

St. Columba's Episcopal Church

1251 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, California 93010

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

2024



Annual Report

Presented at the Parish Meeting
on January 26, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

O U R M I S S I O N

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,



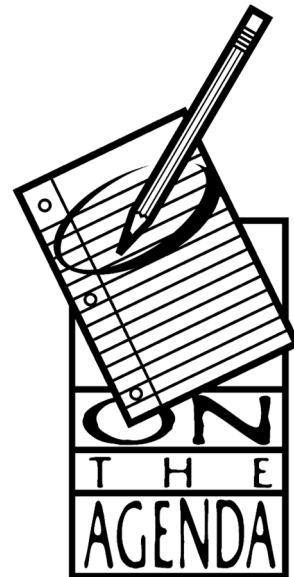
to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1. **Opening Prayers**
2. **Motion to Dispense with the Reading of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting**
3. **Special Recognition**
4. **Convention Election**
 - Election of Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Convention
5. **Vestry Election**
 - Present Vestry Nominees
6. **Rector's Report**
7. **Presentation of Ministry Reports**
8. **Budget**
 - Review of the Budget
9. **Special Acknowledgements**
10. **Other Business**
11. **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, February 4, 2024**

The Annual Meeting of St. Columba's Episcopal Church was called to order at 11:28 a.m. by the Rector, Fr. Michael Anderson, on his second Sunday at the church. Brett Hanley, our Music Director, led us in singing "We All Are One in Mission." Fr. Michael offered an opening prayer, and he welcomed those present to the meeting.

Teri Helton moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 29, 2023. Jarrel Fuller seconded the motion, and it passed.

Fr. Michael thanked Rebecca Mendoza for her fine work and dedication as Director of the Children's Learning Center and recognized the members of the CLC Board. Fr. Michael also recognized the members of the Transition and Search Committees, the Buildings & Grounds Committee, the Monday Morning Work Group, and our Music Director, Brett Hanley.

Nancy Miller moved that Teri Helton be elected to serve as delegate to Diocesan Convention and Gail Hill and Maurice Hill be elected to serve as alternate delegates to Convention. Jarrel Fuller seconded the motion, and it passed. We were asked to pray for discernment in the selection and election of a second delegate.

Outgoing Vestry members, Carlos Barraza and Doug Miller, were thanked for their service. Deborah Brown moved that Maurice Hill and Tom Ledsam be elected to serve on the Vestry. Nancy Miller seconded the motion, and it passed. Fr. Michael announced that Susan Doswell and Teri Helton will continue in the capacity of Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden, respectively, for 2024. Fr. Michael expressed gratitude to Gail Hill for her dedication and expertise exemplified in her service as Parish Treasurer.

Reports for the 2023 Annual Report were presented by title, by Spheres. Maurice Hill moved that the reports be accepted as presented. Deborah Brown seconded the motion, and it passed.

Gail Hill presented the 2024 Budget, pointing out the similarities and differences between this and the 2023 Budget. She noted that 2023 ended with a surplus of just over \$49,000, thanks in part to the fact that parishioners gave about \$27,000 more than they pledged. She also noted that pledges increased from \$192,103 in 2023 to \$208,224 in 2024. Major increases in this budget occur in salaries (having a full-time Rector), in insurance (having added cyber security insurance to our policy), and in the structure change in the Mission Share Fund calculations. With these increases, it was necessary to utilize \$58,224 of carryover (reserves) to balance the budget. There were two significant gifts to the Endowment Fund in 2023. Gail spoke about Designated Funds, specifically Food Ministries and Endowment Fund grants, and how the use of them does not impact the budget and everyday spending. Deborah Brown moved that the 2024 Budget be accepted as presented. Paul Amendt seconded the motion, and it passed.

Fr. Michael acknowledged those beloved parishioners who departed this life in 2023: Jennie Bemis, Sally Gillespie, and John Pearson.

The 2024 Vestry was inducted by Fr. Michael. They are Paul Amendt, Deborah Brown, Susan Doswell, Marjo Gardner, Teri Helton, Maurice Hill, Marianne Hyde, Tom Ledsam, and Lara Tyas.

After Fr. Michael expressed some of his own thoughts about coming among us at St. Columba's, he led us in The Lord's Prayer.

Having no further business, Teri Helton moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Jarrel Fuller seconded the motion, and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Doswell

Rector's Report

What a year! In the first book of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C. S. Lewis, *The Lion the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, you will recall that the Pevensie Children walked into a seemingly normal wardrobe, which was, in fact, a mysterious, magical gateway that took them to the magical land of Narnia, which was full of life that far exceeded the outer casing of the wardrobe.



This has been my experience coming to St Columba's. I started almost exactly a year ago and I have found so much life here, an abundance of grace and love. To mix my metaphors and quote from Dr. Who, it is so much bigger on the inside.

Like the Pevensie Children in the beginning of the story, this year has been a time of exploration and seeing how things work here and how things will work between us together. So, we have taken things very slowly.

Words seem inadequate to convey just how much I love this church. From the very beginning, you have opened your arms and have been so gracious to us. Thank you. Thank you for not being jaded but responding to us with love and openness. This has been such a special place for me to grow as a minister this year.

Adult Education

We have had various Adult Education opportunities. Our Junior Warden and one of our parish nurses, Teri Helton, led a wonderful series informing us of the things we need to know in order to have agency in our own health care, as well as mapped out the process of end-of-life care, to help prepare us. I can assure you that she continues to be available for any questions you might have regarding health care.

Her lovely husband, Dr. Tim Helton, presented his thought-out approach to what it means to be a Christian witness. He highlighted a relational approach that seeks to be present in the lives of others, and witnessing through friendship.

During Lent, we participated in the very fun and informative game (?) of *Lent Madness*, in which you place various Saints into Brackets to see who "wins" and makes it to the championship. Thank you to Susan Doswell for organizing that. We also partnered with Mount Cross for a Wednesday evening series discussing the Last Words of Christ on the cross.

During Eastertide, we offered a series on artistic representations of the Resurrection.

In the summer, we got to enjoy our labyrinth and fire pit, complete with s'mores, as we told Stories Around the Campfire. Specifically, we told the Gospel from that week's lectionary and discussed its significance. Thank you so much to Gail and Paul Amendt for all their hard work organizing.

As Autumn came around, we had our first Pub Theology night at Institution Ale Co. We drank and we discussed theology and spirituality with one another. Our plan is to have these Pub Theology nights every other month, starting on Tuesday, January 28.

Finally, during Advent, Julie Russel led us in a *Lectio Divina* group, where we read the Gospel for that next week in a more spiritually mindful way, in order to allow the Holy Spirit to work through the passage and engage us on a more spiritual level.

We have added Morning Prayer into our spiritual offerings and will continue to explore new and traditional resources to help us as we continue to grow together into the life of Christ.

I am grateful for these opportunities for Adult Education and those who helped organize and teach. And I am also excited to offer even more opportunities for Adult Education this year.

Children's and Youth Ministry

This year, we said farewell to our Director of Family Ministries, Wendie Roberts. Wendie has put in many years of ministry, caring for our precious ones here at St Columba's. I am grateful for her faithfulness, even with that long drive. With more than a variety of health issues, Wendie's ability to participate in our ministry was somewhat sporadic this year, but we were grateful for the times she was able to be here. On a personal level, I am grateful for the ways she has loved my children during a time in which they were especially vulnerable with our big transition into the area.

Francina Anderson is taking over that ministry with Wendie's departure. She is also re-establishing our youth ministry and overseeing the installation of our children's area in the back of the church. Francina has a multi-subject elementary education teaching credential, with an emphasis in Mathematics in California. She has taught a variety of age groups in a classroom setting. She also has twelve-plus years of experience in youth ministry. She is excited to use her giftings and experiences to further our ability to minister to the children and youth who walk through our doors.

With our Children's, Youth, and re-established Acolyte Ministry, we are starting small, and trusting in the God who draws the precious ones to him, to bring them.

Children's Learning Center

Our Children's Learning Center is an extension of our ministry to the community. And they are doing a wonderful job. The program's reputation in the community is outstanding. We have full enrollment, with an immense waiting list. Our director Rebecca Mendoza-Martinez's enthusiasm is contagious. It has been a treat to watch students, parents, and teachers alike light up when they come into her vicinity. I am grateful for her partnership.

A significant goal this last year and this next year has been to further strengthen the bonds between the school community and the church. We have begun by being a presence at school activities and inviting school families to our activities. I have begun a bi-monthly letter that I send to school families. We have also re-established CLC Chapel, which we are moving to weekly chapels (alternating between Wednesdays and Thursdays). We are also seeking ways to be hospitable, inviting the school community into our spaces (church, parish hall, etc.) for their various activities, as well as fixing up those areas in and around the school to make it a more welcoming space for families.

In all of this, Rebecca has been immensely supportive and creative as we think of ways to further build inroads with school families.

Other Ministries of the Church

We have also continued to have excellent leadership over our feeding ministry by Maurice Hill and George Anderson. They have done a wonderful job of expanding that ministry. We are up to sixty-five families! Please continue to keep an eye out for the various needs of that ministry.

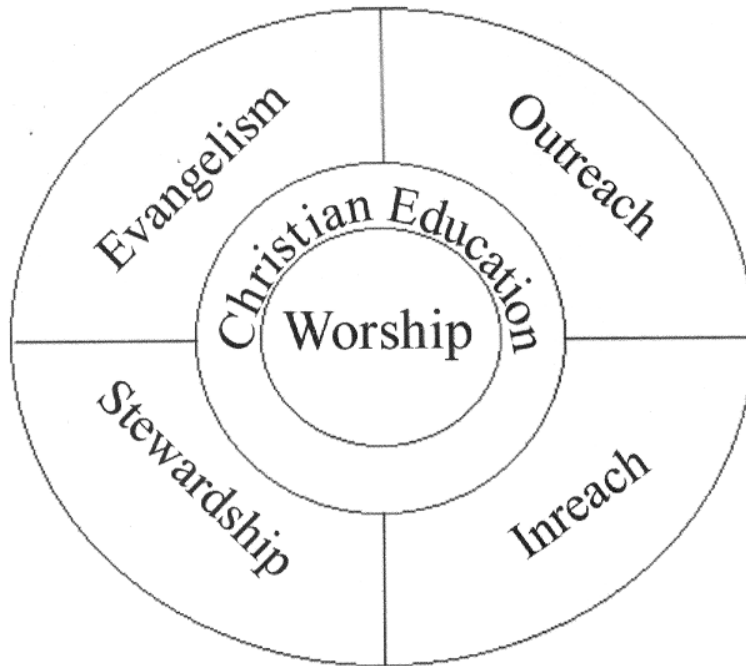
We have been also led well by our office staff members, Carol Browning and Sarah Monroe-Allen, our very talented Music Director, Brett Hanley and his team, our Vestry, and our various ministry leaders. Thank you all for your faithfulness and ownership of the ministry at St. Columba's.

I'm grateful also to Carol Rocco and her team for all their hard work with the Celtic Christmas Faire. It was very successful this year and is mutually beneficial for us and for the community and crafts people that attend. Thank you also to Paul & Gail Amendt who organized our new fundraiser, Oktoberfest, and Jenne Estes and her team who cooked all of that amazing German food.

This is a congregation that is deeply committed to growing into the grace of God, to leaning in to his Love and reflecting that love back to the community. Those commitments are clearly evident in the life of this parish.

This is God's church. As Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians: "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth ... For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (3:7, 9). The Eucharistic table is not mine, or Mark's, or Susan's, or Greg's. It is Jesus' table. I am grateful for the privilege of shepherding this wonderful community, in His Name.

Faithfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson



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

Tim Brown

From Fr. Michael: Whether he wants it or not, Tim is easily noticed. He is very tall with long hair and a long beard. Also, whether he wants it or not, he is one of those people who, as a leader of a church, you want to grab on to and never let go because he has great technical expertise in a great many areas. Tim has recently been given the title "Sound Engineer." And I am grateful for all his work to improve our sound system for in-person worship and online streaming. He is also quick to roll up his sleeves and jump in for whatever we need on Sundays and for special events.

I have also been grateful for the ways that Tim has ministered to a young man named Matthew, bringing him to church and keeping in contact with him. When I have asked Tim about his job, he has mostly told me that if he told me, he would have to kill me. I am grateful that Tim has agreed to be on the Vestry. I think he is going to bring a much-needed perspective to our leadership.

Jeffrey Chung

I was born in Honolulu and raised in Pearl City, Hawaii, until I graduated from the University of Hawaii.

After I started working as an Air Force officer at Vandenberg Air Force Base, I was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lompoc. After doing my part for the USAF, I took a Civil Service job as a Construction Manager at Naval Base Ventura County. I attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church where I was a lay reader, bell choir member, and vestry member. My wife (Grace) and I were married at St. Paul's, and we have two sons (Steven and Timothy). After moving to Camarillo, I was a Deacon, choir member, AWANA leader, and coffee host at Pleasant Valley Bible Church. I was on the leadership team at Mission Street Church before attending St. Columba's.

I have been a member of St. Columba's since around 2014 until the present. I currently sing tenor in the choir, have done solos, and have participated in St. Columba's summer concerts by singing and playing the ukulele. At St. Columba's, I was the Clerk for two of my three years on the Vestry. I have been on the Building & Grounds Committee. I was on the Rector Transition Committee. I have helped host Coffee Hours, and I have participated in the Dance of the Thorns.

I am willing to share my time and talents on the Vestry again.

Frances Cogswell

My earliest memory of St. Columba's is fingerpainting while attending nursery school here. Then Sunday School and Confirmation. My father was transferred from New York in August 1960 to work in Oxnard. My younger sister and I attended elementary, high school and community college here. I finished up at San Diego State. Left San Diego after several years for the Los Angeles area. I returned to Camarillo and St. Columba's in 2006.

This is my second time on the Vestry. I am currently on Altar and Flower Guild, CLC Board, Health Ministry, and help with Project Hope. I am looking forward to my term and giving back to my lifelong church.

Lyle Hyde

Since joining St. Columba's in 2019 after relocating from Chicago to be near family, I have served as an usher, on the Project Hope outreach ministry, and occasionally on the Building & Grounds Committee.

At St. James Cathedral in Chicago, where I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church twelve years ago, I helped found a hot meals ministry for the homeless and served as an usher and a member of the of the Giving Committee. I also participated on the Chicago Urban Ministry and Life Intervention outreach ministry which prepared and delivered hot meals to the homeless in downtown. I completed two years of Education for the Ministry (EfM) at St. James.

Trained as a civil engineer, I worked as an environmental compliance specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation before retiring in 2006. After retirement, I served for three years on the Advisory Board of Common Cause's Illinois office.

Married for 58 years this year, Marianne and I have been blessed with two children and five uniquely wonderful grandchildren.

The opportunity to join and grow in an intimate church community here at St. Coumba's has been a privilege, and I hope to be able to give back as a member of the Vestry.

REPORTS IN ORDER OF MINISTRY SPHERES



† Altar Flower Guild †



Our Flower 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, Nancy Miller, and Diane Off. 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 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, Barbara Amick, and Marianne Hyde, with Gail Hill and Sarah Wigert as Co-Directors.

In January, we welcomed Fr. Michael Anderson as our new rector and moved back to distributing communion at the altar rail and in the Mary Chapel.

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 \$4,586.56, and ended with \$5,850.30, with \$733.90 in outstanding disbursements.

We are also so very appreciative of all the help and support that we have received from Brett Hanley to make the many changes in hangings and other symbols of the seasons. 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 have blessed and enriched our parish life. The Columbarium has a total of 120 niches of which 86 have been contracted for. To date, sixty parishioners have been inured in the Columbarium.

There is a total of \$41,924 in the Columbarium accounts. There is \$6,924 in the Bank of America checking account and \$35,000 in the Treasury Direct account with the Federal government where we hold \$35,000 in T-bills. We earned \$1,750 in 2024 from the T-bills. We are working to ensure the financial solvency of the Columbarium. At this time, there are no large expenses associated with the upkeep of the Columbarium and no plans to expand it.

Historically, burial inside the church was once reserved to honor noteworthy clerics and nobles. Now it is possible to grant this blessing to all God's children to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Liturgically, it sets aside a place for remembrance and love for the departed. At \$900, the cost of the niche has been modest compared to a burial plot and is ecologically sound. Anyone interested in purchasing a niche in St Columba's Columbarium should contact Fr. Michael Anderson or 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 Ministers lead the Intercessions (Prayers of the People) and help with communion by administering the chalice for Communion.

Currently active and licensed Eucharistic Ministers are Paul Amendt, Mary Steppes-Cole, Maria Fernandez, Teri Helton, Marianne Hyde, Nancy Miller, Bob Waite, and Kevin O'Farrell.



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, and Joel Doswell.

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 and Firepit** †



We hosted three guided labyrinth walks and our 6-week summer program, Stories Around the Campfire, in 2024. These were attended by 10-25 people including parishioners, members of Mount Cross Lutheran Church, friends, and the public. Guided labyrinth walks were scheduled quarterly, beginning on World Labyrinth Day on May 4. Labyrinth facilitator Linda Drevensted from Ventura attended our WLD walk and expressed an interest in helping to facilitate future labyrinth walks. We have enjoyed working with Linda in organizing and leading a change of seasons walk on August 24 and a gratitude walk on November 16. Labyrinth walks also included fellowship around the campfire and refreshments.

Stories Around the Campfire continued on Wednesday nights between July 17–August 21. Fr. Michael led reflections and conversation on scripture as we shared fellowship and enjoyed s'mores.

A huge thank you to Jeanette Barcroft, Brett Hanley, and the Monday Morning Work Crew for maintaining the garden area. We are in the process of building a new archway at the entrance after the intense November winds blew down the current archway.

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

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 †



Thank you for all the people that have provided their time and talent to our music ministries. Our choir meets weekly and sings on Sunday morning service regularly. The organ and its sound system has been in top shape after being repaired about five years ago. Last year's acquisition of a new piano for the sanctuary has been a wonderful benefit in many ways. The outside Ventura County Gold Coast Concert Chorus renewed their concerts at St. Columba's after hearing we had a new piano and plan on continuing to do so. This provides extra revenue for our church. I had the piano tuned the day before their concert.

This past summer, we were able to present the "All Parish Concert" music fundraiser. That concert was highly received and was able to raise a great sum of monies with the generous donations of those in attendance. Thank you!

Fr. Michael has been wonderful to work with. He gives his full support and guidance to the direction of our music ministries at St. Columba's. Special thanks to our office manager Carol for all the assistance she provides weekly.

Submitted by Brett Hanley, Music Director

† Ushers Report †



The Ushers are usually the first people who greet people when they arrive at church to attend our worship services. Their greetings and helpfulness underscore the life and vitality of our parish family. Now that COVID isn't such a major factor, we are able to worship together, and our Ushers are ready at our 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings 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, Tom Ledsam, and Beverly Pearson, Maurice and Gail Hill, Lyle Hyde (currently on leave) and Gene Doswell. Tim Brown is always available to be present and help. If you would like to support the ministry of the Ushers or become an usher, please speak to Bob Waite or Fr. Michael.

Submitted by Bob Waite for the Ushers



✧ Children's Learning Center ✧



The staff, School Board, and our director have continued our mission to make St. Columba's Children's Learning Center Camarillo's premier Christian-based program. This year, we continued our mission to bridge the gap between a structure-based program and a play-based program, where all children can thrive and be better prepared emotionally and physically not just for kindergarten but for their whole life. 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 a teacher who brought to life our outdoor space and we began introducing children as young as two years old to sports such as weight lifting, baseball/softball, basketball, golf and gymnastics. We added additional outdoor storage that a grant helped pay for on the big yard. Our major social events were well attended by church members, staff, parents, family 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 this year we introduced Spring Fest and it continues to be a huge success! The Christmas Program and Holiday Bundt Cake Sale were not only well received, but also the school's biggest fundraiser of the year. 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 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 Art Camp, Safari Camp, CLC National Park Camp, Olympic Camp, CLC Fairgrounds, and so many other camps. We transformed the outdoor spaces into a child's wonderland! CLC is in a good financial position, and has continued to have positive cash flow. Enrollment has continued to stay full for the 2023-2024 school year with a waiting list. Some of the major expenses we were able to accomplish this school year were the replacing the doors with a more durable and safer option. The school also provides a monthly pledge to the Church. The director has continued to attend meetings with local Preschool Directors Group allowing her 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. We 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- we could not have done our job without you all!

Submitted by: Rebecca Mendoza-Martinez, Preschool Director

✧ Children's Ministries ✧



Wendie Roberts, Director of Family Ministries, retired at the end of 2024; no report was received for the year. See the Rector's Report for an update on Children's 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, Georgia. It has chapters throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. We in Camarillo are known as the St. Columba's Chapter, Province VIII, which was started almost **40 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.

In 2024, we lost our oldest member, Lois Barcroft. Lois was 101 years old, residing in the assisted living facility at Alma Via. She is remembered by all of us as a happy lady, always with a smile.



Lois! We miss you.

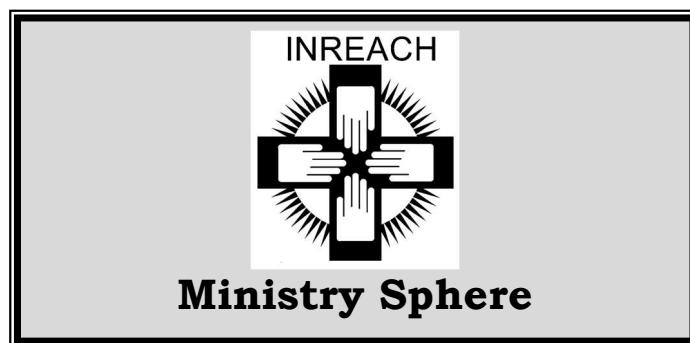
However, we are now down to but a few members (only four, in fact). We still gather for our monthly meeting (usually the first Saturday of every month). We no longer read a book together, but we sometimes watch a video series. Currently we are watching *The Genesis Story* from Hillsdale College. Otherwise, we meet and 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* 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, the Health Ministry teaches and provides resources like the series presented on Advance Care Planning and hospice or informational flyers in the narthex. Members of the Health Ministry were active in comforting and encouraging members of our parish family in 2024 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. Phone calls and visits continue to be made by the Health Ministry members. One special example of their care was their hosting the 90's Coffee Hour that recognized those 90 years and older. Gail DeWolfe, one of the nurses of the Health Ministry, continues to provide short, informative articles to the *Celtic Courier* on a monthly basis. 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 2025 and taking a new step of offering "Nurse Hours" in the office for those who would like to ask questions, need help with resources, or just need someone to listen. 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 has been led by a team this year: Michele Hauser, Diane Off, Jarrel Fuller, and Beanie MacLaurie.

Lunch Bunch meals were provided for ten months during the year, with a July and August break.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Hauser

‡ Memorial Ministry ‡



Our Memorial Ministry is supportive of the family in the days following the death of a parishioner. We offer a comfortable setting where family and friends can meet to express condolences and sorrow in their loss. Space is available for family items and pictures to be displayed that further enhances the life of our parishioner. A coordinator will meet with the family to further assist with planning the reception needs and display items. The reception will be held in the parish hall or on the patio, depending on the weather.

In this past year, we provided a gathering for immediate family and friends of Lois Barcroft.

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 pray-er, 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, CROP Walk, 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 Thursdays. St. Columba's Pantry provides food on the first Thursday afternoon. Food is also delivered to seniors who do not have transportation or are unable to pick up the food. 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 65 families on each distribution day. The number is rising: we have served over 70 families. Special thanks to those who work faithfully on our Food Ministries and have made sure that it supports the community. Food and supplies pickup at Food Share Warehouse on Tuesday mornings: George Anderson and Maurice Hill. Bag layout, food inventory set-up on Wednesdays: George Anderson, Doug Miller, and David Gardner. Thursday mornings for bag packing and parking lot distribution to client's cars: George Anderson, Doug Miller, Judith Laurentowski, Marjo Gardner, Michele Hauser, Richard Stone, and Fran Cogswell. The Thursday morning delivery crew for seniors without transportation: Judith Laurentowski, Frannie Cogswell, and Marjo Gardner. The Thursday afternoon/evening distributors: Doug Miller, Gene Doswell, Lyle & Marianne Hyde, Richard Stone, and Amanda & Hazel 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. Mount Cross held a food drive during their Vacation Bible School and donated the food to Project Hope—many thanks to the parishioners and especially Joe Zimmerly, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries for orchestrating this event!

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we gave gift cards to our seniors and younger families. The money for the gift cards was provided by St. Columba's Food Ministries funds. Our parishioners gave Christmas gifts to the children of our food ministries. Laura Jones knitted 50 watch caps for our food pantry families at Christmas—truly a work of love that was so well-received and appreciated! Many thanks, Laura!

Submitted by Maurice Hill

▣ Boy Scouts of America Troop 262 ▣



As we enter 2025, we have 36 scouts registered as members of Troop 262.

In 2024, the majority of scouts advanced in rank ,and of those, one attained the rank of Eagle. Our current Scoutmaster is Steve Downs and our Committee Chair is Robert Waggoner.

In 2024, the troop went hiking, biking, and participated in volunteer activities. 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. We are the second largest troop in Ventura County and continue to hold a strong presence in our community.

We went to Camp Tahquitz for summer camp. We look forward to more outdoor activities and plan on going to Camp Fiesta Island next summer. In addition, our High Adventure Team will be going Philmont Scout Ranch.

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. 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, Carlos Barraza, Bill Hillbrant, and Tim Brown. 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. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the late 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).

Thanks to Tim Helton and many others who helped to construct the roll-top desk for the computer equipment, cut a pew so it would fit into its location in the rear of the nave, and the job of making the hidden cable connections from the nave to the sound closet. Thanks also to those who donated funds and time and expertise to make this possible.

We also are using an online interactive calendar for publicizing Parish events. To access the calendar, simply click on "Monthly Calendar" under the tab "Upcoming Events" on our website. Users may download and print any part of the calendar, as well as send yourself email 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.

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 2024. The annual pledge campaign began November 3 this year. The theme of the pledge campaign was *Walk in Love*. This year, during Sunday services, Lyle Hyde and Maria Fernandez graciously 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 16, 2025, we received 51 pledges for 2025 for a total of \$233,315. The total represents an average of \$4,575 per pledge; the *total* amount is about \$25,070 higher as compared to what we received by this date in 2024. However, we are still receiving pledges from parishioners. The reported pledge numbers are current as of the date of submission of this report.

The 2024 Stewardship Committee members were Fr. Michael Anderson, Nancy Miller and Maurice Hill; Sarah Monroe-Allen is our Financial Secretary and Parish Pledge Secretary; and Gail Hill is Treasurer. Fr. Michael supported us through prayer, 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 2024 committee members were Fr. Michael Anderson, Maria Fernandez, 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 and left the committee upon Fr. Michael's appointment. Many thanks go out to Susan for her service on the committee over the past few years. The Vestry approved our new member, Maria, who took Doug's position. Gail Hill is the current Treasurer and, as such, is an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

In 2024, the Endowment Fund Committee was notified that the Fund would receive a very generous donation from the estate of one of our parishioners. The donation will be invested upon receipt. These types of gifts will allow the committee to make larger annual grants to the Church in the future. As always, we gratefully accept donations to the Fund in any amount.

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) 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 as needed (as of 12/31/2024, there were no funds in this account).

The committee voted and the Vestry approved us 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. We continued to hold funds in this account as of 12/31/2024.

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 11/30/2024 was \$380,554.97. November is the most recent date we have DIT statements. Over the 12-month period from 11/30/2023–11/30/2024, we realized a 17 percent increase.

The Endowment Fund Committee also invests money in the Vanguard Total Stock Market Exchange Traded Fund (symbol VTI). This investment provides 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 12/31/2024, the Endowment Fund held a total of \$10,023.80 with Vanguard. This includes \$8,156.55 in VTI and \$2,075.44 in the MM Fund. On December 31, 2024, we held \$0 in the church's account at Bank of America, as all funds were transferred to Ridgeline for investment in 2023.

On December 31, 2024, we held \$628,966.40 with Ridgeline. For 2024, we realized a 24 percent increase.

In 2025, the Endowment Committee will recommend for Vestry approval a grant from the Endowment Fund to the church for 2025. The Committee will make the money available to the church upon request from the Vestry.

The grand total amount of the Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2024, was about \$1,020,000. This includes the Long-Term Diversified Diocesan Fund, the Vanguard investment, Vanguard money market funds, and Ridgeline investments. The total includes data from the DIT through November; we had not received the December DIT statement by the time of publication of this report.

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 hosted an Iona Society Celebration in August 2024. The event was graciously held at the Waite's home and 30 people attended. Many thanks to the Waites!

We are all happy to celebrate our *Iona Society* members: Paul and Gail Amendt, Betty* Angle, Nancy and Ed Miller, George and Betty* Anderson, Lois* Barcroft, Ted* and Vicky* Daniel,

Ann Radzienda, Harry* and Marguerite* Daubert, Steve and Michelle Hauser, Jim and Mona Cecil, Jesse and Maria Fernandez, 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, Margaret Sommers* and Margie Miller (husband Dave). We now have a total of 56 Iona Society members (including the deceased* and two anonymous members).

In 2025, 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 2025 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** ‡



Below, I am highlighting a bit of the work that we have been doing this year for our buildings and grounds:

Rectory Sceptic Tank

While there have been some longstanding concerns about the condition of our rectory sceptic tank, we received some unexpected, good news from a Sewer Specialist's inspection last February. The specialist suggested that we might have up to another ten years on the current system, with regular maintenance, including a visit in the next month or two. We are cautiously thankful that our sceptic system remains in much better shape than we should expect given its age. Moreover, in the event that the sceptic system fails, we have an easement which would allow us to install a hookup to the city and/or county sewage system.

Bee Removal and Roof Repair

In late March, we had five enormous beehives removed from our sanctuary attic. Our Bee Expert removed sixteen five-gallon buckets worth of bee colony pieces. This, naturally, required digging the hives out of the roof and walls. The necessary damage needed to be repaired as quickly as possible to prevent any more bees from entering into the attic and producing new hives. As we learned, the former presence of well-established hives makes the attic especially tempting to bees.

I am so grateful to Maurice Hill, who met with contractor after contractor to find someone willing and able to fix the damage. The contractor who ultimately rendered service came up with an alternative, less-expensive approach, which did not completely fix all the damage, but, nonetheless, it provided the needed coverage to keep out any new bees. The same contractor will begin phase II of the roof repair this year.

Termites

Another of our insect siblings has been enjoying the “benefits” of our church, Termites. We had scheduled to have the whole church and school tented in November. However, due to inclement weather (that seems like a theme this year!), we had to reschedule. Unfortunately, the next available date that works for both church and school is not until June. So, we have tentatively set a date for June 16. However, our specialist has assured us that there are no concerns for the integrity of the building, even with that delay. I am grateful to Susan Doswell who has been in regular contact with the various specialists.

Future Plans

We have a beautiful campus. God has truly blessed us with this place. Much of these last few years has been dedicated to learning more about the campus, after the unexpected death of Cliff Aggen, whose intimate knowledge of our buildings and grounds, unfortunately, remained in his own mind. Uncovering those mysteries continues.

We also have future plans to:

- Install a children’s area in the church;
- Rethink the narthex to make it more hospitable;
- Fix up and paint our facia;
- Repair and pave the parking lot;
- Which will require a lot of work on our “root situation”;
- Expanding the school playground to accommodate new programs;
- Cleaning and fixing up the pathway to the school;
- Building a new archway for the labyrinth;
- And smaller aesthetic fixes around the church campus.

I am thankful for those who guide us as we continue to be good stewards of this campus, including member of our Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Monday Morning Work Crew, Brett Hanley, and Gail Hill.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, on behalf of Buildings & Grounds

‡ **CROP Walk** ‡



Our 41st annual Camarillo Crop Walk was held March 10, 2024, at Pitts Ranch Park and the nearby bike path. Everyone seemed to like the new venue. There were 239 walkers and \$33,016.00 was raised to combat hunger. St. Columba’s had 18 walkers and raised \$3,520.00. Twenty-five percent of the total raised is given to Camarillo charities. St. Columba’s Food Program received \$2,056.97. Many thanks to all participants and donors.

Our 2025 Walk will be Sunday, March 9, again at Pitts Ranch Park. Plan to join.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Pearson

‡ Recycling ‡



Fourteen trips were made in 2024 for turning in recyclables, making \$421. In mid-year, we stopped recycling glass items as the amount received per pound was so small.

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 to all who brought in the items. Every bit helps.

Submitted by John Kromka

‡ Senior Warden's Report ‡

St. Columba's began 2024 in anticipation of the imminent arrival of the Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, whom we had called to become our new rector. Fr. Michael came into the office the week of January 22, and he celebrated the Eucharist with us on January 28. This is when we began the wonderful journey that we are on today.

Fr. Michael presided over our Annual Parish Meeting on February 4, his second Sunday in residence. It was a festive event that served as a harbinger of abundant blessings for the future of St. Columba's.

We enjoyed welcoming Fr. Michael and his wife, Francina, and their four children, Lea, William, Lily, and Elanor, into our parish family. Together they brought enthusiasm and forward-thinking ideas and practices, and, as a result, we experienced spiritual growth and increasing numbers in Sunday morning services, children's education, and coffee hours.

Throughout the year, we continued to provide food to those in need; prayerfully supported our Children's Learning Center children, their families, and staff; reached out to our homebound parishioners; faithfully supported worship services; maintained our buildings and grounds; shared in ministries with Mount Cross Lutheran Church and Camarillo United Methodist Church; and provided opportunities for fellowship for parishioners of all ages.

Your Vestry members in 2024 were Susan Doswell (Senior Warden), Teri Helton (Junior Warden), Paul Amendt, Deborah Brown, Marjo Gardner, Michele Hauser, Maurice Hill, Marianne Hyde, Tom Ledsam, and Lara Tyas. Norma McQuade served as Clerk of the Vestry. Gail Hill was Treasurer.

It has been my utmost pleasure to serve this parish as Senior Warden for the past three years. While we were in a period of transition, all parishioners have stepped up to take on many tasks, issues, and responsibilities, from the routine to the monumental. There are so, so many to thank, but I know that I would leave out some if I tried to name them all here. Having said that, I do want to express my deepest gratitude to Gail Hill, who has lent her expertise in all things regarding, but not limited to, finance and human resources.

We wholeheartedly trusted in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we continue to do so as we live and grow together as people of God at St. Columba's.

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

In spite of our worries, 2024 ended up the year in the black! Our income was greater than our expenses by over \$18,000! Income was \$8,000 more than budgeted and expenses were about \$10,500 less than budgeted. Our parishioners were very generous, giving us \$52,000 more than they pledged!

We received dispensation from the Diocese to only pay them \$2,000 a month in 2024, about 9% of the operating income; 12% is expected. The primary reason expenses were low was because the cost of our property & casualty insurance actually went down. The National Church manages this cost and they do an excellent job.

Our 2024 budget projected a shortfall of \$58,000. Because of your generosity and pledges, we are only projecting a shortfall of about \$16,000 for 2025. We have sufficient funds in Reserve from past years when income exceeded expenses to cover this amount. There is over \$100,000 available.

The Vestry is stepping out in faith again this year: We are giving each of our employees a 3.22% raise. We are giving the Diocese the full 12% that we are obligated to pay. We are planning that we will work hard and receive more money from fundraising. And we are counting on plate offerings continuing to be generous as more new people join us at services. In late 2024, we hired a new janitorial service which is slightly more expensive but is doing excellent work.

Our Children's Education is going to be funded by an Endowment Grant this year. Wendie Roberts has retired and Francina Anderson, Fr. Michael's wife, an experienced and talented teacher, is joining us! We chose an Endowment Grant in order to give her more flexibility to make changes this first year.

2024 got us started but 2025 is an even more exciting time in the parish. Fr. Michael has joined us, brought out the best in us, and started growing our congregation again! We're solvent and gaining strength but continue to need support from each one of you. We believe that the Holy Spirit is with us!

As you'll read elsewhere in the reports, the Endowment Fund is doing very well! We have over \$1 million! That means that grants of 3-5% are forthcoming and can be spent on the maintenance and upgrade of our buildings and grounds—as well as Children's Education and any other program that Fr. Michael and the Vestry deem promising.

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 again. We did another more extensive audit, meeting the Diocesan requirements.

I wish to thank the Budget & Finance Committee for helping with the work: Beverly Pearson, Maria Fernandez, and our Financial Secretary, Sarah Monroe-Allen. If anyone would like to join us in this work or see what we're doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. I thank each and every one of you for your generous donations to enable St. Columba's to continue its mission as an Episcopal parish and a member of the Camarillo community. 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 2024 and Budget for 2025

2024 Actual

2025 Budget

DISBURSEMENTS

SALARIES AND PERSONNEL

| | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Rector | \$86,800.00 | \$89,595 |
| Director of Family Ministry | \$7,632.00 | \$0 |
| Office Manager | \$18,049.25 | \$19,323 |
| Music Director | \$28,028.00 | \$28,931 |
| Financial Secretary | \$3,892.88 | \$4,300 |
| Employee Benefits & Payroll Taxes | \$56,430.19 | \$58,934 |
| Substitutes | \$1,267.92 | \$1,500 |
| Workers Comp Insurance | \$319.00 | \$320 |
| <i>Subtotal Salaries and Personnel</i> | \$202,419.24 | \$202,903 |

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Advertising | \$513.00 | \$800 |
| Computer Support | \$1,297.29 | \$1,500 |
| Insurance (Prop, Liability) | \$29,456.25 | \$31,000 |
| Liturgical Supplies | \$110.00 | \$200 |
| Office Expenses | \$8,197.59 | \$8,500 |
| Postage | \$782.66 | \$800 |
| Telephone | \$4,526.28 | \$4,500 |
| Utilities | \$10,538.60 | \$11,500 |
| Yearly Financial Audit | \$0.00 | \$50 |
| <i>Subtotal Administrative Expenses</i> | \$55,421.67 | \$58,850 |

PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Christian Education - Adult | \$241.65 | \$315 |
| Christian Education - Children | \$183.41 | \$0 |
| Contemplative Prayer Services | \$1,000.00 | \$0 |
| Evangelism | \$147.29 | \$200 |
| Deanery Assessment | \$184.00 | \$200 |
| Mission Share Fund (Diocesan) | \$24,000.00 | \$31,278 |
| Music Department | \$1,885.51 | \$1,500 |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund | \$0.00 | \$400 |
| Rector's Incidental Expenses | \$0.00 | \$200 |
| Stewardship/Endowment | \$299.25 | \$300 |
| Theological Education Institutions | \$0.00 | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Programs and Outreach</i> | \$27,941.11 | \$34,393 |

PROPERTY SUPPORT

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Audio/Visual Support | \$46.93 | \$200 |
| Janitor | \$9,450.00 | \$11,365 |
| Janitorial Supplies | \$297.67 | \$1,000 |
| Kitchen Supplies | \$25.00 | \$200 |
| <i>Subtotal Property Support</i> | \$9,819.60 | \$12,765 |
| TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES | \$295,601.62 | \$308,910 |

INCOME

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Plate Offerings (Regular Services) | \$13,718.78 | \$10,000 |
| Pledges, Regular | \$252,272.07 | \$233,272 |
| Pledges, Prepaid | \$7,891.70 | \$10,500 |
| Parish Hall and Other | \$1,660.00 | \$1,500 |
| Learning Center Pledge | \$29,600.00 | \$24,000 |
| Parish Fund Raising Events | \$6,829.24 | \$10,000 |
| E Script | \$76.75 | \$100 |
| Interest | \$55.64 | \$60 |
| 2012 - 2024 Carryover | \$0.00 | \$19,478 |
| Special Gifts | \$0.00 | \$0 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$312,104.18 | \$308,910 |
| INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES | \$16,502.56 | \$0.00 |
| Income as a percentage of expenses | 105.58% | 100.00% |

SPECIAL PURPOSES - NON-BUDGETED INCOME

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bishop Visit & Donation | \$778.00 |
| Outreach Fund | \$342.00 |
| ERD | \$680.00 |
| Memorials/ Tributes | \$1,250.00 |
| Special Gifts | \$7,500.00 |
| Prepaid Pledges | \$10,500.00 |
| Health Ministry | \$395.10 |
| Major Repairs & Rectory Sewer Hookup | \$3,000.00 |
| Music Department | \$2,748.60 |
| Stove for Kitchen | \$10,000.00 |
| Food Program | \$11,383.50 |
| Total Receipts All Sources | \$350,286.28 |

* Excludes funds from City & HUD for Pantry

* Excludes Donations to Endowment Fund

YEAR END FINANCIAL STATUS

ENDOWMENT FUND \$1,019,753
 (DIT, Wells Fargo/ Ridgeline, Vanguard)

BANK ACCOUNTS

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Bank of America Checking Account | \$62,101 |
| Bank of America Savings Account | \$122,188 |
| Banc of California CD | \$75,000 |
| Bank of America Rector Discretionary Funds | \$204 |
| Bank of America Columbarium | \$6,924 |
| Treasury Bonds Columbarium | \$35,000 |
| TOTAL FUNDS IN BANK, ENDOWMENT, CD's | \$1,211,170 |

AND TREASURY BONDS