



St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
Los Osos, CA

Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting
January 31, 2021

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Senior Warden's Report

Rector's Report

Mutual Ministry Review Responses

Breakout Rooms (time for
conversation)

Election of Vestry and Delegates

Financial Report

Adoption of 2021 Budget

Awards

Closing Prayer

Senior Warden's Report

"I can do all things through Christ who empowers me." - Philippians 4:13.

When St. Benedict's first got started over thirty years ago, our first Warden, Richard Lackie, characterized us as the "Can Do Congregation." Can start a church out of a handful of faithful people responding to God's call. Can attract people to join with us to start to grow in love and community and make joyful worship together. Can rise to challenges to raise money and find volunteers, and discover ways to serve Christ and to serve others. Richard was right. That's who we were and that's who we are: The Can Do Congregation. Although really it has been several different congregations who came through our doors over the years and became the community of St. Benedict's at any given time. Each has had differing challenges and graces and focal issues and strengths and struggles. That first congregation of 1987 had no idea of what we'd have to be dealing with in 2020! (Well, who did!?) But 2020 has shown us that despite the difficulties of pandemic restrictions, we still "Can Do!" For we are empowered by God.

We started the year with plans that got abruptly changed when the need to shelter at home came down and we had to close the church to group gatherings. We were unable to gather together for worship, but with technological innovation and a dedicated rector, staff and volunteers, we've discovered new ways to do church. The inability to worship together in person is painful, yet we are still together in spirit for Spiritual Communion on Zoom and Live-streamed on FaceBook. And now with safety protocols in place for maintaining safe social distancing and cleaning and sanitizing surfaces, we are able to worship outdoors in the parking lot in good weather - even receiving the Eucharistic bread on some occasions. Holiday observations were live-streamed for Holy Week, Thanksgiving, and the Christmas services.

Being separated from one another most of the time is hard to take. We miss gathering for potlucks and parties and just being together, but still we find ways to be in community: We couldn't have our customary Gratitude Dinner this year, so we held a Gratitude Gala on Zoom, with desserts prepared and delivered by the Parish Council to parishioners' homes in advance. Many people participated in the Angels and Mortals game this Christmas where anonymous Angels did good deeds for their assigned Mortals. We have a chance to chat informally at Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom every Sunday after church. Our Cloister Groups, FaceBook church page and St Ben's Living Room page are ways to keep in contact, share our thoughts, provide information and check in with each other.

We are able to stimulate our minds and spirits in prayer and reflection through our Hollister Institute Discussions, Bible study, Vespers Service, Prayers for the Morning, Pausing in the Evening, and not forgetting Caro's inspiring weekly sermons!

Our Outreach Efforts include continued support of the People's Kitchen, Laundry Love, Los Osos Community Dinners, Warming Shelter, EarthCare Initiatives, and service to the community through the Abundance Shop. The Abundance Shop was amazing this year in dealing in prolonged closure, staff changes and shortages, and the need to adapt to safe ways to conduct sales, and yet still

managing to end the year with only a surprisingly small shortfall of where we'd hoped to be. Our overall financial picture is remarkable given the circumstances, as you'll hear about in the budget report to come.

As you read the reports from our various parish ministry areas I think you'll agree that we have been, are now, and will remain the Can Do Congregation! We are indeed richly blessed. Thanks be to God always, and to each one of you!

by Stefanie Shuman

Rector Report

One of the gifts of being a young congregation is flexibility. We have traditions, we have things we like to do a certain way and values in our worship but we also know how to experiment and to respond to the call of the Spirit and the vagaries of the world around us. In the past we have met in homes, in a borrowed room, in the mortuary chapel, in the community center, in a half-unfinished church, and this year we have added a Zoom room and Facebook.

During the year we have made a number of modifications to improve this way of doing things – we changed our internet provider which improved our upload speed and hence the quality of the picture you get. But that led to some other challenges. We are delighted to have Jay Matthew working with us both in the office and as our tech guy. Jay has introduced some new software which makes it possible to have some prerecorded hymns and more than one camera but that too has presented new problems with the sound which he is now working to resolve... all the time we are adjusting course.

In the same way, at the beginning of the pandemic we increased the number of midweek gatherings by adding in Bible Study, making the Tuesday study group ongoing and including a virtual happy hour. The Tuesday group is continuing well, but the Bible Study is mainly attended by people from other churches and when Happy Hour came down to just three or four people we dropped it. We have heard from several of you that virtual coffee hour is not working for you, which is interesting because that is very popular in other congregations. In the coming weeks we will experiment with break out rooms so that you can talk with just a few people, and with moderated conversations.

As we go along this unexpected pilgrimage together we learn by trying things out. I so appreciate the Wardens, the Parish Council, the Cloister leaders and the Staff-Parish Liaison team who reflect with me on the possibilities and help me to hear what is happening around the church. I am saddened to learn that there are several people who are feeling disconnected from their faith community and will continue to look for ways to provide greater connection and inclusion for those who find on-line worship does not even come close to meeting their needs. We will continue to experiment and see what is life-giving for us, helping us to serve and worship God together, and what is not.

As you know, I had planned to take a sabbatical in the fall of 2020 but that was not to be. If I can safely travel to the UK I will take it this fall instead. This will move my planned retirement date from the spring of 2022 to the spring of 2023. I am grateful to the Parish Council for taking this impending change seriously and beginning to think about the structures that need to be in place so that St Benedict's will be able to weather a change in clergy leadership without too much stress.

As part of that process we created three new teams this year: the Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer and to review financial detail on behalf of the Parish Council; the Membership Team to encourage those on the edge of the congregation to move further in; and the Stewardship Team to help us with stewardship of our time, our abilities and our wealth. This is a big year of change in the Parish Council with three out of seven vestry members coming to the end of their terms and one seat left vacant by Steve Hirahara. I look forward to working with the new Parish Council half of whom you will elect today. I will miss each and every one of our leaders who is taking a break – thank you to Michael Lucas, Lorient Schwenk and Diana Hammerlund for your faithful service.

Even with our pared down services, it is surprising how many people it takes to prepare and celebrate a Sunday service and to maintain the infrastructure of our life together. Lorient Schwenk corals all the moving parts and makes sure that everything is covered. The Altar Guild has been amazing as we have added to their load with an additional service and have had to think about how we will present things visually on camera rather than in the total church experience. I am so grateful to Sarah Chesebro and the shadow Sacristan, David Chesebro not only for their careful setting up but also for planning ahead and thinking about how we can celebrate the seasons of the church's year on camera.

Stef Shuman continues to provide our worship bulletins, now juggling three services and multiple musicians. We were grateful that Lacey McNamara and then Ron Labrie were able to step in as substitutes for John Cribb during this first year of recovery after his stroke. Going forward, John will be playing the organ regularly with Ann Lucas playing the piano once a month.

St. Benedict's is known as church that walks its talk. Our focus on Creation Care, spearheaded by the Earthcare group has influenced other churches in this diocese and beyond. This spring, churches in the Diocese of San Diego will be using a study guide on the book Climate Church, Climate World by Jim Antal which was created by Earthcare. Earthcare is currently completing a five week course which we hope will be used by congregations just beginning to think about these issues. Called A Beginners Guide to Creation Care and the Climate Crisis, this will be available for Lenten or other five week studies.

We have continued to provide a modified Laundry Love during the pandemic which is important to many of our local friends. Plans for a second one during the day to cater more to seniors have not come to fruition because we need more people willing to spend a few hours once a month sitting outside the laundromat passing out quarters and making friends. Much of the funding this year has come from a grant through Los Osos Cares. We have continued to provide a monthly meal for people in need - lunch at 40 Prado in San Luis Obispo alternating with a Community Dinner here in Los Osos. Several of our members serve on the Los Osos Cares board which is our most significant partner in ministry to Los Osos.

And above all, the Abundance Shop continues to shine as God with flesh on. I am grateful to Esta Kandarian who after a year as Assistant Manager has now stepped up to be the Manager. During this difficult time most of our volunteers have pulled back for health reasons and at times she has almost run it single-handed. There were a couple of weeks at the New Year when we had to close, but Esta has managed to keep it going with a team of community volunteers led by Nellie Regaldo who sort, Karin and Steve Cake coming in one day per week and Maureen Titus helping with the cashiering.

So this year despite the setback of a global pandemic, we have continued to follow God's call to serve and worship God and to build a community of hope and transformation. And that is what we will do in 2021. Thank you for your faithful prayers and living. That is what makes the difference.

by Caroline Hall

2021 Nominations

Candidates for the Vestry (3 year terms)

- Benjamin Nucum
- Helen Schneiders
- Maureen Titus

Candidate for the Vestry (1 year term)

- Barbara Schippers

Candidates for Deanery / Diocesan Representatives:

- Lorientte Schwenk
- John Cribb
- Diana Hammerlund
- Stefanie Shuman (alternate)

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

Proposed Budget 2021

	Actual Jan - Dec 2020	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
PPP Loan - Earned	21,250.00	0.00	0.00
Total Abundance Shop	10,591.71	45,000.00	10,800.00
Annual Pledge Income	130,917.85	100,000.00	130,000.00
Total Loose Offering	33,228.20	22,000.00	19,500.00
Total Flowers	100.00	500.00	0.00
Total Fund Raising Activities	1,050.48	1,800.00	1,150.00
Honoraria	987.75	1,500.00	0.00
Interest	42.78	0.00	0.00
Memorials & Legacies	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	199,668.77	170,800.00	161,450.00
Church Program Expenses			
Total Church Building Expense	14,114.59	13,825.00	13,475.00
Total Church Land Support	10,755.94	12,014.65	11,915.00
Total Church Program Expenses	2,308.25	3,710.00	2,860.00
Total Education & Study	148.88	300.00	300.00
Total Music Ministry	16,125.39	19,625.77	13,865.00
Total Outreach Expense	20,677.59	20,496.00	18,784.64
Total Rector Compensation & Benefits	90,337.30	90,529.92	90,533.92
Total Supply Clergy Expense	981.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Total Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	1,147.87	900.00	6,172.80
Total COGS	156,596.81	164,401.34	158,906.36
Gross Profit	43,071.96	6,398.66	2,543.64
Church Administrative Expenses			
Total Administrative Expense	21,580.33	19,700.83	18,749.64
Total Financing Expense	3,118.89	3,600.00	2,760.00
Total Expense	24,699.22	23,300.83	21,509.64
Net Operating Income	18,372.74	(16,902.17)	(18,966.00)
Loan Principal Payments	-2,098.70	-2,300.00	(2,820.00)
Possible PPP Grant			21,250.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	20,471.44	(14602.17)	(536.00)

2021 Narrative Budget

Deficit Budget

Once again the Parish Council is recommending a deficit budget – in other words more spending than income. This is the eighth 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 gap to fill we will once again find that God's abundance is more than sufficient for our needs. We will be applying for a second Payroll Protection Program grant, and if we receive this then our projected deficit will be less than \$1000.

Your generosity was amazing in 2020. Once we had let you know the significant shortfall we were seeing in the income from the Abundance Shop due to the pandemic you stepped up and even without the federal assistance we received \$7500 more than we had budgeted.

This means that we are in a good place going into 2021. We have cut back as much as possible in the expenditure budget as we anticipated that we would be faced with a very significant deficit but your pledges continued to come in, and together with the likelihood of more federal assistance leave us in a much better position than expected. This is a bare-bones budget.

Income

We hope that the Abundance Shop will continue to bless us with abundance in 2021. Amazingly, sales in 2020 were only down about 30% over 2019 but anticipating increased business, we had taken on additional staff and so expenses were considerably higher. For 2021 we budgeted a hopefully conservative \$1000 income per month less a tithe. 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.

In 2018 we hired a paid manager for the first time, Deb Garza and in 2019 added Esta Kandarian also as a part-time manger. In 2019 the shop grew and despite the additional costs income also grew. Deb Garza resigned late in 2020 and for a short time we hired another manager until we ran the numbers and realized that with no immediate end in sight this was causing too great a drag on our income and that, with reduced opening hours, two managers were no longer warranted. Esta Kandarian is now managing the Abundance Shop and welcomes your help.

The majority of St. Ben's income always comes from our members, friends and visitors. Our anticipated pledge income is higher than we budgeted in 2020 but reflects commitments we have received.

Since we cannot use the church building at present we have not budgeted any income from the church being used for weddings or other outside groups

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. Since we have no choir and do not expect to be able to start a choir again this year, the Music Ministry costs are considerably less than in previous years.
- **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.
- **Worship, Prayer and Spirituality** has in the past covered Altar Guild expenses for candles, cloths etc. Now it includes technical assistance and other expenses to provide on-line worship.
- **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 go directly to the next principal payment. We now owe just about \$43,000 – an amazing reduction of \$9,000 this year.

Net Ordinary Income

This is the amount we expect to have left over after we spend what we say we will spend. The Finance Committee has budgeted conservatively, and the vestry is very careful with cash, so we have a history of spending less than we plan. This may not be the case in 2021 as everything that can be cut without effecting operations has been cut.

This budget leaves us an anticipated shortfall of about \$21,700, most of which we hope will be offset by a federal grant. We trust that God's abundance and generosity will again be manifest in our midst in 2021.

Building Fund

The Building Fund is a designated fund 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, at the end of 2019 we had \$10,000 and ideally by the end of 2020, we would have \$20,000 and so on. The Vestry has voted to move about \$3000 of the operating surplus this year into the Building Fund which will bring the fund up to \$20,000.

Balance Sheet - December 31, 2020

	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking - Unrestricted	34,156.97	9,071.19	25,085.78	276.54%
Operating Reserve	44,815.94	39,507.35	5,308.59	13.44%
Designated Funds				
Building	17,639.59	11,969.29	5,670.30	47.37%
Blessing the Future	100.00	485.00	-385.00	-79.38%
Central Coast Readers' Theatre	1,779.43	1,779.43	0.00	0.0%
KCBX	1,852.08	502.08	1,350.00	268.88%
Music	6,828.72	7,028.72	-200.00	-2.85%
Fire Sprinkler	337.41	24,623.73	-24,286.32	-98.63%
Mcleod	6,964.64	6,855.84	108.80	1.59%
Stock Sale Proceeds	62,210.02	62,210.02	0.00	0.0%
Total Designated Funds	97,711.89	115,454.11	-17,742.22	-15.37%
Restricted Funds				
US Bank - Rector's Fund	8,370.74	2,306.19	6,064.55	262.97%
US Bank - Laundry Love	3,771.28	713.33	3,057.95	428.69%
Total Restricted Funds	12,142.02	3,019.52	9,122.50	302.12%
Endowment Fund	23,912.55	20,463.66	3,448.89	16.85%
Total Checking/Savings	212,739.37	187,515.83	25,223.54	13.45%
Other Current Assets				
Accounts Receivable	4,001.98	16,000.00	-11,998.02	-74.99%
Due from the Abundance Shop	7,853.30	2,545.49	5,307.81	208.52%
Prepaid Insurance	629.55	1,770.51	-1,140.96	-64.44%
Total Other Current Assets	12,484.83	20,316.00	-7,831.17	-38.55%
Total Current Assets	<u>225,224.20</u>	<u>207,831.83</u>	<u>17,392.37</u>	<u>8.37%</u>
Fixed Assets				
Stations of the Cross	7,842.60	7,842.60	0.00	0.0%
Sprinkler System	177,252.99	102,539.43	74,713.56	72.86%
Church Building & Improvements	940,678.00	940,678.00	0.00	0.0%
Furniture & Equipment	30,528.15	30,528.15	0.00	0.0%
Land	280,500.00	280,500.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,436,801.74</u>	<u>1,362,088.18</u>	<u>74,713.56</u>	<u>5.49%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,662,025.94</u>	<u>1,569,920.01</u>	<u>92,105.93</u>	<u>5.87%</u>

LIABILITES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	843.14	5,604.00	-4,760.86	-84.96%
FIA Card Services - Credit Card	1,315.34	443.98	871.36	196.26%
	2,158.48	6,047.98	-3,889.50	-64.31%

Oth Other Current Liabilities

Tithes from Abundance Shop	1,176.85	0.00	1,176.85	100.0%
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Designated Fund Accounts

Sprinkler Funds	337.41	24,623.73	-24,286.32	-98.63%
Music Fund	6,828.72	6,828.72	0.00	0.0%
Organ Fund	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.0%
KCBX Fund	1,852.08	502.08	1,350.00	268.88%
CC Readers' Theatre	1,779.43	1,779.43	0.00	0.0%

Designated Gifts	1,676.15	1,497.65	178.50	11.92%
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Total Designated Funds	12,973.79	35,731.61	-22,757.82	-63.69%
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Deferred Gifts	23,407.93	15,842.85	7,565.08	47.75%
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Payroll Liabilities	673.92	-1.00	674.92	67,492.0%
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Total Other Current Liabilities	38,232.49	51,573.46	-14,517.82	-25.87%
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Total Current Liabilities	40,390.97	57,621.44	-17,230.47	-29.9%
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Long Term Liabilities: Bank Loan	43,738.81	52,933.35	-9,194.54	-17.37%
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Total Liabilities	84,129.78	110,554.79	-26,425.01	-23.9%
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Equity

Endowment Fund	23,912.55	10,605.39	13,307.16	125.48%
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Church Land & Building Fund	1,436,801.74	1,246,851.07	189,950.67	15.23%
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Operating Fund Retained Earning	2,684.96	65,556.30	-62,871.34	-95.9%
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Net Income	114,496.91	136,254.63	-21,757.72	-15.97%
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Total Equity	1,577,896.16	1,459,267.39	118,628.77	8.13%
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,662,025.94	1,569,822.18	92,203.76	5.87%
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Cash Flow

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	114,496.91
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income	
to net cash provided by operations:	
Accounts Receivable	12,119.16
Prepaid P & L Insurance	1,497.16
Prepaid Umbrella Insurance	-7.04
Prepaid WC Insurance	-349.16
Due from Los Osos Cares	-25.00
Due from the Rector's Fund	-96.14
Due from the Abundance Shop	-5,307.81
TD Ameritrade Account:Operating Fund	-4,545.91
TD Ameritrade Account:Building Fund	-0.26
Accounts Payable	-4,760.86
FIA Card Services - Credit Card	871.36
Clearing	1,302.17
Deferred Revenue Accounts:Deferred Building Pledge Income	-850.00
Deferred Revenue Accounts:Deferred Pledge Income	7,915.08
Payroll Liabilities:Fed WH Tax Payable	110.00
Payroll Liabilities:Medicare Payable	107.06
Payroll Liabilities:Social Security Payable	457.86
Abundance Shop Tithes Due	1,176.85
Restricted Fund Accounts:Sprinkler Funds	-24,286.32
Restricted Fund Accounts:KCBX Fund	1,350.00
Restricted Fund Accounts:Road Repair	-3,000.00
Restricted Fund Accounts:Laundry Love	332.50
Restricted Fund Accounts:Earthcare	50.00
Restricted Fund Accounts:Donna's Gift	-229.00
Restricted Fund Accounts:Community Dinners	25.00
Deferred Revenue Accounts:Deferred Blessing Pledge	<u>500.00</u>
Net cash provided by Operating Activities	98,853.61
INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Sprinkler System	<u>-74,713.56</u>
Net cash provided by Investing Activities	-74,713.56
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Note Payable - Bank of Sierra	-9,194.54
Church Land & Building Fund	189,950.67
Operating Fund Retained Earning	-199,125.97
Endowment Fund	<u>13,307.16</u>
Net cash provided by Financing Activities	<u>-5,062.68</u>
Net cash increase for period	19,077.37
Cash at beginning of period	<u>188,621.26</u>
Cash at end of period	<u><u>207,698.63</u></u>

Profit & Loss 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec 20</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income			
PPP Loan	21,250.00	0.00	100%
Abundance Shop	10,591.71	45,000.00	-76%
Annual Pledge Income	130,917.85	100,000.00	31%
Loose Offering	33,228.20	22,000.00	51%
Flowers	100.00	500.00	-80%
Fund Raising Activities	1,050.48	1,800.00	-42%
Honoraria	987.75	1,500.00	-34%
Interest	42.78	0.00	100%
Memorials & Legacies	1,500.00	0.00	100%
Total Income	199,668.77	170,800.00	17%
Expenses			
Church Building Expense	14,114.59	13,825.00	2%
Church Land Support	10,755.94	12,014.65	-10%
Church Program Expenses	2,308.25	3,710.00	-38%
Education & Study	148.88	300.00	-50%
Music Ministry	16,125.39	19,625.77	-18%
Outreach Expense	20,677.59	20,496.00	1%
Rector Compensation & Benefits	90,337.30	90,529.92	0%
Supply Clergy Expense	981.00	3,000.00	-67%
Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	1,147.87	900.00	28%
Total COGS	156,596.81	164,401.34	-5%
Gross Profit	43,071.96	6,398.66	573%
Expense			
Administrative Expense	21,580.33	19,700.83	10%
Financing Expense	3,118.89	3,600.00	-13%
Total Expense	24,699.22	23,300.83	6%
Net Ordinary Income	18,372.74	-16,902.17	-209%
Other Income/Expense			
Gifts for Designated and Restricted Funds	110,706.00		

Junior Warden Report

For the past two years, intensive focus has been on the sprinkler system. Four 10k gallon stainless steel tanks have been erected and filled, an older 5,000 gallon tank removed, the pump house painted and a door fixed, the PG&E pole is up and the electric panels completed. Approvals and permits were obtained. We await the PGE, Cal Fire and County final inspections to pass.

With COVID limiting use of the campus, we were able to accomplish a fair bit in terms of maintenance and minor repairs.

A church bench has been repaired and repainted.

The irrigation system was inspected and repaired.

The ground under the parking lot pump was leveled and a cover put over the pump.

There was an influx of ants that were exterminated

The heater in the great room was inspected and repaired.

The church bathrooms were fitted with individual deadbolt locks.

The light switches in the great room were synchronized.

A security incident at the Abundance Shop required rekeying three doors and installing a key box. Security cameras were connected to the store computer and steps were taken to increase security of the the premises.

Owl boxes were cleaned and excess shrubbery cut back from the St. Benedict signage.

Jane Wu
Junior Warden

Altar Guild

Sarah Chesebro, Director of the Altar Guild

The Year 2020 was a challenge for the Altar Guild as we adjusted and readjusted, continually, to keep our congregation safe from exposure to the Corona Virus, but still maintain a Eucharistic Community. Fortunately, we are blessed by our Rector, The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, through her persistence and determination, that we have been able to attain what our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, expects of us, through virtual and outdoor services:

*"People go to church to refocus. Focus on God. What you do for God matters. **The Altar Guild helps us to refocus.** Focus on God the Creator then follow Jesus into the world."* - From the Presiding Bishop's presentation at the Triennial of the National Altar Guild Association in Austin, Texas, July 2018.

"Altar Guild" is inclusive of the Altar Guild, Sacristan Team and Flower Guild. Our special memories and contributions, even through these most difficult times of the year, follow:

- "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday Outside the Abundance Shop and Ash Wednesday Service
- "Blessings to Go", Curbside Delivery, on Wednesdays in June
- Palm Sunday – palm crosses delivered to all congregants via USPS
- Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday
- Three Memorial Services (including Rachel Espinoza and Steve Hirahara)
- Christmas Services: Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day
- Services: Sunday 8am, 9:30am, and 10:30am; Second Saturday (services after March were Zoom or live streamed on FaceBook unless outdoors)

We have received numerous gifts. Gratitude and love go out to:

- Lisa Gonzales for the gift of wine
- Sarah Chesebro for the gift of bread and a pyx
- Stefanie Shuman for the gift of clean linens
- Those contributing to Easter and Christmas Flowers
- Ron and Laura Thompson – Gifts of Glorious Floral Arrangements at Easter and Christmas
- David Chesebro as the "Shadow Sacristan"
- John Horsley's gift of Mary Elizabeth's+ liturgical items including a home communion kit, unction oil container, and stole.
- Jerry and Carol Walton's gift of two albs from their previous ministry

- The Flower Guild for their gift of beautiful floral arrangements every Sunday
- The Altar Guild for their tireless work in the Sacristy and Sanctuary to prepare a Sacred Space

These gifts enhance our efforts to set the stage for the Liturgy, or “Sacred Theatre”, which prepare us to follow Jesus into the world and do the work that God has given us to do. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Again, my love and thanks to those on the Altar Guild who have served during these unsettling times and those of you who have chosen to serve through prayer and support for us. Blessed be.

SJC 1/18/2021

We prepare a Sacred Space:



We go out to do the work God has given us to do:



Earthcare:

Zooming in on the Future

Despite the constrictions placed on all of us due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, in 2020 St Benedict's Earthcare team continued its commitment to increasing awareness of and participation in Creation care and climate change in several ongoing activities and projects. Such activities included the continuing effort to plant trees on our property, to support Season of Creation liturgy and events, and to provide challenging Hollister Institute seminars on climate change, among others. But Earthcare's major new initiative was the creation of a study guide for Episcopal congregations titled "A Guide to Climate Care and the Climate Crisis".

Ongoing activities: Earthcare sponsored two Hollister seminars on the topic of climate change. In January/February, Jim Antal's book- *Climate Church/Climate World* provided the content for six-weeks of Zoom-based discussion. *Rooted and Rising*, a book of personal experience essays edited by Margaret-Bullitt Jonas, provided discussion material for six May and June seminar sessions.

Another continuing initiative is Earthcare's commitment to planting more trees. At various times this year Earthcare has worked with at least three local groups in our efforts to bring more trees onto our property, "Greening Los Osos", "Bear Roots", and "Sage". Each of these organizations at one time or another contributed advice on various problems and issues related to planting new trees. Earthcare's objective with the new trees is twofold: to choose specific tree species that will best thrive on our property- given its specific soil and microclimate conditions- and developing an architectural landscape plan that will place the trees in positions that maximize their aesthetic as well as environmental impact. Earthcare will continue to gather information and obtain a comprehensive placement plan and then present the landscaping vision to the vestry for its approval. But the trees are on their way...this year three trees have actually been planted on our property- two red cypresses and one yellow cypress.

Supporting the Season of Creation is another ongoing project of Earthcare. The Episcopal Church has designated the Season of Creation as the Sundays from the first Sunday of September until the first Sunday of October, with the intent that our congregations focus on climate care themes in a special way during this time span. In 2020 Earthcare supported St. Benedict's Season of Creation by sponsoring an Zoom prayer session on September 1st, the International Day of Prayer. In addition, individual Earthcare members also gave three-minute "infomercials" after each Sunday service on various climate change topics, ranging from how to participate in the Episcopal Church's climate website sustainislandhome.org to urging congregation members to sign up for the "Faith Voter's Climate Justice Pledge", with an eye to the then upcoming November election.

New activity: But by far the most important of Earthcare's efforts in 2020 was the goal of creating "A Beginner's Guide to Creation Care and Climate Change". The decision to develop this study guide stems from a fifteen hundred dollar Creation Care grant from The Episcopal Church's Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism. This grant will enable Earthcare to build on the kind of outreach it showed in sponsoring a very successful diocesan-wide conference on climate change in 2019. With this grant, in other words, Earthcare members during 2020 have been creating a Lenten study guide to make available for other congregations to use to introduce their members into the urgent issue of the Christian response to Creation care and climate change. Earthcare members have now completed a draft version the study guide that will cover the following topics: 1) "What is our Christian vocation towards Creation?"; 2) "What is Climate Change and how does it tie into our vocation for creation care and social justice?"; 3) "Personal responsibility"; 4) "Greening the Church"; 5) "Action in the public square".

The study guide is still a "work in progress", but it will be complete enough to use this Lent. At least three other Episcopal congregations have expressed an interest in using the study guide with their congregations.

In summary, the Earthcare team- despite the ongoing limits on all of us due to the pandemic- used 2020 as an opportunity to continue moving forward into the future, most of all by addressing the most daunting challenge of 2021 not only for Christians but for everyone on the planet: the crisis of climate change. If you would like to join our Earthcare team as we move forward into the year 2021, please contact one of the team members for further information: Barry Turner, John Horsley, Mike Eggleston, Don Maruska, Liz Maruska, Bob Pelfrey or Caro Hall+

by Bob Pelfrey

Prayer and Pastoral Care

Celeste Pennington

Everything changed. Even our praying. It may have disappeared. It may have deepened. Was there a shift from public to private ~ thinking to no-thinking ~ occasional to unceasing? I would venture to say that our praying today is different from our praying a year ago. It is good, however, to remember that nothing can separate us from the Presence of God. It is good to be aware. It is good to attend to it.

Everything changed. Especially the practical ways we could express our pastoral care. We sent more notes. We made more phone calls. AND we adapted to/adopted the pandemic protocol. Masked, gloved and six feet apart, we boldly showed up physically to assist our beloved friends in their grieving, for nothing can separate us from the call to be Present with one another.

Access to one another: our Cloister, our Clergy, our prayer chain prayers@stbenslososos.org

PARISH-STAFF LIAISON TEAM

The Parish-Staff Liaison Group acts as the personnel committee for the Parish, meeting quarterly (via Zoom in 2020). The Group'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 Parish-Staff Liaison Group. is composed of:

- One of the Wardens from the Vestry
- Two members of the congregation chosen by the Rector
- Two members from the congregation chosen by the Parish Council

In 2020 the members of the committee were: John Horsley, Jane Wu, Rosalind Malone, Ann Lucas and Ed Valentine, with John Horsley in the chair. John Horsley and Rosalind Malone are currently the Rector's appointments, both serving the second year of a two year term.

The Annual Evaluation is based on the Rector's goals for the year as well as core areas of the the Rector's work. **The core areas were identified as:**

- Vibrant Worship
- Availability
- Pastoral presence
- Creating Community
- Encouraging stewardship
- Community engagement outside of St. Benedict's

At each quarterly meeting of the Parish-Staff Liaison group the Rector reports on progress towards her annual goals and any issues that have arisen regarding the staff. (In 2020 a large part of the Rector's report concerned the adjustments to her activities made necessary by the COVID pandemic). Between the quarterly meetings the Rector also sends regular reports to the Group members on her most recent activities, both inside the parish and in the wider community.

John Horsley

Abundance Shop

This has been a year like no other for our world, our congregation, and our outreach ministries, including the Abundance Shop. We were going strong at the shop at the beginning of the year, continuing the momentum built by Karin Cake and a stellar group of volunteers. Then we closed from mid-March through the end of May in compliance with state law governing the covid-19 pandemic. We reopened very cautiously at the beginning of June, and began to regain momentum through the summer and fall. Our manager, Deb Garza, accepted a full-time job at the Achievement House, and Minerva Soto joined us as the new manager in September. During the last seven months of this year, our customers and volunteers have appreciated the chance to shop, work, and interact with one another in a safe space during a time of great social isolation.

We recently suffered the loss of two dear and faithful church members and volunteers, Steve Hirahara and Don Shields. Steve was our opening cashier of the week on our busy Tuesday mornings for a number of years. Don worked in the tool room, also on Tuesday mornings, testing all manner of donated devices. Don and Bobbie Shields gave decades of service to the shop.

Now we, like the rest of our country, are in the midst of the hard winter of this crisis. We look forward to a return to normal life and operations in 2021. The members of our congregation have been heroic in coming to the financial aid of the church while the shop has not been able to function at full capacity. I am deeply grateful! I ask you to also prayerfully consider whether you might be called to join our ministry at the shop. We are greatly in need of church members to serve as the face of St. Benedict's in our community at the shop.

Esta Kandarian, Manager

LAUNDRY OF LOVE

This program provides money for washers and dryers at a Los Osos laundromat the last Wednesday of each month. Detergent and other laundry products are also available for the people. We provide this service for the unhoused and low income in Los Osos. Funding has come from members of St. Benedicts in donations and a local partner, Los Osos Cares. Los Osos Cares received a grant in 2020 for this program from another community partner, Dignity Health. We plan on grant funding in 2021 as well. Frequently a couple from St. Benedict's donates pizzas to share with the folks who are there doing their laundry. Often the only warm meal they may have all day. Everyone is so appreciative of what is being done to help them.

Like so many other programs COVID 19 had an impact on this critically needed event. In March, 2020 we as a group with Caro's encouragement decided to continue with a few modifications. Masks are required and hand sanitizing is also done. We are not going inside the building at this time due to limitations on number of people allowed within a certain size space and we are open 4-6PM only. Steve and Barbara Hirahara have been the leaders, assisted by Alice Welchert and Maureen Titus, with this program until November, 2020. The passing of Steve has created an empty space in our hearts and so important to note with the unhoused people of Los Osos. This community of people has even created a memorial for Steve on Palisades St. across from the library. They have fond memories of Steve and everything he had done to help everyone he could.

- People served in 2020 --- 209
- Average number of people per month --- 17
- Cash Donations and Pizza donations --- \$400
- Total spent for washers and dryers --- \$3396.75
- Average spent per month --- \$283
- Average spent per person --- \$16.25
- Average spent for supplies per month --- \$70

It has been suggested we have another Laundry Love during the day, another week of the month. Senior citizens may not want to come out late in the day and yet they need help financially to do their laundry. That is a wonderful idea, however, we need volunteers who will step up and be part of that new program. We are willing to assist with training and initial starting but cannot do it on a routine basis. Step forward and let us know when you would like to begin.

Each person who steps up to help lightens the burden for others.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Titus

People's Kitchen

On the first Saturday of every other month, St. Benedict's prepares and serves* lunch for the clients of 40 Prado Day Center. Thank you to everyone who buys, prepares, cooks & serves.

MONTH	NUMBER SERVED
February	80
April	65
June	75
August	74
October	55
December	73
TOTAL NUMBER SERVED: 422	

**Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, we only provided servers twice this year with apx. 6-8 volunteers. The other times, St. Benedicts provided the food and The Peoples Kitchen provided the servers. The average donation of food costs for the year 2020 is apx. \$2015.*

Patricia M. Henry

Community Dinners

In 2019 St. Benedict's Church recognized the need to establish a Community Dinner that would bring people together and provide to anyone hungry, seniors, families with children, veterans and our homeless folks living here in Los Osos, a free-hot-meal at least once a week. We began our dinners in the dining room at Trinity Methodist Church pot-luck-buffet-style, with the various hot foods being provided by members of St. Ben's. This small group of 18-25 guests soon grew to 50 with the generous help from other folks in our community. We are now serving close to 100 meals each Thursday.

These dinners have become an important part of St. Ben's outreach to the people living in Los Osos and have certainly evolved since their inception in 2019.

In 2020, to accommodate more people, and to provide sufficient quantities of food, we partnered with other local church groups and organizations to help with the weekly dinners. We secured a bigger dining room and kitchen within the Los Osos Community Center Building and became a significant partner of Los Osos Cares and now work under their umbrella.

In March 2020 the pandemic forced us either to shut down or find a new way to serve a hot meal. So we began providing our meals TO-GO in biodegradable 3 compartment cartons. For this meals-to-go concept to work we could no longer do these dinners pot-luck-style and asked the different groups that help to provide food on any given Thursday to create a menu for that week's dinner and provide enough portions for 100 dinners.

This works out well once a menu is decided on. The organization in charge cooks the main part of the meal to serve 100, then rallies 10 of their volunteer cooks to each provide an agreed upon side dish that will serve 20. We usually serve 2 side dishes along with the main part of the meal. The selection and variety of foods prepared by the different groups is noteworthy and our guests look forward to and graciously accept what is on that day's menu.

What's offered for dinner always includes a complete vegetarian meal as well as a meal with meat.

Our St. Benedict's volunteers are exceptional cooks, are devoted, and have always made us proud. St. Ben's also now makes up the core group working in the kitchen each Thursday. That core group makes sure things run smoothly, and that the amount of food is plentiful and sufficient to package 100 meals.

We had a core group then and we have a core group now. The difference was that we eventually were joined by other church groups

Currently all meals are packaged and given out by 5:30.

The kitchen has been staffed for the past 10 months by Maureen Titus and Barbara Schippers who were asked in the early beginnings, "would they help out until things got settled and things ran smoothly?" Not only did the two from St.Ben's get things settled and have always made sure there is an atmosphere of ease and consistency in the kitchen, but they have remained and become the core of that kitchen and have both made themselves available each and every Thursday.

Along with St Benedict's Church the other L.O. organizations that contribute to our effort to provide Community Dinners are: Trinity Methodist Church (TMC), Latter Day Saints (LDS), Maharlika, People Helping People (PHP), and Rotary.

The Community Dinners Program, which began in 2019 as a small group eating together on Thursdays, has this past year in 2020 served over 3,922 dinners.

Amen!

Statistics provided by Andrea Brown who is our Cheerleader, Provisions Provider, Rock of Ages and All Around Great Britt!

Report prepared by Barbara Schippers 1-16-2021

Finance Committee

The reconstituted Finance Committee consists of the rector, the treasurer, and Parish Council members/ parishioners who express an interest in the stewardship of church finances.

Tasks of the committee include:

- Building an annual budget
- Oversight of income and expenses over the course of the year
- Make recommendations to the Parish Council regarding allocating, diverting, or supplementing budget - line items
- Oversight of endowment funds
- Ensure that an annual audit is conducted in March for the previous year. Invites interested parishioners to participate.

Current members of the finance committee include Caro Hall, Lisa Gonzalez, Tamara Cox, Stephen Cake, chair, Jane Wu.

2019 Financial Audit

The 2019 Annual Financial Audit for St. Benedict's Episcopal Church was conducted in November 2020 by parish members Jane Wu, Susan Stamets, and Jim Malone. The following comments and recommendations are offered;

- 1.** The audit committee noted that while some progress has been made on some of the recommendations made in the audit of the 2018 financial records, there is much that needs to be done.
 - a.** The Laundry Love program is running smoothly. Protocols for reporting the monthly activity have been established and are being followed. A separate bank account is in place. All monetary donations to the program go through the church's operating account. In-kind donations (food, supplies, etc.) are noted in the monthly report provided by Laundry Love volunteers. This program provides a much-needed service to the community.
 - b.** The Treasurer remains the only person knowledgeable of the church's finances. This must be resolved ASAP. See the recommendations offered below.
 - c.** The Rector's Discretionary Fund should receive formal reviews by the Parish Council. See the recommendations offered below.

- d.** The church's process for establishing an annual budget should be formalized and include representatives from the Abundance Shop, Laundry Love, Music program, facilities, and outreach.
 - e.** The Abundance Shop procedures must be formalized. See the recommendations offered below.
- 2.** A detailed handbook of instructions for the Treasurer, assistant Treasurer, and the tellers should be developed to document all procedures. This should include budgeting, payroll, income, expenses, and use of restricted and endowment funds.
- 3.** If an assistant Treasurer cannot be found, then consideration should be given to hiring an accounting firm or bookkeeper to serve as backup for the Treasurer. Consideration should also be given to having the accounting firm or bookkeeper take over the primary responsibility for the church's bookkeeping, under the supervision of our Treasurer.
- 4.** The church's Quickbooks files in the Treasurer's business office and at the church are not synchronized electronically. The Treasurer uses a thumb drive to periodically transport financial updates to the church's computer. Until such time as remote access can be established, the Treasurer should update the church's files at least monthly.
- 5.** All the church's historical financial records should be stored at the church. Only the current month should be maintained at the Treasurer's office. Record retention procedures should be established.
- 6.** The disbursements from the Rector's Discretionary Fund are not being reviewed. The Rector and Parish Council should determine and document the level of detail needed to review the RDF and the Rector should provide an annual report to the Parish Council. As a minimum, a separate review of the RDF should be done annually by a designated member of the Parish council. This would be in addition to the monthly review done by the Treasurer.
- 7.** Now that a new Abundance Shop manager is in place, an audit of the procedures and records should be conducted. An audit should then be conducted annually. The previous manager's name should be removed from the bank account and all checks pre-signed by that manager destroyed. New procedures should be established as needed, and all procedures documented in a handbook. All volunteers should be trained on these procedures. The cash register should be re-keyed and distribution of the new key limited and documented.
- 8.** The recommendations offered in this audit should be completed by 31 Mar 2021. The audit of the church's 2020 finances should be completed not later than 31 Mar 2021.

Jane Wu, Susan Stamets, Jim Malon

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A Stewardship Team was formed by the Parish Council in the fall of 2020 to form and implement plans for ongoing stewardship at St. Benedict's. Team members include Stef Shuman, chair; Steve Cake; Cathy Gildea; Michael Lucas; and the Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, Rector.

The Stewardship Team is charged to educate the people of St. Benedict's about all aspects of stewardship with an emphasis on financial stewardship. It is to work closely with the Rector and the Endowment Fund committee, and is responsible to the Parish Council

Its activities include:

- Reviewing the current stewardship plan, updating as necessary.
- Providing leadership to execute the stewardship plan, to include:
 - Stewardship education, including transparency as to how the church is annually funded, and income from sponsored ministries like the Abundance Shop;
 - Planning and assisting with the annual pledge drive and as required with concern for special situations;
 - Education about the Endowment Fund and planned giving opportunities;
 - Encouraging planned giving, working with individuals as needed.

Stewardship is not about money, it is a life-giving way we respond to God's call to interact with the world, both as individual believers and as communities of faith. Our participation in and commitment to our community of faith – in the form of pledging, serving on the vestry, or being a service minister or outreach volunteer – is all stewardship. Even the ways we function outside our community of faith are matters of stewardship.

Our Stewardship Statement:

Grateful for God's abundant blessing, and mindful that we are called in turn to be a blessing to others, St. Benedict's seeks to cultivate a culture of appreciation and gratitude for all of God's gifts, our call to stewardship, care and justice for our environment and to hold all in our community within a spirituality of generosity. All members are encouraged to live as conscious stewards of all of God's creation and gifts, imitating Jesus' example of practical spirituality and response to the injustices and needs of the world.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

The Membership Committee, comprised of Ann Lucas (chair), Pat Henry, Diana Hammerlund, Sandy Garvanian, and Barbara Schippers, found itself in an awkward position thanks to the totally new territory of pandemic. How to attract and welcome new members? How to sustain existing membership? How to do anything when we were unable, and still are unable at the beginning of 2021, to meet in person? How to stay in touch with members that do not have good computer skills or are sick of using them? The cloister groups, which have proven to be excellent means at maintaining contact, were already addressing many of these issues. The Vestry and pastoral leadership implemented the valuable position of Facebook greeter/ welcomer for our worship services.

Membership wrestled with what else to do. We discussed changing or increasing signage on the property, although signs giving information about our new way of worship and contact were already in place, and of course church finances were tight enough that we needed to be extremely cautious about additional expenditures. We were at last able to contribute something concrete when the Star Party was scheduled for January 3, 2021. The event, as conceived by Caro and the Parish Council, was at its core to be a drive-by with each attendee receiving a cupcake and Star Word for the year. Membership committee members contacted their own cloister groups encouraging attendance, and then all were on hand to help with setup, distribute the cupcakes for attendees and assist with cleanup after the party, which had as many attendees as the in-person event of years past. Barbara Schippers baked cupcakes and devised their lovely presentation in individual boxes with tissue paper, gold streamers, and the greeting of the three kings, 20+K+M+B+21. Diana Hammerlund made the loveliest queen on a camel ever seen (thanks to Maureen Titus for the camel costume), and Sandy Garvanian's delightful little grandson Asher was designated one of the three Kings to make the journey to the creche, followed by partygoers. All pandemic protocols were successfully observed every step of the way, and the party was a much-welcomed opportunity for us to have fellowship and observe a cherished ritual.

Our work will be easier and much more obvious when we return to a greater degree of normalcy, but in the meantime we actively solicit your prayers and suggestions for how we can serve our church and our Lord.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Lucas

Canterbury Campus Ministry 2020

Canterbury Campus Ministry began the year with Berkeley Johnson in his thirteenth year in the ministry. We welcomed students back with *12th Night Lessons & Carols* on January 5. Though sparsely attended, parents of a Cal Poly student attended and expressed their gratitude. Arthur White, Director of Jazz Studies at Cal Poly teamed up with Organist Clare Olson to provide the music.

The majority of events we had planned to host or participate in had to be canceled due to COVID, including the annual Chili Cook-Off, a significant fundraiser for this ministry. Other events that were canceled were participation in Genocide Remembrance Day and Cal Poly Open House.

The Diocesan Curator for Emerging Communities, Kelsey Davis, led us in an Agape workshop. It was one of the first Zoom events of the shelter-at-home period.

Canterbury continues to be part of the Interfaith Campus Council (ICC) at Cal Poly and our student, Caroline Roberts, attended and participated in those meetings, as has Board Member Paul Shires from St Barnabas' and Fr Ian.

Berkeley attended the online Young Adult & Campus Ministry (YACM) retreat, Oasis, in June, where he gathered with other campus ministers from around the country.

The most successful, ongoing ministry for 2020 was Believing Out Loud!, a Queer & Feminist Theology Group. This group met weekly online and became an intimate space where we could stay connected, support one another in the early and unfamiliar days of the pandemic, and engage in deeper conversations with each other. For our grand finale, we were able to invite the Rev. Dr. Patrick Cheng, author of our primary text, *Radical Love: An Introduction to Queer Theology*, to join us online! This would likely never have occurred had we not been forced to meet online due to the pandemic. It is yet another example of how, even with all the things we lost or were not able to do because of COVID, new opportunities for doing ministry revealed themselves and enriched our program.

In June, Berkeley officiated at the Celebration of Life Service for former Shireling Sydney Rudy at Avila Beach. After the service on the beach, a paddle-out was organized by Van Currazza to scatter Sydney's ashes. The video of this service can be viewed on the Shire at Canterbury Facebook page.

The end of July marked the end of Berkeley's ministry, which had been announced in 2019.

The Canterbury Board interviewed two candidates and called The Rev Kacei Conyers (they/them/theirs) as Interim Chaplain for a year with the specific remit to exercise the ministry remotely, focusing on Cal Poly, but keeping open the potential to offer ministry at Cuesta College. When Kacei started in August, both Cal Poly and Cuesta had not settled on to what degree in-person teaching and learning would be. The decision to hire them to do distance ministry proved the right move.

In exercising the ministry, Kacei contacted students who had previously been a part of the ministry. They exercise the ministry through emails, weekly check-in over Zoom, pastoral care over Zoom, online meditation sessions, social media and online social events.

Both Berkeley and Kacei have preached during shelter-at-home.

As of December 2020, Kacei is on vacation then extended leave. The Canterbury Board is strategizing what the ministry will look like for the rest of the academic year.

Submitted by the Rev. Ian Delinger