



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BAYSIDE, NEW YORK



132ND ANNUAL MEETING ✝ JANUARY 28, 2024

RECTOR'S REPORT

From the Parish Register for 2023

Total Saturday Evening/ Sunday Attendance: **2,816 in person**

Average Sunday Attendance: **53 in person**

Total Easter Attendance: 94 ✝ Total Christmas Attendance: **111**

Total Communion Received: **2,878**

Saturday Evening/ Sunday H.E. services: **62** ✝ Saturday Evening/ Sunday M.P. services: **4**

Baptisms: **3** ✝ Burials: **6**

The above numbers count only in-person attendance. We still have a solid online congregation

Worship & Liturgy:

Our worship services in 2023 looked more like pre-pandemic times. Our numbers have risen somewhat since last year, and we have held 8:00 AM services on the first Sunday of most months. The attendance at 8:00 is very small, but it is good to be able to offer the service monthly. Thanks to our dedicated producer/director in the "Broadcast Balcony" we are still reaching people near and far online with very high quality online services.

We were able to observe all the high points of the liturgical year as well as worshipping together through the ordinary times. Our parish family was intrepid when it came to attending services accompanied by the roar of industrial space heaters.

Some of the liturgical highlights of the year included the Way of the Cross walked through the neighborhood; our Easter celebrations, the annual outdoor service, Pentecost with Grace, Whitestone, and our Christmas Pageant which is a marvelous reflection of the heart of All Saints. Few, if any, small parishes have an intergenerational pageant which joins so much of the congregation in living the story of the Incarnation.

Of course, "liturgy" is defined as "the work of the people" and happens because we come together. I want to thank the people who help to lead the worship each week: Christopher and Daniel Batashoff and Albert Agyeman, acolytes deluxe, and Samuel Park who has taken on so much of the acolyte work. I also want to thank Bridget Cossman, and our newest servers, Emily and Hanna. Of course, my thanks also to Arkady Leytush our talented and patient organist/choirmaster; the choir; the altar guild, and our ushers, especially Judy Batashoff, and John Sandrowsky.

One of the best things to happen at All Saints in 2023 was to have The Rev. Marjorie Boyden-Edmunds assigned to be our deacon. Her presence and ministry among us has been a gift that has heightened our liturgies and strengthened our parish family.

Just to keep her guessing, I want to remember to thank Susan for her dozens of weeks of reading, singing, and altar guild service. Finally, my thanks to our tech whiz, Teddy Byrne who makes our on-line worship the highest quality, and to Diana Gilday for photographing services, jumping in to help with music, tech and just about anything else! Last but not least, everyone I have missed and all who gather each week.

Christian Formation:

As we have come more and more back to in-person worship and events Christian formation has done so, too. I will leave the majority of that report to Susan.

In Lent we offered a second Faith on Film Series.

In Advent, I offered a fourth annual daily online Advent calendar which included a prayer and a brief meditation. This year, the theme was different genres of art that bring the message to us.

Diocese & Deanery:

I continued to serve on the Board of Managers of Camp DeWolfe. 2023 was a very successful year. Using a “Family Camp” model, more people than ever got to spend time at Camp DeWolfe.

I served on the search committee for the new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

In November, Susan and I led the Youth Presence at the Diocesan Convention.

I continued (and continue) to serve as chaplain to the Diocesan Altar Guild.

I continue to serve as 2nd Vice President of the National Altar Guild Association. My term in that role is coming to a close in the summer or 2024.

Buildings/ Administration / Personnel

I would not wish the job of landlord on anyone. Mosaic Church has not paid rent since May of 2023. We have with the help of the Diocese and with legal counsel done our best to work with them, however it has been to no avail. Left with no choice, we began eviction proceedings. They are to “vacate the building and surrender the keys on or before March 31.” While they have defaulted on rent, they are at least paying utilities.

The 40th Avenue side of the building was repaired and painted and a handsome new sign, a memorial for Rhys Ritter, was installed. A gift in memory of Shirley Lally made it possible to fix and upgrade the lighting in the church and Common Room.

An exceptionally generous gift made it possible to do a much-needed complete repaving of the parking lot. Our sincere thanks to Mike and Shirley DellaVecchia for making it possible and for ensuring that it was done properly!

We have had to put the roof replacement on hold, but fortunately the roof is holding.

I also want to thank Nancy McCarthy for her hard work in keeping the church running smoothly. Nancy is in only on Fridays, but manages to keep us up to date on myriad things.

We have been increasingly unhappy with the cleaning service used in 2023. As of this week, we have let them go. We do not plan to replace them, but plan on volunteer teams of parishioners to keep the building in shape.

Outreach and Evangelism

We continued to focus much energy on outreach and evangelism. As we look beyond our walls, we are *being the Church* and helping to bring the Kingdom of God closer.

We were able to continue programs launched in 2022 including:

- ☞ All Saints Arts- Programs of visual and performing arts as well as authors nights. Plans are underway for two authors to share their work with us in the coming year. I hope to expand the program in 2024
- ☞ The Blessing Box: We have discovered an underserved need in our community. The people of All Saints have been very generous in keeping the box full. Special thanks to Jack Oshier for his unique ministry of “ripping off the stores” to make every dollar stretch incredibly far!
- ☞ Advent/ Christmas Adopt A Family and “Knock Knock Give A Sock”

You will hear from Communications about our strong online presence.

The Thrift Shop reopened in 2023! Many thanks to Karen Friedl and staff for keeping this outreach effort going.

Parish Life

Most of the following may be covered in other reports; however the following are some highlights:

- ☒ Fundraiser dinner for “Team KB” to assist the Tonnesen family with Kristen’s care
- ☒ Concert for the Blessing Box in June
- ☒ 10 Major Tom’s Coffeehouses
- ☒ The Holly Bazaar
- ☒ Santa arriving via fire truck for the children’s Christmas party
- ☒ Christmas Cabaret

Looking Ahead

I hope that in 2023 we will continue to build on and celebrate 131 years of being the Church in Bayside and beyond.

Some specific goals for 2024:

- ✘ Refinish the floor in the Church
- ✘ Create a new parish Directory
- ✘ Find new tenants for the Parish House ASAP
- ✘ Do a major reorganization of the undercroft and refurbish the old “AA Room” so that it can become a viable rental and ministry space.
- ✘ Help us to live more into the “five churches, one community” ethos of the Deanery
- ✘ Bring our “Safe Church” certifications up to date
- ✘ Revise our by-laws to be consistent with NY Religious Corporation laws
- ✘ Find a bit more time for rest and for study so that I can serve more effectively.

To conclude my 2023 report, I want to thank the parish for your support of Susan and me going on sabbatical. Our time in the UK was restorative and quite wonderful. It was quite something to walk and worship in some of the most historic places in the Anglican Communion. We will always be grateful to Marjorie, Judy, John and Teddy for doing so much to help us *be* away.

We have a challenging year ahead, but I have no doubt that we will meet each challenge and come together for the next annual meeting an even stronger parish church.

Respectfully Submitted,



The Very Rev. Laurence G. Byrne
XV Rector, All Saints, Bayside

