Annual Report of 2019

St. Francis Episcopal Church

Delivered at the Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26th, 2020

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is a diverse community, accepting all.
We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship.
We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!

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AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 26th, 2020

- 8:00 AM
  - Holy Eucharist

- 10:00 AM
  - Holy Eucharist with Sunday School

- 11:30 AM
  - Opening Prayers
  - Nominating Report
  - Opening of the Polls
  - Luncheon

- 12:30 PM
  - Business Session
  - Closing of Polls
  - Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting
  - Financial Reports
  - Other Reports
  - Table Conversation
  - Old Business
  - New Business
  - Vestry Appreciation
  - St. Francis Award
  - Necrology
  - Announcements
  - Benediction
  - Dismissal

GUIDELINES FOR VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Our Charter provides that the Vestry shall consist of two (2) Wardens and nine (9) Vestry Members. The Wardens' terms are for two (2) years and the Vestry terms are for three (3) years. The Wardens and Vestry members ideally will not succeed themselves, though they may serve no more than two terms in succession. They must then wait at least one (1) year before being eligible to serve again. When a member of the Vestry finds it necessary to retire before their term expires, that position is filled by the Vestry. The terms of office are staggered so that each year the Parish is to elect one (1) Warden and three (3) Vestrymen.

THE CURRENT VESTRY

WARDENS

Senior Warden	Junior Warden
Cynthia Pelliccia	Paul Sinckler

CURRENT VESTRY

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Pam Maiolo	Kathy Balenson	David Doll
Carline Sinckler	Elaine Patania	Xiomara Mitchell
Grace McDougall	Larry Quirk	Monique Phua

QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS ACCORDING TO CANON FIFTY

SECTION 2. The persons entitled to vote at such meetings must be:

(a) baptized,
(b) at least sixteen years of age,
(c) of good moral character,
(d) adhering to The Episcopal Church and to no other religious body,
(e) regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish or Mission, and
(f) regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish or Mission for six months next before the said annual meeting.

A record of the regular contributors for the support of the Parish or Mission shall be maintained by the Treasurer, with the dates of their contributions. Such records shall be sufficient evidence as to the qualification of a voter with respect to the last preceding requirement. Any voters not baptized in the Parish or Mission must have been enrolled as members in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Rectors, Vicars, or Wardens shall keep a list of all members of the Congregation who have been received as voters, which list shall be open to inspection by the members of the Congregation. No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible to office in more than one Parish or Mission in this Diocese, although members of a Parish or Mission may be eligible also to vote or hold office in a Chapel.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH OFFICERS

Names in BOLD are those nominated for election at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Names not in bold are those continuing in office for terms to which they were previously elected.

VESTRY

Sr. Warden	1 year term until 2021	Cynthia Pelliccia
Jr. Warden	2 year term until 2022	**Paul Sinckler**
Vestry	3 year term until 2023	**Hilary Cox**
Vestry	3 year term until 2023	**Grace McDougall**
Vestry	3 year term until 2023	**Pam Maiolo**
Vestry	2 year term until 2022	David Doll
Vestry	2 year term until 2022	**Gerrianne Breck**
Vestry	2 year term until 2022	**Christy McGuire**
Vestry	1 year term until 2021	Kathy Balenson
Vestry	1 year term until 2021	Elaine Patania
Vestry	1 year term until 2021	Larry Quirk

DIOCESAN CONVENTION:

The 2020 Diocesan Convention will meet March 7th in Cherry Hill, NJ

Delegates:	***Alternates***:
Hilary Cox	**Rillette Hammond**
Grace McDougall	**Cynthia Pelliccia**
Larry Quirk	**Princess Thomas**

DELEGATES TO THE WATCHUNG CONVOCATION:

Alan Benjamin	**Sharon Benjamin**	**Gerrianne Breck**
Laura Breck	**Christy McGuire**	**Fausto Ramos**

2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cynthia Pelliccia, Paul Sinckler, Karen Baker,
Rillette Hammond, Anna Tirado, Fr. Jack Zamboni

VESTRY MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Vestry is to:

1. Provide a Christian Environment which will promote a Spiritual enrichment with the Parish.
2. Function as a policy decision-making body as representatives of the Parish.
3. Provide an open forum for the exchange of information with the Parish.
4. Recommend the formation of, and provide leadership for, committees that support specific functions and goals within the Parish.

Vestry Committees: Buildings & Grounds, Finance, COME!, Stewardship, and Outreach.
Committee Membership: May include anyone from the Parish family. If interested, please contact the Rector, a Warden or Vestry member.

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 2019

The 2019 Annual Meeting was brought to order with prayer on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 11:45am. The Nominating Committee presented the nominees for Parish Offices:

Vestry:

Sr. Warden	Cynthia Pelliccia	2 year term until 2021
Vestry	David Doll	3 year term until 2022
Vestry	Xiomara Mitchell	3 year term until 2022
Vestry	Monique Phua	3 year term until 2022

Diocesan Convention:

Delegates:	Alternates:
Cynthia Pelliccia	Kathy Balenson
Rillette Hammond	Princess Thomas
Hilary Cox	

Watchung Convocation:

Alan Benjamin Sharon Benjamin Gerrianne Breck
Laura Breck Fausto Ramos

Fr. Jack asked if there were any nominations from the floor for:

- Vestry and Warden – none
- Diocesan Convention – none
- Watchung Convocation – Rillette Hammond

Fr. Jack asked that a Unanimous Ballot be presented - so moved, seconded and carried.

Meeting continued at 12:25pm after a "pot-luck" lunch.

- **Minutes** from 2018 Annual Meeting were accepted.
- **Financial Reports**:
  - Ilia Scriven, Treasurer presented the 2018 Treasurer's report and the 2019 Budget.
    - The Finance Committee consists of: Ilia Scriven, Cynthia Pelliccia, Paul Sinckler, Larry Quirk, Fr. Jack Zamboni, Pam Maiolo and Elaine Patania. Fr. Jack Zamboni
  - Father thanked all of the Finance Committee for their hard work during the year.
  - After the review of the 2019 budget he announced that the Vestry had approved it.
  - Elaine Patania spoke about "What is Stewardship" and the UTO (United Thank Offering) collection to be taken in the Spring.

- **Other Reports:**
  - Fr. Jack asked all to review the reports in the Annual Meeting Booklet.
  - Motion made/carried to accept all reports as presented.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Vestry Appreciation Awards:

Fr. Jack thanked Karen Baker, Rillette Hammond and Anna Tirado for their service on Vestry.

St. Francis Award

The St. Francis Award was given to Deacon Marge Forsythe in recognition of her years of service at St. Francis

Announcements:

Fr. Jack offered thanks to:

- Vestry
- Wardens: Cynthia Pelliccia and Paul Sinckler
- Cynthia Pelliccia for organizing the Annual Meeting Lunch,
- Sunday School Team: Kathy, Nathalie, Monique
- Carol Gold, Communique and Annual Meeting Report Editor
- Larry Quirk, Garage Sale, Raffle
- Geri Peters, Pam Maiolo and Barbara Dalto for their Leadership of the Altar Guild
- Rachel Gasataya, Interim Musician and the Choir
- Tiffany O'Sullivan for leadership of the Acolytes
- Pam Maiolo, Outreach Coordinator
- Heather Nunes and Carline Sinckler, COME! Co-chairs
- Barbara Dalto and Elaine Patania, for leadership of the ECW

He announced these upcoming events in 2019

- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, January 28th – 10:30 -1:00
- Bishop's Forum — Thursday, January 31st, 7:00 - 9:00
  - All Saints', Scotch Plains
- Acolyte Festival, Trinity Cathedral — Saturday, February 9th – 9:00 - 3:00
- Acolyte Sunday — Sunday, February 10th
- Prostate Cancer Forum -- Fr. Frank Hubbard — Sunday, February 10th
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, February 12th – 7:00 PM
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, February 25th – 10:30 –1:00
- Diocesan Convention — Saturday, March 2nd
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — March 5th -- 5:30-7:00 PM
- Ash Wednesday — March 6th
  - Ashes to Go, Dunellen Train Station, 6:15-8:00 AM
  - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes -- 12 Noon, 7:30 PM
- Lenten Program at St. Francis — Begins Sunday, March 10th
- Lenten Services at Christ Methodist — Start Wednesday, March 13th
- St Patrick's Day Dinner — Saturday, March 16th -- 5:30 PM
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, March 12th – 7:00 PM
- ECW Lunch — Monday, March 25th 12:30
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, April 9th – 7:00 PM
- FISH Hospitality Guests — April 14th - April 21st
- Palm Sunday Services — April 14th – 8:00 & 10:00 AM
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist — April 18th – 7:30 PM
- Good Friday Services — April 19th – 12 Noon, 7:30 PM
- Easter Vigil — April 20th – 8:00 PM
- Easter Day — April 21st – 8:00 & 10:00 AM
- Empanada Workshop — TBA
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, April 29th – 10:30-1:00
- Blood Drive — Monday, April 29th 3:00-8:00 PM
- Bible Day led by Fr. Frank Hubbard — Spring TBA
- Spring Clean-up/Work Day — TBA
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, May 14th – 7:00 PM
- Let Your Yoga Dance — Sunday, May 19, 12 noon
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, May 27th – 10:30 –1:00
- Piscataway Street Fair — Saturday, June 8th
- Pentecost Mass on the Grass/Picnic — Sunday, June 9th (Wear red!)

A prayer was said for all St. Francis members /family members that died during 2018.

Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 1:15pm.

REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT: A TIME OF TRANSITION

2019 was a year of transition in the life of our parish community, not least with the parish staff.

In March, Deacon Marge Forsythe moved to South Carolina after nearly 10 years of ministry in partnership with us. I miss her presence in Sunday worship, sharing pastoral care and her persistent interest in evangelism and welcome – a focus much needed in the present time. Conversely, I'm grateful for the increased role Fr. Frank Hubbard, our Priest Associate, has taken in the life of St. Francis (see his report on page xx)

2019 was also a time of transition in our Music Program. Rachel Gasataya completed six months as our Interim Musician in April. She brought new energy to our choir and worship and was a real gift in the time she was here. I'm glad that she's been able to return as a Supply Organist on occasion since.

During Rachel's tenure, a dedicated committee (Kathy Balenson, Barbara Dalto, Bill Idenden, Vin Maiolo, Kate Mason, Larry Quirk, Princess Thomas, and Pam Warntz) worked with me in developing a job description for a permanent Music Director, reviewing applications, and interviewing and auditioning final candidates.

The excellent result was that Albert Bellefeuille started as our new Music Director in May. He brings strong organ skills along with knowledge and love of liturgy and church music to this position. I'm pleased with his work with our small, committed Choir and look forward to what he will contribute to our worship in the years ahead. If you are at all interested in singing, I encourage you to speak with Albert, who is happy to work with people of all levels of musical skill. (see his report on page xx).

2019 was a year of transition in our membership, as well. While we have gained some new members, sadly, there have been more departures. We lost Geri Peters to the terminal lung condition with which she was diagnosed several years ago. In addition to Deacon Marge, three families (Donaire, Gold, and Phua) with young children have moved out of the area. Others have chosen to worship elsewhere because of past connections or changing family needs. For yet others, participation has become more sporadic, sometimes due to personal or family illness, but other reasons as well. Our Average Sunday Attendance has fallen below 60 for the first time in at least 20 years (see Parish Statistics on page xx of this booklet). This is part of a gradual, largely steady downward trend over those same years that has become especially noticeable this past year.

As I wrote in the November *Communique*, this trend at St. Francis are part of a larger pattern. Nationally, attendance in almost <u>all churches</u>, including the Episcopal Church, has been in decline for decades, especially among younger people. Religious institutions no longer have the central place in the larger culture we once did. There are many other things for people to do on Sunday mornings (family activities, shopping, sports, travel) than in the past. Work expectations now often extend into weekends given 24/7 electronic availability. Overall, religious practice is simply not as important to many people as it once was, shaping to choices people make.

Among those who do go to church, attendance patterns have also changed. When people say they attend worship "regularly," it used to mean at least 3 out of 4 Sundays a month; now it often means just one or two. The overly busy lives so many of us lead also makes it harder for parishioners to engage in the life and ministry of the parish beyond Sunday morning worship

There are no easy answers to these challenges, but being honest about them is the first, needed step. The Vestry has had several such honest conversations and will continue in the coming year, seeking how we might connect more richly with one another and reinvigorate our parish life and ministry.

All this is not to say that much good hasn't happened in the past year. As one Vestry member recently said, "We do a lot for a parish our size" and reports in the rest of this booklet attest to that:

- Our ECW shares in visiting our shut-in parishioners (see page 28)
- We now host two successful Red Cross Blood Drives, up from one in prior years. (page 21)
- Our faithful Sunday School teachers share the love of God with our children (page 27)
- COME began a Black History Month observance, with more to come in 2020 (page 28)
- Our Outreach ministry, as always, was rich, diverse and generous. (page 20)

In addition to what we've done at St. Francis, we developed deeper connections with other congregations. We've renewed our relationship with the Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield. Members of Holy Cross and their Priest-in-Charge, Mother Stephanie Shockley, joined us for the Easter Vigil, and plan to do so again this year. We shared a joint Evensong Service at Holy Cross in November and we will host a joint Evensong at St. Francis in April. In December, we participated in a Convocation-wide pulpit/altar exchange, as Mother Kristen Foley of St. Paul's in Bound Brook led worship at St. Francis while I did so at St. Paul's. A small, but faithful, group of ecumenical clergy in Dunellen have begun meeting together and are planning some joint ministry opportunities in 2020.

Additional wider ministry connections are possible for us. In June, I attended a Diocesan workshop on *Two Cultures: One Body in Christ* about the process of developing ministry in Spanish in English-speaking congregations. This work has been enormously successful and energizing in several parishes in our Diocese. People who have been involved in this work are eager to share their experience and I look forward to exploring this opportunity further with the Vestry in the coming year. There is a significant Hispanic population in our area, including members of St. Francis. The possibilities are intriguing.

Our connection with our Diocese will be made visible in the person of our Bishop when the Rt. Rev. William (Chip) Stokes comes to St. Francis for Visitation on the morning of Sunday, May 17th. In preparation for Bishop Stokes visit, I've been meeting since September with a group of 5 teens (all of whose names begin with the letter "J"!) and 5 adults in preparation for possible Confirmation and/or Reception into the Episcopal Church.

Inspired by the *Living School* spiritual formation program I've been part of since August, 2018, I've approached this process of formation differently than in past years. I'm grateful to this group for engaging in this experiment with me. As I wrote in the September *Communique*, we're exploring a contemplative path in engaging the tradition themes of Confirmation preparation, one that seeks to be more about:

- Life *with/in* God, in the Church (and beyond) than ideas *about* God and the Church.
- Encountering the Holy Mystery revealed in Christ than acquiring religious knowledge.
- Spiritual practice than theological concepts.
- Experiential, embodied learning than transmission of information.

In each session, we engage in a different spiritual practice (including music and silence, art and literature, encounters with God's creation, bodily movement and more) which we then relate to the topic for that particular gathering. For instance, in a recent session on the Bible, we began with *Lectio Divina*, an ancient practice of praying with Bible texts. I'm grateful for the assistance of Kate Mason and Barbara Dalto in this endeavor. I'm hoping that for all who participate, their experience of God will become more alive.

Looking ahead, I hope that will also be what happens for the wider parish in Lent. Our Lenten Adult Formation on Sunday mornings will be Signs of Life: *why church matters*, a joint offering of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) and the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). In a time when church seems to matter less to many, it is important that we (re)discover why it *does* matter to us, and just might matter to our unchurched friends and neighbors, too. We'll explore how the themes of *Light, Water, Food, Shelter, and Community* engage our lives in Church and beyond, informed by reflections from the SSJE brothers. You can get a preview at www.signsoflife.org/

I want to close with sharing further wisdom I've learned from my friends at SSJE, particularly relevant at a time when our parish life may feel smaller and weaker than in some times past. Br. David Vryhof says that SSJE's founder, 19th century English priest Fr. Richard Meux Benson, "warned us that we would always be few in number, and that our resources would never seem to be enough for the opportunities and demands we faced. But he also told us that we should not despise our littleness, because God loves to use what is weak in the world to overcome what is strong. These are his words:

> 'No skill of [ours] can fashion any work so that God shall come and approve of it and finish it. [God] begins and [God] finishes the work; and so [God] begins every work in the greatest possible form of weakness. Therefore, in all divine works, instead of being discouraged because things seem to be weak, we are to recognize this weakness as an almost necessary form of cooperation [with God]. God delights to begin a work when [our] weakness is especially manifest, in order that it may be perfectly manifest that all the work is [God's]. God delights to show favor just when [we] can do nothing else than feel [our] inadequacy.'

"Father Benson encouraged us to see that our weaknesses," Br. David continues, rather than *disqualifying* us from doing God's work, were in fact the very thing that *qualified* us! When we are strong, we are tempted to rely on our own cleverness, knowledge, and skill. But when we are weak and we are aware of our weakness, we realize how much we need to rely upon God to accomplish the task in and through us. We know we cannot do or be what God is asking of us in our own strength. When this is the case, Father Benson reminds us, the work is clearly *God's* and not ours." [i]

We human beings don't usually like facing our weakness and our need to trust in God's help. We'd much rather be able to rely on "our own cleverness, knowledge, and skill." But times like the present can force us into the reliance on God that we would not otherwise choose. If we take the challenges of the present time as an opportunity to deepen our trust in God, that just might be the most important transition we could undergo.

The Rev. Jack Zamboni, *Rector*

[1] https://www.ssje.org/2013/07/07/on-a-mission-from-god-br-david-vryhof/

PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

In the Episcopal Church, the title "Priest Associate" is given to priests who, with the permission and under the authority of the Rector, are "associated" with a congregation on an unsalaried basis with duties as mutually agreed upon.

Elda and I chose St. Francis to be our home church after my retirement from full-time parish ministry. Elda and I and our two rescue dogs live 7 1/2 miles away in Berkeley Heights. St. Francis' inspiring liturgy and preaching, dedication to outreach ministry and warm, diverse congregation and my long friendship with Fr. Jack made it an easy choice. As this arrangement currently stands, if I am needed to lead one or more Sunday services alone, the parish pays me the usual per diem stipend set by our diocese. Anything else I do is "pro bono" ("for the good" — free). I'm the first one Fr. Jack calls when he will be away and needs coverage, or when he would like an "ecclesiastical relief pitcher".

In 2019 I served as St. Francis' Sunday Supply priest on February 17 (two services), June 16, August 11 and August 18 (one service each Sunday). I also presided and preached at four Wednesday Eucharists (February 20, August 7, 14, 21), preached at the 12 Noon Ash Wednesday Eucharist and at both Sunday services on December 29. With Fr. Jack's approval and the support of the congregation, when I do Sunday Supply on summer Sundays (when Sunday School is not in session) we have "Kid-Friendly" services, with an inter-active sermon for all involving kids, easy hymns and as much involvement by kids and teens as lectors and ushers as we can muster. Photos of a couple of these services are posted in the narthex.

I also am enthusiastic about Adult Christian Formation and lead at least one Saturday program each year. In response to requests at the end of the Spring of '18's Saturday program for more teaching on the Bible, I led "A Walk through the Hebrew Scriptures", an overview of the Old Testament, from 9-3 on May 4, which was well received by nine people. I look forward to leading one or more programs (to be determined) this year. I also led forums on Prostate Cancer (a subject about which I have learned more than I ever wanted to) after each service on February 10 (eight people attended each one). I served as part of the St. Francis delegation to Diocesan Convention in March. Finally, since Deacon Marge retired and moved out of state, I am the first one asked to be available to be on call for pastoral emergencies when our Rector is away. I was on call June 12-20 and August 5-22. I am honored to serve Our Lord here with you.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Francis A. Hubbard, *Priest Associate*

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

"My involvement, success and seemingly effortless ways around our Parish aren't about me. It's all about the great people who are working with me."

As we begin to plan for the coming year, we need to remember what has guided us through 2019. How can we improve as a whole, reflect on where and what God is calling you to do in the coming year, and yes many might struggle with this, as I do from time to time, but all one has to do is listen.

We, as a parish have some defined financial responsibilities that go hand in hand with our goals. Please consider how you can best serve in sharing with each other the accomplishment of these endeavors. Currently, with unknown expectations of the coming hours, we know we can depend on our faith, and support of one another. Your support is crucial to St Francis, whether it is an hour, a week, or simply just keeping to a schedule of services you have signed up for. Every single one of you matter!!

Let 2020 be the year of TRUST…

These Bible verses about trust, from the beautiful words of Psalm 28:7 to the promises made in Isaiah 26:3, remind us that to trust in God is a beautiful and worthwhile thing. That does not necessarily mean that it is always easy to trust in God — as Psalm 27:14 reminds us, sometimes God's timing is not what we would like it to be. However, we still have to trust him and let him guide our way. Look to these passages when you need a reminder of why trusting God's wisdom is so important.

As your Senior Warden, I invite you to a one on one and or a quiet sit down of your choosing to discuss how and where you can participate and or simply to express any ideas and or concerns you might have about our Parish.

Cynthia Pelliccia, *Senior Warden*

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

The item of note for the year was the building of the baffles on the lift doors. This could not have been accomplished without the expertise and craftsmanship of Yuennadi Moya. His energy and availability saved St. Francis, a minimum of $5,000.00 on this project alone. We have also changed vendors for snow removal, which should result in a cost savings. The "normal" issues of an aging structure were within tolerances, for this year.

Paul Sinckler, *Junior Warden*

PARISH STATISTICS

Services

Holy Eucharist

	2017	2018	2019
Sunday Eucharist	85	87	89
Sunday Eucharist with Holy Baptism *	3	4	1
Sunday Eucharist with Confirmation **	1	0	0
Sunday Eucharist with Burial	1	0	0
Sunday Communion from the Reserved Sacrament	3	0	0
Weekday Eucharist	36	38	40
Weekday Eucharist with Marriage	2	1	1
Weekday Eucharist with Burial	1	3	2
Private (Home/Hospital) Communions	80	67	49
Total Communion Services	**212**	**200**	**182**
** Number of people baptized*	3	6	1
*** Number of people confirmed*	5	0	0
*** Number of people received*	6	0	0

Other Services

Morning Prayer	1	0	0
Noonday Office	1	0	0
Evening Prayer	1	1	1
Compline	0	0	0
Ashes to Go	1	1	0
Stations of the Cross	1	1	1
Liturgy of the Word for Holy Saturday	1	1	1
Blessing of the Animals	1	1	1
House Blessing	1	30	23
Marriage/Blessing of Civil Marriage	3	2	1
Burial	3	4	3
Total Other Services	**14**	**41**	**31**
Total All Services	**236**	**245**	**245**

ATTENDANCE

Total Sunday Attendance *(includes Saturday night services)*	**3,478**	**3,231**	**2609**
Average Sunday Attendance	**66**	**62**	**56**
Total Weekday Attendance	**831**	**1159**	**767**

2017 Christmas Eve *fell on Sunday, increasing Saturday/Sunday attendance above normal levels. Average Sunday Attendance without Christmas Eve Services is 64*

TOTAL INVESTMENT AND BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES LESS LIABILITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

Investment Type	Balances
• Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) as of December 31, 2019	$ 270,946.27
• Provident Bank – Savings Account - Surplus/Bequest as of December 31, 2019	$ 15,463.38
• Provident Bank – Checking Account as of December 31, 2019	$ 22,784.23
• Provident Bank – Savings Account - Memorial Gardens as of December 31, 2019	$ 537.07
• PNC Bank – Savings Account: Rent Escrow as of December 31, 2019	$ 2,841.09
• Provident Bank – Savings Account: Rent Escrow as of December 31, 2019	$ 879.96
• Provident Bank – Rector's Discretionary Fund as of December 31, 2019	$ 35.72
• Provident Bank – Raffle Account as of December 31, 2019	$ 300.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT AND BANK ACCOUNTS BALANCES	**$ 313,787.72**
Less Liabilities:	
Rental Security Deposits Held	($ 3,721.05)
Net Investment and Bank Balances less Liabilities	**$ 310,066.67**

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019 AND 2020 BUDGET

2019
TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2020
BUDGET

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	**Activity**	**2019 Budget**	**2019 Actual**	**Change Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget**		**2020 vs. 2019 Budget Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget vs. 2019 Actual Incr/(Decr)**
2										
3	**INCOME**									
4	**Parish Offering**									
5	Envelope Income - Pledge	$ 137,164.00	$ 130,676.00	$ (6,488.00)		$ 125,300.00		$ (11,864.00)		$ (5,376.00)
6	Prior Envelope Income	$ 200.00	$ -	$ (200.00)		$ 600.00		$ 400.00		$ 600.00
7	Envelope Income - Non-Pledge	$ 3,000.00	$ 5,141.00	$ 2,141.00		$ 5,700.00		$ 2,700.00		$ 559.00
8	Holy Days	$ 4,600.00	$ 4,530.00	$ (70.00)		$ 4,600.00		$ -		$ 70.00
9	Donations for Mass Needs (Candles, Flowers, etc.)	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,687.01	$ (312.99)		$ 3,000.00		$ -		$ 312.99
10	Special Envelopes (Heat & A/C)	$ 700.00	$ 695.00	$ (5.00)		$ 700.00		$ -		$ 5.00
11	Initial Offering	$ 285.00	$ 155.00	$ (130.00)		$ 155.00		$ (130.00)		$ -
12	Loose Plate	$ 1,800.00	$ 1,545.41	$ (254.59)		$ 1,600.00		$ (200.00)		$ 54.59
13										
14	***Subtotal***	**$ 150,749.00**	**$ 145,429.42**	**$ (5,319.58)**		**$ 141,655.00**		**$ (9,094.00)**		**$ (3,774.42)**
15	**Facilities**									
16	Day School	$ 15,060.00	$ 15,060.00	$ -		$ 15,360.00		$ 300.00		$ 300.00
17	AA	$ 1,560.00	$ 1,560.00	$ -		$ 1,560.00		$ -		$ -
18	Rectory	$ 24,450.00	$ 29,340.00	$ 4,890.00		$ 24,950.00		$ 500.00		$ (4,390.00)
19	Hall and Church Rental	$ 500.00	$ 510.00	$ 10.00		$ 500.00		$ -		$ (10.00)
20	***Subtotal***	**$ 41,570.00**	**$ 46,470.00**	**$ 4,900.00**		**$ 42,370.00**		**$ 800.00**		**$ (4,100.00)**
21	**Additional Income**									
22	Designated Outreach Donations	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,373.12	$ 373.12		$ 2,000.00		$ -		$ (373.12)
23	Fundraisers	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,218.25	$ (281.75)		$ 2,500.00		$ (1,000.00)		$ (718.25)
24	ECW	$ 250.00	$ 163.00	$ (87.00)		$ 100.00		$ (150.00)		$ (63.00)
25	Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals/Memorials	$ 500.00	$ 1,150.00	$ 650.00		$ 500.00		$ -		$ (650.00)
26	Memorial Garden Donations	$ 500.00	$ 625.00	$ 125.00		$ 500.00		$ -		$ (125.00)
27	Other Income	$ 500.00	$ 459.54	$ (40.46)		$ 500.00		$ -		$ 40.46
28	Diocesan Investment Trust Dividends	$ 9,200.00	$ 8,431.19	$ (768.81)		$ 10,523.00		$ 1,323.00		$ 2,091.81
29	***Subtotal***	**$ 16,450.00**	**$ 16,420.10**	**$ (29.90)**		**$ 16,623.00**		**$ 173.00**		**$ 202.90**
30	**TOTAL INCOME**	**$ 208,769.00**	**$ 208,319.52**	**$ (449.48)**		**$ 200,648.00**		**$ (8,121.00)**		**$ (7,671.52)**

2019
TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2020
BUDGET

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	**Activity**	**2019 Budget**	**2019 Actual**	**Change Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget**		**2020 vs. 2019 Budget Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget vs. 2019 Actual Incr/(Decr)**
31	**EXPENSES**									
32	**Rector**									
33	Salary	$ 44,196.00	$ 44,196.04	$ 0.04		$ 45,080.00		$ 884.00		$ 883.96
34	Social Security Offset	$ 4,197.00	$ 4,196.88	$ (0.12)		$ 4,316.00		$ 119.00		$ 119.12
35	Housing Allowance	$ 10,666.00	$ 10,665.96	$ (0.04)		$ 11,333.00		$ 667.00		$ 667.04
36	***Subtotal***	**$ 59,059.00**	**$ 59,058.88**	**$ (0.12)**		**$ 60,729.00**		**$ 1,670.00**		**$ 1,670.12**
37	Professional Expense	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,962.02	$ (37.98)		$ 2,000.00		$ -		$ 37.98
38	Pension (Church Pension Fund)	$ 10,630.00	$ 10,630.68	$ 0.68		$ 10,931.00		$ 301.00		$ 300.32
39	Continuing Ed	$ 1,800.00	$ 1,800.00	$ -		$ 1,075.00		$ (725.00)		$ (725.00)
40	***Subtotal***	**$ 14,430.00**	**$ 14,392.70**	**$ (37.30)**		**$ 14,006.00**		**$ (424.00)**		**$ (386.70)**
41	Health/Dental Insurance Premium	$ 12,572.00	$ 12,942.80	$ 370.80		$ 12,639.00		$ 67.00		$ (303.80)
42	Life Insurance Premium	$ 228.00	$ 228.00	$ -		$ 228.00		$ -		$ -
43	***Subtotal***	**$ 12,800.00**	**$ 13,170.80**	**$ 370.80**		**$ 12,867.00**		**$ 67.00**		**$ (303.80)**
44	**Total**	**$ 86,289.00**	**$ 86,622.38**	**$ 333.38**		**$ 87,602.00**		**$ 1,313.00**		**$ 979.62**
45	**Staff**									
46	Organist Salary	$ 20,000.00	$ 17,683.36	$ (2,316.64)		$ 20,267.00		$ 267.00		$ 2,583.64
47	Organist Payroll Taxes	$ 1,530.00	$ 1,352.77	$ (177.23)		$ 1,551.00		$ 21.00		$ 198.23
48	Sexton/Cleaning Service	$ 1,700.00	$ 1,669.33	$ (30.67)		$ 1,817.00		$ 117.00		$ 147.67
49	Nursery Attendant	$ 1,600.00	$ 1,620.00	$ 20.00		$ 1,995.00		$ 395.00		$ 375.00
50	Deacon	$ 1,200.00	$ 300.00	$ (900.00)		$ 600.00		$ (600.00)		$ 300.00
51	Supply Priest	$ 1,350.00	$ 1,293.36	$ (56.64)		$ 1,350.00		$ -		$ 56.64
52	Supply Organist	$ 800.00	$ 1,550.00	$ 750.00		$ 800.00		$ -		$ (750.00)
53	Workers Compensation (Church Ins. Related)	$ 450.00	$ 490.00	$ 40.00		$ 550.00		$ 100.00		$ 60.00
54	**Total**	**$ 28,630.00**	**$ 25,958.82**	**$ (2,671.18)**		**$ 28,930.00**		**$ 300.00**		**$ 2,971.18**
55										
56	**Maintenance**									
57	Church Insurance	$ 12,101.00	$ 11,925.00	$ (176.00)		$ 12,452.00		$ 351.00		$ 527.00
58	Fire Safety	$ 1,800.00	$ 2,194.23	$ 394.23		$ 2,000.00		$ 200.00		$ (194.23)
59	Church Maintenance & Repairs	$ 6,750.00	$ 13,041.42	$ 6,291.42		$ 3,000.00		$ (3,750.00)		$ (10,041.42)
60	Rectory Repairs	$ 6,750.00	$ 631.66	$ (6,118.34)		$ 6,750.00		$ -		$ 6,118.34
61	Facilities Supplies (Bathrooms/Kitchen)	$ 850.00	$ 470.05	$ (379.95)		$ 500.00		$ (350.00)		$ 29.95
62	Memorial Garden	$ 400.00	$ 12.99	$ (387.01)		$ 400.00		$ -		$ 387.01
63	**Total**	**$ 28,651.00**	**$ 28,275.35**	**$ (375.65)**		**$ 25,102.00**		**$ (3,549.00)**		**$ (3,173.35)**
64	**Parish Support**									
65	Altar Expenses	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,271.96	$ 271.96		$ 3,000.00		$ -		$ (271.96)
66	Music Program	$ 1,100.00	$ 855.26	$ (244.74)		$ 1,300.00		$ 200.00		$ 444.74
67	Miscellaneous Expenses	$ 500.00	$ 1,109.90	$ 609.90		$ 500.00		$ -		$ (609.90)
68	Adult Education	$ 150.00	$ 280.15	$ 130.15		$ 250.00		$ 100.00		$ (30.15)
69	Sunday School	$ 150.00	$ -	$ (150.00)		$ 150.00		$ -		$ 150.00
70	Acolytes/Youth Programs	$ 400.00	$ 140.00	$ (260.00)		$ 280.00		$ (120.00)		$ 140.00

2019
TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2020
BUDGET

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	**Activity**	**2019 Budget**	**2019 Actual**	**Change Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget**		**2020 vs. 2019 Budget Incr/(Decr)**		**2020 Budget vs. 2019 Actual Incr/(Decr)**
71	Stewardship (includes offering envelopes)	$ 1,700.00	$ 1,716.35	$ 16.35		$ 1,800.00		$ 100.00		$ 83.65
72	Newcomers Ministry	$ 600.00	$ 717.70	$ 117.70		$ 600.00		$ -		$ (117.70)
73	Fellowship	$ 700.00	$ 595.34	$ (104.66)		$ 700.00		$ -		$ 104.66
74	Episcopal Church Women (ECW)	$ 500.00	$ 45.00	$ (455.00)		$ 600.00		$ 100.00		$ 555.00
75	Diocesan Convention Expenses	$ 250.00	$ 126.00	$ (124.00)		$ 250.00		$ -		$ 124.00
76	Vestry Expenses	$ 500.00	$ -	$ (500.00)		$ 500.00		$ -		$ 500.00
77	***Subtotal***	**$ 9,550.00**	**$ 8,857.66**	**$ (692.34)**		**$ 9,930.00**		**$ 380.00**		**$ 1,072.34**
78	**Office**									
79	Office Supplies & Postage	$ 1,200.00	$ 800.22	$ (399.78)		$ 1,000.00		$ (200.00)		$ 199.78
80	Copy Machine	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,741.60	$ (258.40)		$ 2,000.00		$ -		$ 258.40
81	Advertising/Signs	$ 300.00	$ -	$ (300.00)		$ 250.00		$ (50.00)		$ 250.00
82	Fundraisers	$ 1,000.00	$ 414.01	$ (585.99)		$ 200.00		$ (800.00)		$ (214.01)
83	***Subtotal***	**$ 4,500.00**	**$ 2,955.83**	**$ (1,544.17)**		**$ 3,450.00**		**$ (1,050.00)**		**$ 494.17**
84										
85	**Total**	**$ 14,050.00**	**$ 11,813.49**	**$ (2,236.51)**		**$ 13,380.00**		**$ (670.00)**		**$ 1,566.51**
86										
87	**Outreach**							$ -		$ -
88	Vestry Outreach (min .7% of income)	$ 3,500.00	$ 3,521.11	$ 21.11		$ 3,500.00		$ -		$ (21.11)
89	Designated Outreach Expenses	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,313.00	$ 313.00		$ 2,000.00		$ -		$ (313.00)
90	Discretionary Fund	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$ -		$ 3,000.00		$ -		$ -
91	**Total**	**$ 8,500.00**	**$ 8,834.11**	**$ 334.11**		**$ 8,500.00**		**$ -**		**$ (334.11)**
92										
93	**Fair Share**	**$ 18,700.00**	**$ 18,699.96**	**$ (0.04)**		**$ 21,400.00**		**$ 2,700.00**		**$ 2,700.04**
94										
95	**Utilities**									
96	Phone	$ 2,700.00	$ 2,523.77	$ (176.23)		$ 1,920.00		$ (780.00)		$ (603.77)
97	Gas & Electric	$ 8,400.00	$ 8,854.84	$ 454.84		$ 9,000.00		$ 600.00		$ 145.16
98	Water	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,017.10	$ 17.10		$ 2,000.00		$ -		$ (17.10)
99	Garbage	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,163.76	$ (36.24)		$ 1,200.00		$ -		$ 36.24
100	Snow Removal	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,250.00	$ (1,750.00)		$ 5,000.00		$ -		$ 1,750.00
101	Lawn Care	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,335.00	$ (165.00)		$ 3,440.00		$ 940.00		$ 1,105.00
102										
103	**Total**	**$ 21,800.00**	**$ 20,144.47**	**$ (1,655.53)**		**$ 22,560.00**		**$ 760.00**		**$ 2,415.53**
104										
105	**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES**	**$ 206,620.00**	**$ 200,348.58**	**$ (6,271.42)**		**$ 207,474.00**		**$ 854.00**		**$ 7,125.42**
106										

2019
TREASURER'S REPORT AND 2020
BUDGET

	A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Activity	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	Change Incr/(Decr)		2020 Budget		2020 vs. 2019 Budget Incr/(Decr)		2020 Budget vs. 2019 Actual Incr/(Decr)
107										
108	**Total Operating Expenses**	**$ 206,620.00**	**$ 200,348.58**	**$ (6,271.42)**		**$ 207,474.00**		**$ 854.00**		**$ 7,125.42**
109	**Total Operating Income**	**$ 208,769.00**	**$ 208,319.52**	**$ (449.48)**		**$ 200,648.00**		**$ (8,121.00)**		**$ (7,671.52)**
110	**Operating Difference Incr/(Decr)**	**$ 2,149.00**	**$ 7,970.94**	**$ 5,821.94**		**$ (6,826.00)**		**$ (8,975.00)**		**$ (14,796.94)**
111										
112	**Net Non Operating Receipts/(Expenditures)**	**$ -**	**$ (15,426.05)**	**$ (15,426.05)**		**$ -**		**$ -**		**$ 15,426.05**
113	(see details below)									
114	**Total Operating/Non-Operating Incr/(Decr**	**$ 2,149.00**	**$ (7,455.11)**	**$ (9,604.11)**		**$ (6,826.00)**		**$ (8,975.00)**		**$ 629.11**
115										
116	**NON OPERATIING ACTIVITY DETAILS**									
117	**Receipts**									
118	Bequest/Memoriums	$ -	$ 575.00	$ 575.00		$ -		$ -		$ (575.00)
119										
120	Collection for Deacon Marge	$ -	$ 2,630.00	$ 2,630.00		$ -		$ -		$ (2,630.00)
121	**Total Receipts**	**$ -**	**$ 3,205.00**	**$ 3,205.00**		**$ -**		**$ -**		**$ (3,205.00)**
122	**Expenditures**									
123	Transfer to Saving/M Garden/Raffle Account	$ -	$ 15,565.00	$ 15,565.00				$ -		$ (15,565.00)
124	Payment to Deacon Marge	$ -	$ 2,630.00	$ 2,630.00		$ -		$ -		$ (2,630.00)
125	Repair Draperies From McElvry Bequest		$ 436.05	$ 436.05				$ -		$ (436.05)
126	**Total Expenditures**	**$ -**	**$ 18,631.05**	**$ 18,631.05**		**$ -**		**$ -**		**$ (18,631.05)**
127										
128	**NET NON OPERATING CASH FLOW**	**$ -**	**$ (15,426.05)**	**$ (15,426.05)**		**$ -**		**$ -**		**$ 15,426.05**
129										
130										
131										
132										
133										
134										

STEWARDSHIP

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship teaches us that all that we have and all that we are comes as a gift from God. We are, therefore, stewards of God's gifts. Discerning and carrying out god's work is the primary purpose of our love. The parishioners at St. Francis participate in our many ministries and due to many giving hearts people continue to be generous with their time, talents and treasure! Please see Father Jack or a Vestry member if you have some ***time*** to share your ***talents*** here at St. Francis.

In the words of the Rev. John Westerhoff: "Stewardship is concerned with nothing less than our responsibility for every aspect of individual and social life – within every aspect of life. Stewardship is the active recognition of the sovereignty of God over all creation, over all the creative and productive processes in which we humans share, and over the uses to which we put each and every resource and means that comes into our care and control."

"All things come from thee, O Lord. And of thine own, have we given thee."

THE NEW CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Once again under the direction of The Rev. David Snyder we followed Herb Miller's Stewardship Program. "The *New Consecration Sunday* "is a stewardship education program which teaches Stewardship from a spiritual perspective rather than from a fund-raising perspective. New Consecration Sunday is based on a biblical/spiritual theology of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual benefit rather than on the need of the church to receive. Directed toward raising the level of Stewardship rather than toward raising the church budget, its no-gimmick approach focuses on the question, "What is God calling me to do?" rather than on the question "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?" NCS is a spiritual growth program which teaches/encourage joyful giving as a response to God's love and as an act of worship.

Thank you all for your generous support of this program.

STEWARDSHIP

The New Consecration Sunday-November 10, 2019

Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Pledges		50	50	52	57	48
Amount		$ 106,234.00	$ 115,330	$ 120,659.00	$ 137,164.00	$ 125,300

2019 for the year 2020

A total of 48 giving units completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* this year.

2 New Giving Units – New Parishioners
24 Of these giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount.
14 Pledged the same amount as last year.
8 Decreased their pledge from last year.

Please remember that you may change your pledge at any time throughout the year.
We have achieved these results even though several regular donors from last year have moved (4) or have not pledge (5) as of this date.

"What percentage of your income is God calling you to give?"
2019 Consecration Sunday Team Members

Elaine Patania - Consecration Sunday Chairperson
Larry Quirk – Stewardship Committee
Cynthia Pelliccia – Celebration Luncheon Chairperson (Cedar Grove)
Pam Maiolo – Congregational Governing Board Dinner Chairperson (Ellery's)
Hilary Cox, Kia Phua, Fausto Ramos – Sunday Announcers
Kathleen Balenson – Sunday School Signage
Ilia Scriven – Church Treasurer
Amy Myzie – Church Financial Records
The Rev. David Snyder - Guest Leader
The Rev. Jack Zamboni – Rector

Please note that these trends and totals are posted before the Annual Meeting to meet the deadline for the printing of the Annual Meeting booklet. They can and do change throughout the year.

Elaine Patania, *Stewardship Chair*

OUTREACH AT ST. FRANCIS

Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present. *Albert Camus*

St. Francis parishioners have shown their generosity in their commitment to the many outreach projects that we support that enable us to show God's love to all who are in need. Our outreach is to our local community and across the globe to Bamenda, Cameroon. In 2019, our vestry approved a budget which included $3500 dedicated to assist in fulfilling our mission. In 2020, even though our financial situation has changed, we are still committed to $3500 for good works. Our first promise to outreach dollars was in 2002, when $250 was allocated for outreach projects. We have come a long way as we continue our intentional giving with increased amounts given to projects and organizations.

Our dollars have been given to the Dunellen Rescue Squad, Dunellen Fire Department, Trinity Cathedral, The Good Shepherd Home, Episcopal Relief & Development, Casa de Esperanza, The Good News Home for Women, UTO/ECW, Reach Out & Read and our local Christmas Adopt-a-Family project.

St. Francis parishioners are also mindful of the time & talent opportunities that are available to us. Our commitment to ***FISH, Inc. & FISH Hospitality*** are ongoing during the year. FISH, Inc. is the recipient of our monthly food basket donations & donations to their clothing room. 42 winter coats & vests were donated in 2019.

Our outreach to FISH Hospitality began 15 yrs. ago when we became a dinner support church to Friends Meeting, Plainfield. Our support continues with our designation as the Day Center for their guests & our welcome as an emergency residence shelter a few times during the year.

We also serve as a FHP dinner support church to Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway. Thanks to Xiomara Prince who is the coordinator & all those who prepare, deliver, and serve a delicious meal to the guests.

Grace's Kitchen at Grace Episcopal Church, Plainfield finds a group from St. Francis that gives of their time & talent 9 times a year serving lunch to those in the community who are in need of a hot meal. Those who regularly serve at this important ministry include Alan Benjamin, Nathalie Edwards, Amy Myzie, Barbara Dalto, Elaine Patania, Carline Sinckler, and Pam & Vin Maiolo. We have been serving at Grace's Kitchen for 21 years.

Adopt-a-Family is our Christmas time ministry with assistance & gifts given to a local family. Elaine Patania once again coordinated this year's program for a needy family through Randolphville School, Piscataway. We also assisted a second family in need brought to our attention by Cynthia Pelliccia. Thanks to all who gave gifts, gift cards & helped wrap.

Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway is the host of the annual ***Community Lent Service.*** Many faith traditions come together each Wednesday during Lent for prayer & reflection. Fr. Jack preaches on one of those Wednesdays & our parishioners prepare soup & sandwiches to serve to the 75+ attendees after the 25-minute noon day service. This is another community outreach that St. Francis has participated in for many years.

The Greeting Card Ministry led by Karen Williams is an important way to let our shut-ins & homebound parishioners know that they are in our thoughts & prayers and not forgotten. Karen sends cards during the month and at Christmas.

We also donated ***122 pairs of socks*** (amazing) to clients at Grace's Kitchen. 46 pairs of eyeglasses were given to the ***Lions Club Recycle for Sight*** program, and a wonderful amount of pet food & supplies to ***St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.***

Let us continue to join together, give generously & continue to serve as we have promised to do with God's help.

Pam Maiolo, *Outreach Ministry Coordinator*

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Francis would be proud of our congregation and community for its outstanding participation in something as important as our Blood Drives. We currently are having success holding 2 blood drives a year – one in the spring and another in the fall.

For the drive held on April 29, 2019, we received 19 whole blood donations and 6 power red donations, for a total of 25 pints collected.

Our numbers for the drive held on October 30, 2019 were as follows: 17 whole blood donations and 4 power red donations, totaling 21 pints collected.

Our next drive is scheduled for April 29, 2020. I'm confident we'll have another successful year.

Thank you to all who participate in our blood drives, either by donating or recruiting others to donate. Your efforts continue to save the lives of our St. Francis community.

Chris Colwell, Blood Drive Coordinator

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Throughout much 2019 the scheduling of the ministries was completed by Laura Breck. Laura took over from Carol Gold who moved away from New Jersey. **If you are interested in filling any of the following positions, please seek out Carol Gold or Father Jack for more information.**

USHERS

Our Usher Ministry has been comprised of faithful, dedicated volunteers who work each Sunday to assure each member, new or old, is greeted warmly. These "ministers" offer their time each Sunday, often filling in when another could not make the service. Please consider becoming a part of this rewarding ministry!

The following parishioners volunteered to serve during the calendar year 2019:

Sharon Benjamin	Arthur McConney	Larry Quirk
Alan Benjamin	Yuennadi Moya	Ilia Scriven
Jabari Halls	Elaine Patania	Paul Sinckler
Pam Maiolo	Tom Patania	Karen Williams
Sam Mathew	Cynthia Pelliccia	Carroll Wilson

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that other parishioners have, from time to time, volunteered to fill in on an "ad hoc" basis. We wish to thank them for their responsiveness and enthusiasm to help make each service a success.

GREETERS

The Greeters work with the COME Committee to effectively serve the church in welcoming all people to the Church. One of their primary goals is to see that any "Newcomer" who enters our doors comes back and stays. Please consider becoming a Greeter and/or joining the COME Committee during 2018! Every person has their own unique experiences and perceptions to add to the conversation, and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Our Greeters who faithfully greeted all upon entering St. Francis in 2019 were:

Barbara Dalto	Audrey Johansen	Heather Nunes	Ava Parmelee

Thanks to all who have acted as Greeters and to the entire Parish Family for being a very Welcoming Church!

LECTORS & CHALICE BEARERS

Our Lectors and Chalicers were very faithful and committed to serving St. Francis in 2019. One Lector is assigned to read the lessons at the 8AM service and two Lectors read at the 10AM service. There are also two Chalice Bearers assigned for the 10 AM service.

We are always looking for new voices to read the lessons, so please consider being a Lector in 2020! Also, we are in real need for additional Chalicers - if you are interested, please speak to Father Jack.

Those who served as Lectors and/or Chalicers in 2019 are as follows:

Kathy Balenson	Suzannah Kokotajlo	Elaine Patania
Alan Benjamin	Pam Maiolo	Kia Phua
Sharon Benjamin	Kate Mason	Larry Quirk
Hilary Cox	Sam Mathew	Ilia Scriven
David Doll	Grace McDougall	Paul Sinckler
Rillette Hammond	Amy Myzie	Princess Thomas
Kate Mason	Tiffany O'Sullivan	Carroll Wilson

This is a very talented group and we would like to thank all of them for their continued faithful support and commitment to this service. We would also like to thank those who, although not a "regular" Lector, have stepped up to read when needed.

COUNTERS

The Counters of St. Francis Church are a faithful group of current and former vestry members and volunteers. Two people serve each Sunday, with the task of counting and depositing all money received during the week. They complete a pre-printed counter sheet that lists the names and envelope numbers of each parish family, filling in details of each parishioner's contributions for the week. Each individual Counter serves as a check of the other to ensure mistakes are minimized.

Every Counter serves about twice per quarter, with the schedule adjusted for vacations. As with all service guilds, each person serving as a Counter is requested to arrange for coverage with another Counter should they be unable to participate on their assigned Sunday, thus ensuring that there are always two available people to count.

Listed below are the members who served as Counters in 2019:

Kathy Balenson	Amy Myzie	Larry Quirk
Karen Baker	Ava Parmelee	Carline Sinckler
David Doll	Elaine Patania	Paul Sinckler
Rillette Hammond	Xiomara Mitchell	Anna Tirado
Pam Maiolo	Cynthia Pelliccia	
Grace McDougall	Monique Phua	

If you would like to participate in this vitally important ministry, please contact any vestry member or warden.

Laura Breck

ST. FRANCIS ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The altar guild is a volunteer group of the parish (men & women) whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards. Easter and Christmas are particularly busy times as we polish, clean & decorate.

Our four altar guild teams serve during the month on a rotating basis.

Pam Warntz	Barbara Dalto	Sharon Benjamin
Gail Slater	Pam Maiolo	Audrey Johansen
Karen Williams	Princess Thomas	Nathalie Edwards

Assistance during the year from other congregants helps to accomplish our important work. Amy Myzie, Vin Maiolo, Carol Burns & Rillette Hammond have been helpers in 2019. Thanks also to all who lent a hand with Christmas greening on December 22.

Our report cannot be complete without mentioning the life of our dear friend & former altar guild directress, Geri Peters. Geri's long-term chronic lung disease ended her life in September. We will remember her love of life & her church. A set of fair linens (altar cloths) was donated in her name.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Dalto & Pam Maiolo, Altar Guild Leadership Partners

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

Last year was a time of transition for the music ministry at St. Francis. We are thankful for the services of Rachel Gasataya, who shared her gifts with our community as the interim Music Director during the first half of the year and on occasion as a substitute. It was my pleasure to be appointed Music Director in May and this report covers that period.

The choir has established a regular schedule of evening rehearsals in addition to its regular Sunday morning warmup. Because of my teaching schedule at Rutgers this semester, the choir will be rehearsing on Wednesday evenings rather than Thursdays as in the Fall. This additional prep time has allowed the choir to continue its technical development and to explore more repertory.
We purchased a new anthology of anthems to supplement our choral library, and you will have heard a number of selections from it during the Epiphany season. The choir also joined forces with the choir of the Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield for Evensong on the feast of All Souls. Music for our Christmas Eve service was enriched with the participation of Vin Maiolo on bass, and with two voice students from Rutgers University – Kelly Brecker and Carl Muhler – together presenting a vibrant and diverse program of Christmas classics and modern arrangements.

Our vision for the coming year is one of continued growth in the direction we have begun to take. The music budget for the year will provide us the necessary means to develop our choral library, hire instrumentalists and singers for special services, and maintain our keyboard instruments. In cooperation with the Church of the Holy Cross, St. Francis will host an Evensong during the Easter season. Our hope is that this continued growth will encourage more members of our community to participate in the music ministry; participation has many faces, and is not limited to full-time choir membership. Working with the God-given talents in our community, let us explore new musical opportunities!

Respectfully Submitted:

Albert Bellefeuille, *Director of Music*

ACOLYTE GUILD

At our annual Acolyte Appreciation Sunday in February, each acolyte received a cross with a colored ribbon signifying how many years of experience they have had. It is always a very impressive site to see the whole guild vested together for this special occasion.

Those who served as acolytes in 2019 were:

Avery Dunham
Connor Dunham
Anthony Klastava
James Parmelee
Jonathan Parmelee
Julia Parmelee
Gabrielle Petit-Homme
Robert Petit-Homme
Everette Pfeiffer
Catherine Pfeiffer
Madeline Pfeiffer
Jayden Phua
Jaeden Prince

We had 3 new acolytes start this year. They would be Gabrielle and Robert Petit-homme and Anthony Klastava. They have done a great job serving at the altar.

Jonathan Parmelee graduated from High School this past year and will no longer be on the schedule but it was great having him back at Christmas to participate in the service.

We also lost Connor and Avery Dunham as acolytes.

We currently have eleven active young people serving as acolytes; if you have a child eight years old or more who has expressed an interest in becoming an acolyte, please see me or Father Zamboni. More acolytes mean less Sundays to serve! Also, adults can be acolytes too!

I would like to thank all the parents who support their child's ministry as an acolyte. I am grateful to these young people for their dedicated service.

Tiffany O'Sullivan, *Acolyte Master*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is held every Sunday at 10 a.m. from September through the middle of June. We meet at 10AM for about a forty-minute session. We go into church at the peace in time to share in the Holy Communion with our families and friends.

Sunday School classes consist of prayers and a learning session, singing, and a craft. The lessons have consisted of the Sunday Gospel reading for that Sunday. We also have been learning about the church seasons such as Advent, Epiphany, and Lent. We had our own Advent wreath and lit the candles each week during Advent. We made Christmas cards and sent them to the Seamen's Institute for the sailors that they serve. On Sunday, December 22, the children decorated homemade sugar cookies. The children also made a special craft about the baby Jesus' birth. The children are really enjoying singing songs and hymns while using the drums and tambourines.

This year we continue to teach the children about the importance of prayer. We are encouraging them to pray daily at home. We continue to plan for classes to teach the children about God and Jesus and the church.

We had a team of three enthusiastic teachers who were Kathy Balenson, Nathalie Edwards, and Monique Phua. As of January, Monique Phua has stepped down from her teaching position as one of our Sunday School teachers. We will miss her expert input and craft ideas. Please let Kathy or Nathalie know if you are interested in joining us as a Sunday School teacher and sharing this rewarding experience in teaching our St. Francis children.

It is a blessing to see the children grow in faith. We welcome your children to join us for a fun and informative Sunday School session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Balenson, Nathalie Edwards, and Monique Phua

FUNDRAISING

Two of our yearly fundraisers, the Garage Sale in June and our Raffle in November raised about $2,100. Adding in our St. Patrick's Day event and other smaller efforts, fundraising for 2019 totaled approximately $3,200.

Larry Quirk

ECW – EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of this organization shall be to unite the women of this Diocese in a program of worship, study, service, fellowship, and gifts. All women of the Episcopal Church, by virtue of their baptism, and their canonical residence in the Diocese of New Jersey, are members of the ECW. We are a community of Episcopal women who give, care, and share God's love through mission and ministry.

Here at St. Francis we continue to have an active and productive group together. Barbara Dalto has been organizing ongoing monthly luncheons in which we share ideas, fellowship and delicious food at various local restaurants. The ECW ladies have been visiting senior parishioners who are shut in or homebound. Besides smiles and good conversation, a small gift is also shared. For those who are unable to have visitors, flowers are sent to their homes. The ECW encourages everyone to write holiday cards or notes to our shut ins. We send a group picture to all those who are unable to attend our Annual Women's Christmas party. The ECW has offered UTO boxes to parishioners to be collected for the spring United Thank Offering Ingathering. This offering gives each of us a unique opportunity to show our gratitude for our own blessings by making a difference in the lives of others. Every dollar received by UTO is then sent on to fund ministry in the U.S. and around the world. You are invited to share any ideas that you would like to see ECW participate in and we hope you will join us at our luncheons and workshops.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Patania

COME! (AKA THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBER EVANGELISM)

2019 was filled with ups and downs but through faith in God and our church family, we were able to overcome many of these obstacles.

Starting in Feb. 2019, we created a "little known facts" board outside of Milbank Hall to honor successful black men and women inventors which was our first ever Black History Month tribute. Additionally, thanks to Princess Thomas, displays of prominent black children's books were put on display. Parishioners had an opportunity to borrow the books to read to their children. The displays were awesome!

On Sunday, September 29th, we participated in the Dunellen Street fair. Guests visiting our table were able to collect pamphlets about our church as well as play the "Spin the Wheel" game for a chance to win Olive Garden coupons or stuffed animals. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Finally, as part of the St. Francis weekend, we held our annual Welcome Back brunch on Sunday, October 6th. We celebrated the life of our patron saint, Francis by enjoying delicious pot luck dishes, connecting with our church family and playing Doggie trivia. Some 35-40 parishioners attended the event and winners of our trivia game received gift certificates to TGI Fridays or a newly designed St. Francis tote bag.

2019 was quite a year.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Nunes & Carline Sinckler Co-Chairs

FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to each of you for a wonderful 2019!! We are incredibly blessed to have such an incredible congregation. Talented, fun, loving and dedicated…

- **Coffee hour:** We are still having some challenges in getting hosts for Coffee Hour during 2019. Keep in mind my offer is still in play for "cohosting".
- **Church Picnic:** our parish family members prepare all the wonderful foods shared at this event. This event never disappoints; we do some of our best work together at this event.
- **Empanada workshop:** date TBD coming 2020!
- **Women's Christmas Party:** FUN! FUN! FUN! A Church favorite (for the ladies) I'm proud to say that this event still draws a nice crowd. Great food and a fun filled evening.

Thank you all who shared, helped, and contributed to 2019 fellowship. I look forward to 2020 and hope that I can continue to promote Church activities and events that nurture and bring the parish closer together.

Cynthia Pelliccia

ST. FRANCIS' MEMORIAL GARDEN

The **Memorial Garden** is located on the south side of the church building. The entrance is the double glass doors that are located on the ground level as you enter Milbank Hall. In this entrance there is also a bulletin board which pictures and welcomes our new parishioners. The memorial plaque for the ***Memorial Garden is*** above the baptismal font, between the stained-glass windows that are located in the foyer entrance. Our statue of St. Francis is located in the far end of the garden. The ***Memorial Garden*** is a place where human ashes may be interred. Those interred are all church members or family members of parishioners. Although there will be no individual markers, records are kept of each interment location. An aesthetic asset to our Church grounds, the ***Memorial Garden*** is a serene place to sit, pray, meditate and remember a loved one.

The ***Memorial Garden*** is not a project, which will end at a given time or date, with the last shrub or flower set in place. In fact, the garden will incur ongoing expenses. Last year, Jonathan Parmelee put in a front walkway as part of his Eagle Scout project. This has enhanced our front entrance to the garden. This spring under the direction of Pam Maiolo new much will be laid. Persons may contribute donations to express their support of our ***Memorial Garden.*** To donate, one can use the regular offering envelope by noting the donation on the "other" space, or by writing a check to the **St. Francis Memorial Garden**. Fresh flowers, wreaths, sprays and plants may be put in the garden for remembrance of loved ones. There should be no statues or plaques placed in the garden. To inquire about interment into the garden please see Father Jack.

A special thanks to Pamela Maiolo who has been keeping up with the weeding/trimming and cleaning of the garden. Thank you to Carol Burns for her plantings, trimming and watering throughout the hot and dry months. Thank you to all the others who may stop by to help clean up, water, plant or do some weeding/trimming to keep our garden beautiful. Please ask how you may help.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Patania

NECROLOGY

Our Dearly Departed

We remember those who entered
Eternal Life
in the Year of Our Lord 2019:

Geraldine Peters,

Linda Ward

Ena Nunes

Almighty God, we remember before You this day your servants Geraldine, Linda, and Ena, and we pray that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, You will receive them more and more into Your joyful service, that they may win, with You and all Your servants everywhere, the eternal victory, and let light perpetual shine upon them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, January 27th – 10:30 -1:00
- Fish Hospitality Support Dinner — Wednesday January 29th – 5:30
- Acolyte Festival, Trinity Cathedral — Saturday, February 8th – 9:00 - 3:00
- Acolyte Sunday — Sunday, February 9th
- Black History Month Lunch — Sunday, February 16th
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, February 18th – 7:00 PM
- Diocesan Convention — Saturday, March 2nd
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — February 25th -- 5:30-7:00 PM
- Ash Wednesday — February 26th
  - Ashes to Go, Dunellen Train Station, 6:00-8:00 AM
  - Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes -- 12 Noon, 7:30 PM
- Lenten Program at St. Francis — Begins Sunday, March 1st
- Lenten Services at Christ Methodist — Start Wednesday, March 4th
- Diocesan Convention — Saturday, March 7th
- St Patrick's Day Dinner — Saturday, March 14th – 5:30 PM
- Vestry Meeting — Tuesday, March 17th – 7:00 PM
- St. Francis Hosts Community Lenten Service — Wednesday, March 25th – 12 Noon
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, March 30th – 10:30 -1:00
- Palm Sunday Services — April 5th – 8:00 & 10:00 AM
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist — April 9th – 7:30 PM
- Good Friday Services — April 10th – 12 Noon, 7:30 PM
- Easter Vigil — April 11th – 8:00 PM
- Easter Day — April 12th – 8:00 & 10:00 AM
- Empanada Workshop — Saturday, April 25th – 10:30 AM
- Evensong — Sunday, April 26th – 4:30 PM
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, April 27th – 10:30 -1:00
- Blood Drive — Wednesday, April 29th 3:00-8:00 PM
- Adult Education Forum — Saturday, May 2nd – 9:00AM-3:00 PM
- Spring Clean-up/Work Day — TBA
- Bishop's Visitation — Sunday, May 17th – 10:00 AM
- Yard Sale — Saturday, June 13th
- Mass on the Grass/Picnic — Sunday, June 14th
- Summer Worship Schedule begins — Sunday, June 21st
- Grace's Kitchen — Monday, June 29th – 10:30 -1:00

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is a diverse community, accepting all.
We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship.
We go out to serve Christ by serving others.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!