



The Cathedral  
Church of **Saint John**  
the **Divine**

The Congregation  
of **Saint Saviour**



# Annual Report

for the year ending  
December 2020

For the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cathedral Congregation of Saint Saviour  
February 7, 2021

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# Agenda for the 29th Annual Meeting

February 7, 2021  
Online by ZOOM

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer, Welcome, and Introductions
3. Dean's Remarks
4. Determination of Quorum and Designation of Secretary
5. Election of Officers:
  - a. Review of Election Procedure
  - b. Introduction of Candidates for Vestry, Warden, and Inter-Parish Council
  - c. Nominations from the floor
  - d. Opening of Polls and Voting (10 minutes)
  - e. Closing of Polls and collection of ballots
6. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
7. Vicar's Address
8. Wardens' and Committee Leaders' Address
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Report of Elections
11. Call to Adjourn
12. Blessing and Dismissal

# Minutes from the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Robert Deming, Secretary

The Congregation of St. Saviour  
at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine  
Sunday, February 2, 2020

## 1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Steven Lee, Canon Pastor and Vicar, gets the attention of the attendees in the Chapel of St. James. Steven indicates that this meeting must stop by 2:30 P.M. He proceeds to call the meeting to order and leads an opening prayer.

## 2. Dean Daniel's Welcome and Expressions of Thanks

Steven invites Dean Daniel to step up to the microphone. Although the timing is not perfect because the Dean had just taken a bite of the lunch that Lisa Chin has organized, the Dean manages the moment and draws a few laughs as well. The Dean notes the large crowd of, what he refers to, "the blessed congregation" attending this Annual Meeting. The Dean thanks everyone for all that they do for the life of the Cathedral. He ends by thanking Steven, whom he calls a great Vicar.

## 3. Confirmation Candidates

Nearly all the Confirmation Candidates are in attendance at the Annual Meeting. Steven invites them to stand and to introduce themselves. Fifteen candidates do that.

## 4. Determination of Quorum and Designation of Secretary

Gale Kenny who has helped sign in people to the meeting confirms that 55 members are in attendance. Fifty-five is well above the number needed for a quorum, which is 10% of the Congregation.

In addition, Steven indicates that Bob Deming will act as the Secretary, and his role is to take minutes of the meeting.

## 5. Election of Junior Warden and Six Vestry Positions

Marsha Ra, Senior Warden, runs the election. She starts by explaining in order to be able to vote in this election an attendee must satisfy a few requirements:

- on record as a member of the Congregation;
- a baptized Christian who is 18 or older;
- a contributor of record in the last 12 months before the election;
- in regular attendance of worship services at the Cathedral.

The candidates' statements are in the Annual Report for the Year Ending 2019, beginning on Page 9. Timothy Dwyer is running for Junior Warden for a 2-year term, Sonia Omulepu for Vestry for a 1-year term, Blake Jones for Vestry for a 2-year term, Kevin De L'Aigle for Vestry for 3-Year Term, Mark Dilcom for Vestry for a 3-Year Term, Gail Felix for Vestry for a 3-Year Term, Winston Nguyen for Vestry for a 3-Year Term, and Hal Weiner to be the Congregation's Representative to the Manhattan North Inter Parish Council.

Marsha asks if there are any nominees from the floor. Harry Johnson recommends Lorenda Johnson to serve on the Vestry. Six members proceed to second the nomination. Lorenda, who is in attendance, confirms that she is interested in serving on the Vestry. Lorenda is invited to speak. She comes to the microphone and says that she has been at

the Cathedral since 1997, and served in a number of roles, including usher and being on the Vestry for six years.

Marsha checks to see if there are any other nominations from the floor, and there are not. Marsha thus declares the nominations as closed.

Since Timothy in the Junior Warden position and Hal as the Congregation's Representative to the Manhattan North Inter Parish Council are running unopposed, Marsha recommends electing them by acclamation. A motion is made to that effect, and seconded. Timothy Dwyer as Junior Warden and Hal Weiner as Congregation's Representative to the Manhattan North Inter Parish Council are approved, without any dissenting votes.

Regarding the Vestry election, there are seven candidates vying for six spots. Marsha calls for members to vote for their preferred six candidates on the paper ballot, turn it in, and Gale Kenny and Fred Wherry will tabulate the results.

## **6. Approval of Minutes from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

Steven invites attendees to read the Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting which are on pages 6 through 9 of the Annual Report for the Year Ending 2019.

While people are reading, John Rumely suggests that next year the Minutes be sent out when the bios of individuals running for Vestry are shared. Steven concurs that this is a good idea and might even save a few minutes of time at next year's Annual Meeting.

No one offers any changes. Barbara Whiteman-Hull motions to adopt the Minutes; that motion is seconded; and the Minutes from the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting are approved.

## **7. Vicar's Address**

Steven invites attendees to look at page 14 of the Annual Report for the Year Ending 2019. He seeks to make three main points. The first is to be reminded of human capacity for self-deception. There is a shared sense that our Congregation is growing, but there are numbers to back up these intuitions.

- In 2019, the Congregation received its highest total amount in pledges since 2009, the first year of records kept in the current database of information about the Congregation.
  - The Congregation ended 2019 with a surplus of \$42,532.
  - Seventeen adults have formally registered to be baptized, confirmed, or received at the Easter Vigil in 2020. This number is relevant because these are new members whose affiliation with the Cathedral began in 2019.
  - The Congregation added 150 email addresses to its weekly electronic newsletter list.
- While all these trends are positive, Steven is careful to clarify that this is not because we are awesome, but rather God gives us growth. We are instruments, and the glory goes to God.

Steven's second main point concerns a Congregation's life cycle. There is the early stage, where there is excitement and lots of early growth emanating from a new leadership team. This is the stage the Congregation is in presently. The middle stage involves maturity and stability. The later stage involves decline and death. Steven indicates that we can take some credit for "rediscovering" our youth, by having the courage to try new initiatives, by always "saying yes," and, most importantly, by allowing new members to take leadership in our community. But Steven emphasizes that we must not be complacent.

Steven's third main point is about the coming year. As we move forward, we can expect to build structure, which is likely to involve more committees and more meetings.

If we are not careful, we might go into a decline phase. We must remain open to new people and new ideas. Remember that we are part of a cycle, and what is most important is where God is calling right now in this Church in this neighborhood. We must not aim to make things idols, but to open ourselves to where God is taking us.

## **8. Wardens' Addresses**

Marsha Ra, the Senior Warden, speaks first. She talks about the weekly newsletter of the Congregation that features a submission by the Vicar and a joint one by Marsha and Tim. Marsha jokes that the recent versions were mistakenly signed as Marsha and Time.

Marsha reflects that two old members of the Congregation recently passed, and that she is heartened that the growth of the Congregation which involves young members replacing older lost ones. Marsha thanks the clergy for their leadership. She makes an announcement related to CCC (Cathedral Community Cares), the social arm of the Cathedral. CCC needs donations of men's ties and work pants. Lastly Marsha mentions the two retreats for this year: one for the last weekend in March and one in the fall.

Timothy Dwyer, the Junior Warden, follows. He begins by thanking for his reelection. Tim also remembers Marsha Mason Gainer, who passed in this last week. Tim described Marsha in her role as usher over the years as generous and kind, and that he would be praying for her.

Tim directs attention to the social activism of this year: that includes raising money for the ACT (Adult and Children in Trust) Program for their summer camp scholarship fund, raising money for distributing backpacks going back to school in the latter stages of summer, and making contributions to CCC.

Tim looks ahead to a planned Pilgrimage/Choir Trip to England for August 2021. The choirs will be visiting three Cathedrals: Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Chichester Cathedral. Others are invited to come along. Kent Tritle is leading the trip, and Tim is chairing an ad hoc committee from the Congregation to assist in the planning. Money is being put aside in the Vestry budget over the next two years to provide scholarships to assist people with financial needs to be able to make the trip.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Cecilia Amadi directs attendees' attention to page 23 of the Annual Report for the Year Ending 2019. Cecilia indicates that this year's Annual Report reflects a surplus of \$42,532; last year, the surplus was \$35,598. Cecilia goes on to explain the surplus.

Cecilia then discusses income and expenses. The income comes largely from pledge and plate giving, and from profits from the annual Crafts' Fair. The expenses exceeded the budget, and this included new items such as the Welcoming Committee, Outreach and Seminarian Support.

Cecilia ends by acknowledging our audit went well and by thanking all for keeping the finances in order. Steven adds that Cecilia comes in many Saturdays to keep the books in order.

## **10. Report of Vestry Elections**

Marsha announces the results to the Vestry election. Those elected are:

- Kevin De L'Aigle to a 3-Year Term,
- Mark Dilcom to a 3-Year Term,
- Gail Felix to a 3-Year Term,
- Winston Nguyen to a 3-Year Term,

Blake Jones to a 2-Year Term, and  
Sonia Omulepu to a 1-Year Term.

### **11. Additional Business**

Steven opens the floor to inquiries about other business to attend to.

Lorenda Johnson makes the suggestion that next year's annual report delineate the giving records from previous years. Steven indicates that this can be shared.

John Rumely commends Steven on his weekly newsletter that appears in e-mail boxes on Friday morning. John likes that it sets up the weekend in a meaningful way. He thanks Steven for his service and his great communication.

Nobody else raises something to share, and a member moves to adjourn, which is seconded and passed unanimously.

### **12. Closing Prayer**

Steven asks if the Dean wants to close the meeting, and the Dean defers. Stevens leads a short blessing, and then the meeting ends.

# Vestry Nominations 2021

## SONIA OMULEPU, Candidate for Election to Vestry for New 3-Year Term



I am a former senior warden and vestry member. The Congregation of St. Saviour is of vital importance to me in my spiritual journey. Moreover, it is with a deep sense of gratitude for the leadership that brought us through a dark period that I am asking to serve you again. I am a member of the Altar Guild, a Lector and have been an usher.

My past work at the Episcopal Church Center informs my journey as an Episcopalian. I coordinated the Interfaith Education Initiative that culminated in a conference on Interfaith Dialogue at the Washington National Cathedral and a manual on how to plan interfaith worships. I also organized Presiding Bishop's Summit on Domestic Poverty in

Scottsdale, Arizona under The Right Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori's tenure.

Those projects as well as my involvement in the General Convention Special Program during the civil rights movement of the late 1960s firmly demonstrated the Episcopal Church's commitment to justice and equality in our society. However, the struggle continues.

I have a degree in English from Hunter College and a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the New School. I also have a certificate from the University of the South, School of Theology for Education For Ministry (EFM) program. Presently, I am retaking the second year of EFM.

## MARSHA RA, Candidate for Election to Vestry for New 2-Year Term as Senior Warden



I have been worshipping at the Cathedral for since 1972 and joined the congregation when it was formed 28 years ago. Over the years I have been privileged to serve on the vestry several times and as warden for two terms in the 1990's. I coordinated the Crafts fair (our principal fundraiser), served as chair of Stewardship for five years, started and directed the soup kitchen for five years, served as an acolyte and usher and lay reader. If I have the support of the Congregation, I am willing to take on a third and final term as senior warden.

When I started my first term in 2017, we were in the middle of a transition. When all seemed to be going very well, with several new groups offering

fellowship and opportunities for outreach to the needy, COVID-19 sent us into a form of exile with the cessation of in-person worship. During this period away, the Cathedral Liturgy department and the Vicar have offered us many opportunities to connect virtually through ZOOM. Morning and Evening Prayer are flourishing. Our YESS, LBGTO and OPUS groups have kept the work of the Congregation going strong. The Vicar offers us Bible Study twice a week and time for conversation. I find these interactions to be quite fulfilling. However, we are all hungry for the time when we return to the Cathedral, share the Eucharist and Christian fellowship. My goal for 2021 is to help plan that transition back to in-person church.



## BOB DEMING, Candidate for Election to Vestry to Fill Out 1-Year Term as Junior Warden



I am an old warhorse. I choose that idiom for myself, with the intent of suggesting mostly good qualities.

I served on the Vestry beginning in 2015 for my first term, and then beginning in 2018 for my second term. Tim Dwyer is stepping down for the second year of his Junior Warden term, and Vicar Steven Lee requested that I run to complete the one year left in Tim's term. I gladly agreed to run for the post. For the past few years, I have been clerk/secretary of the Vestry and, if elected as Warden, I look forward to working in conjunction with Steven Lee, Marsha Ra and other Vestry members to meet the challenges during this Covid-19 pandemic time. A few qualities that I bring are that I am hard worker, I am devoted to the Congregation and to the Cathedral, and I am spiritually oriented yet also grounded.

I was raised as an Episcopalian on Long Island and confirmed as a teenager. During my early adult years, I moved to the city, first to Queens and later to Manhattan. I have worshiped at the Cathedral for 35 years, mostly in connection to the 9 AM service, where I have been Co-Head of the Ushers for several years and also a reader. My wife who was born in Jamaica has now lived in New York City for decades and we proudly think of ourselves as New Yorkers through and through. Our daughter, who was baptized and confirmed at the Cathedral, recently graduated from college and is getting started on her career in Massachusetts.

I am career educator, having taught for 27 years as a New York City public school teacher. I retired in 2014. I have taught at Teachers College, Columbia University and am presently teaching part-time at Long Island University Center for Gifted Youth.

## LAURA BETZ, Candidate for Election to Vestry for New 3-Year Term



I am grateful to be nominated to serve on the Congregation's vestry. I hail from Haddon Heights, NJ. My religious upbringing was in the Catholic Church which I consciously separated from as a teen.

I attended Muhlenberg College where I studied acting.

In 2014, I moved to NY to pursue acting and have lived uptown in Sugar Hill ever since. My days in NY have included nurturing my acting career, working in childcare, finding a family of friends, co-running an artist collective, and learning how to be a good neighbor. In Spring 2019, I began attending services

at the Cathedral and officially joined Saint Saviour that fall. Since then, I have found my faith family in Saint Saviour, a joyful space to realize my faith with our clergy, and a deeper passion to mobilize and protect sanctuary for those most in need via my work with YESS and Saint Saviour as a whole.

If I am elected to the vestry, I look forward to being a collaborative voice in the room of many and continuing to find local actions we can join to live out the justice and love central to our Episcopalian faith, especially within the realms of racial justice, mutual aid, and sustainability.



I am Joan Adams, a member of the Congregation since 1995. I attended the Cathedral occasionally over the years while living and working in Manhattan after completing Fordham School

of Social Work in 1968. As a member of Grace Episcopal Church in White Plains, NY during high school and college I visited the Cathedral as part of Diocesan youth events. I always felt at home with the Cathedral liturgy and the social justice activities during the time of Bishop Moore and Dean Morton. When I wanted a spiritual community as I reached midlife, the Cathedral felt like the right place.

As I began attending regularly, I was happy to see that women served as acolytes. I had always wanted to be an acolyte, but this was not open to girls during my childhood and adolescence. I became an acolyte during Lent of 1995. I also participated in the fellowship of Congregation activities, often volunteering with the annual Crafts Fair. I joined the Verger's Guild after a few years as an Acolyte and am blessed to have continued serving as a Verger.

While I did not come to church to find a husband, I did meet, become friends with and eventually marry one of the original members of the Congregation and a former Cathedral Verger, Robert Dey. We have been married since 2006.

In my professional life I have been a Clinical Social Worker in New York City working as a clinician, supervisor and administrator. I also have post Masters certificates in individual and group

psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. I have worked at Harlem Hospital, City University of NY, Postgraduate Center for Mental Health and Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. I now work independently as a psychotherapist and as an organizational consultant and trainer primarily facilitating around issues of race, anti-racism and anti-oppression. I have integrated anti-racist/anti-oppression work throughout my career as a social worker.

I was pleased to work with Sonia Omulepu and others to lead a series of 4 workshops on race and anti-racism for the Congregation about five years ago. I am happy to now co-chair a Congregation committee exploring how several of us can contribute to the Diocesan initiatives around Race, Reconciliation and Reparations.

As a Black woman born in Baltimore, MD and raised in Baltimore, Orlando Florida and White Plains NY, I bring to all my work and relationships the lived experience of being African American in this country, both in segregated and integrated spaces. I will bring to the Vestry: the lessons I have learned from those experiences; my lifelong commitment to social justice; my ability to listen to others; and my skill and passion helping individuals and groups listen, respect and collaborate with each other. In this time of Covid, I have been especially grateful for the spiritual sustenance and community connection available via online worship and gatherings. I would be honored to contribute to the Congregation and the Cathedral as a member of the Vestry.

GALE KENNY, Candidate for Election to Vestry for New 3-Year Term



I am delighted to be considered to serve on the Congregation's Vestry. I grew up in Houston, Texas, attended college at Northwestern in Chicago, and then returned to Houston for graduate school in U.S. history. My research and teaching focuses on American religion. I'm a cradle Episcopalian, and I joined the Congregation in 2010

when I moved to New York to begin teaching in the Religion Department at Barnard College.

At the Cathedral, I helped revive the 20s-30s group, and I serve as an acolyte (in normal times), and in my previous terms on the Vestry, I was the clerk. I am also currently a member of the Diocese of New York's Campus Ministry Committee.

CECILIA C. AMADI, Candidate for Election to Vestry to Fill Out 2-Year Term



It is with gratitude that I am responding to the opportunity to serve on the Vestry.

I found the Cathedral in 1991 when I was looking for a place to worship. Something similar to what I was used to back home. I was born and raised an Anglican in Nigeria and came to the United States in 1987. I was drawn by the words of the lectionary and moved by the hymns. As I came to realize the Cathedral would be my place of worship, I quickly asked the then dean how I could become a member. The Dean graciously took me to the Vicar who took my information, and I was registered as a member of the Congregation.

This Vestry is unusual compared to others. We do not have the type of responsibilities that other Vestries have like building maintenance, salary payments etc. Given this reality, I believe the Vestry will need to work with the Cathedral to connect more with the community.

I have lived in the Bronx since I came to the States. My husband Samuel Amadi, who is a lay reader, and I attend the 11:00AM service. If elected, I look forward again to serving the Congregation as one of its Vestry members.

In 2005, the need for Treasurer of the Congregation came up. I responded to the advertisement, accounting being my background in my work life. Since then, I have continued to be the Congregation Treasurer. For personal reasons, I came off being a member of the vestry but continued to be the treasurer as I could continue to be treasurer without being on the Vestry. I am a reaffirmed worshiper and a member of LEM.

## Vicar's Report

The Reverend Canon Steven Lee

This past year has been like no other in living memory. We can list all the reasons: the pandemic, political strife, protests against police brutality and for Black Lives Matter, the deepening economic crisis. This past year has also been theologically significant for the Congregation of Saint Saviour. We have become a different community over the past twelve months.

Now, as my former rector once put it, congregations are communities that move through time. So, by “different,” I mean something more than people coming and going.

The theologian Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School and Bishop William Willimon of the United Methodist Church write about the nature of communities that are shaped around “togetherness”:

*In a world like ours, people will be attracted to communities that promise them an easy way out of loneliness, togetherness based on common tastes, racial or ethnic traits, or mutual self-interest. There is then little check on the community becoming as tyrannical as the individual ego. Community becomes totalitarian when its only purpose is to foster a sense of belonging in order to overcome the fragility of the lone individual.*

In other words, if a church community is based only on social ties, it is vulnerable. When belonging takes precedence over other values, anything that threatens belonging—new people, new ways of doing things, new ministries, “too much growth”—must be stopped.

This is an old problem. In the earliest text of the New Testament, written just 20 years after the crucifixion of Jesus, Paul warns the church community in Thessalonica to avoid this temptation. “Do not quench the Spirit,” he tells this young community (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible study, we have discussed how the Spirit leads us where we would prefer not to go. The Spirit pushes us toward growth through risk. Hence, the perennial temptation to quench it.

As Hauerwas and Willimon note, a church is a community of people who work to discipline their own desires in the service of a reality beyond themselves:

*Christian community... is not primarily about togetherness. It is about the way of Jesus Christ with those whom he calls to himself. It is about disciplining our wants and needs in congruence with a story, which gives us the resources to lead truthful lives. In living out the story together, togetherness happens, but only as a by-product of the main project of trying to be faithful to Jesus.*

Note that we discipline “our wants and needs” so that they are “in congruence” with the story of Jesus Christ. Not “Jesus Christ” who serves as a blank screen for our projections. But Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture and tradition.

This means we must first know the story of Jesus Christ. Then, as we learn this story, we must allow it to transform our lives.

The literary critic Erich Auerbach famously noted this power of the Bible when he compared it to the epic poetry of Homer:

*The Bible's claim to truth is not only far more urgent than Homer's, it is tyrannical—it excludes all other claims. The world of the Scripture stories is not satisfied with claiming to be a historically true reality—it insists that it is the only real world, is destined for autocracy. All other scenes, issues, and ordinances have no right to appear independently of it, and it is promised that all of them, the history of all mankind, will be given their due place within its frame, will be subordinated to it. The Scripture stories do not, like Homer's, court our favor, they do not flatter us that they may please us and enchant us—they seek to subject us, and if we refuse to be subjected we are rebels.*

In any other year, this message is hard to sell in the religious marketplace. It is easier to proclaim the “mystery of God” in “lofty words or wisdom” than to preach Jesus Christ and him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). It is much easier to sell the satisfaction of religious desires for consumers in the spiritual marketplace.

But whether we wanted to or not, the pandemic forced the Congregation to change. The Congregation could no longer serve as a community of togetherness. There were no more cookies at coffee hour, no more Second Sunday brunch, no more opportunities for unplanned chats with fellow members after the service.

Instead, by necessity, the Congregation had to focus on essential activities. We studied the apostles’ teaching together, had fellowship together, and prayed together (Acts 2:42). These were the same activities the early Christians did. These were the only activities we could do.

It took a pandemic, but the Congregation has fulfilled the primary function of a church: to form ever-more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Wardens' Report on the Committees

Church life in 2020 is divided into two parts: before and after COVID. For two and a half months the usual pattern held: Welcoming at the Sunday Services, Second Sunday Fellowship, Bible Study, and project led by the Divine Fellowship and YESS. A new group, OPUS (Older People Up to Something) was formed to offer fellowship to older members. In the middle of Lent the Corona virus changed everything. The Cathedral was closed and church moved on-line. The various groups all managed to persevere in a virtual world. In fact, there were more opportunities for prayer, study and service than experienced by many when the Cathedral was open. No one expected to be deprived of the Eucharist and in-person worship for as long as it has turned out to be, yet so many members displayed great resilience.

### **Stewardship (Kevin De l'Aigle)**

In 2020, despite the pandemic, the Stewardship Committee managed a successful pivot from in person and some online giving to an increase in participation in Realm (our on-line membership system), but maintaining a healthy share of giving by check, still sent to the office. We have discontinued cumbersome giving via the Diocese and via PayPal. Overall we have trended fairly close to previous years' giving despite the pandemic - changes in worship and economic downturn. By activating mission and outreach campaigns during the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, we were able to raise much needed funds to launch these successful initiatives.

In December, the Congregation did very well in giving. In December 2019 the amount was \$27,621, whereas December 2020 the amount was \$36,687. The Stewardship Campaign effort for mission and outreach was also effective. The amount in December 2019 was \$140, whereas the amount in December 2020 was \$2,820. The Stewardship team is appreciative of the people who gave and the people who made the solicitations. Given the continued economic uncertainty of past months, pledging for 2021 was not pushed as much as in past years, but pledging remains healthy nonetheless.

At the Annual Meeting, the Stewardship team will report on projections for 2021.

### **Reparations and Racial Reconciliation Committee for 2020**

In the Fall of 2019, Canon Lee convened a group of Black Congregation members to form a Reparations and Racial Reconciliation (RRR) Committee in response to Bishop Dietsche's Diocesan initiative to address reparations. Canon Lee asked Fred Wherry to lead the group. Canon Lee worked with us as the clergy leader.

Covid interrupted further meetings until the summer of 2020. The RRR Committee

extended a general invitation to the Congregation to meet with us to plan a response to the police shootings of several Black people and the resulting nationwide protests. The expanded ad hoc committee held several virtual meetings and drafted the document which became “Prophesy to the Breath”. The statement was used at the Cathedral’s Black Lives Matter protest in the summer of 2020.

The RRR Committee also selected a co-chair, Joan Adams. Canon Lee asked then Deacon Paul Daniels to join the Committee as the clergy leader. We met November 22, December 4, and December 13 to resume organizing and doing the work of the RRR Committee. Canon Lee joined Fr. Daniels in our meeting of December 13 to help clarify the context and scope of the Committee.

We are looking at the goals, scope, and membership of the Committee. We are also exploring a schedule of meetings that will sometimes have small core committee meetings and, at other times, larger community gatherings. We are committed to furthering anti-racism as an integral aspect of the Congregation, the Cathedral, and our presence in the community. We continue to explore how our membership structure and activities can advance that goal.

### **Divine Fellowship, a group of LGBTQ members and their allies (Kevin De l’Aigle)**

BC (Before COVID)

In January & February of 2020, the Divine Fellowship LGBTQ+ group hosted hospitality at the 11am Sunday service in the Cathedral and piloted a new coffee/hospitality service. In February, members of the #Divine Fellowship LGBTQ+ Group completed a Valentines card writing project for senior clients of SAGE USA in Cathedral House.

CA (The age of COVID)

On June 20, a special video Pride Greeting from members of the Congregation was shared over Zoom and across social media platforms. On this 50th Anniversary of the first New York City Gay Pride March, we prayed in thanksgiving for the contributions of LGBTQ+ people to the life of NYC, this Country, and the world. We also prayed for the members of the Congregation of Saint Saviour, taking part in the Queer Liberation March. On Sunday, June 28 members of the Congregation of St. Saviour and other parishes and community groups offered a prayer service at Ground Zero, before joining the Queer Liberation March for Black Lives and Against Police Brutality, proudly carrying the Congregation “Love is the Way!” banner for the entire March.

During the holidays, members of the DF group also participated in the holiday card writing projects for the LGBTQ+ seniors SAGE USA and neighborhood seniors at Amsterdam Nursing Home. Members also volunteered to serve meals for the needy in our community at Cathedral Community Cares and also distributed Bibles and gift cards, donated by the Congregation. DF members placed floral tributes on the

Cathedral National AIDS Memorial, when possible, and posted on social media on days of commemoration throughout the year, including World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

### **Sonia Omulepu describes the work of OPUS (Older People Up to Something)**

In February 2020 our vicar, Canon Lee asked Muriel Kneeshaw and me to form a group of seniors and retirees in the Congregation of St. Saviour. As a result, several of us met on February 28, 2020 and decided to name the group OPUS (Older People Up to Something).

Based on the responses of a survey we had planned several activities for each month. Unfortunately, the pandemic halted those plans. However, stepping up to the plate, we were able to host our congregation's virtual coffee hours during the summer. We also mailed Christmas greetings to those we have identified as seniors and retirees in our congregation and sponsored a virtual Christmas Carol sing-along.

This year we plan to host several lectures; for example, on global warming, interfaith dialogue as well as conversations with the Cathedral librarian and the director of Episcopal Charities. Since we don't know when we will gather together physically, the plans we had for luncheons, Cathedral Stain Glass Window tour, trips to museums, the theatre and to Woodstock for apple picking are all on hold. But we will continue to focus on virtual activities.

### **Prison Ministry (Canon Lee)**

In January 2020, the Congregation hosted its first cohort of Raising My Voice (RMV), a five-year-old program that helps the formerly incarcerated tell the stories about their past to help them begin a new start in life. This 10-week program is run by Circles of Support, a nonprofit that serves formerly incarcerated persons re-entering society and their loved ones. Several other Episcopal churches in NYC have run this program, and the Congregation helped RMV expand to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Several members of the Congregation volunteered as coaches each week. Due to the pandemic, the program had to end abruptly, before the clients were able to finish the program and to graduate.

### **Companion Relationship to the Episcopal Cathedral of Havana (Canon Lee)**

In late January 2020, the Congregation's newly constituted Cuba Committee hosted a workshop presented by the Friends of the Episcopal Church in Cuba. The workshop explored the possibility of the Cathedral Congregation of St. Saviour developing a companion relationship with the Episcopal Cathedral in Havana, Cuba. Due to the pandemic, this work has been put on hold for now, but the expects to resume its work when it is safe to travel again.



## **Lisa Chin describes the work of the Hospitality Committee**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hospitality-Events Committee held a limited number of social gatherings during the 2020 calendar year. The committee coordinated the Manhattan North Inter-Parish Council Epiphany Party in January. The Congregation held Second Sunday (a monthly luncheon fellowship) from January 2020 through March 2020. At our last Second Sunday before the lockdown we celebrated Hal Weiner's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Cookie angels (who bring cookies to coffee hour after the 9 and 11 a.m. services) naturally went on hiatus when the church was closed in mid-March.

## **YESS (Young Episcopalians of Saint Saviour)**

This active group of people in their 20's and 30's worked with the diocesan-wide 20's/30's group to offer opportunities for socializing and community building. Once the pandemic hit, the focus of the Saint Saviour group turned to outreach to people in the neighborhood who were food insecure. Partnering with First Corinthian Baptist Church on 116<sup>th</sup> street, YESS helped package and distribute food. Members of YESS formed a large part of the volunteers who helped Cathedral Community Cares package and hand out food on Sundays. They also hosted a few virtual coffee hours on Sundays in the summer.

## **Education and Spiritual Formation opportunities**

The Congregation was blessed with many opportunities to engage in Bible Study and other spiritual formation offerings. Although two retreats at Holy Cross Monastery had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, other prayer and study opportunities became available. Bible Study which took place between the 9 and 11 am services in Saint James Chapel was revitalized and led by the Vicar. Once we transferred to virtual church, Bible study taught by the Vicar was available Sunday mornings before the Service of the Word and on Wednesday evening. Attendance averaged over 30 people each week. Canon Lee also started Wednesday evening Bible study in the fall on Paul's letter to the Romans which has an average of 10 participants each week. In addition, Canon Malloy offered adult formation classes after the Sunday service which was enthusiastically received. Father Paul Daniels began a series on Howard Thurman. The YESS group offered weekly study of the Gospel of Matthew over ZOOM.

## **Saint Saviour Reading Group (Laura Freseman)**

Begun in February of 2019 by Madeline L'Engle fellow, Elizabeth Howard, as a 3-week discussion of Jennifer Hawes's "Grace Will Lead Us Home," the Reading Group moved online at the Cathedral's closure in March. Under Elizabeth's energetic leadership, the group continued to meet weekly throughout the spring and summer of 2020. Averaging about 6 in attendance, we tackled, among

others, Dostoevsky's *The Grand Inquisitor*, Martin Luther's *Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague*, Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*, MacLeish's play, *J.B.*, Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*, Shakespeare's *Richard II*, and Nadia Bolz-Weber's *Accidental Saints*. At a time when people were isolated, fearful, and soul-starved, these great works were a source of comfort, inspiration, and much lively discourse.

In the fall of 2020, the Reading Group facilitated Saint Saviour's participation in a Diocesan-wide discussion of Ibram X Kendi's *How to be an Anti-Racist*. A month's worth of work went into preparing for the event: organizing the dates, sending out registration appeals, pre-reading Kendi's work, creating chapter summaries, and fine-tuning questions. Credit goes to Andi Dixon for spearheading this intensive preparation. Over three successive Sundays in September, approximately 25 to 30 people attended each week. It was their deeply moving, thoughtful, and constructive engagement with Kendi's text that made the event the success it was.

The Reading Group is currently in hiatus as there is now an abundance of excellent classes in adult formation and Bible study offered by the Cathedral Clergy.

### **Education for Ministry (EfM) (Donna Devlin, mentor)**

EfM is a four year distance learning program out of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, which has been sponsored by the Congregation of Saint Saviour for a decade. The ministry referred to in EfM is the ministry of all believers and is not intended to be a stepping stone to ordination although it may prove to be so for some students. The Diocese of New York requires that candidates for the Diaconate complete 4 years of EfM.

We enrolled 10 members in October of 2020—one Year Four—Joyce Cleveland from St. Philip's; two Year Three students, Justin Dehnart from Trinity-St. John's, Carla Navallo, St. Saviour; three Year Two students- Jerry McMillan from St. Margaret's, Longwood; Sonia Omulepu, St. Saviour; MaryLou Steed from Christ Church, Toms River, NJ; four Year One students, Paula McKenzie returning to refresh, Joe Lipuma from Holy Trinity; Abigail Laryea from St. James, Bronx; Genarro Hathaway, St. Saviour. The theme for this year's study is Living into The Journey with God. The theological reflections, spiritual autobiographies and work in the Reading and Reflection Guide (RRG) all are centered on that emphasis. It is an experientially diverse group and the discussions and insights are exciting and reflect deep faith and spirituality. It is a joy to mentor this group. As always, we welcome new members in the fall of each year.

### **Children's Programs (Donna Devlin)**

The Great Adventure (confirmation class) for 2019-2020 consisted of two young persons, Natalie Gorthey and Lucy Quoma, both long time members of the

children's programs at St. Saviour. Both young women finished their requirements in the spring of 2020 and await the scheduling of the Service of Confirmation when Covid restrictions are lifted.

Opening the programs for children in fall of 2020 proved to be a challenge. We felt that given the on-line time the kids spent for schoolwork we didn't want to overburden them so there were e-mail messages sent to 24 addresses of parents who had at one time or another indicated an interest in the children's programming. The messages contained puzzles, word find pages and various other activities meant to keep in touch and provide some support for parents in a very trying situation—nothing terribly hard core religious. But during Advent, a modified Advent Tree presentation each week was a look back for most of the kids at previous year's talks about objects found in our Advent tree such as the legend of the Christmas spider, the story of the candy cane, the baby, some sheep, angels, etc.

### **Crafts at the Cathedral (Marsha Ra)**

This fund raiser could not be held this year because of the pandemic. Since we already completed the jury process we went virtual, strengthening links to exhibitors' websites on the Crafts at the Cathedral website. We promoted the exhibitors on social media. This was a small gift to the exhibitors, but it didn't bring in any money for the congregation. For 2021 we will try to hold the show in the Cathedral. We have offered space to all exhibitors who were juried into the 2020 show. It has been gratifying that the funds brought in by this project in past years were available to support outreach to our neighbors in the difficult times of COVID.

### **Website (Laura Freseman)**

With invaluable input and encouragement from the Vestry, Vicar and members of Saint Saviour, the websexton redesigned [www.saintsaviour.org](http://www.saintsaviour.org) to be, first, a go-to source for congregants who need to know what's happening. What was in last Friday's newsletter? Can I rewatch the Opus Christmas Sing-Along? When's the Bible Study and what's the link? Can I volunteer somewhere? What the heck is Realm? If you've got a question, the website should have an up-to-date answer. More than just a digital bulletin board, however, the website tries to be an "icon" -- imperfect, admittedly, -- of the Saint Saviour Community. It reflects our mission, cheers our outreach, expresses who we are, witnesses to our Episcopal faith, and gives welcome to all who stop by. The Websexton is eager for feedback, content ideas, and proofers.



Oct. 25, 2020-Feb. 4, 2020

# Treasurer's Report

For the Fiscal Year 2020 as of 12/31/2020

**Cecilia Amadi**

The congregation's 2020 Annual Report reflects a deficit of \$-29,671. Last year we had a surplus of \$42,532.

This deficit was mitigated by the \$18,000 received from the Diocesan Covid-19 Aid and by the 25% (\$4,199) received as a discount on our Diocesan assessment.

The Congregation's deficit of \$-29,671 is made up as follows:

Revenue: Budget Vs Actual: there is a deficit of \$-50,791.

Expenses: Budget Vs Actual: there is a surplus of \$21,120.

This deficit is obviously explainable. The Crafts fair, which is a major source of our fundraising, was not held in 2020. We increased our support for CCC, other Mission and Outreach and Cathedral Support. We underspent our budget in certain areas like Connect, Explore, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Audit Fee.

At year's end there were no un-cleared deposits. Much of our giving is now online.

## **Income**

- Pledge & Plate: This year, we had a deficit of \$-28,376 compared to our budget by Last year we exceeded our budget by \$30,656.
- Mission and Outreach: We exceeded our budget by \$7,375.

Other Income: increases over last year include Pledge and Plate processing cost, Interest from our Diocesan DIF Investment, Donation to Vicar's Discretionary Fund and Radical Love Live.

## **Expenses**

Our expenses this year were less than the budget by \$21,120. This is because of the pandemic and the crafts fair did not utilize its budgeted amount. Also, there was a surplus of \$4,199 from our Diocesan Assessment as the Diocese allowed us a 25% discount.

Each year, we contract with an Independent Auditing Firm to perform an overview of our finances, books and records, although the congregation is not required to have an audit due to the size of our budget. This year we have not yet contracted with an auditing company.

Great efforts have been made by the Congregation Finance committee, the Assistant Treasurer, Hope Chang, and Vestry members through the guidance of our Vicar to make all these changes possible.

Thanks to ALL!!!!

## Cathedral Congregation Budget

<b>INCOME</b>			
	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actuals</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
Pledge & Plate	\$200,000	\$171,624.15	\$145,000
Pledge & Plate Processing Costs		\$5,097.92	
Diocesan Covid Aid		\$18,000.00	
Vicar's Discretionary Fund		\$1,905.00	
Radical Love Live		\$1,050.00	
Crafts Fair	\$54,196	\$1,141.56	\$54,000
Retreats	\$4,000	\$1,505.00	\$0
Mission and Outreach	\$3,000	\$10,375.00	\$10,000
Vestry	\$500	\$92.50	\$0
Bank Interest	\$20	\$133.72	\$20
Saved Funds	\$0		\$25,000
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>\$261,716</b>	<b>\$210,924.85</b>	<b>\$234,020</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actuals</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>CONNECT</b>			
Hospitality	\$3,000	\$3,727.92	\$4,538
Newcomers	\$2,500	\$299.00	\$0
LGBTQ	\$5,000	\$201.56	\$0
Young Adult	\$5,000	\$1,966.22	\$0
Fellowship Groups	\$12,500	\$2,466.78	\$5,000
<b>EXPLORE</b>			
Children, Youth, Families	\$20,000	\$10,231.71	\$10,890
Adult Education	\$1,200	\$1,411.14	\$0
Retreats	\$5,000	\$0.00	\$0
Spiritual Exploration	\$3,000	\$8,378.48	\$0
Pilgrimage Scholarship Fund	\$6,000	\$0.00	\$0
<b>SERVE</b>			
Cathedral Support		\$5,000.00	
Evangelism	\$10,000	\$0.00	\$10,000
Cathedral Mission	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$10,000
Neighborhood Mission	\$0	\$18,941.88	\$15,000
Global Mission	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$0
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Membership Database	\$4,200	\$1,675.30	\$6,800
Office Supplies & Paper	\$1,000	\$376.97	\$500
Communications	\$409	\$7,630.77	\$409
Audit Fee	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$50
Bank Charges	\$130	\$257.01	\$400
Insurance	\$0	\$0.00	\$3,280
Vestry Discretionary Fund	\$6,000	\$6,344.41	\$3,000
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Stewardship	\$1,000	\$413.11	\$500
Crafts Fair	\$25,000	\$17,662.78	\$4,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$16,796	\$12,597.00	\$14,172
Cost Share	\$142,481	\$142,480.80	\$142,481
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$261,716</b>	<b>\$240,596.06</b>	<b>\$234,020</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$29,671.21</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Narrative Budget

The budget is a reflection of our life together and our values. COVID-19 and the unprecedented changes that the pandemic created in our common life required a sharp “pivot” in mid-March. Despite the continued challenges, the 2021 budget reflects a congregation community committed to being ever more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

### INCOME

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
<b>Pledge &amp; Plate</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>

Given the continued economic uncertainty created by the pandemic, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, setting a lower projection for pledging and giving for 2021.

<b>Crafts Fair</b>	<b>\$54,196</b>	<b>\$54,196</b>
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The Congregation share of the Crafts Fair income is a combination of application fees, exhibitor booth fees, Café income and any miscellaneous sponsorships. We were unable to hold a Crafts Fair in 2020 and expect to hold a Crafts Fair in 2021.

<b>Retreats</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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Due to the pandemic, we do not anticipate having any retreats at Holy Cross in 2021.

<b>Mission and Outreach</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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Thanks to the hard work and creativity of the Stewardship Committee, we anticipate an increase in giving for specific Mission and Outreach projects for 2021.

<b>Vestry</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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We anticipate continued Vestry meetings by Zoom which eliminates the cost of dinner.

<b>Bank Interest</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$20</b>
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<b>Saved Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
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The Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, making a 1-time withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Congregation’s saved funds to continue Outreach and Mission to the Cathedral and the local neighborhood. These Saved Funds will be taken from either the Congregation’s savings account or from its investments in the Diocesan Investment Trust, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and approval of the Vestry.

<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>\$261,716</b>	<b>\$234,020</b>
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## EXPENSES

### 2020 Budget

### 2021 Budget

#### CONNECT

##### Hospitality

**\$3,000**

**\$4,538**

This line covers Second Sunday including Homecoming and the Christmas party. The increase reflects the possibility of a bigger than usual Homecoming celebration if in-person church has resumed by the fall of 2021.

##### Fellowship Groups

**\$12,500**

**\$5,000**

In order to promote flexibility in planning, the budget line for all Congregation affinity groups--such as YESS (young adults); OPUS (seniors); Divine Fellowship (LGBTQ+); Newcomers; any other groups that might form in the coming year--has been combined into a single total.

#### EXPLORE

##### Children, Youth, Families

**\$15,000**

**\$10,890**

Support for Little Pilgrims, Next Steps and Confirmation classes. Staff costs and supplies.

##### Adult Education

**\$1,200**

**\$0**

We anticipate that Adult Formation programs will be offered online by Zoom, and with freely available resources, for 2021.

##### Retreats

**\$5,000**

**\$0**

We do not anticipate any retreats to Holy Cross Monastery for 2021.

##### Spiritual Exploration

**\$3,000**

**\$0**

This budget line has been eliminated due to our projected decrease in income.

##### Pilgrimage Scholarship

**\$6,000**

**\$0**

We do not anticipate any pilgrimage trips for 2021.

#### SERVE

##### Evangelism

**\$10,000**

**\$10,000**

Support for evangelism, such as buying Forward Movement literature, prayer books, and Bibles.

<b>Cathedral Mission</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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Support for Cathedral outreach ministry, such as Cathedral Community Cares and ACT.

<b>Neighborhood Mission</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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Support for local neighborhood, such as donations to local food banks.

<b>Global Mission</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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This budget line has been eliminated due to our projected decrease in income.

## **GIVE**

<b>Membership Database</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>
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This represents the cost of our contract with ACS for Realm, a membership and financial database.

<b>Office Supplies, Paper</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>
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Reduced because we depend more and more on email and on realm for our correspondence.

<b>Communications</b>	<b>\$409</b>	<b>\$409</b>
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These are expenses for Mail Chimp (email newsletter program); Squarespace (Congregation website); GSuite (Congregation email addresses); and ZOOM.

<b>Audit Fee</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$50</b>
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Given the projected reduction in income, we are preparing a streamlined audit for 2020.

<b>Bank Charges</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$400</b>
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<b>Vestry Discretionary</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
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Pasts expenditures include assistance to a member we are sponsoring for ordination to the priesthood, planned amounts set aside for the renovation of Room 118 in Cathedral House and purchase of a new refrigerator for the kitchen in Cathedral House.

<b>Vicar Discretionary</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
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For direct aid at the discretion of the Vicar.

<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>
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<b>Crafts Fair</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
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Costs are charged to the Congregation in the following year. Since we did not hold a Crafts Fair in 2020, expenses in the 2021 budget will be significantly reduced.

**Diocesan Assessment**      **\$16,796**                      **\$14,172**

The Congregation’s full diocesan assessment for 2021 is \$18,896. However, the Diocese has offered to all parishes of our size and financial means a 25% reduction for 2021.

**Cathedral Cost Share**      **\$142,481**                      **\$142,481**

**Total Expense**                      **\$261,716**                      **\$234,020**

**Net**                                      **\$0**                                      **\$0**