

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California 93010

Phone: (805) 482-8831 / www.stcolumbaca.com

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Presented at the Parish Meeting
on February 4, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

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



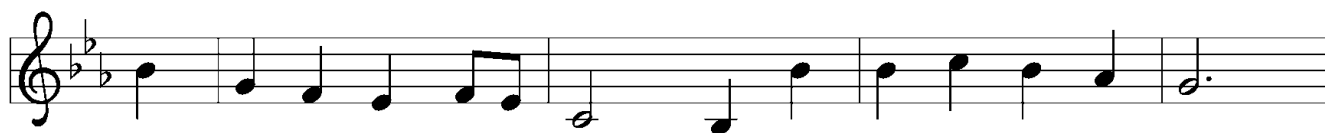
Promoting progressive, challenging, and vital ministries



Striving for justice and peace among all peoples



We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



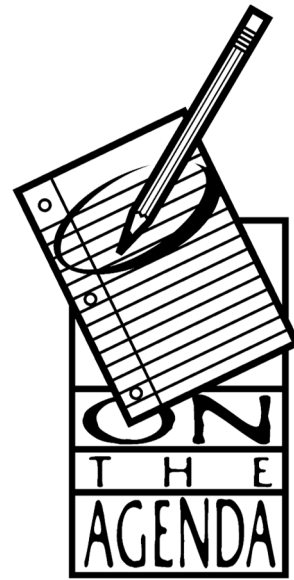
to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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1. **Opening Prayers**
2. **Motion to Dispense with the Reading of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting**
3. **Special Recognition**
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**



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 29, 2023

The Annual Meeting of St. Columba's Episcopal Church was opened at 10:59 a.m. with prayer by Senior Warden Susan Doswell. She asked everyone to sign on the yellow pages provided and thanked those who contributed annual reports for the meeting. The transition prayer and a blessing for the food being consumed at the meeting were given by Susan Doswell.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting was moved, seconded, and passed.

Susan recognized the CLC Board members, led by Rebecca Mendoza, and had them stand; she recognized the retiring member of the Vestry, Doug Miller, who will continue on the Vestry to fill the spot vacated by Lorelee Brown's move out of state. She also recognized the Transition Committee, led by Nancy Miller, and had them stand. The Search Committee was recognized, led by Maurice Hill. The current Vestry will remain for next year, led by Susan Doswell as Senior Warden. Brett Hanley accompanied us in singing "Happy Birthday" to George Anderson.

Bob and Gwen Waite will serve as Diocesan Delegates for 2023, and Maurice and Gill will be alternates. It was moved and seconded that these parishioners serve in these capacities; the motion passed.

Mark Asman presented the Vestry nominees. He said that, during the time of transition, the current Vestry should be kept in place for stability. Our bylaws require the Vestry to be composed of 9 to 12 members. There are currently two open slots to meet that requirement. He presented Lara Tyas and Deborah Brown as candidates. Gail Hill moved and Teri Helton seconded that these two nominees be accepted as new Vestry members for upcoming three-year terms; the motion passed.

It was moved by Barbara Amick and seconded by Bob Waite that Presentation of Annual Reports be accepted by title; the motion passed.

Treasurer Gail Hill presented the Budget, assisted by Maurice Hill, on PowerPoint. We received more income than expenses. Utilities were lower than expected; Mark's salary was less than anticipated. Air conditioning is being added to parish hall offices; the back double doors and kitchen door are being replaced. We now must prepare for five months with the new full-time rector, hoping we find someone with five to nine years' experience at the recommended \$74,000 salary. Overall, we are in good shape, and appreciation for continued support was expressed. Complete financial information was included in the Report for all to review. Barbara Amick thanked Gail for her dedication.

Susan Doswell prayed for and mentioned all who died this past year. Susan recognized Mark and thanked him for answering the call to come to St. Columba's as our Interim Pastor. Susan acknowledged the leadership skills used in filling in for Cliff Aggen's role at St. Columba's, notably Gail Hill (financial matters); Carlos Barraza (protocols); Maurice Hill (Food Pantry, Project Hope, and Stewardship campaign); and Tim Helton (IT).

Additionally, Susan thanked Laura Jones for making 40 watch caps for the International Mariners Center in Port Hueneme, and Jeanette Barcroft for Labyrinth landscaping.

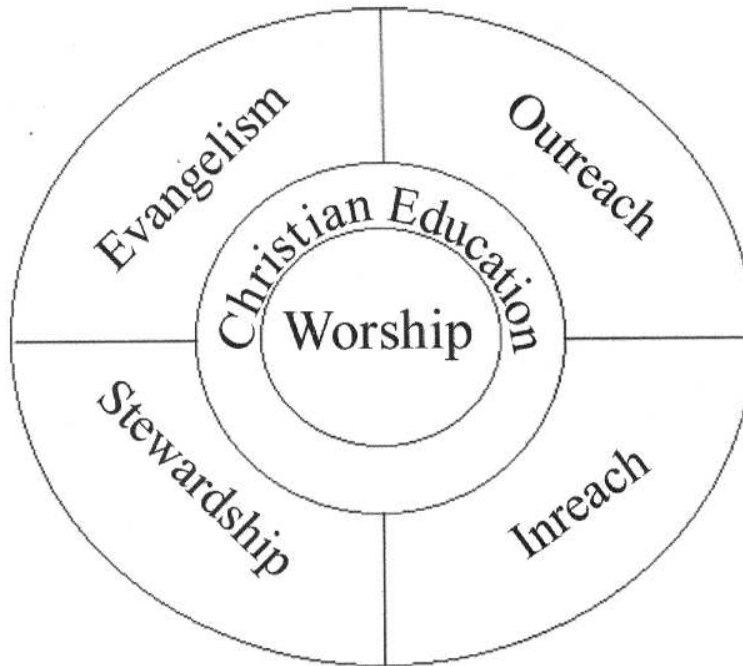
Mark said we are near the halfway point in the 18-month process of finding a new rector. Next, the Transition Committee will forward the Parish Profile to the Vestry, and then the Search Committee will take three to five months to discern rector candidates. Finally, the rector will be chosen and terms of agreement will be negotiated. The new rector may need two months to wrap up things at his/her present parish. The call is not the end result; we need to help the new priest land successfully using our onboarding skills.

At this time, Susan Doswell commissioned the new Vestry—Paul Amendt, Carlos Barraza, Marjo Gardner, Teri Helton, Marianne Hyde, Doug Miller, Lara Tyas, Deborah Brown, and Susan Doswell.

As there was no further business, Teri Helton moved that the meeting be adjourned at noon, seconded; the motion passed.

Mark led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjo Gardner, Acting Clerk



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.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Maurice Hill

I have been a member of St. Columba's since 1991. I currently serve on various ministries at the church including the Stewardship Committee, Endowment Committee, Project Hope, St. Columba's Pantry, Buildings & Grounds, and Monday Morning Work Crew. I was the Chair of the Rector Search Committee this past year. I am currently a lector, and, along with my wife Gail, an usher at Sunday services. I previously served on the Vestry and was the Senior Warden. Before I retired, I was a Marine Biologist and Offshore Renewable Energy Program Coordinator. My parents baptized me in the Episcopal Church when I was an infant, and I was confirmed at age 12 in the Episcopal faith.

My intention to run for Vestry this year stems from a desire to offer my time and talent to St. Columba's in return for all the support and blessings I have received while being a member of this parish.

Tom Ledsam

I was born in Australia in 1948 and came to the United States when I was 2½ years old. My father was an Episcopal priest so we moved a lot. We moved to Maine, to Illinois twice, and then on to California, including Beaumont and Palm Springs, where I graduated from high school. After that, we moved to Hollywood. I attended UCLA and graduated in 1970.

In 1976, I earned a real estate broker's license and have been in the real estate business since, mainly specializing in property management.

When we had a boat, I would love to water ski with my family and friends. I have two brothers, one living in Seal Beach and the other in San Diego. I got married in 1978, and have one daughter and two grandsons.

I currently serve at St. Columba's as part of the Endowment Committee.

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 church 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 at Thanksgiving time.

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

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

Submitted by Marjo Gardner

+ Altar Guild +



The Altar Guild has continued to set up 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.

We had lots of changes this year. We moved from having individual servings in small cups to having two chalices for the LEM's. We moved from having the wine and bread just with the priest at the Altar to its location on a table in the back of the church, with parishioners bringing up the elements. We moved the altar several times. Our interim Pastors provided lots of leadership and practice with making changes in preparation for our new Rector, Fr. Michael Anderson.

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 \$4,917.67, and ended with \$4,586.56.

We are also so very appreciative of all the help and support that we receive from Brett Hanley to make the many changes in hangings and other symbols of the season. 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 and Gail Hill

† **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, sixty-one parishioners have been inured in the columbarium. The columbarium committee consists of Carlos Barraza, Susan Doswell, Gail Hill and Maria Fernandez.

The columbarium fund ended the year with \$5,206.18 after \$34,963.81 was transferred to interest-earning T-bills in October 2023.

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 \$1200, 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.

Respectfully, 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.

The Eucharistic Minister leads the Intercessions (Prayers of the People) and helps with communion by administering the chalice for Communion.

Currently active and licensed Eucharistic Ministers are Paul Amendt, Deborah Brown, Bill Brown, Mary Steppes-Cole, Maria Fernandez, Teri Helton, Marianne Hyde, 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, and Maria Fernandez.

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



**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. Our current Storytellers are Paul Amendt and Nancy Miller. If you are interested in this ministry, please speak with Fr. Michael.

Submitted by Bob Waite

† The Labyrinth †



Three labyrinth walks were hosted in 2023—a Lenten walk on March 11, World Labyrinth Day on May 6, and a Gratitude walk on November 18. Walks were attended by parishioners, members of Mount Cross Lutheran Church, friends, and the public. Labyrinth walks also included fellowship around the campfire and (usually) refreshments.

Stories Around the Campfire returned in 2023. We met for 6 weeks on Wednesday nights between July 12–August 16 to reflect on scripture, share fellowship and enjoy s’mores. Mount Cross members also participated, including Rev. Julie Morris and Joe Zimmerly. Additional evenings were added once a month in the fall and included Mount Cross’ Confirmation class.

Solar path lights were added to the Labyrinth entrance in September.

The Labyrinth tab on the St. Columba’s website 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 continued work in the Labyrinth Garden. 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.

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 Paul and Gail Amendt

† Music Department †



The music department had a good year. The choir has continued to regularly practice and sing in church services, special services. The choir has grown a little more than last year with a few more singers, and are seeking new singers to join. After many years of searching and saving monies collected from all Parish Concerts, I'm happy to announce that, at the beginning of 2024, St. Columba's has finally purchased a much-needed replacement piano for the sanctuary. The Camarillo Seventh Day Adventist sold us their baby grand Kawai piano they were using in their parish after they upgraded to a larger concert grand. The cost for us was much lower than the value of the piano. After I gave them a very low offer to buy and move the piano, they voted in our favor amongst other bidders. They felt it should go to a place of worship and keep serving in that role. The moving cost of the new and our old piano was graciously paid for by someone connected to St. Columba's (which might have been more than the cost of the piano). We are truly blessed with a newer piano that didn't leave our music department in debt and we have funds left over. The organ continues to perform excellent with no problems, for now. Also, with the help from some parishioners and the video crew, we have been exploring the sound system wiring around the choir loft and organ as it's somewhat of a mystery how it's set up, or should I say, not set up at the moment. We have been doing this to make better choir, organ, piano live recordings and amplifying. Finally, I look forward to working with the new Rector with his vision of the music program here at St. Columba's and I surely expect great and exciting things, sounds to come.

Submitted by Brett Hanley, Music Director

† Ushers Report †



The Ushers are usually the first people who greet people when they arrive at 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 ready at our 9:30 service Sunday 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, Jarrel Fuller and Beverly Pearson, Maurice & Gail Hill, Lyle Hyde and Gene Doswell. 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 Bob Waite or Fr. Michael.

Submitted by Bob Waite for the Ushers



✧ Adult Education ✧



There were various educational opportunities for adults during 2023. The interim rector, Rev. Mark Asman, ensured that the congregation had opportunities to incorporate faith and knowledge. Each forum was well attended. The participants appeared to enjoy the forums as seen from their interactive participation during question-and-answer times with the speakers and in the breakout groups. The forums included:

- *Difficulties of Affordable Housing* presented by Clergy, Laity, United for Economic Justice (CLUE)
- *Why Interfaith and Introduction to Ventura County Interfaith Community* presented by Tim and Teri Helton
- *Congregation Needs and Wants for St. Columba's* led by Maurice Hill
- *Importance and History of Changes in Liturgy and Form* led by Rev. Mark Asman
- *LGBTQ+* forums led by Rev. Mark Asman and one led by Diversity Collective

Submitted by Teri Helton, Junior Warden

✧ 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 fully enjoyed having the additional outdoor space. Outdoor play continues to provide 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. This year we added shades to each outdoor space that was at no cost to the preschool. All labor and materials we donated.

Our major social events 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 also the school's

biggest fundraiser of the year, thank you for your continued support, Church. We have continued to hold events where we participate in conjunction with the Church, in doing so we are building a strong partnership.

Our summer program was once again a hit! Many families stayed throughout the summer and enjoyed the activities we provided. This year we did not have room to accept any new families from other programs, as we continue to stay full with our own. Over the summer each week the classes had different “camps.” We offered Art Camp, Safari Camp, Ocean Camp, Fun in the Sun, and so many other camps. We transformed the classes into underwater adventures, castles, camping grounds and much more!

CLC is in a good financial position, and has continued to have positive cash flow. Enrollment has continued to stay full for the 2023-24 school year. Some of the major projects we were able to accomplish this school year were replacing the old shed with a larger and more durable shed. We had all water faucets tested for lead which is required by Community Care Licensing. The school also provides a monthly pledge of \$1950 per month to the Church.

Our teaching staff consists of ten teachers. I have continued to attend meetings with local Preschool Directors Group allowing me to network, offer and receive support, information and maintain genuine friendship. Our goal is to maintain a healthy, safe and most of all loving environment for anyone who walks through our gates including children, their families and most of all our loving staff who go above and beyond for the school and community, building the reputation in town of a program that exceeds all expectations.

I want to thank all of the St. Columba’s Church 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 submitted by: Rebecca Mendoza-Martinez, Preschool Director

✧ **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.

The 2023 year was one of many difficult scheduling challenges involving Catechist availability. The cancelation of presentations with classes from the St. Columba's Preschool continued.

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 which is being done in conjunction with Mount Cross's Confirmation class. With the help of parents, and being very flexible week to week, presentations were given in each atrium.

The Level I presentations continued to include Parable of the Good Shepherd, Psalm 23 vs 1-3, the Parables of the Kingdom of God Re: 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 The People of God and *The Plan of God* and God's plan of Cosmic Communion at the Parousia, "a time when God will be all in all." In February, we began our reading of the Old Testament Scriptures, reading and reflecting upon the 2 stories of The Creation and story of Adam & Eve in the Garden, and how they inform us about our relationship with God, the time of Redemption (since the birth of Jesus), and the Parousia.

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 catechist, to be present, and on the part of the parents and child to have the child in the "Atrium" or classroom on a regular basis. My sincere apologies for my personal life getting in the way of my being present in the atria. 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. And I am eager to train interested people as an assistants 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 **39 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.

One member, Lois Barcroft, turned 100 years old back in August 2023! However, Lois lives in assisted living and can no longer attend our meetings. Indeed, after many faithful years of service, we are now down to but a few members. During the COVID pandemic, gathering regularly was difficult, and two years 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 *Courier* or via email. If you want to attend some month, you can email me to confirm that we’ll be meeting on the first Saturday (nancy.miller39@verizon.net). 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 Ministry/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 teach and provide resources, as well as give comfort and encourage members of our congregation in an inclusive relationship with our parish community. The Health Ministry did this in 2023 through focusing on helping parishioners feel connected and cared for by sending birthday and holiday cards to all of St. Columba's members and attendees. Many individuals reported on how this made them feel remembered and loved. Phone calls and visits have been made by the Health Ministry members. Gail DeWolfe, one of the nurses of the Health Ministry, provided short, informative articles to the *Celtic Courier* on a monthly basis. Additionally, the Health Ministry has collaborated with Mount Cross Lutheran Church in providing education, such as the Spam Prevention Seminar that the Ventura County District Attorney's Senior Advocate spoke at. 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. We are beginning to plan for 2024. Please contact Teri Helton if you are interested in being a part of the Health Ministry.

Submitted by Teri Helton, RN

‡ Lunch Bunch ‡



Lunch Bunch is a monthly luncheon put on for members of St. Columba's Episcopal Church, intended to enhance community within the church, by providing a relaxed time to sing, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Approximately 16-18 people usually attend each month. Occasional programs and sharing time add to the community-building. Lunch Bunch resumed in January 2023, after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID epidemic.

Michele Hauser had led Lunch Bunch by herself from 2015-2020. Diane Off ably joined in helping to provide lunches during 2023. Lunch Bunch meals were provided ten months during the year, with a July and August break. As the costs were now being shared, the participants' \$4 donations were given to St. Columba's Project Hope. During 2023, \$275 was so donated.

During 2023, Michele's husband, Steve, participated as our cheerful host, greeting people as they arrived. Their "therapy dog," Ernie, has also attended, bringing smiles and friendly tail wags. Programs included a presentation by Teri Helton on exercise and other health concerns, a video on the creating of the beautiful All Saints hangings of the LA Cathedral of the Lady of the Angels, and a presentation by Edwin, an Olympic medal winner, and his suggestions for healthy aging. In addition, several times, Lunch Bunchers shared their own life experiences with their tables in response to prompts.

I am pleased to announce that, starting in January 2024, Beanie MacLaurie (Norma McQuade's daughter) and Jarrel Fuller have joined the Lunch Bunch team, making a full complement of four! This way, when a team member has to be absent, others are on deck to fill in. This should add to the variety of menus and lessen burn-out among the chefs!

Respectfully submitted by Michele Hauser

‡ 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 to request 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). If you would like to join the Prayer Group as a prayer, please contact Susan Doswell (805-384-8534) or by email (genesusdoz@msn.com).

Submitted by Susan Doswell and Nancy Hey





■ St. Columba's Food Ministries ■



Project Hope Pantry for Seniors and Families, St. Columba's Pantry and Emergency Need Pantry, are all part of the food ministries at St Columba's. All food ministries at St. Columba's receive donations of funds and grocery items from our parish members, Food Share, neighboring churches, 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 any of our food ministries. We always accept grocery donations and cash or checks.

We provide food on the first, second and fourth Thursday of each month. Project Hope provides food in the morning and afternoon on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. St. Columba's Pantry provides food on the first Thursday afternoon. Food is also delivered to seniors who do not have transportation. Emergency Food is available when the Church office is open. Carol Browning, our Office Manager, graciously meets clients in the office and provides them with needed grocery items.

The Food Ministries distributed staples, canned and dried food, bread, produce, and as available, fresh produce, and fresh and frozen protein items. Typically, we serve about 45 families on each distribution day. The number is rising: we have recently been serving up to 65 families. Special thanks to those who work faithfully on our Food Ministries and have made sure that it supports the community. Food and supplies pick-up at Food Share Warehouse on Tuesday mornings: George Anderson and Maurice Hill. Bag layout, food inventory set-up on Wednesdays: George Anderson and Doug Miller. Thursday mornings for bag packing and parking lot distribution to client's cars: George Anderson, Doug Miller, Judith Laurentowski, Marjo Gardner, Michele Hauser, and Fran Cogswell. The Thursday morning delivery crew for seniors without transportation: Judith Laurentowski, Fran Cogswell, Michele Hauser, and Marjo Gardner. The Thursday afternoon/evening distributors: Doug Miller, Gene Doswell, Lyle & Marianne Hyde, Richard Stone, and Amanda & Amaya Meyer. Special thanks for their super support: The Boy Scouts of Troop 262 and Carlos Barraza for their annual food drive with the food being given to Food Share; 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 HUD for most of the food that we distributed.

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we gave gift cards to our seniors and younger families. At Christmas, we gave gift cards to seniors and families. The money for the gift cards was provided by St. Columba's Food Ministries funds and a generous parishioner. Our parishioners gave Christmas gifts to the children of our food ministries.

Submitted by Maurice Hill

▣ Boy Scouts of America Troop 262 ▣



As we enter 2024, we have 20 Scouts and 23 adults registered as members of Troop 262.

In 2022, the majority of Scouts advanced in rank and of those, 4 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 584 hours of community service. In February, we were the central delivery point for Scouting for Food for which the scouts loaded thousands of pounds of food in the truck. From airshow support to City sponsored events to flag ceremonies and memorial flag placement. We continue to hold a strong presence in our community.

We went to Camp Whitsett for summer camp. The High Adventure Team (HAT) continues to go hiking in the backcountry including time in eastern Sierras. Some of our Scouts served on staff at summer camp. We look forward to more outdoor activity and plan on going to Camp Tahquitz in the San Bernardino mountains 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. In response, we discontinued in-person services, opting for livestreamed services via Facebook and YouTube. When health officials declared it safe, St. Columba's returned to in-person worship services while keeping the format of livestreamed Spiritual Communion. We discovered a new mission—namely, to continue livestreaming most of our services, and recording others for on-demand viewing. By doing so, we are reaching parishioners who are unable to attend in person, and we are reaching out to others around the world who have found our online presence. 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. 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” viewer/worshipers 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.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to construct a cabinet to permanently house our livestream equipment, so it is more readily available.

I would like to thank those who have been the techno-wizards that make the livestreamed and recorded services possible: Tim Helton, Nancy Miller, Richard Stone, Vinita Bhushan, Bill Hillbrant, and Michella Harp. My job is to grab the links from their video 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 (when it is available) 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 friends.

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. Interested individuals may also sign up for Constant Contact emails for “This Week at St. Columba’s” by using the form on the “Welcome” page <https://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 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. The committee graciously thanks all of you in the parish who contributed your time, talent, and treasure during 2023. The annual pledge campaign began September 17 this year. The theme of the pledge campaign was *Rooted in Abundance*. This year, during Sunday services, Teri Helton and Michele Hauser shared with the congregation their personal journey with Stewardship. Gail Hill presented the congregation with a Narrative Budget during a Sunday service. As of January 17, 2024, we received 47 pledges for 2023 for a total of \$208,244.00. The total represents an average of \$4,430 per pledge; the *total* amount is about \$14,200 higher as compared to what we received by this date in 2023. However, we are still receiving pledges from parishioners. The reported pledge numbers are current as of the date of submission of this report.

The 2023 Stewardship Committee members were Nancy Miller and Maurice Hill; 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, as did the Rev. Susan Klein. 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 2023 committee members were Susan Doswell, 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. Our new Rector, Michael Anderson, will serve on the committee in 2024. Gail Hill is the current Treasurer and, as such, is an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

In 2023, the Endowment Fund received a very generous donation from the estate of Caroline Lescher in the amount of \$220,000, and a very generous donation from the Ted and Vicky Daniel estate in the amount of \$40,000. These gifts will allow the committee to make much larger annual grants to the Church in the future.

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 committee voted to use Ridgeline Private Wealth Management to invest a portion of the fund (\$500,000) starting in December 2023. The committee oversees the account and makes decisions on the types and amounts of investments in accordance with our Plan of Operation. The firm manages and invests for us.

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 11/30/2023 was \$325,384.54. 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). 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) and Ridgeline. As of 12/31/2023, the Endowment Fund held a total of \$10,023.80 with Vanguard. This includes \$5,406.12 in VTI, \$0 in BIV, and \$4,617.68 in the MM Fund. The Vanguard account was reduced in December because we sold shares to transfer funds to Ridgeline. On December 31, 2023, we held \$0 in the church's account at Bank of America, as all funds were transferred to Ridgeline for investment.

On December 31, 2023, we held \$508,187.20 with Ridgeline. This money (about half) came from the two large donations and the remaining amount came from the sale of Vanguard ETF and Bond ETF shares.

The Endowment Committee will recommend for approval a grant from the Endowment Fund to the church for 2024 in January 2024. 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, 2023, was about \$840,000. This includes the Long-Term Diversified Diocesan Fund, the Vanguard investments, Vanguard money market funds, Bank of America account funds, and Ridgeline investments. The total includes data from the DIT for November; we had not received the December DIT statement by the time of publication of this report. The final year-end total will likely be higher, since the S & P and other markets rose about 4 percent in December.

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. 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 an Iona Society Celebration in 2024, time permitting.

We are all happy to celebrate our *Iona Society* members: Paul & Gail Amendt, Betty* Angle, Nancy & Ed Miller, George & Betty* Anderson, Ted* & Vicky* Daniel, Ann Radzienda, Harry* & Marguerite* Daubert, Steve & Michele Hauser, Jim & Mona Cecil, Nancy Hey, Jerry & Sally* Gillespie, Tim & Teri Helton, Maurice & Gail Hill, Caroline* Lescher, John & Beverly Pearson, Chuck* & Susan Andrews, Terry* & Gail DeWolfe, Cliff* & Bev* Aggen, Bill* & Maxine* Himstreet, Norm & Carrie* Loughlin, George* & Ann Luthringer, Greg* & Lucia* Mazza, Mary* Madden, Norma McQuade, Tom* & Ann* Rosser, Bob & Gwen Waite, 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 2024, 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 2024 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 ‡

Buildings & Grounds is pleased to report on many of the challenges faced this past year. Some of the tasks our parishioners and friends have undertaken include:

- Improve the labyrinth garden;
- Build the Livestream cabinet;
- Fish the narthex ceiling;
- Repair the sacristy bathroom;
- Establish Sunday service protocols;
- Finalize the parish office HVAC system;
- Refinish the nave-narthex doors;
- Installation of Parish Hall fiberglass doors
- Augment the nave lighting;
- Purge campus clutter;
- Drain the rectory “swamp;”
- Redo the patio altar;
- Rework some of the nave pews;
- Refinish the rector’s desk;
- Install new windows;
- Redo the rector’s office;
- Purge-reorganize the parish hall kitchen;
- Puzzle out the sound system;
- Chainsaw down trees, then prune;
- Light the south parish hall window cross;
- Install a rain gutter;
- Maintain/irrigate the rose garden;

Our parish was blessed to have so many who volunteered their time and talents, often going above and beyond the call of duty. In alphabetical order they are:

Jeanette Barcroft
Bill Brown
Tim Brown
Jeff Chung
Gene & Susan Doswell
Jerry Gillespie
Brett Hanley
Tim & Teri Helton
Gail & Maurice Hill
Julian Hoyle
Lyle Hyde
Ann Luthringer
Tim MacDonald
Norma "Beanie" MacLaurie
Doug Miller
Richard Stone
Bob Waite
Sarah Wigert

All of these individuals have contributed towards the common goal of improving our buildings and grounds. They cleaned kitchens, purged rooms of clutter, built furniture, installed irrigation, pruned plants, sawed wood, mulched & planted gardens, sanded furniture and doors, plastered & painted walls, provided valuable insight, installed gutters, met with contractors and shopped for stuff. Along the way, they shared stories, cracked jokes, and deepened friendships. The paths they navigated were all a journey following the footsteps of Christ. It has been a privilege to walk with them. The parish is grateful for all their hard work.

Carlos Barraza, Chair of Buildings & Grounds

‡ **CROP Walk** ‡



Our 40th annual CROP Walk, hosted by Padre Serra Church, was held March 12, 2023. It raised the most money ever, \$26,865.00. St. Columba's had 15 walkers and workers who raised \$2,501.00. Twenty-five percent of that stayed in Camarillo. St. Columba's Food Program received \$1,357.34! Many thanks to all the participants and generous donors.

Date of the 2024 Walk will be announced soon!

Submitted by John and Beverly Pearson

‡ Rector Search Committee ‡



Susan Doswell, our Senior Warden, selected the members of the Rector Search Committee in the Spring of 2022. The function of the Committee was to review Rector applications, conduct interviews, visit candidates, conduct campus tours, and recommend final candidates for Rector to the Vestry. The members were: Maurice Hill (Chair), Norma McQuade, Diane Off, Sarah Wigert, Gail Amendt, and Tim Helton. The committee was guided and trained by the Rev.

Canon Tom Quijada-Discavage from the Diocesan Office of Formation and Transition Ministry. The committee started its work when the Transition Committee and the Vestry completed the parish profile in March 2023. The committee received applications in June 2023, reviewed the applications and conducted a series of interviews (by Zoom, and in person), and made candidate visits over the summer. During September, the committee held final discussions to come to a consensus on who to recommend to the Vestry as the next Rector. A recommendation was made to the Vestry in early October. The Vestry conducted phone and Zoom interviews and strongly supported the committee's recommendation of the The Rev. Dr. Michael Anderson. Fr. Michael will have his first day as St. Columba's new Rector on Monday, January 22, 2024.

Submitted by Maurice Hill

‡ Recycling ‡



In 2023, the fund made \$526. Thanks to all the loyal donors for bringing in your recyclables.

Starting in 2024, California has added WINE and WHISKEY bottles plus 100% JUICE plastic containers for recycling. They don't need the CA Recycle Label on them until July 1, 2025.

It helps to drain all liquids from containers before turning them in. If the cap to thin water bottles and larger plastic 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 beginning of 2023 found St. Columba's six months into our transition period while in search for a new Rector. In consultation with Fr. Tom Quijada-Discavage from the Diocesan Office of Formation and Transition, our Vestry and Transition and Search Committees stood poised to do the work required for the search. The Transition Committee created a Parish Profile, leading to our job posting from late April to late June. In July, the Search Committee began their intense review and interview process.

At the end of October, The Reverend Doctor Michael P. Anderson accepted our call to serve as Rector at St. Columba's, and his employment here will begin in January 2024.

Early in 2023, a committee was formed to evaluate and implement protocols for oversight of daily operations of the parish, and to date, every aspect of parish life has been addressed. Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers, Vestry members, Livestreaming Team, Health Ministers, Buildings & Grounds folks, and countless others have taken on extra duties and responsibilities facilitating worship, maintenance, and administration of St. Columba's.

Our food distribution programs, Project Hope and Food Pantry, continued to provide food for families and seniors throughout the year, in spite of budget cuts and rising food prices.

We enjoyed combined services with our friends at Mount Cross Lutheran Church and Camarillo United Methodist Church.

We have thrived under the loving and wise guidance of our Interim Pastor, The Rev. Canon Mark Asman. We had contracted with Mark for a year, beginning mid-August 2022, and he graciously consented to stay for two more months.

In late October, we welcomed The Rev. Susan Klein as our second Interim Pastor, and she served with us until the end of the year. Susan, too, was a constant inspiration to us throughout the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas and in our final preparations for our new Rector.

We continue to pray daily for those who have entrusted us to do so.

Although our journey through this transition has been long and challenging, ultimately it has been inspiring and enlightening. We are prepared for new and vibrant leadership in Fr. Michael Anderson, coming to us in January 2024.

Submitted by Susan Doswell, Senior Warden





‡ The Threshold Project ‡



The Threshold Project is our evangelism efforts in the community, including the welcoming offered to each visitor. The group has been inactive since 2022 when Fr. Greg left and we look forward to re-energizing it under Fr. Michael's leadership

Submitted by Gail Hill



St. Columba's Treasurer's Report



2023 ended up the year in the black! Our income was greater than our expenses by over \$49,000. We had budgeted for a new Rector to join us mid-year and Fr. Michael Anderson is not joining us until January 2024. Our parishioners were very generous, giving us \$27,000 more than they pledged!

As you all have heard, we will use every dollar of that generosity in the next several years. 2023 primarily focused on determining that we could afford a new Rector, searching for that Rector, and then providing a salary and benefits package that was appropriate. Rev. Mark Asman continued as our Interim Pastor with a salary less than budgeted. As a retiree, we didn't have to pay for his benefits, including pension contributions. Rev. Susan Klein joined us in the fall. She had the same financial benefits as she is also a retired priest.

We were able to meet our pledge to the Diocese. We paid them 11% of 2022's pledges and plate. The Diocese is starting to assess parishes 12% of all income used for Normal Operating expenses. As we have never based our pledge on that number, it is a large jump in what we are expected to send to the Diocese. As of this date, we have asked the Diocese for relief for 2024 to pay them a lesser amount, about what we sent in 2023.

2024 is an exciting time in the parish with Fr. Michael joining us. Financially, we will continue to face challenges. Right now, we are projecting to use about half of our Reserves (excess from past years like the \$49,000 from 2023) to pay for the increased salary and benefits necessary to attract and retain Fr. Michael and his wonderful large family. We're solvent but continue to need support from each one of you. We believe that the Holy Spirit is with us!

In other news, the generous donation from a parishioner's estate for the Endowment Fund has been fully invested. We spent the Endowment grant from 2021 and part of the grant from 2022 on updating the Rector's office and the Sacristy bathroom. The rest of the grants from 2022 and 2023 will be spent on projects that are needed. Another grant for 2024 should be forthcoming.

We audited the books for the parish and the Children's Learning Center. Anne Waite Thille and Amanda Meyer kindly did the work for free. It was a more extensive audit than we've done for a few years. We were also successful in getting the church non-profit status with the State of California, something we should have done before. It was necessary to continue applying for the HUD grants for the food ministry.

I wish to thank the Budget & Finance Committee for helping with the work: Bev Pearson, Doug Miller, Maria Fernandez, and our Financial Secretary, Sarah Monroe-Allen. John Pearson was a long-time member of this committee and is greatly missed. 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 2023 and Budget for 2024

2023 Actual

2024 Budget

DISBURSEMENTS

SALARIES AND PERSONNEL

Rector	\$0.00	\$86,800
Interim Pastor	\$49,476.72	\$0
Director of Family Ministry	\$4,737.20	\$5,000
Office Manager	\$18,262.00	\$18,720
Music Director	\$27,943.65	\$28,028
Financial Secretary	\$4,211.72	\$4,300
Employee Benefits & Payroll Taxes	\$4,108.86	\$57,231
Substitutes	\$2,681.22	\$1,500
Workers Comp Insurance	\$405.00	\$590
<i>Subtotal Salaries and Personnel</i>	\$111,826.37	\$202,169

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Advertising	\$801.53	\$800
Computer Support	\$815.27	\$1,500
Insurance (Prop, Liability)	\$34,694.00	\$36,819
Liturgical Supplies	\$263.61	\$250
Office Expenses	\$7,629.30	\$7,500
Postage	\$600.86	\$800
Telephone	\$4,913.77	\$5,075
Utilities	\$11,381.63	\$11,550
Yearly Financial Audit	\$0.00	\$50
<i>Subtotal Administrative Expenses</i>	\$61,099.97	\$64,344

PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

Christian Education - Adult	\$270.70	\$300
Christian Education - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	\$0.00	\$100
Contemplative Prayer Services	\$1,625.00	\$1,625.00
Evangelism	\$85.60	\$200
Deanery Assessment	\$210.00	\$210
Mission Share Fund (Diocesan)	\$25,505.00	\$24,000
Music Department	\$1,012.47	\$1,500
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$400
Rector's Incidental Expenses	\$0.00	\$200
Stewardship/Endowment	\$535.21	\$550
Theological Education Institutions	\$0.00	\$500
<i>Subtotal Programs and Outreach</i>	\$29,243.98	\$29,585

PROPERTY SUPPORT

Audio/Visual Support	\$40.74	\$200
Janitor	\$8,400.00	\$8,600
Janitorial Supplies	\$927.89	\$1,000
Kitchen Supplies	\$44.07	\$200
<i>Subtotal Property Support</i>	\$9,412.70	\$10,000
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$211,583.02	\$306,098

2022 Actual**2023 Budget****INCOME**

PLATE OFFERINGS (Regular Services)	\$12,360.38	\$10,000
PLATE OFFERINGS (Contemplative Services)	\$0.00	\$0
PLEDGES, Regular	\$219,663.60	\$208,224
PLEDGES, Prepaid	\$1,000.00	\$7,892
PARISH HALL AND OTHER	\$925.00	\$800
Learning Center Pledge	\$23,400.00	\$23,400
Parish Fund Raising Events	\$2,811.49	\$5,000
E Script	\$386.21	\$400
INTEREST	\$100.60	\$50
2012 - 2023 Carryover	\$0.00	\$58,224
Special Gifts	\$0.00	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$260,647.28	\$306,098
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES	\$49,064.26	\$0.00
Income as a percentage of expenses	123.19%	100.00%

SPECIAL PURPOSES - NON-BUDGETED INCOME

Parish Events	\$204.00
Outreach Fund	\$526.00
ERD	\$565.00
Memorials/ Tributes	\$2,460.00
Special Gifts	\$20,550.00
Prepaid Pledges	\$7,991.70
Major Repairs & Rectory Sewer Hookup	\$4,446.91
Music Department	\$100.00
Food Program	\$13,705.19
Total Receipts All Sources	\$311,196.08

* Excludes funds from City & HUD for Pantry

* Excludes Donations to Endowment Fund

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS

ENDOWMENT FUND	\$944,907
(DIT, Wells Fargo/ Ridgeline, Vanguard)	

BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank of America Checking Account	\$70,880
Bank of America Savings Account	\$197,133
Bank of America Rector Discretionary Funds	\$204
Bank of America Columbarium	\$5,206
Treasury Bonds Columbarium	\$35,000
TOTAL FUNDS IN BANK, ENDOWMENT	\$1,218,330

AND TREASURY BONDS