

St. Stephen's Annual Meeting

January 31, 2021

Agenda

Call to Order
Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting
Senior Warden Report, Betty Palmer

Reports

- Investment Committee Report – Joel Bigelow/Fred Warner
- Treasurer-Aletha Bonebrake
 - Assets/Special Funds Report
 - Memorial Fund Report
 - Rental Year End and Sinking Fund Report
 - Women's Group Financial Report
 - General Fund Year End Report

2021 Proposed Budget- **Motion to Adopt**

- Jr. Warden's Report-Molly Larsen
- Vicar's Report-Rev. Aletha Bonebrake
- Deacon's Report
- Men's Group-Joel Bigelow
- Sunday School-Beth Bigelow
- Altar Guild-Beth Bigelow
- Newsletter- Cammy Warner

Elections

Junior Warden- Molly Larsen & Lynn Perkins, Deputy Warden
Convention Delegates – 1 each, Lay and Alternate
Vestry –do not have rotation list – suggest same and volunteers

Closing Remarks

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Well, 2020 has certainly been a year of surprises!

It was just a year ago during Annual Meeting that we learned of Ann and Stacy Ward's Legacy, a sustaining gift that, with careful planning could provide St. Stephen's with fiscal security for decades to come. And as communities all around our diocesan region face financial uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, that unexpected legacy has proved to be a blessing, indeed.

You will hear a financial update of these generous gifts later in the meeting, but for now let me say that this funding allows us not just security for our church's future but the ability for the congregation to bless others in turn.

In February we celebrated Ground Hog's Day with the Episcopossums playing gospel/bluegrass as the congregation and friends enjoyed a meal of biscuits and sausage gravy. What a joyful evening that was! Then, a few weeks later, the body came together to serve St. Stephens' traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to the community.

Then, an unprecedented turn of events in March 2020 occurred as we came face-to-face with the paralyzing impact of COVID-19. Businesses and schools were severely restricted; life for families living on the edge of poverty became unsustainable.

This impacted our church family, as Bishop Patrick Bell instituted a moratorium on in-person services for churches across the Eastern Oregon Diocese. Throughout the spring months we learned to connect with the body of Christ in new ways through zoom, you tube and the internet.

At this time, the church began to increase our outreach support for families suffering from food insecurity. Due to the forward thinking of Jim Tomlinson, Michael Chase and Maryanne Lovell, St. Stephens had a ready pathway through the "bread ministry", which was supplemented by fruits and vegetables throughout the summer. St. Stephens' food pantry, created by the thoughtful work of Heather and Mark Johnson and supported with donated items from the church membership, has likewise been a constant resource throughout the months of the pandemic. Your vestry voted to subsidize member donations with a weekly allowance for food, through which Molly Larson diligently keeps the pantry filled. Thank you, Molly for taking on this ministry.

Spring also brought two large maintenance projects which took quite a bit of work - St. Brigid's roof fell due to an impressive amount of snow build up and a large sinkhole appeared in the church parking lot! These projects were effectively handled, thanks to Aletha's extensive background in building maintenance and insurance claims.

With the approach of summer, thanks to Aletha's skillful advocacy, Bishop Pat gave special dispensation to his Baker City church to meet in person.

And meet we did! From May through September, faithful congregants gathered outside on the front lawn - a dozen or more each week, celebrating the goodness of the Lord. Sometimes our services were blessed by visitors; one Sunday even the nesting birds joined in. Special thanks to Jessie Anderson for helping us figure out the audio logistics.

Summer brought new maintenance challenges - Lynn Perkins stepped up to help us secure the outside storage shed, set up security lights and complete needed repairs for the church. Joel, Beth and Rob helped care for the church grounds and flower beds.

As the pandemic continued to take its toll, Ascension Camp was closed for the summer. Our parish contributed to their financial support both with individual contributions and through financial gifts commissioned by your vestry.

Virtual Sunday School brought it challenges! Karen Zimmer and Beth Bigelow became creative thought leaders as they developed unique projects and activities to keep the children of St. Stephens engaged in the church and learning how God uses his church to provide for the needs of others. Thank you, ladies!

In September, Taylor Clark began his second year of study at the High Desert School of Ministry. We are blessed to be able to sponsor his studies and doubly blessed by his ministry within our parish.

From September through December, we were able to meet in person inside the sanctuary. What a joy to be inside together through the holidays.

But COVID-19 numbers continued to increase throughout our community, putting us back into a cautious state of operation. Due to this, our Consecration Sunday celebration took a different turn with Kristin Anderson catering boxed lunch for church members, delivered door-to-door by your vestry in thanksgiving for the faithfulness of our St. Stephens crew.

Mindful of potential complications, our typically well attended Christmas Eve service was divided into two separate events, with Carol Harley contributing beautifully recorded music. As the service concluded with our traditional candlelight vigil, Silent Night, you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

And here we are, full circle, once more celebrating the year through our Annual Meeting. I want to take this moment to thank the St. Stephens family for your dedication and commitment to this fellowship. You will hear through our financial report that the members of this body have stepped up yet again to support the church's ministry in the coming year through their sustaining pledges. Your generosity is an encouragement to all of us. Thank you.

In closing, I want to say a special thanks to Aletha for her steadfast leadership, creative energy and selfless service, which she pours out to the congregation and ministry of St. Stephens Episcopal. We are so blessed to have her! Thank you, Aletha!

January 27, 2021 Investment Committee Meeting Notes

Attendance: Aletha Bonebrake, Jack Wilson, Karen Zimmer, Betty Palmer, Joel Bigelow.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Joel Bigelow at 9:03 a.m.

Betty Palmer agreed to take notes for the committee.

Background

In December of 2019, Charlie Vaughan informed Aletha Bonebrake that Ann Ward had left a sizeable portion of her estate to St. Stephens' Episcopal in Baker City. Aletha informed the vestry, who established an ad hoc Investment Advisory committee to provide a check-and-balance factor to the vestry and advise on investment decisions concerning the estate.

The Investment Advisory Committee met in 2020 and interviewed local investment brokers. They agreed to split funds from Ann Ward's legacy between two investment firms: Oregon Trail Investment (Scott Warner) and Vision Wealth Management (Marcy Osborne).

Investment Update

Joel Bigelow provided a current financial status the Ann Ward Legacy funds for St. Stephens:

Oregon Trail Investment Service

- 2019 fund: \$46,949
- 2020 50% Ann Ward Legacy: \$349,007.72 closing value 12/31/2020
Dividend from 2020 increase: **\$7,568.10** (\$10,383.11-fees \$2,596.30-cap. Gain \$218.61)

Vision Wealth Management

- 2020 Ann Ward Legacy: \$355,012.82 closing value 12/31/2020
Dividend from 2020 increase: **\$8,132.46** (\$12,162.72-fees \$2,249.04-cap.gain \$1,781.22)

Additionally, \$25,000 was appropriated from the Ann Ward legacy for a checking account at Community Bank. Monies were appropriated from this fund for Taylor Clark's second year tuition in the High Desert School of Ministry and 50% of the Consecration Sunday catering fees.

Current balance of that account: \$22,645.

Expenditures yet to be deducted from this account include Taylor's final year of tuition for the High Desert Ministry and the creation and installation of a stained glass window commemorating Ann Ward.

A recent conversation with Charlie Vaughan, executor of the Ward estate, revealed a remaining value of approximately \$124,000 (\$88,000 – Ann Ward, \$36,000 Stacy Ward) to be distributed to St. Stephens within the next month. This divestiture will close the estate.

The final amount available for investment is estimated to be \$827,772.

Recommendations for financing outreach to the vestry

Joel asked Jack Wilson to provide background information re: divestiture decision process for the Leo Adler Legacy fund. Jack shared that the Adler Foundation Committee plan was to appropriate 5% of the principle annually to community organizations valued by Adler. Over the years, disbursements through the Leo Adler Foundation have averaged at about 5.5% of the principal investment.

Discussion ensued concerning potential guidelines from the IRA and the Diocese regarding how the money can be spent. Aletha agreed to find out what rules might apply to St. Stephens ability to distribute monies to local charities.

Investment strategy for remaining legacy gift

Committee consensus was to continue with Vision Wealth Management and Oregon Trail Investment for our principle investment, and to split the final portion to be received (\$124,000) 50% to each company.

Suggestions for moving forward

The discussion turned to how best to utilize annual dividends, once Aletha has been able to determine which governing guidelines and rules might direct our actions.

The Investment Committee recommended the vestry create a process for disbursing dividends to qualifying local organizations including Ascension Camp, May Day, CASA, Salvation Army along with other qualifying entities the vestry might deem appropriate. The various donations are to be disbursed from the annual dividends. Acknowledgement was give that the amount available for such uses may vary widely from year to year.

It was further recommended that the Community Bank Checking account be funded up to \$25,000 per year and kept as a contingency fund for St. Stephens.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Palmer

St. Stephen's Assets January 1, 2021

	Total:	\$ 2,232,992.32	2,669,389.13
	Liquid:	\$ 339,392.32	775,789.13
		1/1/2020	1/1/2021
Investments & Real Estate			
	Dreyfus Fund (Money Market)	\$ 3,388.30	3,395.23
	Intervest Int'l (moved into Lincoln)	\$ 0	
	Fidelity (moved into Lincoln)	\$ 0	
	Lincoln Financial (brokerage fund)	\$ 46,668.31	349,007.72
	Vision Wealth Mgt (brokerage fund)	0	355,012.82
	Total Value in Investments	\$ 50,056.61	676,168.10
	Church Replacement Limit	\$1,743,600.00	no new est.
	Little House Replacement Limit	\$ 150,000.00	no new est.
	Total Valuation Real Estate	\$ 1,893,600.00	\$ 1,893,600.00

Bank Accounts

	<u>General Fund</u>	
Umpqua Bank – G.F. Checking	\$ 2,538.05	8,682.45
Liabilities (Outstanding Checks)	<1,914.02>	<1,200.00>
Net Cash carryover	624.03	7,482.45

	<u>St. Stephen's Special Funds</u>	
Banner Bank	12,956.05	19,231.73
Memorial Fund	5,775.40	7,066.45
Rental Active Fund	2,187.14	3,659.58
Rental Sinking Fund for Repairs	4,993.51	8,505.70
Community Bank – Special Funds	\$ 18,423.83	13,847.48
Choir (Bird House & gifts)	\$ 131.91	131.91
Flower Fund	\$ 413.39	202.25
Men's Group (for Camp Scholarships)	\$ 5,549.76	5,049.76
Sunday School (past auction income)	\$ 2,031.68	2,792.60
Pancake Supper (break even)	\$ 204.01	125.93
Preschool – Zimmer	\$ 9,092.08	4,011.33
Priest Discretionary (Pig, honoraria)	\$ 364.67	933.63
St. Brigid's Discretionary	\$ 600.57	600.57
Unencumbered – Administration	\$ 35.76	0

Community Bank – Investments Earnings		
Ann Ward Legacy Fund (Bank Acct.)	\$ 250,000.00	22,645.13

Umpqua Bank		
Women's Group	\$ 7,331.80	7,361.80

TOTAL NET BANK ACCOUNTS	289,335.71	71,768.59
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Banner Bank

Basic Business Checking

Account Title: St Stephens Parish

Memorial Funds

Dates 12/01/20 thru 12/31/20

Previous Balance 7,066.45 Days in the statement period 31

Deposits/Credits .00 Average Ledger 7,066.45

Debits .00 Average Collected 7,066.45

Service Charge .00

Interest Paid .00

Current Balance 7,066.45

Daily Balance Summary

Date Balance 12/01 7,066.45

******* END OF STATEMENT *******

St Stephens Parish

Memorial Funds

PO Box 1146

Baker City OR 97814-1146

Statement of Account

12/31/20

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SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Rental Year End and Sinking Fund Report

Banner Bank

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

12/31/20

Basic Business Checking \$2,609.58

Business Savings \$8,505.70

Basic Business Checking

Account Title: St Stephens Parish

Number of Enclosures 0

Statement Dates 12/01/20 thru 12/31/20

Previous Balance 2,609.58 Days in the statement period 31

Deposits/Credits .00 Average Ledger 2,609.58

Debits .00 Average Collected 2,609.58

Service Charge .00

Interest Paid .00

Current Balance 2,609.58

Daily Balance Summary

Date Balance

12/01 2,609.58

St Stephens Parish

PO Box 1146

Baker City OR 97814-1146

Statement of Account

12/31/20



UMPQUA BANK

ST STEPHENS EPISCOPAL
WOMENS GROUP
PO BOX 1148
BAKER CITY OR 97814-1148

Balance Summary

Average Ledger Balance	\$7,361.80
Less Average Float	<u>\$0.00</u>
Average Collected Balance	\$7,361.80
Average Negative Collected Balance	\$0.00
Average Positive Collected Balance	\$7,361.80
Investable Balance	\$7,361.80
Investable Balance	\$7,361.80
Less Balance Required for Services	<u>\$0.00</u>
Excess/(Deficit) Balance	\$7,361.80

Results Summary

Analyzed Results	
Earnings Credit at 0.00% of Balance	\$0.00
Less Total Analyzed Fees	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Analyzed Results	\$0.00

Balance Summary

Average Ledger Balance	\$7,361.80
Less Average Float	<u>\$0.00</u>
Average Collected Balance	\$7,361.80
Average Negative Collected Balance	\$0.00
Average Positive Collected Balance	\$7,361.80
Investable Balance	\$7,361.80
Investable Balance	\$7,361.80
Less Balance Required for Services	<u>\$0.00</u>
Excess/(Deficit) Balance	\$7,361.80

Results Summary

Analyzed Results	
Earnings Credit at 0.00% of Balance	\$0.00
Less Total Analyzed Fees	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Analyzed Results	\$0.00

Current Budget - Last year

1/1/2020 through 12/31/2020 Using St. Stephens Budget 2017

1/29/2021

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Category	Actual	2020 Budget	Difference
PERSONAL EXPENSES	43,287.02	46,002.00	2,714.98
Advertising	394.74	800.00	405.26
Altar Guild	574.23	600.00	25.77
Bank Charge	179.00	0.00	-179.00
Clergy-Housing Allowance	6,300.00	5,600.00	-700.00
Diocesan Assessment	10,528.20	10,350.00	-178.20
Diocesan Convention	0.00	600.00	600.00
Education	0.00	157.00	157.00
Adult Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Education	0.00	157.00	157.00
Insurance	4,987.90	4,640.00	-347.90
Payroll Insurance	559.90	540.00	-19.90
Property Insurance	4,428.00	4,100.00	-328.00
Maintenance	4,679.78	6,000.00	1,320.22
Church	657.75	1,000.00	342.25
Ground Maintenance	1,649.13	2,400.00	750.87
Housekeeping Church	2,372.90	2,600.00	227.10
Ministry Education Support	0.00	200.00	200.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	137.00	400.00	263.00
Pianist	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Music	137.00	400.00	263.00
Office Equipment	778.48	1,200.00	421.52
Office Supplies	575.72	600.00	24.28
Parish Outreach	976.44	0.00	-976.44
Postage	354.51	350.00	-4.51
Professional Services	614.00	250.00	-364.00
Publications	460.65	300.00	-160.65
Secretary Salary	1,704.23	2,600.00	895.77
St. Brigid's	2,806.45	1,985.00	-821.45
Electricity	580.60	460.00	-120.60
Propane (St. Brigid)	1,826.18	1,200.00	-626.18
Water (St. Brigid)	399.67	325.00	-74.67
Other St. Brigid's	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax	176.32	200.00	23.68
Payroll (Employer)	176.32	200.00	23.68
Utilities St. Stephens	7,059.37	7,170.00	110.63
Electricity (Church)	1,551.41	1,300.00	-251.41
Garbage & Recycling (Church)	317.50	370.00	52.50
Gas (Church)	2,260.90	2,500.00	239.10
Telephone & Internet (Church)	1,887.12	1,300.00	-587.12
Water (Church)	1,042.44	1,700.00	657.56
ZZ-Contingency	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
PERSONAL INCOME	52,728.89	46,002.00	6,726.89
Beginning Balance	624.03	3,812.00	-3,187.97
House Rental Contribution	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Other Gift Income	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Other Inc (Unpledged)	425.86	300.00	125.86
Plate Offering (Unidentified)	823.00	1,500.00	-677.00

Current Budget - Last year

1/1/2020 through 12/31/2020 Using St. Stephens Budget 2017

1/29/2021

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Category	Actual	2020 Budget	Difference
Pledged Offering	43,846.00	37,890.00	5,956.00
Preschool Contribution Utilities	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
St. Brigid Offering	10.00	500.00	-490.00
St. Brigid's Propane Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Difference:	9,441.87	0.00	9,441.87

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY 2021

Category	2020 Adopted	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed
INCOME	\$ 55,656.00	\$ 52,728.00	\$ 58,957.68
Beginning Balance	\$ 675.00	\$ 2,894.72	\$ 7,482.45
House Rental Contribution	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Close-out Drefus Investment Fund	\$ 1,281.00		\$ 3,395.23
Transfer from Dreyfus Investment Fund	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
Transfer interest Ann Ward Legacy for outreach			\$ 1,300.00
Other Income - Unpledged: N/A	\$ 300.00	\$ 425.86	\$ 300.00
Plate Offering (Unidentified)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 823.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pledged Offering	\$ 49,900.00	\$ 43,846.00	\$ 43,360.00
St. Brigid Offering	\$ 500.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 120.00
EXPENSE	\$ 55,656.00	\$ 52,473.69	\$ 58,957.68
Advertising	\$ 350.00	\$ 394.74	\$ 360.00
Altar Guild	\$ 600.00	\$ 574.23	\$ 600.00
Bank Fee		\$ 179.00	
Clergy-Housing Allowance	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,300.00
Communication Apps & Technology		\$ 89.94	\$ 200.00
Diocesan Assessment (.225 x 55,000)	\$ 12,375.00	\$ 10,528.00	\$ 12,375.00
Diocesan Convention	\$ 500.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 500.00
Education:Adult Education	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Insurance:Payroll Insurance & premium SAIF	\$ 540.00	\$ 559.90	\$ 560.00
Insurance:Property Insurance	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,428.00	\$ 4,450.00
Maintenance:Church	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 657.75	\$ 1,500.00
Maintenance:Ground Maintenance	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,649.13	\$ 1,500.00
Maintenance:Housekeeping Church	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,372.90	\$ 3,000.00
Ministry Education Support	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Music- Piano Tuning	\$ 200.00	\$ 137.00	\$ -
Office Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 778.48	\$ 1,350.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 575.72	\$ 500.00
Parish Outreach - Food for Pantry (\$50/week)	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 976.44	\$ 2,600.00
Postage	\$ 300.00	\$ 354.51	\$ 350.00
Professional Services	\$ 350.00	\$ 614.00	\$ 650.00
Publications	\$ 850.00	\$ 480.65	\$ 500.00
Secretary Salary	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,704.23	\$ 3,000.00
St. Brigid's Electricity	\$ 640.00	\$ 580.60	\$ 600.00
St. Brigid's:Propane (St. Brigid)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,826.18	\$ 1,800.00
St. Brigid's:Water (St. Brigid)	\$ 354.00	\$ 399.67	\$ 510.00
Tax:Payroll (Employer)	\$ 300.00	\$ 177.02	\$ 300.00
Utilities Rental - garbage portion paid by church*		\$ 209.50	
Utilities Rental - water portion paid by church^		\$ 1,259.28	
Utilities St. Stephens:Electricity (Church)	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,551.41	\$ 1,600.00
Utilities St. Stephens:Garbage & Recycling (Church)*	\$ 340.00	\$ 317.50	\$ 520.00
Utilities St. Stephens:Gas (Church)	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,260.90	\$ 2,000.00
Utilities St. Stephens Telephone & Internet	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,887.12	\$ 1,800.00
Utilities St. Stephens:Water (Church & House)^	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,042.44	\$ 2,300.00
Contingency	\$ 5,007.00	\$ 7,482.45	\$ 6,832.68

*included in church budget - one bill

^paid in church budget - per rental agreement

Junior Warden Report - 2021

Well, this has been an extraordinary year for us.

Many of the items on my list have been delegated to Lynn Perkins and he has accomplished so many of the items that have been on hold for quite awhile. Our church has benefited immensely from having Lynn on board.

Lynn researched and came up with three specific contacts for replacing the gutters which had to be removed after "The Big Snow." Joel contacted our new contractor for the gutter replacement and we went over the specifics on the design which suited our needs best. A special pattern was created and we now have better protection from the elements and a better preservation of the foundation.

The church, since March, has been used sparingly so upkeep hadn't been so much of a problem. This left a lot of time for reorganizing and discarding. Mindy, Betty and I have been clearing out the old choir room/library and are making progress on what we hope to be a study center for the younger people.

My hope is that we can entice the next generation to get educated on Episcopal traditions and be able to carry on knowledge of our doctrine.

The grounds have been well taken care of. We have a new contractor for mowing but Rob Palmee still does all of our snow removal and treatment for ice. The lawns have been beautiful for our outside services and we are gathering paraphernalia for a wedding venue to share more of our facility with the community.

Also, we have a collection of convalescent items for check-out if the need arises for anyone. This includes a couple of different styles of walkers and canes, tub/shower seating benches and other items which our congregants can borrow for short term use when needed.

Tools and yard equipment were removed from our storage shed and are not available at this time. The shed, in it's present location, has been more of a burden than a blessing. So, there is an idea in the works to move it to a more suitable area where it can better serve our needs and go back to "blessing" status.

Electrical outlets have been repaired and lighting has been upgraded. This has been an excellent addition for our security by Joel Bigelow and our new electrical contractor.

So, my long-winded scenario of my duties has probably left out a few things but I have thoroughly enjoyed my opportunity to serve the church. The position of Jr. Warden is a honor for me. Thank you.

Molly W. Larsen
Jr. Warden, St. Stephen's, Baker City

Lynn Perkins reports taking care of the following items

- He installed a heavy duty hasp and provided a new lock (it was ours) for the storage shed.
- He put up the heavy hog wire over the window in the shed.
- He installed a motion activated light above the shed on the side of the church.
- He had several keys made for the shed and provided them to Betty.
- He called multiple contractors to have the gutter replaced and met with him once. Because Lynn worked all summer, he asked Joel to meet with the gutter guy.
- He responded to a call from the office lady (cannot remember her name) to spray for ground bees that were near the entrance of the back door.
- He spoke to Eddy Braswell who was camping on the grounds and Lynn removed human feces from behind the big tree in front of the church.

Vicar's Annual Report

What stands out for me this past year is the faithfulness of the congregation in maintaining continuity in our worship, supporting the financial needs of the church, engaging the children in meaningful ways of spiritual growth and fellowship and supporting each other emotionally through prayer and staying in touch. So many of our former routines were slowly eroded by the persistence of the virus through the seasons and its increasing danger in the community. We moved in and out of real-time fellowship experiences as we anxiously sought adaptive solutions and awaited a vaccine.

We were fortunate in ameliorating our isolation by two important events. The first was the Bishop's willingness to look at small church's plans to address the need for social distancing and sanitation protocols and to authorize in-person worship for those who submitted an acceptable plan; the second was a beautiful Spring and Summer which allowed us to meet and worship in person on our lawn. A few times the Bishop has called a limited pause for in-person worship following State guidelines, but St. Stephen's continues to qualify for return to in-person worship when the pause is lifted. We had two safe, in-person Christmas Eve services and weekly ZOOM services through the cold-weather pause with the backdrop of our altar. This will continue now until March 1 at the earliest.

What has been lost this past year is Bible Study gathering, Episcopossum music, and our extraordinary, food-filled after-service fellowship gatherings. But Sunday School teachers have kept the children engaged with outside physical activities, skiing and potato gleaning for example, and a Gospel focus on holidays. Decorating delivered pumpkins at home raised \$1,500 at the auction Fred ran on the lawn to be used for Ascension school scholarships and for the children's Christmas food basket outreach purchase and delivery program. And gingerbread house kits given to the children who created fantasies to be placed in storefronts along Main Street as part of a community fundraiser for CASA. There is no way to quantify the incredible amount of thought, love and labor that went into engaging our children with Christ, but we thank the teachers with full hearts.

We were unable to continue outreach services to St. Brigid's in Sumpter after March, primarily due to the delicate health of our two most faithful worshippers. But I was able to visit by phone and deliver a Consecration Sunday meal and visit safely a while.

The newsletter has continued to highlight our adventurous year through pictures and thoughtful essays both found and written by intrepid editor, Cammy.

The unexpected gift from the estates of our long-time friend and parishioner Ann Ward, who passed away more than 12 years ago, and her daughter, Stacy, who passed just last fall, has created extraordinary new opportunities for our stalwart and patient church family. We have kept this church going through 147 years in Baker City with generous gifts of time and treasure and a lot of prayer, but have wondered how we will ensure its legacy to the children in these increasingly unchurched times. This gift provides great stability and incentive to honor the past and prepare for the future. We have a Finance and Investment Committee now to plan and we invite, today especially, and any time, all of us to give thought, and voice ideas on what we can become, with God's help.

Our Deacon, The Rev. Dcn. Taylor Clark, has been deeply engaged in all services and events this year and continues in his second year of High Desert School of Ministry in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. He has made known his desire to more fully serve St. Stephen's after his retirement next year, allowing Aletha to retire as Vicar, and ensuring a sacramental presence among our shared ministries for years to come. This is also a gift from God for the times.

Another positive change for the future comes as a gift of time and talent from Betty Palmer, who has offered to take over the bookkeeping duties which had formerly been managed by Nancy Buehler, and lately been covered by Aletha. We purchased QuickBooks and are migrating from Quicken, so check-writing, creating reports, and auditing will be more efficient.

We could not manage the backroom work of our church without the dedication and creative efforts of Mindy Sherrieb, our Secretary and office manager, for whom I am very grateful. She continues to slog through all the files in the old office area and, with Cammy, is cleaning up our records and organizing for a more orderly future.

I serve on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and share with other clergy and lay members in planning and monitoring the processes for ordination for persons who self-select or are chosen by their congregations to explore ordained ministry. As clergy, I also attend several meetings a year called "Collegium" to stay in touch with evolving issues in society, the national church and our Diocesan congregations.

I am deeply honored to be entrusted with the sacramental worship at St. Stephen's and equally grateful for all the good and gracious people who sustain all our ministries and a profound fellowship of Love.

Thank you all. The Rev. Aletha G. Bonebrake, Vicar

DEACON'S REPORT 2021

At this annual meeting we come together to apprise each other of what our ministry has been this year at St. Stephens. Throughout this somewhat horrendous year, I have gratefully been your deacon. Together as members of Christ's One, Holy, and Apostolic Church, we were able to draw each other close. We have weathered this past year of the pandemic with God's grace and presence.

Christ's presence continues even as we struggle together In separate zoom pods to spread the Good news of Jesus Christ.

My ministry has been most apparent through your generous gift of Priest school. I have learned through the teachings of bishops, priests, deacons, and lay folks about our churches scriptures, traditions and polity. Our Diocesan High Desert School of Ministry has itself needed to adapt. Rather than meeting and personally sharing our learning with each other at Cove, we meet for a 12 hour Zoom meeting one time a month. I am certainly not complaining. It is with thankfulness that we are able to continue. It is only through the guidance of Bishop Pat in this tumultuous time that we continue. His insightful actions have saved us from significant ravages to our communities of faith and our call to ministry. It will be our calling throughout this next year to continue to be the hand of Christ to this community even as we adapt and change with the ravages of this Pandemic. Thank you for allowing me to offer whatever I have been given, to be of service.

In Christ,

The Reverend Deacon Taylor B. Clark

Taylor

Men's Group Report

St. Stephen's men's group met early in the year(pre covid) to provide the after service brunch. As with most activities it has since been curtailed. A \$500 donation to Ascension School was approved to help offset the financial burden imposed by the pandemic. A special thanks to Adam Crowell and Dan McQuisten for their help with the breakfast and other projects.

Submitted by Joel Bigelow

Altar Guild Report

Our Altar Guild membership has remained strong and active despite the challenges of last year. I appreciated our members willingness to adapt to changes on how to care for the altar during the pandemic.

Accommodations were made to prepare the altar either in the church or in the yard depending on the location of the service.

It was also decided to set up the altar during the Lent and Easter season despite the church being closed. By doing this we hoped to honor the spirit of the season.

I would also like to acknowledge Karen Zimmer for quietly polishing all the candles, vases, crosses etc to prepare in preparation for the Advent Season.

Altar Guild members are:

Betty Palmer

Karen Zimmer

Heather Palmer Johnson

Sue Richard

Beth Bigelow

Please contact Aletha, the office or myself if you would like to donate flowers for a special occasion. As soon as the church resumes in person services the flower sign up sheet will be hung in Nevius Hall.

Thanks for the wonderful dedication of keeping our altar alive and well during the 2020 year!

Submitted by Beth Bigelow

MUSIC REPORT

Dear members of St. Stephens,

When the need arose for a more personalized music, the Episcopossums was formed. Inspired by the Reverend Lee Keefer, we came together to augment our services with singing and playing instruments to God's praise. We have been excited and empowered to offer ourselves in this joyful ministry. As we all know, the pandemic has painfully stopped our ability to "get together." What it has not done is deprive us of the love we share with each other in this gift of music. We will be back! Through Carol's expertise we have laughed and prayed, embraced and supported this wonderful stalwart group of Christians, Favorite hymns and bluegrass Gospel melodies will return!

With Love,

Carol Harley

Sunday School Report

Sunday School at Saint Stephens continued through the winter months of 2020. Approximately ten children attended. Classes were held on the first and third Sundays of the month and were being taught by Beth Bigelow, Karen Zimmer, Courtney Crowell, Cammy Warner and Carol Harley.

Ukulele lessons for the Sunday school were in full swing. The children met on the first Sunday of the month during their Sunday school time and received lessons from Carol Harley. The children had shared their new musical talents during a short performance on the first Sunday of advent and practice had started for an Easter song. Carol's musical expertise and energy were a wonderful addition to our Sunday school.

During January our children under the direction of Courtney Warner ushered in the Epiphany Season with cupcakes, an epiphany cake and visuals made by the class to help church members better understand the season. They also made decorations for our Groundhog dinner that was held in February.

Unfortunately all of these activities ceased in March due to the onset of Covid. However, thanks to the ingenuity and adaptability of the Sunday school teachers, projects for the children continued in a different format. Many of them included outreach to the community.

Activities for Easter and Resurrection Sunday were mailed home by Karen Zimmer. The children were sent Easter cards, parish member addresses and were encouraged to mail the cards.

Members of the Sunday school met at the Bigelow farm in September and traveled together to a neighboring farm to glean potatoes. About 530 pounds of potatoes were gathered and donated to the Salvation Army. The event was followed with an outdoor pizza party.

Pumpkins were distributed to the homes of the Sunday school in September and the children were asked to decorate them for the annual pumpkin auction. The pumpkins were auctioned off later in the fall and successfully raised enough money to sponsor five families with a Christmas dinner basket and gift certificate.

Gingerbread houses were also distributed in November to the Sunday school families and the children were encouraged to enter them into the community Gingerbread Contest sponsored by CASA.

Additional at home activities are currently being planned for this year's Easter and spring activities. Special thanks to the efforts of our teachers and children for their community outreach activities. All our teachers and I are looking forward to the time when we can begin in person classes again!

Submit by Beth Bigelow