

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2021

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING—JANUARY 31, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prayer of Dedication -----	4
Agenda -----	4
Membership in the Church -----	5
Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting -----	5
Parish Data for 2020 -----	8
Profiles of Vestry Candidates-----	9
Ministry Reports	
Rector’s Report -----	10
Senior Warden’s Report -----	12
Altar Guild -----	13
Bible Study-----	14
Buildings & Grounds-----	14
Early Christian Education-----	15
Episcopal Church Women -----	15
Food Bank & Feed My Lambs -----	16
Greeters -----	17
Men’s Fellowship-----	17
Music Ministry-----	18
Outreach Committee-----	18
Parish Life -----	19
Stewardship -----	19
St. Gregory’s Sharing Library -----	20
Ushers-----	20
Financial Reports	
2020 Financial Report & 2021 Budget-----	21
2020 Financial Summary -----	23
Mission Statement Budget for 2021-----	24
Rector’s Discretionary Fund Summary for 2020 -----	25
Rite at the Conclusion of Vestry Service-----	26
Commissioning of Vestry Members and Diocesan Convention Delegates-----	27
Supplemental Ministry Reports	
Junior Warden’s Report -----	28
Infographic/Community Update for 4 th Quarter of 2020-----	29

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord Jesus, we give you our hands to do your work. We give you our feet to go your way. We give you our tongues to speak your words. We give you our minds that you may think in us. We give you our spirit that you may pray in us. Above all, we give you our hearts that you may love in us your Father, and all humankind. We give you our whole selves that you may grow in us, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in us. **Amen.**

(Adapted from *St. Benedict's Prayer Book*)

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Prayer
- C. Approval of 2020 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
- D. Elections:
 - 1. Vestry Class of 2021-2024 – Elect three members
 - 2. Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2021 – Elect two delegates, plus alternates

<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates for Vestry 2021-2024 Tamera Benedict Dana Lindsay Leah Southwick</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates for Diocesan Convention Delegate Holly Graham Susan Mora Elizabeth Spencer</p>

Nominations from the Floor
Ballots are Cast

- E. Reports
 - 1. Rector's Report -----The Rev. Michael Fincher
 - 2. Financial Summary & Budget-----Alfonso Lemus
 - 3. Stewardship -----Alfonso Lemus
 - 4. Other Reports/Comments
- F. Appointments
- G. Decommissioning of Outgoing Vestry Members
- H. Commissioning of New Vestry Members
- I. Adjournment

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

(A Summary of the Canons)

The National Canons address membership in the Church and the expectations the Church places on those members:

1. Members of the Church are those persons who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with water, and whose baptism has been duly recorded in this Church. Adult members are those persons sixteen years of age and older.
2. All adult members of the Church are expected to be confirmed in the Church, or if they have been confirmed in another Christian Church by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession, to have been received into this Church.
3. All members are considered to be communicants of this Church who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the previous year in this Church.
4. All persons in this Church are expected to celebrate and keep the Lord's Day and participate in the Church's public worship.

Communicants in good standing are those who have:

1. Attended corporate worship on a regular basis in their Church unless they have been prevented from doing so for good cause;
2. Have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 26, 2020

1. Call to Order: 9:28 AM
2. Opening Prayer: Prayer of Dedication in unison
3. Approval of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes: MSP Frank Dayak, Jane Alt
4. Amendment to Parish Bylaws
 - a. Proposal to change the number of members of the Vestry, including therein the Rector and the Wardens, to 10 of which all but the Rector shall be elective members.
 - b. MSP Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Gretchen Alkema (passed unanimously on voice vote)
5. Elections
 - a. Election of the Vestry - Class of 2020-2023 - elect three members
 - b. Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2020 – elect four members plus an alternate
 - c. Judge of Election: Deborah Henry
Nominating Committee: Michael Carr, Steve Cleantis, Bruce Graham, Susan Mora, Donna Woolverton
Counters: Alfonso Lemus, Steve Cleantis
 - d. Qualifications for Voting: All people who are at least 16 years old, a baptized communicant, regular attender, and contributor of time, treasure or talent may vote.

- e. Introduction of Vestry Nominees: Carol Bernstein, Larry Curry, Michael Johnston, Leah Southwick, Sarah Spencer
- f. Introduction of Delegate Nominees: Holly Graham, John Mora, Susan Mora, Alice O'Keefe, Elizabeth Spencer, Sarah Spencer
6. Reports: The minutes reflect additional information and discussion added to the formal reports, which are included in the printed meeting agenda.
 - a. Rector, Fr. Michael Fincher – no additional comments
 - b. Senior Warden – no Report due to departure of Dawn Lewis in November
 - c. Junior Warden, Donna Woolverton – no additional comments
 - d. Finance and Budget, Bob McRae
 - i. The church has a surplus of \$26,000 from 2019.
 - ii. The church has a strong cash position in Reserve.
 - iii. The 2020 Budget includes a new item contributing to our Parish Administrator's medical insurance.
 - iv. The Receiving Treasurer position is now filled by a team of volunteers.
 - v. The Disbursement Treasurer position and overall supervision is filled by Bob McRae with assistance from Dave DeMent.
 - vi. Bob thanked Dave for his ongoing assistance and being the conscience of the Financial Team.
 - vii. Question from Ron Dixon: Why has the Parish Administration budget number gone down? Answer: the previous administrator worked twice the number of hours as our current administrator.
 - e. Stewardship, Alfonso Lemus
 - i. A correction to the Stewardship Report, Tamera Benedict is a member of the committee.
 - ii. To date we have received 87 pledges: 36 same amount, 36 increased amount, 7 decreased amount, 8 new, with an average pledge of \$2800.
 - iii. We have well utilized space rentals that contribute to our income.
 - f. Capital Improvement Plan, Bob McRae
 - i. The church has a need for a dedicated improvement plan. Question from Ron Dixon: what is the cost of each item?
 - ii. In 2019 the Building and Grounds Committee provided a detailed analysis of requirements and costs (approx. \$275k).
 - Complete rebuild of the parking lot (approx. \$125k).
 - New roof as the last piece of the Seismic Retrofit requirements (approx. \$60k). Question from Charlie Malonson: do we currently have leaks? Answer: no.
 - New HVAC for whole church (approx. \$85k).
 - iii. Funding options include: fund raiser, use reserves, borrow and repay the loan.
 - iv. A survey has been distributed to understand what the parish members see as priorities, as well as thoughts on funding. Please return by February 9, 2020.
 - g. Altar Guild, Holly Graham – no additional comments

- h. Bible Study – no additional comments
 - i. Building and Grounds – Kris Brooks and Melanie Gonzalez
 - i. 2019 showed a decrease in maintenance expenses.
 - ii. Kris and Melanie presented Ron Dixon with a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedicated service. They also requested volunteers to take over his work setting the church clocks twice a year for time changes.
 - j. Early Christian Education, Laura Samaniego – no additional comments
 - k. Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Laura Samaniego – no additional comments
 - l. Food Bank & Feed My Lambs, Bill Eldon and Tamera Benedict
 - i. Bill thanked the parishioners for their support during a time of funds depletion in 2019.
 - ii. Bill also thanked Ron Dixon for his ongoing work.
 - iii. Question from Carole Heidary: Carole thanked Kathy Stein for locating an ongoing source for fresh food and wondered if we can provide ongoing financial support for Feed My Lambs? Answer: because the feeding programs are not part of the budget but are supported by contributions, this matter would need to be considered by the Vestry.
 - m. Greeters, Susan Mora – no additional comments
 - n. Men’s Fellowship, Ron Dixon – no additional comments
 - o. Music Ministry, David Feit-Pretzer - no additional comments
 - p. Outreach, Deborah Henry - no additional comments
 - q. Parish Life, Diane Kela – no additional comments
 - r. Ushers, Bruce Graham – no additional comments
7. Election Results
- a. Vestry Members: Larry Curry, Michael Johnston, Sarah Spencer
 - b. Delegates: Holly Graham, John Mora, Elizabeth Spencer, Sarah Spencer
 - c. Delegate Alternates: Susan Mora, Alice O’Keefe
8. Appointments
- a. Congratulation to Laura Samaniego for her new appointment to the Dioceses ECW position as head of the United Thank Offering.
 - b. Holly Graham continues as Altar Guild Director.
 - c. Sarah Spencer is appointed Director of Christian Education.
 - d. Donna Woolverton is appointed Senior Warden.
9. Decommissioning of Outgoing Vestry Members: Michael Carr, Steve Cleantis, Deborah Henry.
10. Commissioning of Vestry Members and Diocesan Convention Delegates
- a. Vestry – New members: Larry Curry, Michael Johnston, Sarah Spencer, as well as continuing members: Kris Brooks, Melanie Gonzalez, Diane Kela, Susan Mora, Bruce Graham, Alfonso Lemus, Donna Woolverton. Note that Mary Jacob (Vestry class of 2019-2022) resigned from the Vestry in October, due to personal reasons.
 - b. Convention Delegates – Holly Graham, John Mora, Elizabeth Spencer, Sarah Spencer.
11. Closing Prayer and Adjournment 10:44 AM – MSP Fran Luebben-Morgan/Frank Dayak

PARISH DATA FOR 2020

Number of Baptized Members (as of 1/1/21)-----	431
Baptisms-----	2
Confirmations-----	0
Weddings-----	0
Deaths-----	5
Transfers into St. Gregory's-----	1
Transfers out of St. Gregory's-----	0
Other New Additions-----	0
Average Sunday (Attendance at 8:00 AM Service (through 3/15)-----	36
Average Sunday Attendance at 10:15 AM Service (through 3/15)-----	70
Estimated Average Sunday On-line Attendance (from 3/22)-----	77
Estimated Average Weekday Evening Prayer On-line Attendance (from 3/23)-----	17

PROFILES OF VESTRY CANDIDATES

Tamera Benedict

Years at St. Gregory's: 17 years

How have you been involved in St. Gregory's congregation and your personal community?

I have been involved in Bible Garden, Jr. Supper Club, Mom's Group, Feed My Lambs, Food Bank, Assist in Receiving Treasurer, Youth Group, High School Sunday School, PTA Member, Volunteered in Kid's School.

What skills/gifts would you bring to the Vestry?

I have strong organizational skills, have been involved in other leadership organizations: Boy Scouts, PTA and College Programming and Student Senate.

Why do you want to be a member of the Vestry?

I would like to help St. Gregory's navigate this pandemic situation and into the future.

Dana Lindsay

Years at St. Gregory's: 14 years

How have you been involved in St. Gregory's congregation and your personal community?

In the past I have played on the softball team, served on the outreach task force, sang in the choir, chaired the outreach committee, and served on the vestry. I have lived in the community since 1999.

What skills/gifts would you bring to the Vestry?

This is my twenty-seventh year teaching, and I have taught a variety of subjects grades 4-12. I have a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a master's degree in Education. My credentials are in music (TK-12) and elementary education. I actively served on the ABC Federation of Teachers executive board for approximately 10 years during which time I ran

elections, balanced budgets, organized trainings for members, ran meetings, served on District and State committees, and negotiated contracts. As a teacher, being at multiple levels has really given me the experience working with different personalities and leadership styles. I have served as team leader as well as union representatives at both the elementary and secondary levels. I feel comfortable that these previous experiences will assist me as a vestry member.

Why do you want to be a member of the Vestry?

I have reaped the benefits of St. Gregory's church for years, and I feel that it is time for me to step up to do my part.

Is there anything else you want to share with us?

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding my candidacy, please feel free to call or email me (Dlindsay01@yahoo.com) / (562) 716-6634

Leah Southwick

Years at St. Gregory's: 4 years

How have you been involved in St. Gregory's congregation and your personal community?

I have helped run the children's program. In college, I volunteered to inter-city youth as a mentor. In high school, I volunteered at a homeless shelter to women and children.

What skills/gifts would you bring to the Vestry?

I graduated magna cum laude from UCLA, majoring in English/American literature. I went to grad school in San Francisco for counseling psychology at CIIS. I am opinionated but have an open mind. I am personable and work well with others.

Why do you want to be a member of the Vestry?

To get more involved and to get to know my parishioners better.

Is there anything else you want to share with us?

I am not good at public speaking.

MINISTRY REPORTS

RECTOR'S REPORT

Who would have ever thought that a mere two months after we last gathered for our Annual Meeting parish life could have been turned completely upside down? At our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020 we talked about our vision for the year and began talking about some pretty ambitious plans for a capital campaign. That conversation continued at our Vestry Retreat just three weeks later as the Vestry started getting more specific in our planning. But within a month all that went out the window thanks to COVID-19.

As we entered the Lenten Season things started to look more and more serious. We started hearing about this novel coronavirus. As it reached our shores and began to spread we started hearing about this thing called "social distancing." Within a matter of days the Diocese was ordering us to cancel all in-person activities for the health and safety of our people. And mere days after that the governor announced the first stay-at-home order for the entire state. In a matter of weeks we went from enthusiastically working on our vision and goals for the year to trying to figure out how to continue to do worship and to do ministry when we could not be together physically. Literally, in a matter of a couple of days, I was having to figure out how to do an online worship service, with no previous experience or frame of reference.

The original "shutdown" order was only for a few weeks. Which obviously stretched into far longer as we saw various waves and surges in how the coronavirus spread. Our priority during those first few weeks was to figure out Sunday worship and then to figure out how to do Holy Week and Easter. We managed to do just that. Of course, it was not the same as being together in person. But we did the best we could to provide some semblance of Holy Week and Easter worship.

Once we got through that and it became more apparent that this thing was not going to end anytime soon, the parish leadership and I turned our attention to how to get back to as close to normal as we could. To provide for as many of our parish services and ministries as feasible given the limitations of a global pandemic. Recognizing that one of the biggest problems during times of lock-down is the potential for social isolation, our main focus was on trying to find ways to keep our people connected. Mother Sharon Sheffield at St. Thomas of Canterbury and I decided to introduce daily Morning and Evening Prayer services as a way of providing additional worship opportunities during a time when people were hungering for deeper connection with God, when people needed words of hope more than ever. Once we got through the insanity of figuring out Holy Week and Easter, we started adding other programs. We added weekly Centering Prayer on Tuesday evenings. We resumed our weekly Thursday Bible Study. We resumed the Lenten book study as a post-Easter book study. All done virtually, of course. Amazingly, some programs have been even more successful than they were in-person before COVID-19.

We also were resolved to continue with our outreach ministries, primarily the Food Bank and Feed My Lambs. Of course, we had to alter how we do these ministries. And we have been severely limited in who can be involved, particularly since so many of our volunteers are over 65 or have underlying health issues. But we have found ways to make it all work. We even

added back in a few of our outreach projects, such as the backpack drive and, in lieu of the Thanksgiving and Christmas adopt-a-family program, we did a holiday gift card drive.

Throughout this time, we have continued to evolve, to find new and better ways to worship online. We started off with Sunday worship being done from my apartment. I was then able to go back to the church, where worship was just me sitting in front of my computer in the sanctuary. But we have progressed even more, having acquired a camera and microphone set-up that allows us to broadcast the Sunday worship service in a way that feels a little more like you are there. The evolution of how we have been doing Sunday worship is part of a larger vision. Online worship is no longer just something we are doing because of the pandemic. It will become a permanent part of who we are. We recognize that some people just may not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship when we are able to do so. And some of our people who are shut-in and not able to come to church can now actually participate in the Sunday worship from the comfort of their own home. Not only that, we also have a number of people from outside the area who have become regular attendees because they like what we have to offer. So that is not going away. When things return to something approaching normal, we will have morphed as a congregation. We will truly have become a 21st century church, with a hybrid of in-person and online worship. Personally, I'm excited about that because it opens up the possibilities to doing more and interesting things and to reaching people in ways we never have been able to before.

Despite our concern for keeping people connected, one of the things that took a little while for us to realize was that some parishioners were still being left out. The only way to provide worship and other programs was through the use of technology. But the reality is that some people do not do or are not comfortable with technology. So, we created our Community of Care Team. Parishioners who are reaching out to those who do not use technology. Team members regularly call these parishioners and send cards and letters. We are also regularly sending hard copies of the Sunday bulletins and sermons, as well as other materials. All as a way of continuing to keep people connected and part of the St. Gregory's family.

We have come a long way in the last ten months. Not where we envisioned ourselves going a year ago, but we have adapted and risen to the challenges posed by COVID-19. I am so proud of all of you and am grateful for all who have stepped up to help during these challenging and unusual times. You have proven time and again that St. Gregory's is still alive and kicking, even though we are not able to come together in person at our beloved church.

Many continue to lament the fact that the church is closed. Very early in the pandemic, I ran across a meme that was perfect, and became the vision for how we were to proceed. It was a picture of a church with the caption, "The church is not closed. The church has been deployed." This really resonated with me. If anything, this became the image that kept me going. It became the vision (albeit unofficially) that prompted your Vestry and other parish leaders to start looking at new ways of being church. After all, the reality is, the church is not a building. The church is the people. The Body of Christ in the world. St. Gregory's parish is not at 6201 East Willow Street in Long Beach. St. Gregory's parish is spread throughout the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Los Alamitos, Rossmore, Seal Beach, Signal Hill, South Gate, Huntington Beach, Cerritos, La Palma, Bellflower, Garden Grove, Cypress, San Pedro, Anaheim, Harbor City, Westminster, Torrance, Norwalk, Rancho Palos Verdes, Downey, and probably a few other communities in between. And during the last ten months, we have an expanding online

community, meaning that St. Gregory's now reaches into the High Desert, Northern California, Central New York, Texas, Florida, Kansas, Oregon, and probably other places, as well. No, in the ten months since we closed our doors, we have proven time and again that St. Gregory's is not closed. St. Gregory's is deployed. No one is at St. Gregory's because St. Gregory's is busy doing what the church is supposed to do. We are doing God's work in the world.

Even though our real mission is to be the Body of Christ in the world, it is still difficult to be away from our church home. It is difficult to be apart from one another. I get that. And even though I do get to be at the church regularly, it is not the same. It is not the St. Gregory's I know and love. Because you, the parishioners that I know and love, are absent. But I also know that this is just a temporary situation. One day, we will be able to come back together. And when that happens, we will have one hell of a blow-out celebration. Celebrating the fact that we survived. Celebrating the fact that we came through this thing stronger. Celebrating the fact that, in the words of St. Paul, nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 8.39). And nothing can separate us from the love we share. Not even a virus.

Blessings in this new year and in our ongoing life together.

Fr. Michael Fincher
Rector

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Wow! What a year this has been. Beginning my second year on Vestry, and serving as Sr. Warden, I was eager to continue the work of celebrating the vibrant, welcoming, caring community we have at St. Gregory's – a community of hope and hospitality - and investing in efforts to deepen our connections and involvement.

The Vestry kicked off the year in February at our annual retreat, getting to know each other, celebrating and setting goals. We signed up to do announcements, bring snacks to Vestry meetings, be a liaison to one or more ministries. We strategized for a capital campaign, calendared Parish Life events, set goals for our committee work, and blessed each other for service to our community. Little did we know the remainder of our monthly gatherings would be in the squares of Zoom calls on our electronic devices!

When the COVID shutdown happened in March, turning everything we knew upside down, our community didn't skip a beat. One Sunday, we worshipped in person. The next Sunday we worshipped in a brand new way – online, live-streamed from Fr. Michael's home, and began new rituals of online morning and evening prayer. As our virtual programming expanded, so did our community – we welcomed friends and strangers from far and wide who joined us in our on-line home.

As our on-line community flourished, parish engagement efforts pivoted to parishioners unequipped for or uninterested in such involvement. A new Community of Care team was formed, reaching out on a regular basis and building relationships with about two-dozen parishioners, helping reduce isolation and ensure needs did not go unmet. This effort also brought an understanding of the depths of connections throughout our community and the amazing ways that so many of our parishioners are keeping in touch.

Late spring brought the possibility of re-opening for in-person worship, and I joined the task force creating protocols for safe operation. While the re-opening did not happen at that time, we implemented protocols necessary for essential activities. The remaining protocols are ready and waiting for when we receive the go ahead to re-open for in-person indoor worship and other activities.

We've resumed publishing the quarterly update that celebrates the vitality, inclusion and reach of our community. The Q4 2020 update is included on pages 29 and 30 of this report.

I am filled with hope for 2021; confident that when this dark time ends we will emerge a stronger and livelier St. Gregory's. I'll continue the work of celebrating our vibrant, welcoming, caring community – a community of hope and hospitality – and investing in efforts to deepen our connections and involvement across the entire community, both near and far.

In gratitude,
Donna Woolverton, Sr. Warden

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

St. Gregory's Altar Guild is responsible for beautifying the church, cleaning the church, and setting up for all church services, including decorating for holiday services, weddings and funerals. We care for candles, arrange flowers, clean Communion vessels, care for vestments, and most importantly, assist Father Michael and visiting clergy. For Palm Sunday the guild folds and prepares palm crosses. All parishioners are welcome to assist us with this most enjoyable task. Although this year, we may not be able to fold palm crosses, depending on what restrictions are in place at the time.

The Guild is composed of four teams, each headed up by a Team Captain. Each team serves for a two-week period, then is "off" for six weeks. The rotation is smooth and we all work well together performing our duties.

Our operating funds come mostly through Christmas and Easter flower donations. These donations help fund the purchase of new linens, weekly sanctuary flowers, repairs and service supplies.

We are in need of weekly flower donations. The cost of a weekly arrangement is \$100.00. If you would like to enhance our worship space by your donation, please speak to an Altar Guild member or Kevin Wood in the parish office.

During this year of pandemic, Altar Guild duties have been altered somewhat. We have scaled back our preparation for services. We are working with just two members to set up services and to clean the church. When COVID lifts, we will surely be back working at full speed. Always, as in the past, we will welcome new members.

I must give a big thank you to all parishioners who have so generously donated their time in helping lift things that had to be lifted, cleaned things that had to be cleaned and just assisting us in any way to make our worship space more beautiful.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Gergen Graham, Altar Guild Directress

BIBLE STUDY REPORT

Fr. Michael leads this group each Thursday morning. Due to the pandemic, and the “safer at home order,” we have had to be a bit creative with our gatherings. Study currently begins at 10 AM and runs until 11 AM. Each participant reads from his/her own bible because, while the verbiage may be different, the story is the same.

The year began with Zoom meetings and progressed to meeting outdoors, everyone wearing a mask and socially distant. It is a devotional time of prayer, bible reading, discussion, and warm interaction with other class members. The focus is on Jesus. Our textbook is the bible. Everyone is welcome, applauded and spiritually fed.

We are currently on hiatus due to more restrictive “stay at home” orders. Please watch the announcements for information regarding the resumption of our meetings. We are saving a seat for you. Please join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Thursday Morning Bible Study

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

Thanks to the Boy Scouts, Buildings and Grounds work parties were held in January and February, but cancelled for the rest of 2020 in accordance with diocesan and government guidelines. B&G members continued to respond to repair requests, including:

- door and lock cleaning & repair
- HVAC filter replacement
- irrigation, painting, and plumbing component replacement
- pruning

We relied on contractors for major issues, including:

- cleaning out drains and sewer line inspection
- roofing repairs
- inspections / treatment for gophers and rodents
- sanctuary lamp & ballast replacement
- sanctuary termite treatment
- HVAC inspection, cleaning and repair

Your B&G Co-chairs greatly appreciated the efforts of B&G participants in 2020 activities: Boy Scout Troop 117 and Scout Masters Todd Saunders and Jason Roberts, as well as B&G Committee Members: Michael and Mary Carr, Larry and Sally Curry, Ron Dixon, Lurlie Edgecomb, Bill Eldon, Bruce Graham, Charlie Malonson, John and Susan Mora and Brian Woolverton.

We hope that you will consider joining one of the monthly work parties when they resume in 2021.

Submitted by Kris Brooks & Melanie Gonzalez, B&G Co-chairs

EARLY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Hello, my name is Sarah Spencer and I am the director of St. Gregory's Early Christian Education. I was appointed to the role in the beginning of 2020 and had so many wonderful things planned for the year. Unfortunately, as you all know the COVID-19 pandemic hit and we have had to suspend in-person worship including Sunday school. Listed below will be the highlights for our 2020 year and our goals/hopes for our 2021 year.

- Father Michael and I began looking for alternative Episcopal learning programs
- Began preparing the classrooms for our return to worship. Working hard to make our classrooms safe and up to CDC guidelines.

Our hopes and goals for 2021 are as follows:

- Begin offering Zoom children's worship/learning
- We would like to paint our classrooms
- Resume in time our in-person worship with the kids
- We would like to have 4th Sunday tours of our classrooms which are open to all current students or anyone looking for a children's program or any member of the congregation on the 4th Sunday of the month where we showcase our classrooms and what our students are currently working on.

Thank you and I pray as we move forward out of this pandemic we can all be back together again soon.

Yours Respectfully, Sarah Spencer

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN REPORT

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Gregory's had great hopes for 2020. Carole Heidary, assisted by Laura Samaniego and Sara Kastagir, revamped the Christian Cove (gift shop) and brought new interest to it.

Our Sunday coffee hours were well attended. In January, we hosted a funeral reception for long-time member, Walt Drew. February's happy days were the Chili Cook-Off and Diane Kela's birthday. These were followed by Les Hoskin's funeral reception.

In March, we helped Diane Kela with two Lenten soup suppers and on St. Patrick's weekend celebrated the Irish with a corned beef dinner. The next week our world and all social activities fell apart due to the "stay at home" orders and the necessity to cancel in-person activities. As a result, there were no activities from mid-March to the present day.

In June, hoping against hope, I sent out the Holly Faire interest letter to the previous year's vendors only to have to send out "sorry, no can do" letters in August. Also in August, five of our officers/chairwomen met in my driveway, socially distanced and masked, to stuff and address envelopes to each of you requesting donations to the United Thank Offering.

Over the next two months, you really stepped forward donating \$2,730, the most ever, for UTO to fund grants for projects both here and abroad. Close to home, St. Luke's is receiving funds to redo their laundry room for their Shower Program and to buy a commercial washer and dryer

to help keep up with the needed clean towels for their Saturday shower program. This is the same program that our Feed My Lambs volunteers prepare lunches for on the first Saturday every month. A hearty "Thank you" to all who contributed. Every dollar was sent in to the Diocesan UTO. We pay for any expenses like printed material and stamps.

In November, we contributed \$500 to the Outreach Program to help with the gift cards for the Thanksgiving and Christmas families that St. Gregory's adopts. Finally, in December we sent \$200 to the Diocesan ECW to help with their expenses, a pledge we honor yearly.

We would love to start up our activities again as soon as it is safe to do so. All officers have agreed to remain in their positions for this year. We look forward to seeing you all and do hope you are healthy.

Lurlie Edgecomb
Vice-President ECW

FOOD BANK & FEED MY LAMBS REPORT

St. Gregory's feeding programs are funded by donations directly to the program fund, not through parishioners' regular pledges or the church budget. We appreciate the congregation's continuing support of these vital programs, both of cash and in-kind donations, so please consider St. Gregory's Feeding Programs when choosing charities to support. You can make donations by check, separate from your regular pledge, made out to St. Gregory's with "Feeding Programs" in the memo and through the online portal on the website or the QR code in the bulletin every week.

Our Food Bank continues to serve the local community as one of the larger elements of our Outreach program. 2020 was a strange year for the Feeding Programs at St. Gregory's due to changes on our operations for COVID-19. Our dedicated group of volunteers was reduced to just a few who were able to maintain our operation after the changes brought about by the pandemic, which included the closing of our café and changing to handing out bags of staples at the gate while maintaining social distancing. Our volunteers soldiered on by maintaining our inventory, receiving, sorting and stocking donations of food items from the congregation and outside groups, purchasing and stocking additional items, and setting up and running the monthly distributions. We have also received several generous donations of food from the East Long Beach Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and their Bishop's Pantry, from our Scout troop and pack, as well as from other groups who use our facilities and expressed a desire to assist. Our LDS partners have also allowed us annually to order \$1000 worth of grocery items from their Bishop's Storehouse to help support our mission, and we are grateful for their continuing support.

In 2020, we provided 418 bags of groceries during our monthly distributions nearly 100 fewer than in 2019, for an average of 35 bags per month. In addition to our monthly distribution on the first Wednesday of the month, bags are given out when needy individuals ask at the church office during the month.

St. Gregory's parishioners have supported the Feed My Lambs ministry since 2004. Feed My Lambs serves on average of 100 people at our sister church, St. Luke's, on the first Saturday of

every month. This year, was of course, very different from years past. Our volunteer staff shrunk to four: two in the kitchen and two serving outdoors. We were still able to provide hot soup and bagged lunches to the Guests at St. Luke's. St. Luke's also had someone donate coffee and supplies, so for the last two months we were able to serve coffee, as well. This required two additional volunteers, and we were able to cobble together two for December and January. The assembly of the lunch also had to change. We needed four to five volunteers to make the sandwiches, bag the lunches and get everything ready to cart down to St. Luke's. There was an intrepid group who continued to make homemade cookies that our guests have come to know and love. We will also be re-introducing the hard-boiled eggs in February.

We really need volunteers (under 65, with no health issues) to help with the lunch making on Fridays. The crew has been filled in with Tamera's friends who have flexible schedules. It's been a bummer not having St. Greg's congregants perform our work. **PLEASE let Tamera (562-301-6800) know if you can work on Fridays to help. We will move the time to suit the majority schedules.** Thank you all for your kind and generous support to these two very important Outreach Ministries.

Submitted by Bill Eldon and Tamera Benedict

GREETERS REPORT

As Greeters, our team looks forward to saying "good morning" to everyone as they enter the church. This past year, as were many others, our duties had limited service and visibility. Although, as we get closer to whenever it may be, we look forward to our return to the church and our position next to the greeters' desk, helping parishioners to find their name tags, newcomers' answering questions, or just saying "good morning" or "welcome." Although it seems simple, our greeters perform an important part in helping welcome guests and members and by representing our friendly, hospitable home. When we are permitted to reenter the church, look for our new greeter team coming to meet you as you enter the church with a friendly "good morning" or "welcome."

Submitted by Susan Mora

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT

For Men's Fellowship, the year 2020 started with the exit of its longtime leader Ron Dixon who moved to Texas to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren. The group and church will miss Ron's energy and dedication to both Men's Fellowship and St. Gregory's. We wish him well.

After Ron's exit, things just got better in the young year with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdown of in-person activities. Needless to say, this put a stop to many of the activities that Men's Fellowship participates in. There was no breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House, no cooking at the Holiday Faire or bar-b-q for the Men's Annual gathering. Essentially, all activities and chances for participation were put on hold in 2020 the year of COVID-19. However, in the New Year 2021 men's fellowship hopes to achieve the following goals:

- Resume meeting together in fellowship either face-to-face or by Zoom, as the situation allows.
- Re-organize our group leadership and our mission.
- Work to increase group membership.
- Resume our participation in the churches outreach programs.

Men's Fellowship looks forward to the upcoming year and working with all the groups to make this a truly blessed year.

Thank you,
John Mora

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

2020 was a year of musical drought. The last time the choir sang was Sunday, March 15th when we joined the choir of St. Thomas for Evensong.

The choir would usually have a concert on Palm Sunday, sing for the Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Great Vigil on Holy Saturday, and then the Easter celebration. They would participate in a Choir Workshop in September. Then Christmas Eve. At least this year we were allowed to have a quartet for Christmas Eve.

The Bronze Vocality Handbells provided a prelude for the streaming services on November 1 and November 22. As their schedule allows, they will play a prelude again for a streaming service.

MUSIC AT FOUR will once again present musical programs as soon as is allowed.

I have been playing a prelude and postlude for the streaming service.

Respectfully submitted,
David Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music/Organist

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

St. Gregory's Church was very generous this year. At the beginning of shelter in place, our Easter Basket drive had already begun, and thanks to our parish and a great team, we distributed baskets at the food bank. We structured our backpack drive using Amazon and Target wish lists as well as collecting monetary donations. We delivered 22 filled backpacks, 3 boxes of miscellaneous supplies, and a check for \$285 to the Long Beach Rescue Mission in August. Our adopt-a-family program was modified into a gift card collection in which we collected \$6,000 worth of grocery and Target cards. These provided food and gifts for 17 families through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. We are planning to proceed as we did last year with the backpack and holiday gift cards until such time that we can expand our services to the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Lindsay, Outreach Committee Chair

PARISH LIFE REPORT

Parish Life is responsible for organizing and presenting parish functions and recognitions and to assist any parish group or ministry with their projects or events.

- 1/12 Baptism
- 1/19 3rd Sunday Breakfast (Ushers/Greeters)
Music @ 4 reception
- 2/16 3rd Sunday Breakfast (LEMs and Lectors)
- 3/5 Lenten Soup/Salad Dinner
- 3/12 Lenten Soup/Salad Dinner
- 3/14 St. Patrick's Day Dinner (ECW)

Mid-March found us not permitted to meet in person and resulted in the cancellation of all functions for the remainder of the year. As we are able to resume activities in 2021 we are looking forward to offering our normal functions and adding three new items that were planned for 2021:

- Newcomers Sunday Brunch (hopefully two during the year)
- One Spring and one Fall coffee hour in the patio outside the sanctuary.
- Veterans Day Recognition

Respectfully Submitted
Diane Kela

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Committee: Alice O'Keefe, Melanie Gonzales, Sarah Spencer, Susan Mora, Dana Lindsay, and Alfonso Lemus.

This year's campaign ran from Sunday, October 4th through Sunday, November 15th. Fr. Michael sent out our initial letter along with an invitation and pledge card from the chairmen of the committee. All pledges received were blessed at the services on Sunday, November 22nd. Building on the success of our campaigns last year and the year before, we asked the committee members to read the weekly reflections centered on Faith-Filled Generosity.

To date we have received commitments of \$256,790 from 85 pledging units. This is a decrease of \$10,512 from last year, but it is a blessing to see the generosity of our brothers and sisters in this most trying of years. Of those commitments received 34 were the same as last year, 36 increased, 10 decreased, and 5 were new. The average pledge per unit was \$3,021. Pledges have been entered into our tracking system, pledge numbers will be assigned, pledge envelopes and end of year statements will be distributed.

It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as the Stewardship chair. Thank you for your Faith-Filled Generosity!

Alfonso Lemus, Stewardship Chair

ST. GREGORY'S SHARING LIBRARY

Building off an all-day 2019 organization meeting, Saint Gregory's Sharing Library (SGSL) has continued to work on operational processes of getting new donations onto the shelves by pseudo-library categories.

This includes the hardest task of deciding on which books need to be removed from SGSL shelves to make room for new donations. We currently donate those books that are removed to various programs and would like other suggestions, especially those supporting Episcopal charities: Current donations are as follows: Paperbacks to St. Luke's Shower Program; St. Thomas of Canterbury's Veterans Day Book Drive (science fiction and fantasy for Heinlein Society); local libraries for scholarly books; and a few non-Episcopal local homeless shelters. **If you know of any (local) Episcopal charities supporting books, please let me know.**

For branding of SGSL, a bookmark has been produced which also includes a link to the Long Beach City Library and their languages supported.

The second hardest library volunteer task is categorizing the books, especially fiction which accounts for 95% of our collection. We will be looking at ways to improve this process. But for now, ***Please NO donations during the shutdown.***

Volunteers are always needed after the restrictions are lifted. This includes Zoom calls to help with pruning our collection. Sarah Spencer has been a huge help with this task, but if you have a passion for fiction, especially Romance Novels, Mysteries, Thrillers, please let me know.

Future things we are exploring include: better library signage for a more self-service library; additional shelving; a mobile children's book cart and a Little Free Library (often seen in neighborhoods).

Submitted by Kim LeBouton, kim.lebouton@kjlcomputing.com or 562-305-1131 (text preferred)

USHER'S REPORT

When opened for on-person worship, the ushers continue to support St. Gregory's as greeters and helpers to the congregation. We open the church and classrooms, start the heating/AC, start the coffee, bring out the welcome desk, turn on the fountain, and bring out the Feed My Lambs and Food Bank containers. We assist parishioners in any way they need. After the services, we clean up the pews, shut down all systems and lock up the campus. The ushers are made up of men and women who serve once a month either at the 8:00 AM or 10:15 AM services. We have openings at both services. If you would like to join us, please talk to any usher or contact me personally – Bruce Graham (562) 972-7306. We are un-funded and have no budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Graham, Head Usher

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT & 2021 BUDGET

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating Costs	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021
Rector salary, housing annuity	69,000	71,070	73,200	74,666	74,666	74,666
Deacon honorarium	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supply Priest	2,875	2,256	2,800	2,100	271	2,100
Parish Administrator	14,605	14,212	14,570	14,976	15,021	14,976
Music Director	22,205	22,205	22,875	23,333	23,329	23,333
Nursery Care	1,972	1,630	2,000	2,100	294	2,100
Pensions	14,238	16,120	13,905	14,193	13,299	14,193
Social Security & Medicare	8,188	8,241	8,620	9,845	9,472	9,500
Assistant Pastor	1,800	700	0	0	0	0
Total Salary & Wages	134,883	136,434	137,970	141,213	136,352	140,868
Administration						
Office Supplies & Expenses	3,256	3,097	3,500	3,000	2,433	3,000
Telephone	2,222	1,738	2,800	2,300	1,689	1,800
Postage	1,031	543	650	857	1,039	810
Computer & Internet Fees	1,377	1,455	1,560	2,500	2,268	2,400
Leased Equipment & Copier	12,432	14,127	14,600	11,600	9,054	11,600
ADP Payroll, ASC, Audit	8,164	6,185	6,400	6,500	6,776	6,500
VANCO Expenses	0	327	800	370	533	520
Rector's Business Expense	1,245	3,066	2,100	2,100	198	2,100
Rector's Auto	1,319	1,225	1,500	1,500	769	1,500
Total Administration	31,046	31,763	33,910	30,727	24,758	30,230
Insurance						
Property & Liability	14,518	15,097	15,700	16,500	15,721	16,500
Rector Health, Disabil, Unemp	10,701	7,697	9,900	10,550	11,873	11,255
Admin Life, Disabil & Unempl	5,400	211	400	4,510	4,330	4,090
Worker's Comp	1,067	822	1,100	1,100	755	1,000
Total Insurance	31,686	23,827	27,100	32,660	32,769	32,845
Worship & Parish Life						
Worship/Altar Supplies	510	994	1,500	2,600	2,574	2,600
Music	3,908	5,385	6,000	7,000	5,950	2,800
Parish Life & Picnic	3,407	2,319	3,000	3,000	2,453	2,500
Stewardship Programs	143	85	250	300	218	300

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Budget 2021
Rector Search	0	0	0	0	0	0
SPARK	3,025	0	0	0	0	0
Vestry Retreat		1,200	1,300	1,300	1,485	395
Total Worship & Parish Life	10,993	9,983	12,050	14,200	12,679	8,595
Christian Education						
Youth Christian Education	210	400	700	600	0	600
Adult Christian Education	69	993	700	600	500	600
Rector's Professional Devel	292	4,208	100	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Christian Education	571	5,601	1,500	2,700	2,000	2,700
Maintenance & Utilities						
Maintenance	10683	13,502	12,680	7,500	11,783	7,722
Contract Service, Lawn, Janitorial	15,077	15,725	17,075	18,500	15,318	18,500
LA County Assessments	2,607	2,652	2,610	2,600	2,013	2,600
Utilities	24,310	27,353	28,300	24,900	21,184	23,700
Total Maintenance & Utilities	52,677	59,232	60,665	53,500	50,299	52,522
Outreach						
Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,650	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Deacon's Discretionary Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Outreach	1,650	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Diocesan Pledge	26,500	30,000	32,000	35,150	35,150	36,240
Major Facility Repairs			7,200	6,000	6,000	5,000
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	290,006	298,640	314,195	317,950	301,717	310,800
INCOME	312,988	327,910	320,000	317,950	335,101	310,800
NON OPERATING COSTS						
Other Major Facility repairs (New HVAC/Hall Windows)						
Total Facility repairs	5,575	20,000	21,180	0	0	0

2021 budget approved by the Vestry on November 18, 2020

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operating Costs

Coming into the year we projected an operating budget of \$317,950 while our projected income was \$317,950. That is, we were projecting no operating surplus for 2020. However (even better news!), total annual expenses came in \$16,233 under budget while our income exceeded projections by \$17,151. The bottom line of all this means that we ended the year with an operating surplus of \$33,384. Some of the factors that led to this surplus were:

- Lower salaries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down the church for most of the year.
- Contract Services and Utility Expenses were lower than projected.
- Leased Equipment and Copier Expenses were below Budget projections.

Income

The combination of pledge income, weekly plate offerings and income from third party usage of our facilities totaled \$335,101. This was \$17,150 higher than projected for the year. Our pledged income came in above the budget projections (\$22,719 above projections), plate collections were impacted by our inability to meet in person, coming in \$2,148 lower than planned. Income from facility use fees was also impacted by COVID, coming in \$3,007 under projections.

Non-operating Costs

Our income surplus for the year allowed us to fund a portion of our non-operating costs (facility repairs/upgrades) from Operating Expenses instead of using our reserve funds. A total of \$6,000 in non-operating facilities cost were funded through the Major Facility Repair line item in the Operating Budget during 2020.

MISSION STATEMENT BUDGET FOR 2021

2021 Mission Budget

Our estimated income for 2021 is \$315,000 based on actual income from 2020 and the results of our 2021 pledge campaign. The budget approved by the vestry at our December meeting projects operating expenses of \$315,000 which is equal to our projected income. Any income in excess of actual operating expenses will be applied against any non-operating (major facility repairs or upgrades) costs or to increase our reserve funds.

It continues to be our long-term goal to have adequate income on a yearly basis to cover both operating and non-operating expenses. We hope to reinstate the usage of our facilities this year to help achieve this goal.

The following are highlights of the 2021 Mission Budget:

- No salary increases for 2021.
- Anticipated lower Music expense due to continued shutdown.
- All outreach programs will continue to be funded outside of the Mission Budget.
- We increased our Diocesan Pledge to 11% of our 2019 standard operating income, with an eye towards attaining the 12% of standard operating income that the Diocese has set for all of its functioning parishes.

Cash Balances

Cash balances at year end 2020 totaled \$465,547 with \$318,005 invested in the Diocesan Investment Trust and the balance in the Operating and Savings Accounts at F & M Bank. This is a continued increase over last year's levels.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND SUMMARY FOR 2020

The Canons of the Church allow for the establishment of a fund separate from the Parish General Fund accounts, for purposes of providing financial assistance to parishioners and others who are in need. This fund, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, to which the Rector is sole signer, and which is solely under the control of the Rector, is set-up to provide for complete confidentiality of the recipients.

The Parish budget provides the Rector's Discretionary Fund with \$150 per month as a form of outreach ministry. Additional income is provided by parishioners and others who donate to the Fund periodically. Honoraria from weddings and memorial services may also be deposited in the Fund as the Rector so chooses. Following is a summary of the Fund's receipts and disbursements (by category only) for 2020.

Balance as of December 31, 2019	2,264.75
Receipts	
Parish Contributions	1,800.00
Contributions from Individuals	1,773.82
Honoraria	1,000.00
Other	0.00
Total Receipts	4,573.82
Disbursements	
Assistance	
General Assistance	0.00
Food	0.00
Housing	(928.00)
Utilities	(550.00)
Gas and Transportation	(150.00)
Medical	(350.00)
Other	(11.00)
Total Assistance	(1,989.00)
Parish Organizations	0.00
Charitable Organizations	(650.00)
Administrative Expenses	0.00
Total Disbursements	(2,639.00)
Excess receipts over disbursements	1,934.82
Balance as of December 31, 2020	4,199.57

Prepared by the Rev. Michael Fincher, Rector

RITE AT THE CONCLUSION OF VESTRY SERVICE

Rector: Kris, Melanie, Diane, and Susan, you were called by the people of God, to serve them as a member of the Vestry of this parish. You answered their call. You have been faithful in attendance at meetings. You have been a responsible steward of the congregation's resources. You have considered our future course and your views have informed our planning. You have led by example, especially in attendance at worship and in sharing your time, talent, and treasure with Christ's church. Now, others must step forward to take your place among the leaders of this congregation. As you leave the Vestry, we thank you for your service, saying with Jesus, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We offer you our prayers and our support as you move on in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And we ask you to reaffirm your commitment to this parish as a fitting capstone to the duty you have so faithfully discharged.

Kris, Melanie Diane, and Susan, do you reaffirm your commitment as a member of this congregation?

Member: I do.

Rector: Will you seek new ways to serve Christ in his church?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you continue to support the work of this parish with your time, talent, and treasure?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you refrain from meddling, and offer advice and counsel to the next Vestry only when asked?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you reject gossip and backbiting about your successors, and respect the integrity of their efforts?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you respect the confidentiality of the new Vestry's deliberations, and be content to learn about such matters when the rest of the parish does?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you trust the Spirit to work through our newly elected leaders to guide this parish and all its members in their life and work?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Will you continue to pray for this parish, its members, its clergy, and its Vestry?

Member: I will, with God's help.

Rector: O God, who sent your Son to show us that the last shall be first and that the one who would be greatest must be the least, help your servants Kris, Melanie, Diane, and Susan, who have been faithful members of the Vestry of this parish, find new ways to exercise ministry and leadership in your church. Help them to keep the promises made here today before. Grant that they, free from the burdens of this office, might discover anew the joy of our Christian faith. Inspire them to be supportive of and helpful to those who take their place on the Vestry. And grant that they, along with all good and faithful stewards within your kingdom, may enter into your joy, in this life and in the life hereafter. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All: **Amen.**

COMMISSIONING OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

Sr. Warden: On behalf of St. Gregory's Parish, I present: Bruce Graham, Alfonso Lemus, Donna Woolverton, Larry Curry, Michael Johnston, and Sarah Spencer continuing in their terms as members of the Vestry;
_____, as newly elected members of the Vestry; and
_____, as delegates to Diocesan Convention.

Rector: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

Sr. Warden: They have.

Rector (to the new leaders):

Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: I do.

Rector: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: I do.

Rector (to the congregation):

Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

People: **We will.**

Rector: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service

of the kingdom of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

In continuing my tenure on our Vestry, I was nominated to be the Junior Warden for St. Gregory's in February 2020 at our annual Vestry Retreat.

Little did we know what awaited us as we wrapped our retreat and embarked upon the new year! Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, and we were obliged, like so many others, to turn inward and seek alternate ways for St. Gregory's to continue offering its ministry.

We are now worshipping together virtually, and while we all would much rather be together in worship, we are finding ways to offer support to our parish and community through the technology that God has guided us to.

Much of my focus this year has been on ensuring that we stay financially viable and ready to open our doors when the opportunity presents itself. Thankfully, the combination of reduced operating costs and the true generosity of everyone at St. Gregory's has kept us on firm financial footing and finds us in a strong position to provide for all our ministries as God gradually lights the way for all of us to venture back together.

Thank you for being the loving and generous family that you are, and I look forward to another year of fellowship, love, and spiritual growth.

Gratefully Yours,
Alfonso F. Lemus, Jr. Warden



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worshiping Together each Week

Eucharist 74

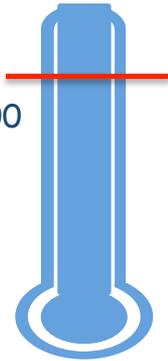
Prayer 29

Community Update Q4 2020

And for Christmas Eve -- 90

Giving of our Treasure

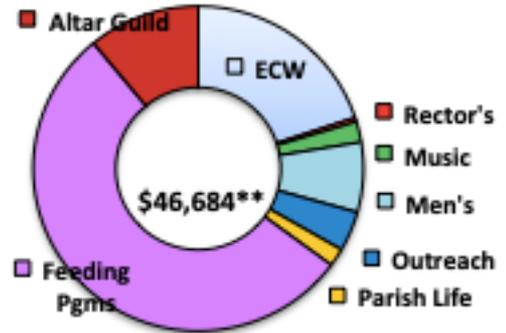
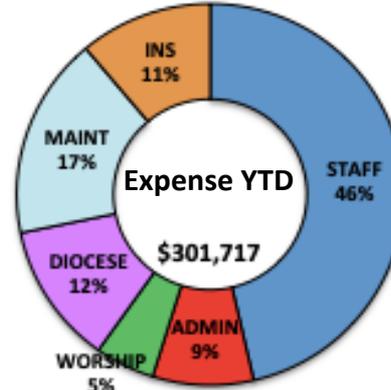
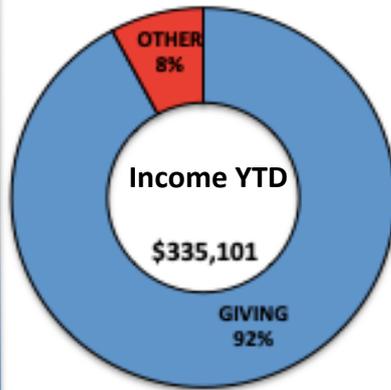
YTD Actual*
\$308,728



2020 Plan \$288,700

(*thru Dec2020)

To operate our Parish



And more to Designated Funds (**Dec2020 balance)

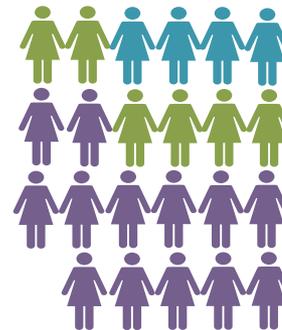
Celebrating Christmas!

The gift cards collected enabled 17 Long Beach families, including 34 children, to have holiday food and gifts.



What a joyous Christmas Eve! Candlelight, beautiful decorations and SINGING!

Continuing our Ministries Impacting 1,150 people in Q4 alone!

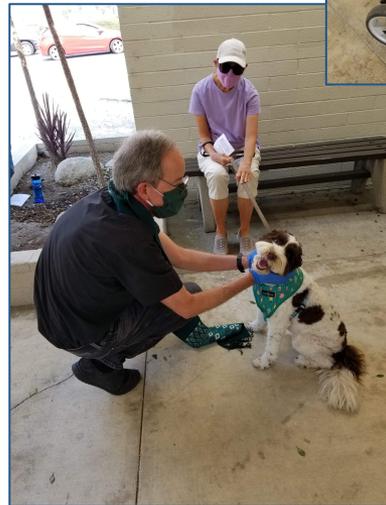


- Outreach Programs
Food Bank, Holiday Gift Cards
- Partnerships
Feed My Lambs
- Groups we host on campus
CPR, Orchid Sale, Kickboxing

(Each figure represents 50 people impacted in Q4)

Questions or suggestions welcomed - contact any Vestry member

24 of the non-human companions who have kept us company during our time of being quarantined at home were recognized and blessed at our socially-distanced, masked-up Blessing of the Animals.





ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

- To worship and glorify God
- To transform faith into action
- To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector
562-420-1311
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David J. Feit-Pretzer, Director of Music
714-899-1902

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator
562-420-1311
info@stgregoryschurch.com