, Senior Warden





‡ The Threshold Project ‡

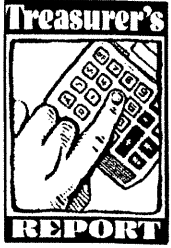


The Threshold Project has again been somewhat sidelined because we are focused more on our time of transition. Fr. Greg was the leader and he has retired. The only other member of the committee, Bill Brown, cannot be expected to do this work on his own. We hope to once again participate in the Camarillo Fiesta in July by setting up our booth to greet Fiesta-goers and hand out water. As we pray the Welcoming Prayer each week, please pray for this work and make newcomers feel welcome at St. Columba's.

Submitted by Gail Hill and Susan Doswell



St. Columba's Treasurer's Report



2022 ended up the year in the black! Our income was greater than our expenses by over \$10,000. Our expenses were much lower than budgeted, and we continue to have very generous parishioners! The Celtic Faire Committee, under the direction of Carol Rocco, raised the funds we needed—\$4,000. The Children's Learning Center increased their pledge to us and reimbursed us for utilities and other shared costs.

2022 was a time of a lot of changes. Fr. Greg retired and Mark started as our Interim Pastor. Mark's salary was less than budgeted. As a retiree, we didn't have to pay for benefits, including pension contributions. We figured out how to provide Mark with a car within our available funds so he could be our Interim Pastor. Our utilities ended up much less than budgeted: the Preschool is the main user of utilities right now and they totally reimbursed us.

We gave our staff pay increases in 2022. We were able to meet our pledge to the Diocese. We paid them 10% of our projected pledges.

2023 presents some new challenges. The Vestry is preparing the compensation package for a new Rector to include in the Parish Profile. The Diocese has determined some new minimum salaries that we want to match or exceed in order to get the best candidate possible. Since the new Rector will begin in the summertime, we won't have a whole year of expenses in 2023. The Vestry has reviewed the impact of those salaries on the 2023 budget and a 2024 budget with a full year of salary. We've also reviewed what housing assistance we could offer since rentals in our area run \$2,850-\$4,200 a month.

In addition, the Diocese has determined that they will start assessing us 12% of regular income beginning in 2024. As a result, we have budgeted for 2023 to pay a Mission Share Fund pledge of 11% of 2022's plate and pledge.

In other news, we received a generous donation from a parishioner's estate for the Endowment Fund. The parish received a grant from the Endowment Fund in 2022 and is expecting another one in 2023 for a total of \$35,000. That should enable the parish to do some maintenance projects totaling over \$50,000.

I wish to thank the Budget & Finance Committee for helping with the work: Bev & John Pearson, Doug Miller, and our Financial Secretary, Sarah Monroe-Allen. Cliff Aggen was a vital member of this committee for many years, and we will greatly miss his contributions to our efforts. 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. Our intent is to keep the parish vital through careful management of our finances.

Submitted by Gail Hill, Treasurer

St. Columba's Financial Data for 2022 and Budget for 2023

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
DISBURSEMENTS		
SALARIES AND PERSONNEL		
Rector	\$47,518.00	\$30,833
Interim Pastor	\$16,148.84	\$28,616
Rector Housing		\$6,000
Director of Family Ministry	\$8,053.40	\$4,473
Office Manager	\$16,618.07	\$17,940
Music Director	\$25,999.92	\$28,028
Financial Secretary	\$4,145.70	\$4,200
Employee Benefits & Payroll Taxes	\$24,118.94	\$21,278
Substitutes	\$3,847.50	\$4,000
Workers Comp Insurance	\$409.00	\$550
<i>Subtotal Salaries and Personnel</i>	\$146,859.37	\$145,918
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Advertising	\$710.95	\$700
Computer Support	\$1,396.93	\$1,500
Insurance (Prop, Liability)	\$31,720.50	\$32,000
Liturgical Supplies	\$143.06	\$200
Office Expenses	\$6,911.93	\$7,000
Postage	\$865.35	\$1,400
Telephone	\$4,140.17	\$4,100
Utilities	\$9,430.60	\$11,000
Yearly Financial Audit	\$0.00	\$50
<i>Subtotal Administrative Expenses</i>	\$55,319.49	\$57,950
PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH		
Christian Education - Adult	\$456.33	\$300
Christian Education - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	\$160.07	\$100
Contemplative Prayer Services	\$1,775.00	\$1,375
Evangelism	\$85.00	\$200
Deanery Assessment	\$0.00	\$170
Mission Share Fund (Diocesan)	\$19,362.00	\$24,505
Music Department	\$2,107.65	\$2,500
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$184.57	\$400
Rector's Incidental Expenses	\$39.00	\$200
Stewardship/Endowment	\$272.53	\$500
Theological Education Institutions	\$0.00	\$500
<i>Subtotal Programs and Outreach</i>	\$24,442.15	\$30,750
PROPERTY SUPPORT		
Audio/Visual Support	\$0.00	\$400
Janitor	\$8,750.00	\$8,600
Janitorial Supplies	\$433.96	\$500
Kitchen Supplies	\$573.34	\$200
<i>Subtotal Property Support</i>	\$9,757.30	\$9,700
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$236,378.31	\$244,318

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
INCOME		
PLATE OFFERINGS (Regular Services)	\$11,415.92	\$8,000
PLATE OFFERINGS (Contemplative Services)	\$100.00	\$500
PLEDGES, Regular	\$205,205.00	\$192,103
PLEDGES, Prepaid	\$6,055.70	\$1,000
PARISH HALL AND OTHER	\$540.00	\$500
Learning Center Pledge	\$21,400.00	\$23,400
Parish Fund Raising Events	\$3,966.81	\$4,000
E Script	\$351.64	\$400
INTEREST	\$64.79	\$50
2012 - 2020 Carryover	\$0.00	\$6,365
Special Gifts	\$0.00	\$8,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$249,099.86	\$244,318
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$12,721.55	\$0.00
Income as a percentage of expenses	105.38%	100.00%

SPECIAL PURPOSES - NON-BUDGETED INCOME

Parish Events	\$1,939.33
Outreach Fund	\$580.00
ERD	\$683.00
Memorials/ Tributes	\$2,650.00
Special Gifts	\$27,000.00
Prepaid Pledges	\$1,000.00
Rector Housing	\$10,000.00
Total Receipts All Sources	\$292,952.19

* Excludes funds from City & HUD for Pantry

* \$2500 will be transferred from 2022 excess to Pantry per 2022 Budget

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS

ENDOWMENT FUND (DIT & Vanguard)	\$541,104
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BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank of America Checking Account	\$79,176
Bank of America Savings Account	\$162,032
Bank of America Rector Discretionary Funds	\$254
Bank of America Columbarium	\$40,267

TOTAL FUNDS IN BANK AND ENDOWMENT

\$822,833