

# **Celebration of Mission and Ministry in 2023**

**ST. GABRIEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Douglassville, Pennsylvania**

Diocese of Bethlehem

*“Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus”*

Prepared for Annual Parish Meeting January 28, 2024

# CONTENTS

	Meeting Agenda
Page 1	Minutes of Annual Meeting 2023
Page 4	Rector's Report
Page 5	Deacon's Report
Page 7	Senior Warden's Report
Page 9	Junior Warden's Report
Page 10	Organist/Choir Director's Report
Page 11	Children's Ministry Report
Page 12	Youth Ministry Report
Page 13	Outreach Ministry Report
Page 15	Fundraising Ministry Report
Page 16	Altar Guild Report
Page 17	Daughters of the King Report
Page 19	Treasurer's Report
Page 22	Hopewell Love Report
Page 23	Good Shepherd Learning Center Report
Page 24	Good Shepherd Learning Center Budget
Page 26	2023 Statistics

## Annual Parish Meeting Agenda January 28, 2024

- Open Meeting
- Elect recording secretary
- Approve minutes of previous meeting
- Vestry Elections:
  - Claudia Mumau and Lee Baker to renew their terms, class of 2026  
George Gajewski Vestry member – class of 2026
  - Church Officers to be elected by Vestry following this meeting:
    - Jo Rivera as Senior Warden
    - Larry Hilovsky as Junior Warden
    - Claudia Mumau as Clerk of the Vestry
    - Bill Strickland as Treasurer
- Recognize outgoing Vestry members:  
Winkie Reed
- Elect Diocesan Convention delegates:  
Jo Rivera, Larry Hilovsky  
Alternate: Claudia Mumau
- Rector's Address
- Senior Warden Report
- Junior Warden/Property Committee Report
- Good Shepherd Learning Center
- Hopewell Love
- Treasurer's Report
- Other Reports
- Closing Prayer
- Adjourn

# **SAINT GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Doulassville, Pennsylvania  
Diocese of Bethlehem

## **THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

January 29, 2023

The Rev. Andrew VanBuren, Rector, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM and offered a prayer. The meeting was held in-person in the church sanctuary, with a Zoom option offered for those who could not be physically present.

Leila Hollabaugh was elected to serve as Recording Secretary for the Meeting.

**MINUTES** - After a motion by Carly Greenwald, seconded by Lee Baker, the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, contained in the written report, were approved.

**ELECTION OF VESTRY** – Reverend VanBuren, on behalf of the Vestry, nominated three Vestry members: Jo Rivera, Kathleen Strickland, Ed McCorkle, all class of 2026. It was also announced that Carole Chafin would serve as treasurer. Carol Heist made a motion. Lee Baker seconded.

There being no other nominations from the floor, the candidates were elected by acclamation. Andrew then announced the officers to be appointed by Vestry: Jo Rivera as Senior Warden, and Kathleen Strickland and Ed McCorkle as Vestry members.

Reverend VanBuren recognized the following outgoing Vestry members and thanked them for their service: Suzanne Siebert, Carly Greenwald, Danielle Troncelliti, and treasurer Eric Miller.

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES** – The following individuals were nominated by Reverend VanBuren to serve as delegates for the Diocesan Convention, held in October each year: Larry Hilovsky and Jo Rivera, with Dessa (Winkie) Reed as an alternate. Stephen Rowe moved and Claudia Mumau seconded. There being no other nominations from the floor the delegates were elected by acclamation.

**RECTOR'S ADDRESS** – Reverend VanBuren shared a few thoughts when recalling the state of the church throughout 2022. In mentioning *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Reverend VanBuren talking about the smooth operation of the church prior to COVID and the stopping of all services and activities during COVID. Though the pandemic negatively

altered the ability to host activities and the overall attendance, Reverend VanBuren expressed the church has continued to steadily get back to normal, getting the wind back in its sails. Currently, attendance is at 85% of the usual amount. Reverend VanBuren went on to suggest a potential offering option for parishioners. Members who donate to the church could consider specifying their offering to go toward the church's Endowment Fund. Reverend VanBuren briefly spoke of the rise in inflation's impact on the church as the cost of utilities (and other operations) continue to rise. Reverend VanBuren also offered a suggestion: To continue fostering a sense of community at St. Gabriel's, everyone is invited to take a few minutes at the end of each service to chat with the people around them. Reverend VanBuren ended by thanking the congregation for building up St. Gabriel's.

**OUTGOING SENIOR WARDEN** – Danielle Troncelliti was not able to attend. Refer to written report.

**JUNIOR WARDEN/PROPERTY COMMITTEE** – Larry Hilovsky reviewed the following upcoming and necessary projects:

1. The sycamore tree next to the chapel has internal rotting and needs to be taken down.
2. Painting the exterior of the window trim of sanctuary.
3. Rebuilding the stone wall near the Chapel, which recently collapsed.
4. Fixing an ongoing water leak in the toddler room area in the GSLC.

Larry Hilovsky stated his appreciation for the help given to him from other members who had fixed various things and helped in various ways.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER** – The current Director, Pat Owsiany, reiterated a few key points from her report. She stated feeling very privileged to have worked for over 22 years, and her retirement is approaching this June. A restatement was given of the overall mission of the GSLC; in which children learn both spiritually and emotionally. Pat Owsiany went on to thank leaders of the church and the congregation that had continued to help the GSLC run throughout the pandemic, as it kept the overall attendance stable. Lastly, Pat Owsiany stated Kelly Rothermel will become the new full-time Director upon her retirement, and mentioned her enthusiasm for Kelly's qualifications.

**HOPEWELL LOVE** – Russ McClellan was not able to attend. Refer to written report. Reverend VanBuren briefly went over the services Hopewell Love provides, how their mission helps the local community, and the volunteer opportunities.

**OUTGOING TREASURER** - Eric Miller thanked the congregation for all the support throughout his years as treasurer. He went over a few key points from his written report.

1. The church mortgage is locked into the current rate, with 9 years left.
2. The church sold the river tract area of land, 4 acres, for which the church received \$5,000, and will no longer have to pay taxes for.
3. For 2023 overall – Finances are lower due to fewer overall pledges. Currently, there is a gap between utility costs and income coming in.
4. The option for the congregation to donating stock options. Anyone interested should see someone from the finance ministry.
5. The Endowment Fund and the Krause Trust were mentioned, which the church draws 6% from each year. In dire situations (as in 2023), extra money was drawn from these funds. Therefore, Eric Miller reiterated Reverend VanBuren’s donation suggestion; in which members could specify offerings to go toward the Endowment Fund in particular, by placing that in the memo section of personal checks or on the offering envelopes.

Reverend VanBuren closed with a prayer from the prayer book, “Prayers for the World.”

There being no further business, Sally Heist moved to close the meeting, and following a second by Katie Strickland, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Hollabaugh,  
Recording Secretary

## Rector's Report: Growing Together

Dear friends,

The more time I spend in ministry, the more convinced I become that community is essential for growth. All of us need time in solitude (and as an introvert, I am the first to admit that solitude is a gift). But we can't stay in solitude all the time; when we are with others, that is the time that we are nourished, challenged, and encouraged, and that is the time that we grow.

Over the past year, there have been lots of moments of **growth** to celebrate at St. Gabriel's, all of which happened in **community**.

- Eleven people of various ages were baptized into the Christian family, marking a moment of growth in their faith journey
- Seven of our youth were Confirmed, becoming adults in our faith community
- Four adults were Received into the Episcopal Church from other traditions
- Four other adults Reaffirmed their baptismal vows after taking our Inquirers' Class
- Seven of our youth grew in their faith as they went on pilgrimage to sacred sites in eastern Canada over the summer
- We have grown to form new partnerships with community organizations – CommunityAid to donate goods, the VFW to donate new items to homeless veterans, and the Amity Heritage Society to host a day of history
- Two new groups have been formed through the hard work of several individuals – Education for Ministry (an opportunity to grow in knowledge of the Bible and the church) and our Fundraising Ministry (to help St. Gabriel's to grow financially)
- With the help of a grant from the Diocese of Bethlehem, we installed a new camera and upgraded our sound system to improve our digital presence and welcome people to worship who can't physically attend
- And finally, we have grown financially thanks to your generosity, and we continue to grow in attendance and members.



I look forward to growing together with you all in 2024 and beyond!

In Christ's love,

Andrew

## Deacon's Report

Thank you. That is the first prayer. Thank you, God, for life. Thank you, God, for food. Thank you, God, for the roof over our heads. Thank you, God for neighbors and a wonderful year (plus a month, and minus a few months) at marvelous St. Gabriel's church in Douglasville, Pennsylvania.

I have loved worshiping, teaching, preaching, and getting to know all of you at the three very different services at St. Gabriel's. I have learned that you all choose the services you attend because of your personal habits (wake up early! – or NOT!) and your music preferences (or not!). The youth of the parish are important to you, and you SHOW UP for them! You also show up for fund raisers, gift giving, and somewhat for alternative services.

I will address a few highlights and observations of this past year. I will also mention a few areas that could use some improvement, and my hope for a 'groundswell.'

First of all, thank you for supporting the All Kid's Bike program. The \$6,000.00 we raised through contributions made possible for 12 bikes to be available with a curriculum at our Learning Center, and after school program, as well as a donation of 6 bikes to St. Luke's Lutheran church nearby. I hope we have more to celebrate when we see these bikes in action this spring. I also hope the new skills of the children will contribute to their healthy development, to build their 'core', increase their confidence, and support their sense of adventure. Soon we can plan biking trips and picnics with all ages. The increase of time on 'screens' (fast moving visual stimuli), unfortunately, indicates that children who spend excessive time on computers demonstrate an underdevelopment of their brain cortex. Thank you for caring for our children and this pro-active program.

A main 'highlight' of the educational aspect of St. Gabriels was that I attended, learned, watched, enjoyed, and shared a little with the Youth confirmation classes which Fr. Andrew taught with aplomb. Our youth are wonderful, and they want to stay involved. What more can we ask? Attending the 'pilgrimage luncheon' let us all know how the blessings of and for the youth goes both ways! I so look forward to their participation in services by being acolytes, singing in the choir, and by helping in the development and running of the upcoming Rise and Shine service between the 8AM and 10:30 services! There is a 3-page document for the new and upcoming Rise and Shine Service designed for families with young children (age 0-6+) to be shared during this annual meeting. Please be curious, and ask questions. We will have fun and be inspired. The sanctuary will be set up at the Annual Meeting for a visual to whet your appetite and encourage you to attend, invite and spread the word. Grandparents, parents, and babysitters! Visitors, curious. Come one; come all.

Our office administrator, Lee, and I try to do Centering Prayer at 9AM in the library on Tuesdays; please join us! Also consider inviting a friend to Alternative Services. This year we had a Healing service with a Celtic theme in the chapel this fall, a Blue Christmas service in Advent, as well as good ole Yuletide music (Ken Gehret and Alan Chelius) for the Greening of the Church. We introduced some cookies for fellowship during the end of



the services. We have added personal prayer requests during the Prayers of the People. The requests have been few but mighty!

We need LECTORS, GREETERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, AND USHERS! If you feel hesitant, please know that we can start you out with a smaller role, and/or a partner to share the responsibility. We have a joyful time at the altar and would love more participants. Do not think just because you see someone reading, ushering, etc. that we do not need you! We do!

Please keep your eyes open to welcome newcomers, and chat with them. With all our baptisms, we have folks coming and deciding about attending our community for worship. Visiting a new church can be daunting. Please welcome them warmly, like you welcomed me.

Blessings and Hope,

*Deacon Midge*

2023 has been an exciting year for me as I began serving my 3-year term as Senior Warden. We have quite a list of achievements.

Vestry continued to meet monthly. The agenda includes a Gospel reading with discussion, a business portion of the meeting which includes new business, old business, ministry reports, as well as reports from the Rector, Junior Warden, and Treasurer. The meeting concludes with Eucharist. We vote on items, engage in discussions where we agree and sometimes respectfully disagree, but always keep our parish family's best interest at heart.

Winkie Reed will be leaving us this year as her 3-year term has come to an end. I thank Winkie for her time and devotion to St. Gabriel's, as well as all the current vestry members. We welcomed Carole Chafin as our treasurer, and due to personal reasons Carole needed to step down and Bill Strickland agreed to take over the role of Treasurer. And we thank Eric Miller for staying on as an advisor to the treasurer for this especially vital role in the church.

In March, the Vestry had their 'Workshop/Retreat' which reviewed the roles of Vestries and Rectors. We also discussed organizational, congregational, and Faith development. Also in March, The Daughters of the King hosted a 'Lenten Quiet Day'

'Breakfast with the Easter Bunny' and the 'Easter Egg Hunt' were held in April. The 'Ministry Recognition Program' was also initiated in April of this year. Each month a Vestry member recognizes one of our Ministries and the volunteers that serve in them.

In May, the Diocese of Bethlehem held the *Gather 23: Piece by Piece, Putting the Puzzle Together* Event in Lake Harmony. This was a Leadership Conference Andrew and I attended that addressed several topics including 'Mutual Ministry, Baptism, and Evangelism.' In addition, in May we offered a 'Memorial Day Service' honoring our veterans by placing a flower on the graves of the veterans in our St. Gabriel's Cemetery.

In the spring, we initiated the 'Fund-raising Ministry,' which not only raised funds to help our financial stability but enabled us to serve those in need in our surrounding communities. Our biggest fund-raiser is the 'Bingo Events' coordinated by Flo Mano.

This summer we sent our youth on a pilgrimage to Canada and in November we enjoyed a presentation of their trip along with a delicious lunch.

In September, St. Gabriel's hosted the 'Amity Historical Festival Event.'

EFM (Education for Ministry) classes started in October that consists of six members plus a facilitator.

In October, Andrew, Deacon Midge, Larry Hilovsky, and myself attended the Diocesan Convention. Among several topics discussed were the possible reunification with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and *Creation Cares*. We shared in fellowship and worship with congregations from all over the Diocese.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop Kevin visited St. Gabriel's, worshiped with us, and officiated a Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation ceremony.

The annual 'Breakfast with Santa' was held in December. Also, in December 'Pine Sprays' were placed at the graves of the Veterans in our cemetery.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Senior Warden. Thank you to all Vestry members and the congregation for your support this year. A special thanks to Andrew and Lee; they have made my transition to this role a pleasant one. I am looking forward to 2024!

I encourage you to read the Annual Report, weekly Messenger, and Bulletin announcements. In them, you will find valuable information and updates on all the exciting things and events we do here at St. Gabriel's. Wishing you all a Blessed, safe, and healthy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Rivera,  
Senior Warden

# Report of the Junior Warden

## Property Committee - 2023 Recap

### Committee members:

- Jim Elliott
- Mark Elliott
- Joan Hilovsky
- Larry Hilovsky
- George Mano
- Barry Parsons
- Bill Strickland
- Fr. Andrew Van Buren

### Projects completed:

1. General maintenance of buildings and grounds
2. Improvements to audio/visual equipment for live streaming of services
3. Painting of exterior church windows (brown trim)
4. Installation of Veterans Donation Box (Boy Scout Eagle Project)
5. Repair of partially collapsed stone wall between church and 1801 Chapel
6. Landscaping of flower beds, trimming of shrubs
7. Repair of stairway railing
8. 1801 Chapel
  - a. Removal of Sycamore Tree on 1801 Chapel grounds
  - b. Donation of two Windsor Chairs to chapel (handmade from sycamore tree wood by Jim Elliott)
  - c. Cleaning of debris from vacant lot east of cemetery (private donation from church member)
  - d. Landscaping and cleanup of exterior chapel grounds and periodic interior cleaning of chapel

### Major projects scheduled for 2024

1. Painting of Adams Hall – 2 walls with moisture damage
2. Painting of gutters and downspouts of main church
3. Installation of rain barrel (Girl Scout Silver Award project)
4. Security door for Good Shepard Learning Center
5. Roof leak repair at rectory
6. Roof inspection of Adams Hall

Submitted by,

Larry Hilovsky  
Junior Warden

## **Report of the Organist/Choir Director**

This year, choir was happy to welcome Paul Golrick, Aimee Miller, and Jay Miller as new members in the baritone and alto sections, respectively. We also hired Cheyenne Malfaro as a paid alto/soprano. Our previous paid baritone student, Aiden Clark, moved on to begin his education at Millersville University. While we miss him, we do wish him well on this, the next journey of his life. As always, anyone is more than welcome to join choir at any time, and need only speak to me about it.

We were also blessed to, throughout 2023, have various students of mine from Governor Mifflin provide special music on their stringed instruments. This is a practice I certainly plan to continue.

I am very excited to be starting a new effort wherein St. Gabriel's will do an annual concert series. In August of 2023, Julie Eurillo gave a beautiful voice recital at St. Gabriel's. In 2024, we hope to have further offerings from her vocal studio, as well as a piano recital from myself in July.

Lastly, I would like to thank the congregation and choir for their support and understanding during my bout of poor health over the Christmas season. It was gratifying to see everyone step up and make sure that the Christmas Eve services could go off without a hitch even without me there. Thank you!

Jake Leonowitz  
Organist/Music Director

# **Children's Ministry Report**

## **Introduction to St. Gabriel's Children's Ministry**

In the St. Gabriel's Children's Ministry, we fulfill St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church's mission to learn and do Jesus' work in a friendly, safe environment. Our goal is to encourage kids to begin their lifelong Christian journey through study, friendships, and service to our community. We have a lot of FUN!

Children's Sunday School currently fulfills an essential part of foundational education for families in our church. This education is an important part of presenting God's love to families in our church – both new and old.

## **Our Year**

Happy 2024! We had a fun 2023 in Sunday School! Miss Pat ran the program while Miss Katie was out on maternity leave.

We introduced the Godly Play curriculum and the children really seem to enjoy the hands-on portion of the Lessons. We also incorporate some life skills for the children, including learning how to bathe a baby, a pincer grasp, and the ability to recreate the Lesson they just learned. We also really enjoyed making all the Art for the special Christmas Service.

Our attendance has been pretty average with either 2 or 5 children so incorporating more children is always a goal.

Also, we are still in need of Adult Volunteers for 2 Sundays a month.

Miss Phoebe has been playing handbells with the children along with singing with them! The children really enjoy that!!

Looking forward to a great year!

Miss Katie Schiel

## Youth Ministry Report

The objective of St. Gabe's youth ministry is to encourage our teens to explore and experience "Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus" for them to grow into their individual calling as Christians.

Highlights of St. Gabriel's Youth Ministry in 2023:

- We started 2023 with two teachers and ended the year with one.
- Some members of the youth were able to have confirmation with the bishop in November.
- We were able to hold multiple fundraisers and events throughout the year - car washes, diner days, Buffalo chicken dip, babysitting night, and a dessert fundraiser.
- The youth pilgrimage to Canada happened in June - 7 youth members and 4 adults attended. (Most of the fundraisers from the past year plus went towards the pilgrimage).
- The end of the year the youth worked with the children's program for a presentation on the Sunday before Christmas. Afterward, they had a small party.
- Youth decided to test out a new curriculum for 2024 from Living Compass.

We are looking forward to what 2024 has in store for our Youth. This year we are looking from more adult leaders to get involved in the program.

We ask for your continued support of our youth program to help us grow and find more ways to Learn and Do the Work of Jesus.

Submitted by the Youth Ministry Team (Michelle Miller & Laurie Arms)

Parent Helpers (Michelle Miller, Tammy Miller, Danielle Troncelliti)

## Outreach Ministry Report

What a year 2023 was for the Outreach Ministry! With the generous support of our parishioners, we provided meals, clothing, *Life-saving* blood donations, Christmas gifts, and bikes. There are many ministries under the umbrella of Outreach.

The 'Can Ministry,' coordinated by Ellen Moore raised \$161.88 this year. The proceeds from selling the aluminum cans go to Hopewell Love. Russ McClellan, Director of Hopewell Love, uses the money to purchase gas and food cards and distributes them to people in need.

The 'Soup Ministry,' coordinated by Carol Young, provided 362 quarts of soup this year. The soup is transported to the 'Birdsboro Food Pantry' by Bill Strickland for distribution to those in the community who are in need and appreciate a warm meal.

St. Gabriel's provided two 'Community Dinners' in 2023 (May and November). This important ministry under the direction of Dianne Walker served approximately 360 participants.

The 'Holiday Food Gift Program,' coordinated by Carol Heist provides holidays meals for families in our surrounding communities. Monetary donations are collected from the congregation and \$100 gift cards are given to the Daniel Boone School District to distribute to families less fortunate so they can have a holiday meal, or an Amazon Gift Card is given to students in need. This program is held three times a year, for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. St. Gab's graciously gave \$3150 in 2023 to this Outreach Event.

The 'Hat/Mitten Tree,' always a success, provided outerwear for adults and children alike. The generous donations from our parishioners collected coats, scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves. The articles of clothing were distributed between the Daniel Boone School District to be given to the children who would benefit from a warm piece of clothing, and the 'Clothing Closet' located in the Birdsboro Nazarene Church.

The 'Salvation Army Tags,' one of our most popular programs, brought in a ton of gifts for those in our community. For adults and children, we had ninety tags, and all were taken within a short period of time. The back of the church was full of gifts! I am sure there were plenty of smiles on Christmas morning!

The 'Crop Walk,' held October 8<sup>th</sup>, raised over \$7000 (between all the local churches). Twenty-five percent of the funds raised in this walk go to the 'Ministerium Emergency Fund' and the 'Hopewell Love Food Pantry'. The remainder will be used by 'Church World Services' to fund domestic and international poverty and disaster relief.

The 'Blood Drive' held September 24, was a huge success! We had a total of twenty-nine donors and collected twenty-seven units of blood. Our goal was twenty!

The 'Veteran's Box,' a program sponsored by the Boy Scouts, collects clothing and toiletries for our Veteran's. Each week the bin is emptied for a generous amount of donations.



The 'Community Aid Donation Bin', located at the back of the church parking lot, collects clothing and other items. The donation bin benefits 'Hopewell Love' in that it receives spending vouchers which are distributed to members of our community to be used to purchase necessary items at the 'Community Aid Thrift Store' located in Reading.

The 'All Kids Bike Program' coordinated by the GSLC and Deacon Midge raised \$3800 from our St. Gabriel's family. This program supplied bikes, pedal kits, and helmets to help young children learn how to ride a bicycle.

Thank you all for your support, generosity, compassion, and kindness you give to this Ministry. Each one of you is a part of the 'Outreach' we provide here at St. Gabriel's to our community in need.

Blessings and Peace,

Jo Rivera

## Fundraising Ministry Report

One of the newest ministries initiated in 2023 was the *Fund-raising Ministry*. Our mission is to raise funds for St. Gabriel's that will not only assist in the financial stability of the church, but to give us the ability to help those in need in our surrounding communities less fortunate than us.

Several events were held this year that brought in a total of: \$15,447.50+. The annual 'Breakfast with the Easter Bunny' brought in a profit of \$1357. 'Breakfast with Santa' brought in approximately \$700. Thank you to Diana Caldwell for her assistance in helping with these events. And a shout out to Robin Reed and the kitchen crew for making the delicious breakfasts.

We offered two 'Bingo' Events (Spring and Fall) that together made a total of \$10,757.50. Thank you, Flo Mano, for coordinating these events, and thank you to all the volunteers and donors that made these events a huge success!

St. Gabriel's participated in the 'St. Marks Fall Festival Event' in September 2023. Plants, crafts, and candles were available for sale. The event brought in \$243. Thank you to Lee Hollabaugh for organizing this event.

The 'Amity Historical Festival Event' was held at St. Gabriel's this year. Our role was to provide food/drink for the attendees. We made \$660 in sales. Thank you to the team that made this possible. Jo, Flo and George Mano, Jeri Klein, Michelle Miller, Carole Chafin, and Stella Greenwald. And a special thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help sell the food/nourishments.

Crosses from the Sycamore Tree, crafted by Jim Elliott, gave a profit of \$371. Thank you to Dave Addison for suggesting the idea.

The 'Gift Card Program' coordinated by Carol Heist, brought in a profit of \$1359 in 2023. St. Gabriel's earns a 1-13% rebate on the value of each card purchased.

The 'Community Aid Bin' netted a profit of \$63 as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. St Gabriel's receives 11cents/lb. for donations received by our church family and community.

A **BIG** thank you to all that have given up their time and generosity to help make our events a success. The Fund-raising Ministry is fortunate to have such a dedicated, enthusiastic, and giving congregation. The profits help us help those in need in our community. We are looking forward to 2024!

All are welcome to join this important ministry; or if you have any ideas to raise funds, please reach out to one of the members and share your thoughts!

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Rivera

## Altar Guild Report

*Almighty God, grant we beseech thee, that we may handle holy things with Reverence, and perform our work with faithfulness and devotion that it may Rise with acceptance before thee and obtain thy blessing; through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

The Altar Guild is called to serve God by preparing and tending the places where his people worship Him. Their work is a thank offering of time and talents, a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ. Altar work goes on quietly behind the scene, usually unnoticed by the parishioners. The Altar Guild is the priest's partner in making the worship life of our parish run smooth.

Our thanks to all of the members who have given of their time and talents and have responded when called upon. The Altar Guild members are working behind the scenes to have everything ready for all of our services.

If you would like to join us in this rewarding ministry, we would welcome you. There is an Altar Guild Manual, which is frequently updated, that lists all that needs to be done for each service. Members work as a team for two months during the Sunday School year. At Christmas and Easter, special schedules are made to cover the extra services. In the summer months, each member does two weekends of their choice. We will train anyone who is interested in joining us.

We thank Barbara Hannevig for doing the linens faithfully for the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted:  
Marilyn Rittenhouse  
Stephen Rowe

**Members:** Carole Chafin, Judy Embriani, Florence Mano, Katherine Rowe, Stephen Rowe, Betty Webster, Linda Wray

**Saturday Night Altar Guild:** Lisa Bealer, Mary Mazzoni, Jo Rivera, Katie Strickland

**Linens:** Barbara Hannevig

**Polish Silver & Brass:** Carol Young

## Daughters of the King Report

The Order of the Daughters of the King ([www.doknational.org](http://www.doknational.org)) is a women's religious order, whose members commit to the "Rule of Life which includes a life-long pledge to daily prayer, service and evangelism for the spread of Christ's Kingdom and strengthening of the spiritual growth of the parish."

Meetings: St. Gabriel's Angelus Chapter of The Order meets most months (with the exception of July and December), usually on the last Wednesday of the month from at 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the church or on Zoom (for those who can't make it to the church.) We also have opportunities to participate in occasional Diocesan-wide and regional DOK events, including a Fall Assembly and presentation on creating a Rule of Life in Bethlehem in October. An officer of our Chapter attended monthly Zoom meetings of the Diocesan Board.

Prayer and Study: We completed reading and discussing [Dancing from the Inside Out: Grace-Filled Reflections on Getting Older](#), by Westina Matthews, and have begun studying a Spiritual Formation Guide published by the National Order. We open and close our meetings with prayer, and also create a confidential prayer list over which we each pray during the month.

Lenten Quiet Day – Each year the Chapter hosts a "Quiet Day" during Lent for all adults from the parish and beyond to take some time from the noise and business of life to learn, meditate and reflect. The theme of 2023's Day, held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, was "Learning How to Be, to See, and to Love: A Contemplative in Action" and was led by Janeen Adil, a local spiritual director.

Emergency Prayer List: The members of The Angelus Chapter serve as the Emergency Prayer Chain. Emergency Prayer requests may be made through our parish clergy or to our Prayer Chain Coordinator, Jo Rivera. See the blue prayer cards in our pews for Jo's contact info. It is our privilege to pray for those requests, as well as others as we receive them.

### 2024 Plans:

Saturday March 16, 2024 - Lenten Quiet Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM (soup and salad lunch included) This year's Day will be led by Kim Denyes, who lives in the Easton, PA area and holds a Masters of Arts in Theological Studies and two certificates in Spiritual Direction from Moravian Seminary. This event is open to men and women in the congregation and beyond. The day's theme is still to be determined.

The Province III Annual Retreat will be held April 12-14 at the Claggett Center in Maryland. The Diocesan Board is also looking into hosting a retreat in August.

I am thankful to the members of our Chapter who are able to attend meetings, and to those who can't attend but faithfully pray at home.

Women who are interested in learning more about our Chapter may contact any of the members listed below. If there's interest, we'll offer a series of Study sessions in preparation to enter the Order.

Respectfully Submitted, For His Sake,

Sally Heist, Chapter President

Members: *(In 2023 we welcomed Clair and Edie Hammond, and Deacon Midge who transferred from other Chapters!)*

Trica Bonenberger, Carole Chafin, Clair Hammond, Edie Shean-Hammond, Sally Heist, Lisa Maynard, Pat Moody, Carolyn Nippert, Patricia Owsiany, Midge Pendergast, Marilyn Rittenhouse, Jo Rivera, Suzanne Siebert

Officers: President – Sally Heist Vice-President/Treasurer – Jo Rivera Secretary – Marilyn Rittenhouse

## Treasurer's Report

The Vestry and I are thankful to everyone that contributes Time, Talent, & Treasure to continue the ministries that are changing lives in our community.

### The Mortgage

The mortgage campaign fund is used to pay the monthly mortgage associated with the expanded and remodeled facilities at St. Gabriel's. We refinanced our mortgage in 2022 to a new 10 year term at an interest rate of 4.5%. The monthly mortgage payment is \$6,737.91. The rate and payment amount are locked until we pay off the mortgage in 2032.

Our mortgage balance as of November 30, 2023 was \$565041.42.

Our giving to the capital campaign averaged \$66548/month thru November 30, 2023.

We engage in a mortgage campaign every 3 years to continue to pay off this loan and will be kicking off our next campaign in March of this year. For those who have not participated in the past, please prayerfully consider a onetime or recurring gift to help support the mortgage payments.

***We continue to pay a monthly mortgage - your support and contributions to the mortgage campaign help St. Gabriel's fulfill ministries now – and for future generations.***

### The General Operating Budget

The general operating budget is used to pay all daily expenses associated with the ministries we support as we 'go in peace to love and serve the Lord!' These ministry expenses include the salaries and associated health/pension/professional benefits of the clergy and lay staff. Also, all utilities, taxes, office supplies, cleaning services, lawn care, Communion bread & wine, music, rectory, and building maintenance costs are supported by the general operating budget. Our contributions to the general offering make it possible for St. Gabriel's to continue to make a difference in many lives in our community.

St. Gabriel's DOES NOT receive financial assistance from the Diocese. Our giving is the primary source of our ability to meet financial obligations.

There are other areas of income that include fundraisers, Krause trust and endowment fund income, contributions by outside organizations for the use of the facilities, and monthly contributions from the Learning Center (over \$38,000).

The Grocery card (Giant & Redner's) and the Gift card fundraising programs have raised over \$1,359.00 thru November 2023,

While every effort is made to keep expenses below budget, we are not immune to higher costs and other fees that are a direct result of maintaining our church and supporting our mission – Learning and Doing the Work of Jesus.

## 2023 RESULTS

- General offering was above our targeted estimate of giving amount however, we went into the year with a projected deficit of \$25,000.00 which resulted in needing to take an additional distribution from our endowment fund.
- GSLC made full payments in 2023 with an additional gift of \$5000.00 at the end of the year. Thank you to the GSLC leadership team!

## 2024 BUDGET

### Resources/Income

- Our estimate of giving pledges have increased by approximately \$25,000.00 from last year which essentially leaves us with a balanced budget for 2024 (assuming no unforeseen major failures a slight deficit). This is a significant increase (versus a \$10,000 decrease last year) and a tremendous symbol of generosity from our St. Gabriel's community. Thanks to all for their donations.
- Total resources/income is targeted at \$382,682.00.
  - St. Gabriel's can accept shares of stock or other assets. Please see a member of the finance ministry team if you are interested in this type of giving.
  - Contributions to the church can also meet required minimum distributions from IRA and other retirement accounts for those 72 or older, as tax exempt donations.

### Ministry Expenses

- The diocese must receive their funding – we are making every effort to continue paying them 'first' every week.
- All ministry expenses have been reviewed closely. Reductions in expenses are taken where possible. Some increases have also been required.
- Our expenses are estimated at \$384,827.60 a slight increase of \$6406.00 or less than 1.7% compared to 2023.

A detailed line item budget is available to review at all times on the bulletin board near the Church office.

### The St. Gabriel's Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was opened in 2014. Annual distributions from this fund help support our ministries. Distributions cannot exceed 5% in any year without special vote of the Vestry. Please see a member of the Finance Ministry team if you have any questions about the fund, or how to make contributions.

- The 2023 year-end balance in the account was \$189,001.61

Krause Trust

The Krause Trust was established in 1890. Income from this Trust supports our cemetery maintenance and other general operating expenses.

- The 2023 year-end balance of the Krause Trust was \$179,530.51

Thank you,

Bill Strickland  
Treasurer

Finance ministry team members:

Lee Baker, Winkie Reed, Eric Miller, Joan Hilovsky



## **Hopewell Love Report**

### **Hopewell Love Drive-through Food Pantry at St. Mark's Lutheran, Birdsboro**

Average number of families served each month: 150 An average of 10 volunteers serve per distribution date. (Second and fourth Tuesdays) *This fall we have seen our largest distribution months to date, serving over 415 in September, 402 in October, 374 in November, 401 in December*

### **The Community Table (Take-out dinners) at St. Mark's**

An average of 180 people served at each of the second and fourth Tuesday meals. 12 churches and community groups provide the meal. This is an increase from 150 people. *As of January 2024, the Community Meal has moved back indoors at St. Mark's Church, Birdsboro. The meal will be offered only once per month on the first Tuesday of the month. Food Pantry distribution will continue as a drive-through on the second and fourth Tuesdays as currently running. St. Gabriel's date is May 7 to provide the community meal.*

### **The Clothing Closet at Birdsboro Nazarene Church**

Originally formed with Hopewell Love and members from 4 different churches. Now co-ordinated by BNC. Average of 40 are served at each distribution.

### **Clearinghouse**

Average of 22 calls/referrals per month. All are referred to a local church, social service agency or ministry to meet need. This represents an average of 117 individual lives touched each month in response to request for assistance.

Christmas in Birdsboro was December 9. See note on Hopewell Love wrap-up page.

Volunteers from local churches serving Hopewell Love in all capacities (Board members, drivers, cooks, servers, pick up and delivery, pantry distribution, clothing sorting, etc.) average 60 per month for volunteers hours of more than 300 hours per month.

Russ McClellan, Executive Director

# Good Shepherd Learning Center Report

# Good Shepherd Learning Center Budget

Ordinary Income/Expense

Sep '22 - Aug '23

## Income

Registration

Activity fee

Tuition Charges

## Total Income

## Expense

Activities

Advertising

Art/Classroom Supplies

Audit/Research Fees

Bank Fees

Building Use

Capital Campaign

Class Pets

Cleaning Service

Cleaning Supplies

Total Cleaning Service

Educational Equipment

Employee Benefits

Health Plan

Life & Disability Insurance

Pension

Employee Benefits - Other

Total Employee Benefits

Insurance

Office Equipment

Lease/Supplies

Operations

Gloves

Paper Towels/Toilet Paper

Postage, Mailing Service

Supplies

Total Operations

Payroll Expenses

Repairs

Outside Maintenance

Total Repairs

Salaries

Snacks

**Taxes - Payroll Taxes**

**Telephone**

**Training - Staff Development**

**Total Expense**

**Net Ordinary Income**

**4% raise**

**5% tuition increase**

**\*\*\*Approximately 65 children enrolled**

**\*\*\*12 FT teachers, 2 PT teachers, 3 office staff**

# Statistics Officially Recorded in St. Gabriel's Records – 2023

Average Attendance: 105

## **BAPTIZED:**

Quinne Margaret McCorkle  
Raelynn Schrock  
Josiah Schrock  
Gavyn Russell McClellan  
Keegan Joseph Schiel  
Aubrey Ella-Rose Hammond  
Mason Michael Hammond  
Henry Charles Humphries  
Annabelle Elizabeth VanBuren  
Zoey Jane Semenetz  
Mason Allen Fritz  
Emmett Sawyer Armato (2022)

## **CONFIRMED:**

Nathan Bennett  
Sarah Bennett  
Nicholi Chafin  
Joshua Emery  
Hadley Miller  
Gabriel Wilson  
Gideon Wilson

## **RECEIVED:**

Linda Oeffinger  
Elizabeth Oeffinger  
Susan Hu Burdette  
Jacqui Stewart

## **REAFFIRMED:**

Lee Baker  
Betty Jo Rivera  
Katherine Rowe  
Stephen Rowe

## **TRANSFERRED IN:**

Stewart Morcom

## **TRANSFERRED OUT:** (none)

## **FUNERALS/MEMORIAL OR GRAVESIDE SERVICES:**

Harold J. Newell  
Marie K. DaCosta  
George Bob Mumau  
Mary Gorham