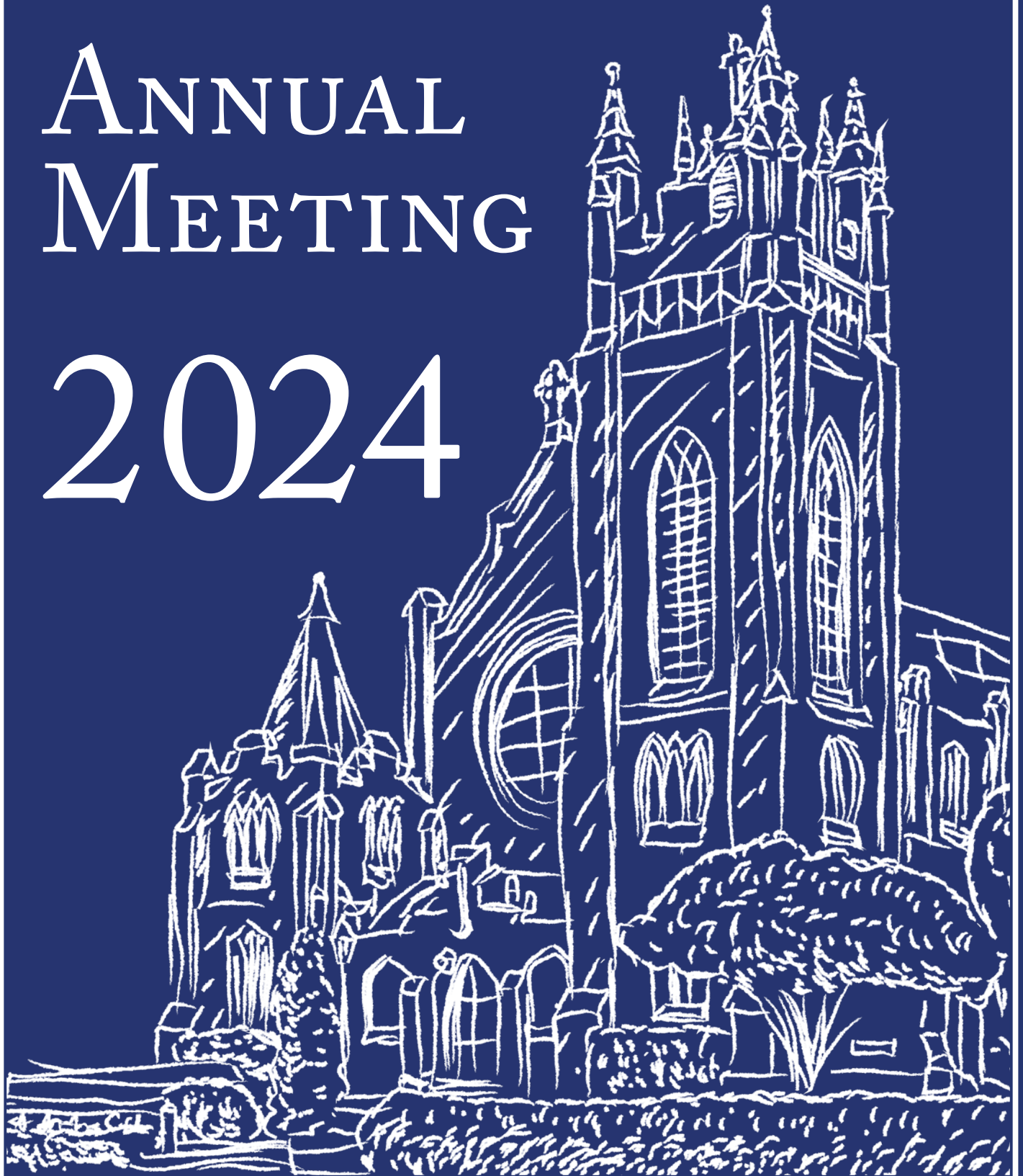


ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL
CATHEDRAL PARISH

ANNUAL
MEETING

2024



Agenda

Call to Order Robert Langford, Sr. Warden

Opening Prayer The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell, Dean

Reading of the Necrology. Margaret McLarty, Jr. Warden. 16

Minutes From Last Year’s Annual Meeting . . . Robert Langford 3

Instructions From the Elections Committee . . Margaret Cupples

First Ballot 7
Vestry and Warden Nominee information can be found within or online at standrews.ms/parish-report. Those voting by phone or online must cast their initial ballots by 10:00a.m. Subsequent ballots will be conducted throughout the meeting until each seat is filled by a majority of votes cast.

Treasurer’s Report. Justin Croft, Treasurer 13

Senior Warden’s Report Robert Langford 15

Junior Warden’s Report. Margaret McLarty. 17

Dean’s Address The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell . . 18

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members . . . The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell

Recognition of Outgoing Senior Warden. . . . The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell

Recognition of Outgoing Junior Warden. . . . Robert Langford

Election Results Margaret Cupples

Blessing and Dismissal. The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell

Adjourn Robert Langford



Additional Reports

Official Parish Acts 2023 6

Visioning Taskforce Report 20

Organist & Choirmaster's Report Jessica Nelson 22

Director of Parish Life & Newcomer Ministries' Report .. Gracey Belote 24

Director of Children & Youth Ministries' Report Kat Penton 25

Director of Communications' Report..... Wil Oakes 26

2023's Blessing of the Costumes was a big hit with the children of the Cathedral.

This one was accompanied by a Halloween Carnival in the Parish Hall complete with games, treats, and crafts that drew a large and lively crowd!



Minutes from 2023 meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Senior Warden Robert Langford called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Dean Anne Maxwell opened the meeting in prayer.

NECROLOGY

Junior Warden Garland Lyell offered a reading of the Necrology for 2022.

PRIOR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Robert Langford presented the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. Upon a motion from Bill Osborne and seconded by Bill Howard, the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Vestry provided the Nominating Committee with a list of possible candidates and other candidates were submitted by members of the parish. The committee met with Dean Anne Maxwell to review the list of candidates and approached them about their willingness to serve on the Vestry. The following slate of 6 candidates was presented to the congregation:

Ann Homer Cook, Mary Ann Fontaine, Sheryl Fox, Danielle Ireland, David Long, and Crystal Utley Secoy

One candidate for Junior Warden was then presented to the congregation: Margaret McLarty.

ELECTION COMMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS (MARGARET CUPPLES)

Margaret Cupples then gave a brief overview of the rules for the Vestry election. There are 4 Vestry positions open as well as the Junior Warden position. She then reminded everyone of the bylaw change (approved at the 2021 Annual Meeting) which separated the Senior and Junior Warden positions. She also reminded everyone that a communicant over 16 can vote. The ballot tellers then passed out the ballots to all in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT (JUSTIN CROFT)

The past year was a period of consistency and stability. Key financial activities during the year included:

- Expense savings due to 2 open employee positions
- Increased maintenance costs due to a variety of repairs, including heating, air and water heaters
- Increased utilities costs due to rising rates
- Several unplanned bequests and a \$50,000 gift from the Lucky Day Foundation, much of which has gone into the permanent endowment
- A net operating deficit of roughly \$11,000 against a budgeted deficit of \$6,000



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

The Treasurer presented the proposed 2023 Budget, which included:

- Pledges of \$1,081,000 which is effectively flat year over year
- No change to our Diocesan gift, which now represents 11% of our operating income
- Continued heightened Cathedral community giving to meet the urgent needs in the community
- A planned net surplus of \$300.

The Treasurer thanked the member of the Finance Committee who spent their time and effort in stewardship of the Cathedral's resources.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT (GARLAND LYELL)

Garland Lyell said it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as Junior Warden. The tradition at the Cathedral has been that the Junior Warden's primary responsibility is to see that the building and grounds are maintained.

2022 was a challenging year. We spent this year assessing the structure of the cathedral building and grounds. The most alarming issue was the state of the brick work. The Vestry approved retaining Belinda Stewart's architectural firm to assess the problem.

The next item we addressed was the lighting in the Nave. We are continuing to work to improve this issue.

Landscaping—not enough has been done to improve the grounds. We have had trouble finding a reliable landscaper. We are working on a plan to improve the grounds and better maintain them.

Garland then thanked the hard working people at the Cathedral.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT (ROBERT LANGFORD)

It's been an honor to serve as senior warden. I am honored to serve this place in this moment.

It's hard to believe how far we've come since early 2020. Just a few months before then we'd called Anne to be our dean...and then the world turned upside down. A special thanks to all who persevered and stuck with us against considerable odds to bring us to today.

Where are we today? We're always learning from yesterday to know where we are today to figure out how to head towards tomorrow. The beauty and holiness of our Episcopal tradition functions exactly that same way, building on the three-legged stool of scripture, tradition, and reason for our Cathedral. Evolution, growth, and change are constants.

We at St. Andrew's must continue with steadfast determination and courage to faithfully discern what's next for us—as individual parishioners, as a parish family, and for our larger community.

Late last summer, your Vestry commissioned a task force to explore a parish visioning and planning process. That task force agreed that framing the visioning process through our Baptismal Covenant was a logical and important first step.

I invite you all to journey with us in this study of our baptismal covenant to reflect on how we can better



understand what it means to “live into our baptism” and then begin to plan for what all of this means for the community and work of St. Andrew’s Cathedral.

DEAN’S ADDRESS (THE VERY REV. ANNE MAXWELL)

“At baptism we are incorporated into Christ’s body, infused with Christ’s character, and empowered to be Christ’s presence with the world.” --John Westerhoff

“Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.” ---BCP, p 306

Joyful obedience sounds like a wonderful way to approach ministry. This line from our baptismal liturgy reminds us first and foremost that joy is what God had in mind. When Jesus says to us; “I have spoken these things to you that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (Jn 15:11) it is to call us to delight in the Lord. Second it reminds us that there is an element of obedience inherent in service. We are, as Dr. Westerhoff writes, “infused with Christ’s character” for that service through our baptism, but I believe, it is our continual vigilance to our baptismal covenant, that teaches us, informs us, empowers us, for service. For this reason we are using the baptismal covenant as a grounding focus for our visioning discussions the next few weeks.

We care for one another. It has been hard to keep up with everyone as we were not seeing each other with regularity. Thanks to Holli Roach and a dedicated team of volunteers, we have created a new ministry of Lay Pastoral Ministers. Each week, two of them are “on call.” They visit, write notes, make phone calls, take Eucharist. They support all other pastoral care ministries. They are invaluable support for the clergy and our parish as a whole.

We are blessed with a talented and creative staff who have continued to maintain programming for all ages, and develop new ideas, despite a second year of having two open positions in programming staff. I hired a new Director of Children and Family Ministry who will begin working Sundays on February 5th. We did not have the volunteer turnout that we need, and there are still many and varied opportunities for engagement in all areas from liturgy to outreach to hospitality.

Thank you to our retiring leadership, especially Garland Lyell, Jr. Warden, Anne Dulske, clerk, and our 2023 Vestry Class, Kellye Montjoy, David Pharr, Steve Schafer, and Sallye Wilcox. Their commitment to service has made all the difference.

RECOGNITION OF JUNIOR WARDEN (ROBERT LANGFORD)

Robert Langford presented a resolution to Garland Lyell on behalf of the Vestry thanking him for his selfless service as Junior Warden.

ELECTION RESULTS (MARGARET CUPPLES)



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

Margaret Cupples reported on the results. Margaret McLarty was elected Junior Warden, and the following individuals were elected to the Vestry: Sheryl Fox, Danielle Ireland, David Long, and Crystal Utley Secoy. Dean Maxwell then commissioned the new Junior Warden as well as the 4 new Vestry members.

There being no further business, Dean Anne Maxwell closed the meeting in prayer and adjourned the meeting at 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Alice Browning
Interim Clerk of the Vestry

OFFICIAL PARISH ACTS 2023



Confirmation/Reception	5 Adult 2 Youth 0 Reaffirmed
Baptisms	7 Babies 0 Adult
Marriages.	2
Transfers in.	11
Transfers out (locally in the Jackson metro area)	15
Transfers out (out of town or out of state)	10
Lost by Death	10

Vestry Nominees

FOR SR. WARDEN

Margaret McLarty

Believing that our Cathedral is such an important place in so many ways, I wish to contribute to our vibrant, spiritual community that serves our parishioners, and our community.

Having worshiped here since 1973, I have been involved in all areas of, youth formation, young adult programs, pastoral support, and ministry areas for all phases of those ages and stages of life. Within parish leadership, I have been Senior and Junior Warden, on the Vestry twice, Finance Committee, and Co-Chaired a Capital Campaign.

I feel called to serve as Senior Warden at this time as our Cathedral continues to maneuver the challenges of our changing time.

Constantly I am inspired by the love and dedication shown by our parishioners to our Cathedral, its mission and our family. Looking forward to the upcoming year, we need to continue to grow and strengthen our presence. A comprehensive Visioning Statement has been prepared to help us discern direction as we move forward. As Junior Warden, this past year has led me to believe that we are poised to move forward to fulfill the opportunities that we are given. I would be humbled to be able to serve in this way.



FOR JR. WARDEN

Michelle Lewis

As an outgoing vestry member, I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve the Cathedral as Junior Warden. I feel called to servant leadership and being on the Vestry allowed me the opportunity to cultivate this servant leadership. Combining my vestry experience with my professional experience, I believe I am uniquely situated to be able to serve as Junior Warden, a position whose duties are steeped in Building and Grounds needs and administrative processes.

As I stated when I stood for Vestry in 2021, living in Christian community and leading through ser-



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

vice are significant imprints I carry from my religious upbringing. As an introvert, I find comfort in my actions/deeds being my expression of Episcopal evangelism. A bit about myself – I am married to Kevin Lewis and we have two children, Emma (21) and Sophie (18). I am a Registered Landscape Architect practicing as an owner/principal of my firm since 2002.

During my 26 years as a member of the Cathedral, I have served in many roles such as Vice President of the Rowan Outdoor Classroom Board of Directors and principal designer of the Rowan Outdoor Classroom, a Level 1 certified Catechist for Catechesis of the Good Sheppard, a Coordinator of the Guild of the Christ Child, and a landscape consultant to, and a member of, the Building and Grounds Committee. Other community involvement includes being a member of the Junior League of Jackson since 2008 and serving multiple years on the Junior League of Jackson's Board of Directors as Strategic Planning Director and Operations Vice President, and over 5 years on staff as the Director of Administration. I am actively involved with St. Andrew's Episcopal School and served in multiple leadership roles within the St. Andrew's Parents Association and Arts on the Green Committee.

The Cathedral is a living and vibrant community and I am thankful to be a part of this community as we live out our journey together.

FOR VESTRY

Marion Geissinger

When I moved to Jackson as a young woman just out of college, it was important for me to find a church to attend. My fiance and I came to St. Andrew's on an Easter Sunday. That was 38 years ago. I found not only a church but a true family. A living, loving and, always evolving family. This church family has been here for me and with me through my marriage, the birth of my children, job changes, divorce; the ups and downs of our lives. I only hope that I have given a fraction of what has been give to me. I continue to learn and grow into faith with every gathering of our family.

Background: As the child of an Air Force father, my family traveled a lot, settling in Biloxi, MS. I grew up in the Catholic Church, which we attended faithfully. At the age of 13, I found 2 passions that have helped shape my life; classical guitar and competitive swimming. I graduated with a Master's degree in guitar performance and began to teach at Hinds Junior College in a part-time position. I developed a thriving program that soon became more than full-tie. My next job was as a full-time Mom to my 2 children (now adults and on their own!) Post-divorce, I taught up to 80 guitar students a week and coached



swimmers of all ages. I taught at home as well as programs at First Presbyterian Day school, Casey Elementary, Brookhaven School of the Arts, and Madison Arts Center. I returned to school at the ripe age of 50 and earned an Associate's Degree as a Registered Nurse. I currently work for Methodist Rehabilitation Center on the Brain Injury floor. I also work on occasion for the local stagehand union, operating spotlight or other necessary jobs.

Teaching is a common thread in all my work. I have had the privilege to meet and teach/learn from people of all ages and walks of life. I feel this can be a plus for working as a Vestry Member as our church continues to evolve and grow.

St. Andrew's: Nursery Mom, Assistant for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, Member of the Cathedral and Parish Choirs, Musical offerings for congregation, Chalice Bearer, Lector, and Litanist.

Volunteer Work: Running Coach and fundraising for the Leukemia Team in Training and Junior League of Jackson member.

Mark Konradi

I am relatively new to the cathedral, having moved to Jackson from Dallas around Labor Day in 2022. I have attended church at St. Andrew's regularly when in Jackson, though I do spend a few weekends each year in Dallas, where I have been selling my home. I was drawn to Jackson to become the Executive Editor of the Clarion Ledger and Gannett's other Mississippi products. I previously served as Director of Operations for The Dallas Morning News, where I managed operations, labor relations and a \$26 million newsroom budget. I also supervised a team of around 70 journalists.

In these capacities, I have learned to manage people, financials and operations with efficiency and service in mind. I can apply those skills toward the Vestry.

I attended St. Michael's School in Dallas from kindergarten through 5th grade, where I was first exposed to all things Episcopal. That parish is also where I was confirmed and married. That school ultimately merged with the Episcopal School of Dallas (ESD), where my mother was a teacher. All three of my children attended ESD from Pre-K through high school graduation. At ESD, I served on many committees in many capacities and the athletic booster club board for three years. At St. Michael's, I did everything from mission trips to serving on Parish Committee for Vocations (PCOV) to aid the discernment process.

Outside of my Dallas parish, I volunteered for more than a decade at St. Philip's School and Community Center, serving on the Board of Director's for six years, the last two as an officer. St. Philip's was founded as an Episcopal school to serve a predominantly Black portion of economically challenged South Dallas. It is a beacon of hope in otherwise difficult circumstances, an institution for which I take great pride.

All three of my children attended Episcopal colleges in some capacity, my youngest attending Hobart in New York (the nation's oldest Episcopal college), my middle child attending Sewanee and my oldest



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

getting her Master's at Sewanee. My middle child now works at Sewanee in the admissions office. My oldest teaches at an Episcopal high school in Austin (coincidentally, also St. Andrew's). I successfully encouraged two of my nieces to attend Sewanee as well, so it has become a family school.

I also graduated from Sewanee in 1989, so the Episcopal journey has been a large part of the path for myself and my family.

While I am new to St. Andrew's, it is my hope to continue that journey here, to serve the parish and the city in ways I can. I believe there are fundamentally three ways in which people can help - to devote time, talent and treasure. Journalism does not offer the great pursuit of the latter, but I believe in using all three as I can.

Thanks for considering someone new to the parish who would like to serve.

Ashley Lacoste

One of my favorite sentences from the BCP is found in the Penitential Order II: "... have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen." "... delight in your will ..." "I find those to be profound words. I hope that standing for vestry is one way that I am living into God's will for me.

I want to stand to be a vestry member because I love our church community and would like to think I can be a voice that promotes both in-reach and outreach activities, giving of myself and my resources and skills, and helping members participate in ways in which they feel comfortable and are able. I am retired and can arrange my days so that I will be able to join in activities, participate in ministries, and attend meetings. Over my 30+ years at this wonderful church, I have been a part of several ministries, groups, and commissions. My hope is that I have been and continue to be a positive, contributing participant.

Delighting in God's will for us is certainly not always easy. But it is what we ask when we confess our sins, ask for forgiveness, and try to reconcile ourselves to God. My prayer is that we can each learn and be led to God's will for us.



Bobby Moore

Robert (Bobby) Moore, returned back to St. Andrews in 2022: I was baptized and confirmed at St. Andrews, and served as an acolyte and was an active EYC member. (Alabel Wiser was our group sponsor!) Upon graduation from Ole Miss, I left Mississippi for employment opportunities.

Today, I currently serve on four business boards of directors- two public companies, two private companies. My previous church was St. Stephen's



Episcopal Church, Belvedere, CA. and my church involvement there included co-chair of the annual stewardship campaign, Vestry member, Senior Warden.

I feel a deep commitment to St. Andrews, I have now returned, and as a new Vestry member I believe I can help support the growth and sustainability of our beautiful Cathedral. I am also grateful and honored that Dean Maxwell has asked me to co-chair the 2025 stewardship campaign with Holmes Adams.

Holli Roach

St. Andrew's has been my Church home since 1984. This parish has been the corner stone for my faith and spiritual growth over the past 40 plus years. The Church community has weathered many up and downs but has never wavered about our mission to love one another. Over the years I have been an EYC leader, taught Junior/Senior High Sunday School, Coordinated VBS for 2 years, volunteered for VBS, been part of the Parish Life Committee coordinating gatherings on Wednesday nights and Summer Sundays, served on a Discernment Committee, Co-chaired the events welcoming our newest Dean. I am currently a Chalice bearer, member of Parrish Life, and Co-chair the Pastoral Care Commission with our Dean. With my husband Dan, we have raised our four children at St. Andrew's. Both the Cathedral and the school have been an integral part of our lives. St. Andrew's has always been a place of safety, growth, challenge, comfort, welcome, acceptance, and home. It would be an honor to find another way to serve and give back in our Church family.



Chris Scott

My name is Chris Scott and I am a lifelong Episcopalian growing up at St. Andrew's Cathedral and, attending St. Andrew's Episcopal School from K-12. My wife Stephanie and I were married at the Cathedral and later moved to Madison. While living in Madison we attended the Chapel of the Cross for 30 years with our two children - Charlie and Elizabeth. In September 2022 Stephanie and I made the decision to move back to the Cathedral, seeking to return to what we consider our Church home.

My sense of calling to St. Andrew's is rooted in the desire to continue the work that my parents, Tom and Betty Scott, did during their time of leadership at the Cathedral. As well as that of my sister and brother in law, Sharon and Tom Rhoden. From both of them I learned the importance of the time and money necessary to properly support of both St. Andrew's church and school.

My professional life has centered around real estate finance and development. Additionally, I spent 38 years in military service as a member of the Mississippi Army National guard. Both careers, civilian



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

and military, have uniquely prepared me to lead and serve. Most importantly, I have extensive experience working as a member of a team in pursuit of a common goal.

My spiritual life expanded through the participation in the EFM program and later as the leader of the Honduras Medical Mission. Through the Medical Mission I gained experience in the workings of the diocese of Mississippi and the many congregations that make it up. On that mission I saw God's grace at work through the hearts and hands of people giving hope to the hopeless, spiritual food to the hungry, and care for the animals that sustain the lives of the villagers. Serving on the Cathedral vestry will, I'm sure, match the demands of the medical mission, and the rewards. I welcome the challenge.

Suzanne Wise

I had been praying about the best way I could serve St. Andrew's Cathedral. Then I received an unexpected call from a friend asking if I would be interested in serving on the Vestry. I gave this request thoughtful consideration and said yes. I felt that the request to serve was an opportunity and an answer to my prayers of a way to become more involved with St. Andrew's Cathedral.

I am an attorney. I have practiced in both the public sector and the private sector. I have been a special assistant attorney general representing the State Auditor and the Ethics Commission. I was also assigned to the Medicaid Fraud Unit. I have served as Chief of Staff of the MS Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and was appointed Interim Commissioner. I provided advice on a range of legal matters and governmental relations. During my tenure at IHL I participated in the drafting of the MS Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Fund (MP ACT) law which pays 100% of the public in-state undergraduate rates and locks in state tuition at the time of purchase. While with IHL I served as Legislative Liaison to the Congressional Delegation. I am currently engaged in governmental relations practice through my consulting firm. In addition to my consulting work, I also practice with my husband, Robert Wise.

I have served on the Jackson Yacht Club Board for 3 years and I am currently on the Jackson Yacht Club Foundation Board.

I have served as a Lector at St. Andrews. In the past I have been a member of Daughters of the King.



Treasurer's Report

2023 was a challenging year financially on several fronts. We ended the year with a net operating deficit of nearly \$85,000. This was due to several reasons, including:

- Lower than budgeted giving, including \$99,000 of open pledges from 2023 that can still be paid in 2024
- Earlier than budgeted hiring for the youth and children's position
- Higher maintenance costs for the facilities
- Inflation across the board for supplies and services
- Significant increases in utilities, up over \$20,000 from 2022
- Increased security costs

However, much progress was made in the administration of our finances and in the growth of the permanent endowment. Tom Williams, our long-time bookkeeper, has completely retired and we have hired our own Carey Yelverton to be the new bookkeeper. She is off to a fast start and is doing great work. We've moved to a digital expense approval and payment process which provides increased oversight and documentation of church expenses. And finally, the permanent endowment received two large, planned gifts exceeding \$500,000 in total. Presented for your review and approval is the 2024 Cathedral budget. Due to the financial challenges of 2023, several changes are being proposed in this budget, including:

- Slightly reduced diocesan giving, totaling 10% of prior year's revenues, which is the minimum requested by the diocese
- Reduced outreach giving from operating funds, with the difference to be made up from Vestry reserved funds
- Increased use of the Vestry maintenance fund to reduce operating expenses

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee who spend their time and effort in stewardship of the Cathedral's resources: Anne Maxwell, Robert Langford, Margaret McLarty, Matthew McLaughlin, Gene Wright, Lucien Smith, David Long, David Pharr, Jack Blackburn, and Paul Blake. If you have any questions or feedback on any of this information, please reach out to me any time. Thank you all for your generosity and kindness.

Regards,



Justin Croft
Treasurer

jbcroft@gmail.com
601-519-4445



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

Proposed Budget

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Revenue					
Pledges	\$ 1,189,686	\$ 1,075,664	\$ 1,076,850	\$ 967,840	\$ 1,011,746
Offerings	128,889	179,714	158,749	291,878	165,400
Endowment & Investments	74,585	125,993	135,313	112,506	221,400
Other	5,502	12,893	(1,788)	12,189	(3,500)
Total Revenue	1,398,662	1,394,264	1,369,125	1,384,412	1,395,046
Expenses					
Ministry commitments					
Episcopal ministry	156,195	162,158	159,996	177,128	138,000
Community ministry	47,410	60,000	58,100	63,027	65,000
Breakfast Club	17,638	20,138	20,371	17,010	17,000
	221,243	242,296	238,467	257,166	220,000
Parish Programs					
Formation	7,060	4,904	5,977	5,412	5,800
Continuing Ed/Conf.	3,232	2,642	12,075	6,577	8,300
Stewardship	1,451	1,390	3,029	1,201	2,000
Liturgical	3,851	2,800	5,763	1,584	3,500
Parish life/Other	4,892	17,674	32,585	32,984	29,450
Music	21,092	23,371	33,847	29,516	24,550
	41,578	52,781	93,276	77,273	73,600
Operating Expenses					
Clergy	265,246	228,523	197,528	181,800	168,719
Lay Staff	349,234	335,834	403,833	458,467	463,192
Personnel benefits	214,962	184,798	163,330	203,855	201,435
Office Services	25,435	30,179	27,666	35,984	33,500
Building and grounds	172,878	253,715	234,882	237,677	258,750
Communications & Misc.	32,290	37,280	21,286	17,363	14,500
	1,060,045	1,070,329	1,048,525	1,135,145	1,140,096
Total Operating Expenses	1,322,866	1,365,406	1,380,268	1,469,584	1,433,696
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 75,795	\$ 28,858	\$ (11,143)	\$ (85,172)	\$ (38,650)



Sr. Warden's Report

It has been an honor to serve as your senior warden for the past 17,520 hours—not that anyone's counting. Seriously, it's been a gift to me and my faith life to try to be of service to you and this place I love so much.

I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to work these past two years alongside Anne, Sarah, Katie, Jessica, Garland, Margaret, Justin, our Vestry, our amazing parish staff, and all of you, because it's all of you who make everything work here, whether you're volunteering countless hours in all the ministries here, supporting the parish financially, or joining us in body and spirit to worship together and to follow Christ's example of servant leadership. Thank you.

We've certainly come a distance since the world turned upside down with the arrival of the pandemic nearly four years ago. We figured out how to do church against all odds, and how to come out the other side with, for me at least, a deeper understanding of why this place and all of you matter to me, to each other, and to our community. Despite the short-term challenges we currently face of needing more funding and finding the right additional clergy to work with us, I see and feel a renewed dynamism and energy in this place that I haven't seen in years. That energy and dynamism is the result of what we all bring to St. Andrew's, and, of course, of what God gives us to take out into our parish family and the larger community. It seems to me that our Cathedral life is becoming more one of worship and ministry and less of merely social obligation—although we still like to have a large time—than at any other time I've seen over the past several decades. It's incredibly exciting!

A little more than a year ago, your Vestry created a task force to help us think about visioning for our future. As we began to emerge from the nadir of our pandemic life in Jackson, we were concerned about parishioner engagement, and it also seemed time to take the pulse of this place. So, in the fall of 2022, the Visioning Task Force—Dean Maxwell, Kelly Butler, Noel Didla, Wilson Montjoy, George Penick, Lucien Smith, and I—met to discern a process for this pulse-taking. Ultimately, we helped facilitate a series of meetings both in parishioners' homes and at the Cathedral to ask what brought people to the Cathedral, what kept them at the Cathedral, and what were their hopes and dreams for the future of this place? It was a fascinating, illuminating, and holy experience to listen to and learn about what's important to you.

What you told us was that you care deeply about this place; it's important to you and the larger community; you have a deep desire to grow in your faith journey; you're open to being more engaged in the life of the Cathedral in meaningful ways; and you look forward to being part of the post-pandemic life of St. Andrew's.

You further identified future hopes and dreams for our ministry that have created a vision for what this place should be like in 15 years when we celebrate our 200th anniversary of worship and service here in downtown Jackson. Your vision—which speaks to our culture, relationships, identity, and organizational infrastructure—is as aspirational and inspirational as it is broad and deep, and it contains many things we're already doing which you'll hear about from the Dean and in future Cathedral communications.

After the Visioning Task Force gathered and organized your hopes and dreams for this place, we shared it with the Vestry, solicited their feedback and guidance, and then sought to create a one-sentence statement that articulates the Cathedral's mission of how we want to live out our values and vision between now and our 200th birthday. That statement—Joyfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through grace-filled worship, radical hospitality, and incarnational faith—should be the touchstone for how we “do” church on this property, with



St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral

each other, in the community, and in the Diocese of Mississippi.

This mission statement contains the core elements of what you said was essential for you in how you want to live into your baptism and live out your individual and corporate lives through the Cathedral. Thank you for the gift and challenge of that vision and mission. For more details on the vision and the process, and to chew on its meaning for you and us, go to the Cathedral's website, look for future parish communications, and listen to the Dean's sermon shortly.

My deepest thanks to all of you for your kindness and courage, for your joyful play and serious focus on what's important, and, fundamentally, for walking together to help build God's kingdom the way it can be built—for us, for our community, and for the Diocese.

Faithfully yours,
Robert Langford
Sr. Warden

NECROLOGY 2023

Joseph Mark Surkin.	March 3
John Frierson Anderson, III	April 3
The Reverend John Stone Jenkins	April 17
Catherine "Kay" Frances Graves Patterson	April 29
Antoinette "Toni" Van Kriedt.	April 29
Colonel James Riley "Jim" Stanley	May 3
Henderson Strain Hall, Jr.	July 18
Dorothy "Dot" Hannah Kitchings	July 18
Jonathan Baird Smith	September 23
William Thaddeus McLaurin, III	December 27



Jr. Warden's Report

Serving this last year as Junior Warden has been a privilege. Our Cathedral is such an important place for us as members and as a statement of faith to our community. The Cathedral staff does such a wonderful job making this a warm and welcoming place. We are grateful for them.

As Junior Warden my primary focus is the Building and Grounds. This responsibility balances thoughtful planning for scheduled events and maintenance; and then responding to immediate concerns. For example, as I took office last year, the boiler failed and needed to be replaced immediately. While not unexpected, this was a \$30,000 expenditure on my first day on the job.

An important project was a major upgrade to the Nave Lighting. This has made a significant improvement aesthetically for our use of the Nave. Also, an additional upgrade to Nave Cameras for St. Julian's Chapel streaming occurred early in the year. A small desk which is a sound and camera control panel has been added to the back of the Nave. All these technological upgrades were made while not impairing the historic architecture of the building.

Now we are working on an upgrade to the Nave Sound system and increased reminder of the Nave's hearing loop for those with hearing aids.

A comprehensive study of outside landscaping is completed and Michelle Lewis is heading up the implementation. After the drought of last year and the current freeze, this will be continued soon. There is a major study of our trees, including the health of the very mature Bradford Pear in the Capers Courtyard. Also, the scope of the project includes, a review of drainage in the Columbarium, addresses erosion on edges of the front and side of the property, and reworking of all loose brick in the courtyard and the flower beds.

Unexpected repairs were caused by several roof leaks; between the front desk and the nave, in the upstairs Children's Sunday School rooms, and in the Bishops Library. Additionally, we were able to paint the downstairs West Street entrance.

To assure the best management of our larger utility expenditures, we performed an energy audit of the building to monitor the electric and gas consumption.

There has been an onsite Security and Medical Safety review and we have established a committee to carry on this work. Spence Fletcher is heading this effort.

We have added a second security guard for times the Cathedral is open for services and events while beginning a comprehensive training for ushers, greeters and vergers with the goal of maintaining a presence of radical hospitality.

Going forward we have comprised a list of items to spruce up the Cathedral and get it ready to welcome the new Bishop. This is an ambitious project and will require funding which we are making plans to attain.

There is an ongoing effort to ensure that this treasured old building continues to represent and fulfill all that we wish our church home to be.

Thank you,
Margaret McLarty
Jr Warden



Dean's Address

To Answer the Call

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation. That is our collect, our collective vision, this morning. Our scriptures tell us; "The Lord said to Jonah go to that great city and proclaim the message that I tell you." And "Jesus walked by Andrew and his brother mending fishing nets and said; 'Follow me and I'll teach you to fish for people.'" These are the assigned readings for this Sunday; I did not make this up. Today, as we do each year, we look back to celebrate where we have come and forward to begin working on our goals for the coming year. This year we also present a collective statement to hold that which we identified as our values.

With those stated values, I see us answering the call in the following ways:

Joyfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ on Sundays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and most days in between. The Feast of Lights service was one particularly joyous occasion of bell ringing, hymn singing, proclamation where we literally carried our light into the world and offered our prayers in the heart of the city. Leading worship each month at The Orchard and St. Catherine's, leading the Attorney General's prayer breakfast last fall, participating in the Episcopal Identity task force at St. Andrew's school are all opportunities to proclaim outside of these walls. Our vocational thanksgiving services for Health Care Workers, Teachers and Lawyers this year not only proclaims the gospel but also proclaims our thanksgiving for the vocational talents of our people. Our parish party, this year at the Pharr's house was a joyful opportunity to gather as was the parish picnic and the Stewardship Jazz Brunch. Never underestimate the gift of joyfully being together for the sake of joyfully being together.

We demonstrate **radical hospitality** when we invite visitors in our doors such as Sunday mornings for worship or just coffee, for the Tuesday Morning breakfast Club, for the Rotary Dinner by the Holy Smokers, and even the furry visitors during our Animal Blessing. We invited visitors in from the St. Patrick's Day parade festivities and some began coming on Sunday mornings as well. We looked at some hard truths during Lent with Jemar Tisby about who we have been, and are now, as we face racial reconciliation. We had a group of parishioners participate in the Capital City Pride Event to remind all people that the Episcopal Church welcomes all people. We recognize that our commitment to hospitality does not come without some risk, so we offered emergency training sessions, and CPR training, to all staff, greeters, and ushers. The Capitol Police chief also came to talk with the staff and deepen our understanding and relationship.

We are strengthened by our **grace-filled worship** knowing that grace is not like sweet-tea but more like tabasco sauce when God touches it and infuses it with the glorious power of the Spirit. Our weekly Eucharist, whether Thursday noon or Sunday morning, offers excellence in liturgy and a place to gather to hear God's word, pray for one another, sing our praises, and be nourished with the body and blood of Christ, all central elements in our baptismal covenant. Some services are designed to be more introspective with heart-felt moments of remembrance like Candlemass and All Souls. Some occasions more glorious than others we celebrated the resurrection of Christ with fabulous music and flowers following a rich Holy Week with services every night including a Maundy Thursday service that incorporated a dinner in the middle of the service. We



celebrated the birth of Christ with excellence in Choral music with Lessons and Carols by our choir and with the addition of brass on Christmas Eve.

All of these opportunities bring us to answer God's call, to live into our baptismal covenant to follow Jesus, to embody his word in our world with an **incarnational faith**. We sought opportunities to learn more through Dean's Forum, Sacred Ground Lenten Programs, bible studies and book studies. I led a pilgrimage to Ireland to follow in the steps of St. Brigid and St. Patrick to broaden our faithful wonderings. We trained Lay Pastoral Ministers and then sent them out to care for our parishioners. Through the Community Partners Commission we provide both funding and volunteers to local community ministries like Stewpot, Operation Shoestrings, Grace House, Springboard to Opportunities, and others which depend on us to make their work possible. This is one area that is directly tied to the success of our stewardship program. When pledges are down, our ability to help those in the most need in our community, is severely limited. These partnerships with the Cathedral are dependent on our volunteers as well as our financial gifts. We could use more engagement this area. Several of our parish programs are in need of lay leadership. We do not have the number of staff we have had in years past, nor the budget to hire in those numbers, so we have to step up to lead bible studies, to help teach formation classes, to cook for parish dinners, for starters. We need to step up to build our community of faith, as one who puts our faith, into action. Jesus called to Andrew and Simon to come learn to fish for people. Come and see. Come and do.

We have wonderful opportunities ahead of us. We are located in the heart of the city with extensive relationships with the people and services around us. There are needs here to which we can minister. We often get visitors new to town, students from law schools and medical programs. We are electing a new bishop soon with all the energy and imagination that often comes with that transition. We have a talented staff and a strong slate standing for Vestry. We have the resources we need when we all step up to answer the call.

From Wonder, Love, and Praise, we sang this morning:

*We all behold one vision,
a stark reality;
the steward of salvation
was nailed upon a tree.
Yet resurrected Justice
gives rise that we may share
free reconciliation
and hope amid despair.*

One vision, one mission, with a variety of gifts and talents to get there.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation.

Respectfully submitted,



The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell
Dean



Visioning Task Force Report

Background

Inspired by the need to take the pulse of our church family and to help catalyze greater parishioner engagement as we emerged from the hardest days of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cathedral's Vestry commissioned the Visioning Task Force in the fall of 2022 to help facilitate conversations and discussions to be held in people's homes, at the Cathedral, and with different groups to discern the dreams and beliefs of today's congregation. Over the course of nearly a year, these visioning discussions identified that the following dreams and beliefs were strongly held and universally embraced by the Cathedral's parishioners:

- St. Andrew's parishioners care deeply about their Cathedral;
- St. Andrew's is an important institution to its parishioners and to the larger community;
- St. Andrew's parishioners have a deep desire to grow in their faith journeys;
- St. Andrew's parishioners are open to be more engaged in meaningful ways;
- St. Andrew's parishioners look forward to being part of the post-pandemic growth of their Cathedral.

Our Vision

In 2039 – just fifteen short years from now – St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral will celebrate 200 years of serving God's mission in Jackson, Mississippi. When that anniversary arrives, the Cathedral will have accomplished and/or is aggressively practicing its ministry in four priority areas: Culture; Relationships; Identity; and Infrastructure.

Four Priorities for Ministry at St. Andrew's

Our Culture

1. The Cathedral's professed culture of radical hospitality is practiced and recognized by its welcoming of all comers.
2. Its accepting, respectful, kind, and authentic approach to all – both long-term members and unknown walk-ins – is honest, positive, comforting, and empathetic.
3. A vibrant spirit of fun, open-mindedness, resiliency, and outward-looking perspective evolves year after year.

Our Relationships

1. Internal parishioner relationships have grown and strengthened by programs that fulfill their educational needs in ways that are inclusive and inviting.
2. Opportunities for relationship building are held in spaces that are physically safe as well as where people feel safe to have honest, sincere, and vulnerable discussions among those they trust.
3. The Cathedral provides religious, pastoral, educational, social, and artistic offerings that meet the needs of all parishioners, even as they differ by age and condition.
4. All relationships are based on the love of Christ so that we have the courage to treat others as He would treat us.



Our Identity

1. Parishioners stretch and grow in faith by our Christ-centered identity.
2. The Cathedral expands its community and its impact in Jackson by focusing on the needs and opportunities of the downtown by giving voice and mutual learning to issues facing God’s people in Jackson, and by holding public events that bring people together to enjoy and learn from each other’s company.
3. The Cathedral will support important programs, organizations, and needs in Jackson in several ways, including through our own organized volunteer services, by working with groups that share our mission, and by our active raising of the funds needed not just by the Cathedral but by our Jackson partners.
4. St. Andrew’s Cathedral will more strongly fulfill its role as the Cathedral of the Diocese, not just by our “name” and structure, but also by our leadership, our support of congregations and issues beyond our own, and by working closely with the Bishop and other Diocesan leaders to fulfill Christ’s purpose throughout the State of Mississippi.

Our Infrastructure

1. The Cathedral will have made its exterior appearance welcoming to worshipers, visitors, those in need, and the City of Jackson to show that we are all One-in-Christ.
2. The necessary physical improvements – both external for the Cathedral’s appearance and internal for the Cathedral’s mechanical systems – will have been completed, and sufficient funding will be secured to eliminate deferred maintenance as well as to make attractive changes and additions to the Cathedral’s structure and its surrounding landscaping.
3. The infrastructure accomplishments will reflect the love and commitment that the congregation has for its physical things but also for other necessary, long-term obligations that the Cathedral takes on.
4. Having established a viable organizational infrastructure, the lay body will have increased its voluntary participation in the cleaning, maintenance, and upkeep of the Cathedral’s physical structure. By reducing its reliance on paid personnel, the Cathedral can redirect its scarce resources while using its human capital (parishioners, youth, clergy/staff) in ways that result in the outward and visible signs of our inward and spiritual devotion to God’s house.

* * * * *

Our Mission

*Joyfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through grace-filled worship,
radical hospitality, and incarnational faith.*

Visioning Task Force Members:

Robert Langford, Sr. Warden
Margaret McLarty, Jr. Warden
Kelly Butler
Noel Didla

Lucien Smith
George Penick
Wilson Montjoy
The Very Reverend Anne M. Maxwell, Dean



Organist and Choirmaster's Report

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A Prayer for Church Musicians and Artists, BCP pp. 319)

Cathedral musicians made music in the service of the church's worship with excellence, artistry, and beauty for more than 100 services in 2023. These included regular Sunday Eucharists, special services such as evensongs, funerals, ordinations, and major feast days, as well as Advent Lessons and Carols. My priorities are unchanged from previous years:

- To keep the Cathedral congregation singing: Christians sing. Congregations that sing well are healthy congregations.
- To nourish the community of faith that exists in the community of Cathedral musicians and foster their spiritual health.
- To continue to make music as a choir, committed to a high level of excellence and artistry in the service of Christian worship. Making music in community makes apparent the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.
- To encourage the current growth in Cathedral Children's Choir, because children who sing become adults who sing.
- To cultivate our additional programs and initiatives, such as the Choral Scholars program, the Slater Fellowship, and Music in the City.

In summer 2003, we had our first Cathedral Children's Choir Camp, hosted at St. Andrew's Lower School. This was rewarding, and I hope to do it again in 2024. In fall 2023, we had a full roster of thirteen first-fourth grade choristers meeting weekly as part of St. Andrew's Lower School's after-school activity program. This group is open to students from any school and is composed of singers who are members of the Cathedral, members of other local Episcopal churches, and members of other faith traditions. Cathedral Children's Choir sang with our adult choir for two Sunday morning services in fall 2023. They also sang a short Christmas program at the Mississippi Museum of Art in December and ended the semester singing for Big Chapel at the Lower School. Having a comprehensive chorister program is still my biggest dream for St. Andrew's and I'm hopeful that we can extend this program to fifth-eighth grade in the next year or two. I owe a large debt of gratitude to Jay Losset, Sarah Walker, and the Rev. Hailey Allin for their assistance and providing opportunities for Cathedral Children's Choir to offer music as part of Big Chapel services at the Lower School.

The Music in the City series did well in 2023, thanks in large part to the entire Mississippi Museum of Art staff and Jasmine Williams in particular, who is the Associate Curator of Public Programs and Community Engagement. Music in the City is one of the Cathedral's longest-standing and most successful outreach programs. I've gently steered this series towards featuring Mississippi musicians in the earlier stages of



their careers, with a special emphasis on increasing the representation of women, people of color, and living composers. Music in the City is highly regarded in Mississippi and beyond and I am regularly contacted by professional musicians interested in performing on the series. There is still an opportunity for a corporate sponsor to help underwrite this effort, requiring an investment of approximately \$3000.

The Slater Fellowship was created in 2019 using proceeds from the establishment of a Music Endowment, begun with a generous \$150,000 gift from an anonymous donor. Brock Griffin is this year's Slater Fellow. Brock is a music student at Hinds Community College. In his time with us, Brock has matured into a confident leader in the bass section and has continued studying organ. We plan for him to play for a few services in the spring semester, and hopefully conduct, as well. I'll begin searching in the spring for the 2024-2025 Slater Fellow.

The Cathedral maintains an impressive complement of instruments for liturgical use. Our replica Vaudry harpsichord is in demand in the Jackson area. In addition to our own use, it's regularly borrowed by other churches and organizations. The organ continues to require "band aid" repairs to extend its life, and I'm hopeful that conversations can soon begin in earnest about its future. Our pianos are in fair shape—the nave piano would benefit from a thorough evaluation to determine what steps should be taken (if any) to prolong its life.

A very high priority for 2024 is recruiting more volunteer singers for our adult choir(s). We added a small number of both volunteer and paid singers in 2023, but it would be helpful to have more volunteer singers from the Cathedral community to meet the demands of the Cathedral's rigorous liturgical schedule. There was a period of adjustment following the move of the 8:30 service to the chapel and combining our adult choirs, and I believe that this has been successful. Of particular note: our Advent Lessons and Carols service in December 2023 had increased attendance over previous years thanks to Wil Oakes's help with publicity. This was a lovely service and a profoundly satisfying music-making experience for both me and our singers.

One particularly enthusiastic first-time attendee remarked that the Cathedral should be "packed out" for this service, which gives us a goal for next year.

2023 was a rewarding year for me personally. I had a new choral piece published in May – "Give us the wings of faith" was published St. James Music Press. I also signed contracts for a piece for choir and organ to be published by Selah Publishing as part of a series featuring women composers, as well as for a few pieces of service music to be published by Church Publishing. Those titles should be available in short order. I also completed a handful of commissioned works for specific people and/or events and even managed a few pieces just for fun. My commission calendar for 2024 has begun to fill up.

It remains my deep joy to serve St. Andrew's as organist and choirmaster and I look forward to helping others make music to the glory of God and in the service of the Cathedral's worship into 2024 and beyond.

Jessica Nelson
Organist and Choirmaster



Director of Parish Life & Newcomer Ministries' Report

With 2023 coming to a close, I am grateful to celebrate another successful year of ministry at the Cathedral. Each year as I prepare my report for the Annual Meeting, I take some time to peruse my calendar from the last year to refresh myself on all of the events that were offered, and by my count we held over 35 Parish Life offerings. I certainly never find myself bored in my work at St. Andrew's!

A major shift in my ministries at the Cathedral came this year with the transition of Kat Penton into the role of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. After 3.5 years of directing the youth ministry at the Cathedral, I passed on these duties to Kat and was able to focus more of my energy into nurturing our Parish Life, Newcomers, and Young Adult ministries. My years working with our young people in EYC are dear to my heart, and I loved getting to watch as they grew and began discovering their places in our community. We are lucky to have Kat on our Cathedral staff to continue this work with our youth and children.

Within the Cathedral's Parish Life ministry, I was able to devote time to expanding our volunteer involvement in our events and programming. I began by surveying the volunteers to understand their interests and match them up with opportunities that best fit their preferences. With this information, I was able to identify parishioners to take on roles as Coordinators for many Parish Life events, which increased volunteer involvement and input in the execution of our programming.

I also have begun the work of re-establishing our Parish Life Commission. This group has lain dormant in the years since the start of the pandemic, and I would love to see this commission flourish once again. My hope is that the Parish Life Commission will meet quarterly to review the Cathedral's upcoming calendar of events and provide insight into which events we offer to our community. Our first meeting will take place in January of 2024, and I look forward to seeing how this group will impact our Parish Life ministry moving forward.

In 2023, we were able to offer many of our parish's most beloved events, such as Shrove Tuesday, St. Paddy's Parade party, Sunset Chords, Maundy Thursday dinner, Parish Picnic, Parish Party, Jazz Brunch, and Advent Market just to name a few. We also saw the implementation of new events, like our Home Eucharists series, the Super Bowl Party, our vocational celebrations to highlight the lawyers, educators, and healthcare professionals in our community, and the Feast of St. Andrew where we had a special Breakfast Club experience. We also were able to offer two Newcomers dinner gatherings to welcome our newest parishioners and foster their relationships with our members, leaders, and staff.

Our Young Adult ministry also continues to be active and provide a community for our parishioners in their 20s and 30s. Last year we gathered for a home eucharist, a Lenten book study series, and multiple socials. In 2024, I am planning to establish a Young Adult Commission comprised of some of our active young adult members who will help inform the direction of our programming for this group throughout the year. I anticipate we will see more offerings for our young adults in the coming months.

I would not have been able to do this work without the help of our many, many volunteers that offer their time to help plan and execute these events. It is so wonderful to witness the passion that our parishioners have for this community and the willingness our people have to give to their Cathedral. For all who have served with



me in any capacity in the last year, I offer deep gratitude for your contributions to St. Andrew's ministries. It is a joy to be on the St. Andrew's Cathedral staff and to have the privilege of doing this work each week. Cheers to another year filled with delight, laughter, service, and fellowship!

Respectfully submitted,

Gracey Belote

Director of Parish Life and Newcomer Ministries

Director of Children & Youth Ministries' Report

I am happy to report that I have completed my first year as Director of Children and Youth Ministries! I have loved getting to know all of the children, youth and families here in this parish. Everyone has been so welcoming and supportive of me and the programs.

I was happy to bring back Children's Chapel last January. The families and Parish seem to really love watching the kids walk down on Sundays. Another thing that was brought back this year was Vacation Bible School. It was a huge success! The kids loved it and I had several parents volunteer to help make it possible. My favorite activity I brought to the kids this past year was the Halloween Carnival! The kids were all so cute dressed up and had so much fun throwing balls, tossing rings and walking the cake walk in hopes of winning a yummy dessert, graciously donated by several kind individuals in the Parish. I got the youth involved by having them man the tables and give out candy. They had fun too and even took part in playing some games towards the end of the carnival. Another activity the youth was involved in was helping the children in the Easter Egg Hunt. Due to the weather, we had to have it in the ECC building at St. Andrew's. The youth came and hid eggs in every crease and corner and the kids ran freely picking up as many as they could fit in their basket.

The children and youth both continue formation on Sunday mornings. I am in the children's formation with my intern, Claire Reynolds. My interns, Jack Sewell and Julia Kennedy, lead the youth formation. The children and youth love them and they are great assets to the programs. I am currently looking for a new intern to take Julia's spot with the youth because she will be graduating from Millsaps this May.

From when I started last January, the EYC has grown. We typically meet on Sunday evenings. We have also met away from the church for dinners, bowling, a picnic and even a movie. The youth really enjoy these outings. They also continue to help with Stewpot. One thing new this past fall is EYC2nds. We combine with other Episcopal Parishes in our Convocation to do a joint activity. We hosted one this past November.

I can't wait to see what this next year brings,

Kat Penton

Director of Children & Youth Ministries



Director of Communications' Report

As I enter my third year as communications director for this great Cathedral, I have to say that this parish has made my job easy with all the wonderful things it's handed me to communicate—from internal events like Burnt Offerings and Sunset Chords, to outreach like Stewpot and Breakfast Club, to spiritual events like the Journey Series Advent Retreat or last year's Lenten Workshop with Jemar Tisby. And all that's not to mention the scores of beautiful services, from the grandeur of Easter or Christmas to the most intimate, ordinary, early Sunday service in the chapel.

I feel like this has been a year of getting back to basics, communications-wise. We've made some changes that sound small in concept but actually have made a big difference in terms of spreading our message to the parish and beyond.

The website has gotten a couple of upgrades—our homepage now features a block right at the top titled 'Cathedral Links,' which has direct links to the most pressing items on our site—event sign-ups, diocesan happenings, fundraisers, etc. We've also added an upcoming events page (standrews.ms/upcoming-events, but also linked to in the aforementioned Cathedral Links section) that is updated at **least** once a month.

In the last few months, we've started reaching out more broadly to media outlets in the greater Jackson Metro to promote events like Evensongs, our Advent Marketplace, and our seasonal retreats. Those efforts have been fruitful—resulting in media coverage from outlets like *Mississippi Public Broadcasting*, *The Northside Sun*, and Downtown Jackson Partners, among others.

Perhaps the biggest change came from ideas Dean Maxwell received and passed on to me from last year's parishioner feedback—the monthly newsletter or 'mailed sleeve' that we started sending on the last Sunday of each month. This mail piece gives parishioners a 6-week to 2-month view ahead on what is happening at the Cathedral and has been very well received by the parish. I hope that it has found its way onto many of your fridges or bulletin boards so that you don't miss out on any of the many events I alluded to earlier (though if you lose your mailed sleeve, you can find all those events on the website any time!).

I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention the advice and help I've gotten from the Communications Committee: Crystal Utley Secoy (chair), Steve Shafer, and David Long. Steve was chair of this committee during the last term and had some great insights for me; and Crystal, who's been the chair of the committee for the last year, is due a great deal of credit for several of the ideas, since implemented, in the paragraphs above.


As for me, I am grateful to be a part of this community, in love with the beauty of this place, and looking forward to seeing you all in the coming year.

Much love to all,

Wil Oakes

Director of Communications





Dean Maxwell and Bishop Seage posed for a photo following Easter services in April.

The diocese will elect a new bishop in February, and Bishop Seage's last service at the Cathedral will be on Sunday, July 14th. St. Andrew's will also host the seating of our new bishop the following week on Sunday, July 21st.