

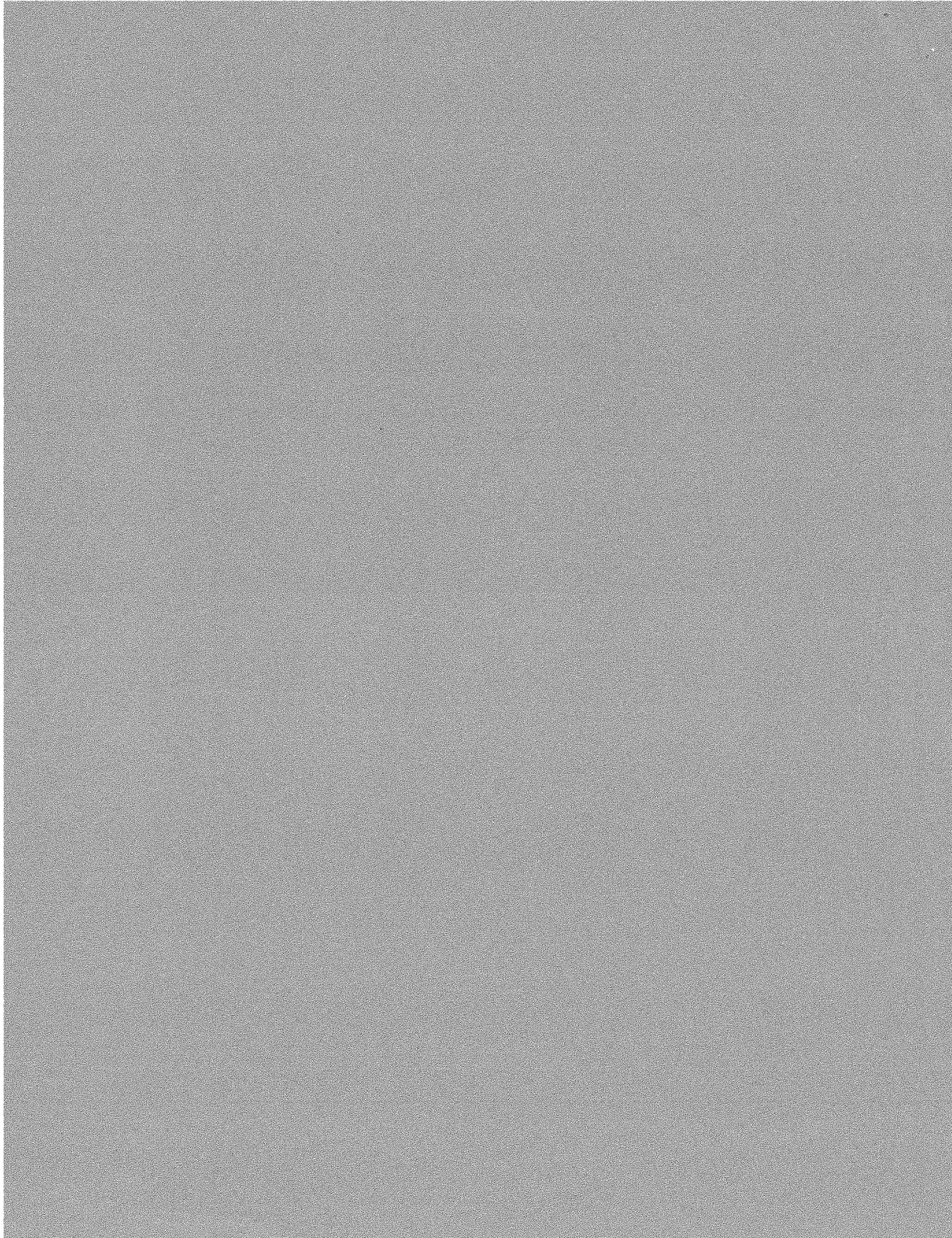
St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

Los Osos, CA

Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2020



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Senior Warden's Report

Rector's Report

Mutual Ministry Review Responses

Election of Vestry and Delegates

Financial Report and Adoption of Budget

Table Conversation

Awards

Senior Warden's Report 2019 Pamela Bleisch Strawn

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:17-19

*"The arrival of chaos should be regarded as extremely good news."
—Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche*

St Benedict's has a toy crèche that children love to play with. When you slide the star of Bethlehem back and forth, the angel atop the stable twirls and dances. One Sunday morning in Advent, after hearing the story of the shepherds, four of our young Bible students decided to depose that Christmas angel. In her place, they put a sheep! And then the goat, a few more sheep, the donkey, and the cow all went up on the roof of the Christmas stable, accompanied by a cacophony of animal sounds. Amidst our laughter, I realized that Christ's birth-night long ago had its share of chaos and disorder. A newborn tucked into a feed trough, sheep nosing up to grab a mouthful of hay, goats clambering on the stable roof. Those faithful shepherds would have driven their entire flocks along with them, through the streets of Bethlehem, right up to and into the stable. It must have been noisy, smelly, messy—not a silent night, at all. But most assuredly, holy, holy, holy.

I think about that chaotic night of Good News as I look back over the past year. I am amazed at the holiness St Benedict's continues to experience amidst life's mess, vagaries, and vicissitudes. I am awed and humbled to see how our church continues to grow and develop, manifesting the Good News in Los Osos. Most of the time, we keep chaos at bay as we work together to create a sacred space of calm and reflection. But God Bless This Mess—the chaos is holy, too!

Here are a few of the highlights of our life together this past year:

- Lenten worship and reflection were greatly enhanced by our new Stations of the Cross, sculpted by Chloe A. White, installed and curated by Michael Lucas. Look for them to reappear on Ash Wednesday (February 26th).
- The Hollister Institute was renewed and re-envisioned by Jane Wu and Susan Miller this year, so that 2020 is packed with a variety of exciting Hollister programs.
- Our Abundance shop performed beyond expectation this year, under the able leadership of Deb Garza and Karin Cake, and Esta Kandarian, who has joined their team as a part-time paid manager.

- Gorgeous music was continually lifted up in sacred beauty, thanks to the talents of many, under the leadership of John Cribb and Ann Lucas.
- Outreach to those living on the margins grew this year, through the Warming Shelter, Laundry Love, Community Dinners, People's Kitchen, and donations to the Prado Day Center.
- Our EarthCare group coordinated a diocesan-wide conference, "An Opportunity for which the Church was Born" in September, hosting Margaret Bullitt-Jonas.
- Vacation Bible Camp was offered for the first time in many years, thanks to the dedication and creativity of many volunteers.
- The veranda was repaired and repainted, while Jane Wu and Michael Lucas have been working very hard to keep the fire-sprinkler system project moving forward.

Some ongoing projects and goals will carry over into 2020:

- The Parish Council will continue discussions of how we can increase the budget so that the Rector's position can be full-time.
- Welcoming and incorporating newcomers into the life of our church continues to be a focus, as the Welcoming Team and the Ministry Coordinators work creatively to find ways to help each of us find our place in St Ben's mission and ministry.

I am grateful to have been able to serve the life of this church. As I rotate off the Parish Council, I look forward eagerly to what will manifest at St Benedict's throughout this year.

As I step down as senior warden, I urge you to continue to listen to one another. Really listen. When someone shares his or her opinions, concerns, or ideas, suspend judgment. Tap into your curiosity, your sense of wonder. Emulate Mary, and try to keep all these things, and ponder them in your heart. In this election year, when our nation is increasingly divided, remember that our church is one family-- although we do not all vote the same way, or think the same way. Because we share one life, our conversations together should be truthful and authentic, life-changing and life-giving. When someone shares their fears, their dreams, their ideas, hang on every word as if your life depended on it. Because, quite simply, it does.

Rector's Report

As I look back over 2019, several things stand out. One is the creation and installation of the Stations of the Cross, which were gifted by the Hirahara family, which St Benedict's commissioned from sculptor Chloe White and which were lovingly mounted by Michael Lucas. A second is Margaret Bullitt-Jonas' California visit and the clergy retreat and diocesan conference organized by Earthcare. And third, our first ever Vacation Bible Camp. It has been an eventful year.

Yet these high profile events are only the tip of the iceberg. St. Benedict's has continued to provide a place of worship and a community of faith which includes people from a wide range of different life experiences and spiritual paths. Excellent liturgy and careful relationships require an infrastructure which also receives loving care and attention to detail. Our commitment to our spiritual life together is evidenced in the love that we bring to all that we do, and I am deeply grateful to each one of you who is a steward of our common life, whether you pray for us, bring food, usher, clean the pewter or wash the tablecloths.

St. Benedict's has continued to serve the community of Los Osos through our outreach programs, the Abundance Shop and Laundry Love, and many of us have also been involved with Los Osos Cares, whether as board members, or volunteers with Community Dinners, the Warming Shelter and Safe Parking. We have also continued our support of the homeless services provided by CAPSLO, specifically providing lunch at People's Kitchen and food for breakfast.

Sometimes churches are asked to consider whether if they were not there, anyone would notice. I think many people would notice if St Benedict's were not here. We touch with love the lives of hundreds of people directly and indirectly each month. In your Annual Report you will find written reports that cover many of our ministries, and I hope that you will take the time to read it.

I particularly want to underline the importance of the Abundance Shop. This year the Shop celebrates its 25th Anniversary! That's 25 years that St Benedict's members and friends have been a visible presence of the love of God in the community. In its first seven months the Shop brought in a total profit of \$1,866 – that's less than \$250 per month. Now, 25 years later, it brings in a profit of over \$4000 per month. In the beginning of 1996, the minutes of the Bishop's Committee – the predecessor of the current Parish Council – say "an important aspect of the shop, besides the income it provides, is the opportunity to reach out to the community, provide low cost goods to those in need, to foster good will with customers, and to provide an opportunity to serve." These are still important to the shop's mission today, and we have added the important function of facilitating reuse and encouraging recycling among our neighbors. Only one of the people listed in those early minutes as a manager is still with us and that is Bill Hayes. The overall manager at that time was Howard Vollmer who was succeeded by Joan Hayes, then Sally Somers, then Judith Cadigan, Francis Rivinus and now Deb Garza with Esta Kandarian. The store has become such a big operation that now both the managers are part-time employees of the church.

I was working the cash register a few weeks ago, and sold two pairs of trousers in excellent condition to a man who told me that he had recently bought some jeans for substantially more. He was pleased with his new jeans but had them cut off by the rescue squad after he was knocked off his bike by a car. He was delighted to have found in the shop pants that fit him until he could get some more jeans. This is just a little example of the gift that the Abundance Shop is to the community and the little miracles that happen there every day. We are blessed by everyone who volunteers there, many of whom are not church members, as well as by everyone who brings items for sale, and those who buy them!

St. Benedict's prides itself on being an inclusive church, but this is something that we get to work on all the time. In the last year we have become a bit less inclusive in the range of income – we have less people attending who are living on the edge financially, and we are still ethnically very white. But inclusivity runs deeper than skin level – to be truly inclusive we must welcome those who differ from us politically and theologically.

It is tempting for those of us who have had a degree of theological education to state our thinking and understandings in ways which make it sound like there is only one way of looking at our faith – our way. But there are those among us who do not identify as Christian, and there are those among us who have learned to see Christianity in a very different way. It is up to those of us who feel secure in our membership of this church to open our minds to welcome the perspectives of others.

Similarly, it is important that in these divisive times we make this faith community welcoming to those of different political persuasions. That's what it means to be inclusive. That we look for the Christ in all persons and we look for the places of connection rather than the places of division.

I am grateful to everyone who worked during this past year to re-vision the Hollister Institute, and I am grateful to the leadership of Jane Wu and Susan Miller Stamets who have created a program for this year. I still think that a permanent steering committee is necessary to keep the Institute growing and developing and hope that we may achieve that in 2020.

I think that 2020 will be a quieter year for us than 2019. A year for consolidation, a year to go deeper into our spirituality. I will be taking ten weeks away on sabbatical this fall. Usually parish clergy take a sabbatical every five years but I have not been able to do that because of my part-time status. My eligibility for a sabbatical began when you started to pay me three-quarters time and so this is the first year I have been eligible. I am hoping to spend much of the time in Britain. I plan to visit family and then to stay at a residential theological library to catch up on my reading. The other clergy who call St. Benedict's home, together with some additional folk who will bring you a new voice will cover the services while I am gone and the Parish Council under the leadership of the Wardens will keep us on an even keel until I return.

I am deeply grateful to each one of you who participates in our work together. This is an unusually active faith community and most of us are drawn to that aspect of our communal life as well as to the quieter times of reflection, prayer and study. Those who join us often remark on how well things seem to run. I think it's a bit like a swan – we see the bird gliding effortlessly across the water and don't see the legs pedaling underneath. For all of you who pedal, thank you. I cannot list each one of you here and now, but please know that you are noticed.

My particular thanks go to Stef Shuman who quietly schedules, types, photocopies, prompts and prods me; to all those who make Sunday mornings run so smoothly; to the members of the Parish Council, especially the wardens Michael Lucas and Pamela Bleisch; to Laura DeLoye who ran the office for most of 2019 and to Stephanie Olsen who has just joined us; to our Music Director John Cribb and the musicians of the church; to Celeste Pennington who keeps the place beautiful and cleans up when we forget. My life is made much easier by the clergy team of Barry Turner, Susan Plucker, Faye Hogan, Brian and Mary Stein-Weber, Carol and Jerry Walton, and of course Deacon Sharon Dalrymple who will miss terribly. What a wonderful team God has given us.

And last but not least my thanks go to my long-suffering spouse, who shores me up and calms me down, thank you Jill Denton.

2020 Nominations

Candidates for the Vestry:

- Esta Kandarian
- Stefanie Shuman

Candidates for Deanery/Diocesan Representatives:

- John Cribb
- Lorient Schwenk
- Barbara Hirahara
- Steve Hirahara (*alternate*)

2019 Narrative Budget

Deficit Budget

Once again the Parish Council is recommending a deficit budget – in other words more spending than income. This is the sixth year that we have taken this leap in faith. We do have some reserves that can be used to fill the gap if necessary, but our prayer is that by giving ourselves and the Holy Spirit a significant gap to fill we will once again find that God's abundance expressed through each other is more than sufficient for our needs. Our reserves were replenished by this past year's surplus, for which we are deeply grateful. Once again that surplus was largely due to the Abundance shop. Hug an Abundance Shop volunteer today!

The reason for another year of deficit budget is so that we can continue to pay the Rector three quarters time and can give both Rector and Music Director the cost of living increase mandated by the diocese. This year we are also acknowledging the Rector's years of experience and the increased size of the church. Up until now, we have paid her the minimum due a recently ordained priest in a tiny church. Caro+ is no longer recently ordained and we are no longer a tiny church so she is still paid three-quarters time but at a higher rate.

Since Caro+ usually works full-time, she takes some extra time away in addition to her diocesan standard vacation. In 2019 she took 6 extra days vacation.

Income

We hope that the Abundance Shop will continue to bless us with abundance in 2020. The Shop tithes its income to local non-profits such as Prado Day Center, Senior Nutrition, Feline Network and Hopes Village. These groups are chosen by the Shop volunteers. Last year we hired a paid manager for the first time, Deb Garza and in 2019 added Esta Kandarian also as a part-time manager. We were concerned this which would reduce the cash available for St. Benedict's but in actuality the shop has grown and income increased in the past year.

The majority of St. Ben's income always comes from our members, friends and visitors. Our anticipated pledge income is lower in 2020 but this reflects the changing circumstances of our members not dissatisfaction with the church.

Fundraising is lower this year because we decided not to do the Jazz Concert. The End of Summer Bash was fun and brought in a small amount.

Honoraria covers the income we receive from the use of the church by outside groups. The County Tax Assessor has guidelines for allowable non-profit uses of the building. These limit us from having many outside groups renting the building but we are still able to receive gifts for permissible uses.

Expenditure

Church Building Expense covers everything necessary to keep the building open including utilities, small repairs, and insurance.

Church Land Support includes the \$8,000 annual payment for the annuity which enabled us to purchase the land; and mowing, landscaping etc.

Program Expense includes bathroom supplies, newsletters, hospitality and newcomer welcoming.

Music Ministry covers the Music Director's pay as well as some costs for sheet music, piano tuning etc. We are grateful to John for borrowing sheet music from our friends when he can, thus reducing our choir costs considerably; and to those who separately contribute to the designated Music Fund which enables us to cover expenses not included in the operating budget. We are making a small cost of living increase to the Music Director's salary.

Outreach Expense is our gift to the wider church and the local community. This includes our contribution to the work of the diocese, support of the Canterbury ministry to local students and young adults, and gifts to local and international non-profit groups.

Rector Compensation and Benefits are based on the minimum pay scale established by the diocese adjusted to take into account the size of the church and the years of experience that Caro+ has. There is a pension assessment of 18% of stipend for all active clergy. As Caro+ is now compensated three quarters time the church is required to provide additional benefits - health and dental insurance.

Supply Clergy pays for clergy to take services when Caro+ is on vacation and may be used for honoraria for guest preachers. This is higher in 2020 as there will be supply clergy needed during Caro+'s sabbatical.

Worship, Prayer and Spirituality essentially covers Altar Guild expenses for candles, cloths etc. Please consider making donations for flowers in order to enable more members to participate in this ministry.

Administrative Expense A little less than half of this covers the administrator's wages; the rest is for office supplies, phone, photocopier lease and so on.

Interest Expense This is paid on the outstanding bank loan. Interest is significantly reduced by every additional dollar we pay in principal. We thank those of you who have made generous gifts to the Blessing the Future Fund. All monies allocated to this account will go directly to the next principal payment. We now owe just about \$54,000 – an amazing reduction.

Net Ordinary Income

This is the amount we expect to have left over after we spend what we say we will spend. Lisa is a conservative budgeter and the vestry is very careful with cash, so we have a history of spending less than we budgeted. In 2020 we paid out about \$4000 more than we budgeted, because the Fair Share we pay to the diocese is based on our income which was wonderfully higher than anticipated. From the Net Ordinary Income we have to make the principal payment on the loan. This leaves us an expected shortfall of about \$18,400. We trust that God's abundance and generosity will again be manifest in our midst in 2020.

Building Fund

The Building Fund is for larger repairs and new building. In order to have enough money when we come to replace the roof or repair the road again or any other major cost, the Vestry has determined that we need to retain an additional \$10,000 in the fund each year. So ideally at the end of 2019 we would have \$10,000, by the end of 2020, \$20,000 and so on. The Vestry voted to move \$5000 of the operating surplus this year into the Building Fund bringing the fund nearly up to \$10,000. There are pledges of \$13,000 for 2020 which will bring the Fund up to the planned \$20,000 by the end of the year, as long as we are careful not to spend it.

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Bank of the Sierra - Savings	154,457.26	155,355.37	-898.11
Restricted Funds	3,024.52	2,503.05	521.47
Unrestricted Funds	9,071.19	12,022.76	-2,951.57
Endowment-State Street Global A	20,230.59	10,005.39	10,225.20
Total Checking/Savings	<u>186,783.56</u>	<u>179,886.57</u>	<u>6,896.99</u>
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	16,000.00	0.00	16,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>16,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,000.00</u>
Other Current Assets			
Deposit on Stations/Cross	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00
Due from the Abundance Shop	2,545.49	1,575.22	970.27
TD Ameritrade Account	494.57	494.57	0.00
Prepaid P & L Insurance	1,089.52	930.71	158.81
Prepaid Umbrella Insurance	247.76	242.63	5.13
Prepaid WC Insurance	433.23	180.84	252.39
Undeposited Funds	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>6,410.57</u>	<u>5,923.97</u>	<u>486.60</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>209,194.13</u>	<u>185,810.54</u>	<u>23,383.59</u>
Fixed Assets			
Stations of the Cross	7,842.60	0.00	7,842.60
Sprinkler System	102,539.43	102,539.43	0.00
Long Room Build Out	129,339.49	129,339.49	0.00
Church Building & Improvements	750,509.39	749,677.16	832.23
Kitchen Build-Out	41,090.83	41,090.83	0.00
Parking Lot Lights	10,126.00	10,126.00	0.00
Sound System	18,328.76	18,328.76	0.00
Furniture & Equipment	12,199.39	12,199.39	0.00
Land	280,500.00	280,500.00	0.00
Land Improvements	9,612.29	9,612.29	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,362,088.18</u>	<u>1,353,413.35</u>	<u>8,674.83</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,571,282.31</u></u>	<u><u>1,539,223.89</u></u>	<u><u>32,058.42</u></u>

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2019

	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Total Accounts Payable	5,604.00	1,881.62	3,722.38
Total Credit Cards	185.50	478.62	-293.12
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>53,271.29</u>	<u>154,657.44</u>	<u>-101,386.15</u>
Total Current Liabilities	59,060.79	157,017.68	-97,956.89
Long Term Liabilities			
Note Payable - Bank of Sierra	<u>52,942.57</u>	<u>59,116.34</u>	<u>-6,173.77</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>52,942.57</u>	<u>59,116.34</u>	<u>-6,173.77</u>
Total Liabilities	112,003.36	216,134.02	-104,130.66
Equity			
Endowment Fund	10,605.39	10,605.39	0.00
Church Land & Building Fund	1,246,851.07	1,246,851.07	0.00
Operating Fund Retained Earning	65,556.30	36,177.55	29,378.75
Net Income	<u>136,266.19</u>	<u>29,455.86</u>	<u>106,810.33</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,459,278.95</u>	<u>1,323,089.87</u>	<u>136,189.08</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>1,571,282.31</u></u>	<u><u>1,539,223.89</u></u>	<u><u>32,058.42</u></u>

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
January through December 2019

	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Abundance Shop	54,000.00	32,400.00	21,600.00	32,400.00
Annual Pledge Income	112,345.20	109,870.00	2,475.20	109,870.00
Loose Offering	26,918.98	22,000.00	4,918.98	22,000.00
Flowers	430.00	600.00	-170.00	600.00
Fund Raising Activities	2,162.06	3,500.00	-1,337.94	3,500.00
Honoraria	2,828.00	1,500.00	1,328.00	1,500.00
Interest	52.30	0.00	52.30	0.00
Publication Sales	20.00			
Total Income	<u>198,756.54</u>	<u>169,870.00</u>	<u>28,886.54</u>	<u>169,870.00</u>
Cost of Goods Sold				
Church Building Expense	13,637.36	14,693.00	-1,055.64	14,693.00
Church Land Support	11,172.53	11,271.00	-98.47	11,271.00
Church Program Expenses	3,566.23	3,705.00	-138.77	3,705.00
Education & Study	253.14	200.00	53.14	200.00
Music Ministry	19,132.09	19,110.00	22.09	19,110.00
Outreach Expense	24,891.83	20,884.40	4,007.43	20,884.40
Rector Compensation & Benefits	80,068.25	79,788.50	279.75	79,788.50
Supply Clergy Expense	1,085.00	1,300.00	-215.00	1,300.00
Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	1,687.60	850.00	837.60	850.00
Total COGS	<u>155,494.03</u>	<u>151,801.90</u>	<u>3,692.13</u>	<u>151,801.90</u>
Gross Profit	<u>43,262.51</u>	<u>18,068.10</u>	<u>25,194.41</u>	<u>18,068.10</u>
Expense				
Administrative Expense	17,471.24	17,857.00	-385.76	17,857.00
Financing Expense	3,594.32	3,600.00	-5.68	3,600.00
Total Expense	<u>21,065.56</u>	<u>21,457.00</u>	<u>-391.44</u>	<u>21,457.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>22,196.95</u>	<u>-3,388.90</u>	<u>25,585.85</u>	<u>-3,388.90</u>

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
 January through December 2019

	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Laundry Love Income	-182.92			
Road Repair Income	12,000.00			
Sprinkler Fund Gifs	102,070.29			
Stations of the Cross Gift	7,500.00			
Blessing the Future	3,815.00			
Building Fund Pledge Income	8,160.00			
Building Fund Loose Offering	3,350.00			
Building Account Interest	171.67			
Clergy Funds Income	7,352.23			
McLeod Fund Interest	5.88			
Endowment Income	9,625.20			
Total Other Income	<u>153,867.35</u>			
Other Expense				
Road Repair	12,000.00			
Building Repairs	17,581.00			
Clergy Funds Expenses	10,217.11			
Total Other Expense	<u>39,798.11</u>			
Net Other Income	<u>114,069.24</u>			
Net Income	<u><u>136,266.19</u></u>	<u><u>-3,388.90</u></u>	<u><u>139,655.09</u></u>	<u><u>-3,388.90</u></u>

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

Proposed Budget 2020

		2018 Actual	2019	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Abundance Shop					
	Gift	44000	60000	36000	50000
	Abundance Shop Tithe	-4400	-6000	-3600	-5000
	Total Abundance Shop	39600	54000	32400	45000
	Annual Pledge Income	111518	112345	109870	100000
	Loose Offering	22527	26919	22000	22000
	Flowers	635	430	600	500
	Fund Raising Activities	4207	2162	3500	1800
	Honoraria	1513	2828	1500	1500
	Misc	24	63	0	0
	Total Income	180024	198747	169870	170800
Cost of Goods Sold					
Church Building Expense					
	Insurance - Liability & Bldg	5,105	4,375	5,800	5,000
	Repairs & Maintenance	1,342	924	1,500	1,200
	Utilities	7,491	8,338	7,393	7,625
	Total Church Building Expense	13,938	13,637	14,693	13,825
Church Land Support					
	Sexton	1,953	2,630	2,017	2,261
	Annuity Interest	8,004	8,004	8,004	8,004
	Landscape & Property Tax	452	539	1,250	1,750
	Total Church Land Support	10,409	11,173	11,271	12,015
Church Program Expenses					
	Education & Study	184	253	200	300
	Music Ministry	18672	19132	19110	19626
	Outreach Expense	3721	4398	3897	3416
	Diocesan Fair Share	17417	20494	16987	17080
	Rector Compensation & Benefits	76727	80068	79789	90530
	Supply Clergy Expense	1025	1085	1300	3000
	Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	331	1688	850	900
	Total Cost of Service	145,934	155,495	151,802	164,402
Gross Surplus		34,090	43,252	18,069	6,398
Expense					
Administrative Expense					
	Administrator	8,641	6,139	7,690	8,167
	Administrative Expense	10,348	11,332	10,167	11,540
	Interest Expense - Loan	3,453	3,594	3,600	3,600
	Total Expense	22,442.06	21,065.00	21,457.00	23,307.00
Net Ordinary Income		11,648.00	22,186.83	-3,388.50	-16,908.77

Total Principal Payments	9,213.04	5,948.22		1,500.00
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Cash in/Out	2,434.96	16,238.61	-3,388.50	-18,408.77
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Junior Warden Report 2019 Michael Lucas

Even the hairs on your head are counted. So don't be afraid! You are worth much more than many sparrows. [Luke, 12:7]

It would be easy to use Luke to speak to how much hair I have lost or finalized into grey this year, but the comfort I take from Luke is that all aspects of the tending of the buildings and grounds and places for the congregation is meaningful, more valuable than many sparrows, or even owls. 2019 was a year that taxed my own abilities and brought a few smaller but meaningful projects into fruition, tending to the developmental challenges of our 80-year-old/20-year-old building and site, and looking for a better path in our financial planning for inevitable building system repair/replacement issues. I am especially thankful for assistance of all kinds from Jane Wu, Shelley Wantanabe, Sharon+, Caro+, Celeste Pennington, Sarah Chesebro, and Ron Thompson.

Mutual Ministry Review

All associated with the church are receiving and passing onto others God's gifts. The purpose of annual Mutual Ministry Review [MMR] is to be frank and provide insight as we continually discern "how well is this congregation, its lay and ordained leaders, programs, and use of our gifts, meeting our expectations of what can be achieved in our mutual ministry?" I formatted and compiled the Mutual Ministry Review input from the congregation which included direct feedback at tables after 10:30 service, online Survey Monkey digital and hardcopy questionnaires. Caro+ developed the word clouds we used in the congregational meeting to display the results, and we may do that format again with the 2020 Congregational Meeting.

Stations of the Cross

Lent and Easter brought the gift of the Stations of the Cross, through the benevolence of the Hiraharas. I met with the artist, Chloe White as the work was conceptualized in 2018 and we saw an opportunity to create an installation that respected the austere nature of the building while allowing the ceramics [and their shadows] to speak in the light. The locations for the individual stations were by Chloe and Caro+ and I was able to use Cal Poly's shop resources to do my first steel fabrication. The stations each were fitted with a custom steel armature that allowed them to float free of the white walls but be firmly anchored to our wainscot or sills. The installation techniques were inspired by the work of Carlo Scarpa at Castelvecchio in Verona, Italy and Sverre Fehn's Hedmark Museum in Hamar, Norway, where no attempt is made to disguise the mechanics of installation of antiquities. Shelley Wantanabe helped over several days to complete the installation. The display of the Stations will now be an annual event. When not on display, they are housed within the Retable, thus continuing to be with us across the year.

This Olde House [of God]

Sixty may be the new forty, but twenty is still twenty for our wonderful wooden St. Ben's since its beginning reconstruction, and almost 80 years for the exquisite bones that form its structure relocated here from the military post. In 2019 we completed several projects inside and out. Repairs to the veranda for dry rot were necessary, and we cleaned and repainted with the craftpersons from Browder Paint, coordinated by Jane Wu. The final 2019 step was the reacquisition of an appropriate red for the doors, which brother sun had bleached into a rather pinkish rose tone. Our shade of red is an Episcopal tradition [as well as traditional English phone booth *colour*], the red variously symbol of sanctuary, the blood of Christ, tongues of flame at Pentecost, or the mortgage being paid off. Regardless of your exegesis, the official color from Home Depot was "Burning Bush". A window film treatment was applied to the Chapel/Long Room rolling door with assistance by Jane Wu, allowing a sense of decorum and privacy in the Chapel while allowing the light from the west windows to continue to brighten the Long Room. At the request of the Altar Guild, I sanded and restained the top of the Retable, which had taken on a few non-Liturgical marks and spills over the years.

The Narrow Path [Resurfaced]

Snowy Egret Drive is a private road, where we are one of three using parties that must assess and do upkeep upon it. One of our neighbors initiated the need to do so, procured bids, and we spent a portion of our capital budget on that work, supplemented by generous anonymous donors. We will need to do similar work in our own parking area in the next years and that may wish to be part of a discussion on enlarging parking capacity.

Sprinkler

The fire sprinkler system continued in 2019 work included the completion by James Sims of interior modifications and a move toward getting the exterior finished, including enclosing of the pump house. We had several setbacks in the effort, which included PG&E timeliness and their internal changing requirements and criteria, and a significant change in personnel from our electrical consultant, Thoma, that required a restart on their work. In the moving forward, we will be seeing more tanks for water storage than initially set. The original plan, initiated in 2017 by Simms Fire Protection, looked to complete the 2000 era permit plan. Apparently the latest requirements for sprinkler and hydrant require 40,000 gallons of storage- twice the 20,000 gallons shown on the 2000 plans and the capacity of the stainless tanks outside now. We had informal conversations with Cal Fire and SLO County Building Permits staff, and double-checked possible scenarios with outside consultants, and the gist of it is that no professionals or reviewers will endorse the 2000 permit plans. Some information suggests the hydrant [just outside the Sacristy to the southwest] originally was agreed to with the County and the former Fire Department [now CalFire] as a 'draw' hydrant, pressurized by a pumper truck, but what we have in place is one that needs to be fed by our own water and pump. This is standard practice today, and in effect doubles the water supply requirement. It is understandable how codes change, especially in response to our

recent seasons of new intensities of fire where first responders and systems are tested to the limits. As we embark on the completion, be assured we are at the high end of a protected structure for our area, and the equal of any commercial structure being built in the region. The costs of the modification have been covered by a very generous Parishioner.

Of Mice [ground squirrels] and Men [Junior Warden]

The rainy winter and spring brought a fall that peaked our ground squirrel population, and in looking for ecologically balanced methods for population control, our Rector challenged the Junior Warden to acquire yet another skill- owl box cleaner. Some owls eat 50% of their body weight a day, and that may be as many of 3 critters a day. Our Founders blessed us with two owl boxes. Each is painted white and sits atop a twelve-foot-high pole. Each box is about 18" x 24" x 40" and accessed by a small 6" round hole for flight landing and a hinged 18" x 12" hatch for cleaning. One is opposite the church to the west, mid-berm, and faces east, with a fairly good trajectory over the western yards. The second is in the St. Francis Garden and faces west over our neighbor's horse and dog training areas. Having spent about three hours with them on a ladder with various improvised cleaning apparatus, in the past they have been well occupied, and homeowners well fed, but unfortunately not cleaned in a while. They were ready for occupancy early December, a bit late in the owl nesting season, but new homes ready nevertheless.

Altar Guild Ministry Report 2019 **Sarah Chesebro, Director of the Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild prepares a Sacred Space. We make the ordinary extraordinary.

It was the vision of the members of Saint Benedict's, when our building was moved from Camp Robert's to Los Osos and reconstructed, that it should be a space for more than Sunday services. As most of you are aware, it has been a concert hall, theatre, dining room, lecture hall and more. However, its main purpose is to provide a Holy Space for worship. It is the Altar Guild that transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary and enables us each Sunday, Tuesday and Second Saturdays to:

"Focus on God the Creator then follow Jesus into the world."
– Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

"Altar Guild" is inclusive of the Sacristan Team, Flower Guild and Altar Guild – From 2019:

Elaine Beckham	Diana Hammerlund	Pat Stoneman
Pamela Bleisch	Jo Oliver	Brian Spolarich
David Chesebro	Sharon Porter	Laura Thompson*
Sarah Chesebro	Judy Schloss	Ron Thompson
Michelle Frazier	Lorienne Schwenk	Lynn Wise
Lisa Gonzalez	Stefanie Shuman	

*Director of the Flower Guild

Some of last year's goals for 2019 fell short of materializing but will be set as goals for 2020 including new storage space for the sacristy and a catalog of our "wish list," to enhance the beauty and functionality of our worship space, where items can be purchased in Memoriam or Thanksgiving. However, we do have the following to celebrate from 2019:

- We are delighted and thankful to add to our team Elaine Beckham and Sharon Porter.
- Stations of the Cross – One-of-a-kind sculptures for each station lovingly gifted by the Hirahara Family in memory of Barbara's brother, William D. Murray III. These were brilliantly installed by Michael Lucas, Shelley Watanabe and by the artist, Chloe White.
- Bishop Mary's Blessing of the Stations of the Cross on Ash Wednesday.
- Refinishing of the retable top (the table behind the altar) by Michael and Ann Lucas. This is such a delight!

- Attendance at “Fall Flower Festival” at Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, SC by Sarah Chesebro - Every two years, the Flower Guild hosts the Fall Flower Festival, a major celebration, featuring seminars by an internationally known flower designer.
- Participation in the Province VIII Altar Guild of the Episcopal Church ‘Strategic Planning Session’ by Sarah Chesebro, to develop a Mission, Vision and Goals for the next five years.

Beginning this year, the Altar Guild will be meeting on a Saturday (March 14th) prior to Easter one Saturday and prior to Christmas to celebrate our Ministry and prepare for these two Holy Seasons.

Thanks to the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Sacristy Team and of course Caro+ and Deacon Sharon for “Making the ordinary extraordinary.”

Prayer and Pastoral Concern Celeste Pennington

Ours is a praying congregation. “Sunday mornings, after services at St. Benedict’s, one of the **Healing Ministry Team** offers anyone that desires individual prayer a private place to share what is in their heart,” writes Helen Schnieders. “Sometimes we simply need another soul to listen to what is stirring internally. It is truly holy ground to hold with another what is expressed in joy, sorrow, confusion or pain and together bring it to our God.”

Twice a month, our **Intercessory Prayer Circle** meets in the Chapel for an hour of prayer for our community and our world. Nearly every day, someone reaches out directly to prayers@stbenslososos.org and people linked to the **Prayer Chain** pause in their day to honor those specific requests. In times of special need, profound and practical **Pastoral Care** is given to our brothers and sisters who are struggling.

These quiet, almost unseen activities are at the heart of St. Benedict’s witness. Mutually engaging in the presence of the Spirit and witnessing its power in our congregation’s life is a privilege. We welcome you to join us...and support us in your prayers. Thanks be to God.

Earthcare Report 2019

John Horsley

Earthcare marked Earthday (April 22) a day early, on Easter Sunday. After the 10:30 service, members of the congregation were invited to write letters to the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management expressing their opposition to oil drilling in the Carrizo Plains National Monument. More than two dozen people wrote letters, sending a strong message to the Bureau.

An app SustainIslandHome.org has been developed by the Diocese of California together with Climate Solutions.Net, and the app has now been launched throughout the whole Episcopal Church. The website keeps track of your carbon footprint and suggests more than 70 different actions to reduce it. The total reduction in CO2 emissions for each congregation is posted on the website and added to the reductions posted for other congregations in the diocese. Finally the reductions for each diocese are combined to obtain the total for the whole church. On Sunday November 17 Earthcare introduced SustainIslandHome to the St. Benedict's congregation with a live demonstration of the website. Earthcare also introduced the website to the deanery representatives at a regular deanery meeting on Sunday June 23.

On September 7th Rev Caro Hall and Rev. Barry Turner led an Ocean Walk Meditation "Walking with God," at Montano de Oro State Park, as part of St Benedict's First Saturday Workshop series.

Earthcare spent much of 2019 planning and publicizing a diocesan conference on climate change entitled "An Opportunity for which the Church was Born." Our planning was greatly assisted by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, who was one of the invited speakers at the conference. The conference took place at San Paul's/San Pablo in Salinas on September 14, with more than 70 attendees from all parts of the diocese. At the conference, Paul Dies, an Educator with the Climate Reality Project, outlined the current scientific understanding of the causes and effects of global warming; the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas presented a spiritual/theological framework for the climate crisis; and Lisa Alterieri, CEO of Climate Solutions.Net, demonstrated the application of the SustainIslandHome website. Feedback from attendees after the conference was very positive.

Earthcare also sponsored a retreat for diocesan clergy "Prophetic leadership in a Time of Climate Crisis" led by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas at Church of the Good Shepherd, Salinas on September 13, which was attended by 19 clergy. As well as the conference and the clergy retreat, Earthcare sponsored three presentations and workshops by The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, at St. Benedict's, Bethel Lutheran Church in Templeton, and UCC of San Luis Obispo. In these presentations Margaret showed how caring for the Earth can become a spiritual practice that deepens our relationship with the Sacred.

Lisa Gonzalez kindly offered to let Earthcare use her complementary booth at the Tiny Homes and Net Zero Expo in San Luis Obispo during the weekend of October 11-13. Earthcare used the booth to witness to the connection between faith and the environment through books, handouts, and conversations with members of the public attending the expo.

Earthcare held a retreat on October 26 at which we reviewed Earthcare's mission and goals and planned future activities.

In December as a followup to the conference Earthcare put together a six week study of the book "Climate Church Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change" by Jim Antal. The study was offered to the diocese as an Epiphany Study and will be the first series in the new Hollister program in January 2020. In his book Jim Antal makes a compelling case that it is time for the church meet the challenge of the climate crisis and suggests new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing and other spiritual practices that honor creation and cultivate hope.

Children's Ministry Report, 2019

Pamela Bleisch Strawn

Children are precious to us at St. Benedict's church. We thank each of you for welcoming children into a deeper experience of God as you offer a warm smile, a friendly word, and a kind hand in pouring juice or wiping up a spill.

Our Summer Bible Camp: "All Aboard the Gospel Train" was a highlight of St Benedict's Children's Ministry in 2019. For a week in July, eight children ranging in age from 3 to 11 years gathered at St Benedict's station to learn and have fun together. Under the direction of Dianne Long, with the participation of many intrepid members of our congregation, along with Dianne's daughter Stacey, we were able to offer a program packed with Bible lessons, rousing songs, clever crafts, field games, drum circles, tasty & healthy snacks, and more!

Messy Church meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, from 9:30-10:15, in the Great Room. Messy Church is an informal worship service geared toward families. We begin with a craft activity, followed by a Bible lesson, prayer, and song. With the faithful participation of Rev. Carol Brubaker Walton, Rev. Jerry Walton, Rev. Caro and Pamela Bleisch, Messy Church has attracted a small, but intensely loyal group.

Children's Bible Time is offered every Sunday, with a rota of loyal volunteers. Children begin the worship service sitting with their families in the sanctuary. During the singing of the Gloria hymn, the leader processes with the children into the corner classroom. The Bible story or lesson follows the Godly Play curriculum (loosely). After the lesson, we enjoy crafting. The children return to the sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace, rejoining the congregation for the Eucharist. If you would like to know more about our Children's Ministry, or would like to be involved, please speak to Pamela Bleisch Strawn.

Staff Parish Liaison Team

The Staff Parish Liaison Committee acts as the personnel committee for the Parish, meeting quarterly. The Committee's responsibilities include: reviewing the Rector's job description, helping the Rector to set her Annual Goals and Objectives, providing professional feedback to the Rector, conducting an Annual Evaluation of the Rector, and making recommendations to the Parish Council.

The Staff Parish Liaison Committee is composed of:

- One of the Wardens from the Vestry;
- Two members from the congregation, chosen by the Rector;
- One member from the congregation, chosen by the Parish Council;
- One member of the Parish Council, chosen by the Parish Council, usually one of the wardens.

In 2019, the members of the committee were: John Horsley, Pamela Bleisch, Anne Kanter, Rosalind Malone, and Ed Valentine with John Horsley in the chair.

At each quarterly meeting of the Staff Parish Liaison Committee, the Rector reports on progress towards her annual goals, and the committee gives the Rector professional feedback about how things are going. The Rector keeps a monthly work report, which she shares with this Committee prior to each quarterly meeting. This helps in keeping the committee apprised of the Rector's activities and how much time is required for those activities on a per-activity basis.

The Annual Evaluation includes goals based on the Parish Council goals for the year as well as core areas of the Rector's work which have been identified as:

- Preaching vital sermons, creating liturgy and selecting music— everything needed for vibrant worship
- Availability
- Pastoral presence
- Creating community
- Encouraging stewardship
- Community engagement outside St. Benedict's

John Horsley and Rosalind Malone are currently the Rector's appointments, both serving the second year of a two year term. The Parish Council is in the process of appointing two new members to serve a two-year term, as Anne Kanter and Pam Bleisch rotate off the committee.

Music

The music program has continued to be a central part of our worship and identity, although the choir was a little smaller this year and from time to time we have supplemented the male sections with paid "choral scholars". This is a normal practice for churches with a strong liturgical focus and enables us to continue to enjoy choral music even when members of the congregation are not available to complete every section of the choir. This was particularly important when Alan Kiste took a sabbatical to China at the beginning of the year.

Highlights of the year included:

- Hear my Prayer by Felix Mendelsohn, sung at the Ash Wednesday service at which Bishop Mary officiated and blessed the Stations of the Cross
- A deanery-wide choral Evensong at St. Barnabas in spring 2019
- Singing an unusual rhythmic work Cantate Domino for Bishop Mary's final visitation on September 29th.
- The annual Christmas Carol Concert designed by John Cribb and directed by Ann Lucas who took the reins during John's recovery.

We are all very grateful that Music Director, John Cribb, is healing from his stroke and are thankful to Ann Lucas and Brian Stein-Weber who stepped in seamlessly to keep the choir and the music program together.

The Shire at Canterbury Berkeley Johnson

Canterbury, had a wonderful 2019 fall quarter. As has been the case for the past several years now, we had students and young adults with us every Sunday for the main part of our program while school was in session. Then, about midway through the quarter, we started a new queer theology study group, Believing Out Loud, on Wednesday evenings at Cal Poly. It was a joy to explore this emerging and significant field of theological study with our students, and we are planning to continue it in the coming year. Lastly, we closed out the fall quarter with an Advent Lessons & Carols fundraiser that was attended by a few hearty souls who braved the weather and the timing (it was the day before finals for our students!) to make it a special and festive event.

Please keep us all in your prayers as I embark on my final six months as Canterbury chaplain to the SLO Deanery, and as the Canterbury Board searches for a new person to guide the ministry into its next phase. I have loved serving Christ in this most special and sacred way, and the relationships with all of you, and with the students and young adults who have passed through this ministry, are some of the most cherished memories I have.

Service and Social Justice

There is currently no formal Service and Social Justice committee, but this has not stopped St. Benedict's from playing an active role in this area of building the Reign of God. **The Abundance Shop** continues to be our main ministry, and in 2020 celebrates its 25th anniversary!! Our second most important ministry is **Laundry Love** which provides free laundry services once a month. A generous grant from the Dignity Foundation through Los Osos Cares will make it possible for us to expand this ministry in 2020.

In 2019, St. Benedict's continued its fruitful partnership with the community through **Los Osos Cares**. Los Osos Cares was founded a few years ago by Linda Quesenberry who recruited Caro+ and Lisa Gonzalez to help her in creating an organization which works for the flourishing of all in Los Osos, especially those who are living on the edge. A major grant from the Dignity Foundation supported the expansion of Los Osos Care's work in 2019 and an additional grant has been awarded for 2020. Los Osos Cares is an independent non-profit organization – at present, almost half of its board members are members of St. Benedict's; Caro+ is the President, Linda Quesenberry the Vice-President, Lisa Gonzalez the Treasurer and Steve Hirahara is organizer of the Warming Shelter.

Los Osos Cares operates a Resource Center in the old Sunnyside School which puts local residents in touch with resource providers and acts as a center for small group meetings; its Senior Outreach program seeks to help underserved seniors take advantage of resources; emergency grants are available to individuals and families in need and money raised through the Womenade program supports grants for families referred by other agencies as well as the Pirates Closet clothing for Morro Bay High School.

Once every two months, St Benedict's provides the food for **Los Osos Cares Community Dinner** where about 50 people come for a completely free dinner. This alternates with the month that we provide Saturday lunch at **40 Prado**, the homeless center in San Luis Obispo. The Los Osos Cares **Warming Shelter** provides a shelter on nights when it is exceptionally cold or wet. This winter (2019-2020) we have started hiring overnight staff so the load on volunteers is lessened but much of the food and labor is provided by St. Benedict's members. The Warming shelter is held at the South Bay Community Center whenever possible and last winter St. Benedict's acted as the back-up location. This winter, SLO Parks and Recreation has again agreed to the use of the Old Schoolhouse on a trial basis so we do not expect to be using St. Benedict's as much.

A three month pilot **Safe Parking** program was generously supported by many members of St Ben's who, together with community volunteers checked on the parking lot every evening and every morning.

Abundance Shop 2019

Karin Cake, Retail Manager

"God will provide," we often heard from Francis Rivinus when he was our Manager. This year has certainly been an upward spiral, full of good surprises and delightful opportunities.

Opportunities often take a lot of work to fulfill the possible outcome...this one certainly did! Our last piece by piece count, done for a month in 2017, showed we'd received about 220,000 pounds in the year. Of that, we sold about 110,000 pounds of what we received. This year, 2019, the number arriving was closer to 400,000 pounds. All the volunteers worked heroically...some spending Sunday and Monday working behind the scenes most weeks in addition to 1- 3 work shifts each week. The flow of goods was larger in both quality and quantity and the receipts reached and exceeded the goal we'd set for ourselves of \$120,000! We've been living out that "God will provide" these past years.

Howard Vollmer helped found the Abundance Shop in the '90s and is remembered for telling each new set of volunteers, "The volunteers should respond to each person who walks through the door as though that person is specially beloved by God". Caro+ reminds us frequently that our aim has not changed.

We honored many vouchers and individual requests for help during the year, gifting needy folks totaling about \$30 a week, and cutting prices for those short of the basics they needed. With sales of about \$420 a day, the rest went to a combination of other organizations which do worthy work, serve a needy population and can use the overflow we pass to them.

This year we hope to meet new goals and a higher gross.

We need the help of each person to be able to ride on this train together. Many think they have not enough time or energy or strength or stuff to donate to the shop to make a difference. It may seem that way...but God does provide. Each person who donates in some way helps raise what we need to give to our community. If we have little extra of anything, the sometimes forgotten "Stuff" in our lives can make a difference. To quote Sally Somers in 2009, "St Ben's has lots of happy reasons to claim ownership of the Abundance Thrift Shop as our principal ministry. Among them: it's a place to buy reasonably priced clothes and household equipment, especially now when so many are struggling financially; it's a place where the Los Osos needy population can feel comfortable when in need of clothing or household stuff; it's a place where older retired customers can come and stay in touch with people or buy something affordable to add a bit of oomph to their life, [or even help out a bit] and it's a blessing for our customers to have a place to donate their unwanted, unneeded items. I look forward to making new shop friends and increasing our profit margin so that we can increase our giving throughout the community."

We honor the good intentions of all the supporters of the Abundance Shop, both members and our friends throughout the community and beyond...and especially, Thanks be to God!

People's Kitchen, 2019
Patricia M. Henry

On the first Saturday of every other month, St. Benedict's prepares and serves lunch to the clients of **40 Prado Day Center**.

MONTH	NUMBER SERVED
February	89
April	73
June	71
August	88
October	77

TOTAL NUMBER SERVED: 465

There was an average of 8 Volunteers at each feeding.

The average donation of food costs for the 2019 year is apx. \$ 2,520.

Laundry Love, 2019
Maureen Titus

Cash Donations	\$532
Pizza Donations	\$456
Detergent, fabric softener, bleach	\$200
Number of people served	128
Number of loads(washers)	302
Cost of washers	\$ 1,474.00
Number of dryer loads	400
Cost of dryers	\$ 394.25
Year to date expenditures (2019)	\$ 1,868.25

Laundry Love reaches out to members of the Los Osos community who may have limited resources or financial concerns to properly do their laundry. We serve senior citizens, single parents, low income working families, and homeless. Many of these people do work, but at very low paying jobs and their financial security is so compromised they don't have the extra funds to wash or dry their clothes. Even with housing they may not have a washer or dryer available to them. We have had children there with parents and Barbara has brought coloring books and crayons, even some games for them to pass the time. We know there are so many more in the community we could serve. Hopefully, we will have more volunteers, funds and outreach as we continue this valuable community service.

Authorized Parking Pilot Program 2019

Alice Welchert

From October 21, 2019 until January 10, 2020, Los Osos Cares sponsored an Authorized Parking pilot project. The program was the culmination of many meetings between SLO County, the Sheriff's Department, Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Los Osos Cares, and the community at large. Discussions and planning began in Spring 2018. The goal of Authorized Parking was to provide safe, overnight parking for residents of Los Osos who live in their vehicles. The County made the Los Osos Library parking lot available to a maximum of 3 participants, from 9 pm to 7 am. A port-a-potty was provided. Each participant was screened and agreed to comply with rules to ensure safety and maintenance of the grounds. Volunteers monitored check-ins and check-outs and recorded their observations via an online survey.

The program was terminated for several reasons:

- Although a number of people were involved as monitors, the task of administering the program fell to Caro+. No one else offered to fill this role.
- The location was regarded as undesirable by the participants. The only woman participant felt unsafe and reported that someone tried to break in to her van. On one occasion, another participant reported a couple of people running up and down the street making a lot of noise. Another time two non-participants emptied trash from the dumpsters on the ground. No other locations were identified.
- Sheriff's deputies patrolled occasionally but their presence was insufficient to discourage the kinds of disruptive activities described above.
- Very few people participated reliably, e.g. there were 3 people who parked at the site for a very brief time, one person was there on most nights, a couple of other people also participated briefly.
- Some people who expressed an interest in the program failed to meet the requirements, e.g. they did not have vehicle insurance, their vehicles were not registered, or they did not complete the paperwork needed to register.

We hope that the pilot program will provide lessons learned for the future.