

Church of Saint Clement

1701 N. Quaker Lane
Alexandria, VA 22302

The Rev. Robin Razzino, Rector

Annual Report 2020



Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 24, 2021

All are welcome at the Lord's Holy Table

Rector's Report

In late October I shared with all of you a poem that reminded me so much of this congregation and the deep, dynamic and lifegiving relationships we share.

For Celebration

(From John O'Donohue's "To Bless the Space between Us")

*Now is the time to free the heart,
Let all intentions and worries stop,
Free the joy inside the self,
Awaken to the wonder of your life.*

*Open your eyes and see the friends
Whose hearts you recognize as kin,
Those whose kindness watchful and near,
Encourages you to live everything here.*

*See the gifts the year have given,
Things your effort could never earn,
The health to enjoy who you want to be
And the mind to mirror mystery.*

When I first encountered this piece, I immediately thought of the community of Saint Clement and the gifts of the many faith communities of which I have been a part. I thought of the folks we call friends and neighbors, and those we know as brothers and sisters in Christ. I thought of those we know as family. It is true that for some of us at St Clement the people who make up this community make up the only family we have. Thank God, that each time we come to church, we have the holy opportunity to open our eyes and, as in the words above, see the friends whose hearts we recognize as kin. It is because of these bonds - of faith and family - that we have weathered this extraordinary year. I thank you all for travelling this road with this community and so actively caring for one another. I invite you to read below to remember all that we went through in 2020. I am looking forward to the New Year in hope.

Membership

It is always hard to say goodbye to parishioners who move on or away from the church. It is especially hard when we cannot gather to bid farewell in person. When we gather together again later in 2021, our church will look very different than it did in March of 2020. We have had to say goodbye to many dear friends this year: David, Amanda, Maise and Eleanor Campbell; Margaret Connor; William and Tammi Devan; Yvonne Eyo; Chris and Diana McDonald; James Nebl; Mike, Christine, Nathan and Jacob Schelble; Amy Westling; and Annabelle Wright. We hope and pray that the new faith communities in which they land will nourish and sustain them.

Despite not worshipping in person very often, we *have* had some visitors over the course of the year and hope to welcome new families into the life of the parish even more wholeheartedly once we gather together again.

Worship

We have been unable to worship in the Sanctuary since March 8, 2020. Though we do not know when we will be back in the sanctuary, it will certainly be at least a year between our in-person worship services. None of us had any idea this was going to be the case when we said goodbye on March 8th. When it became clear we had to close our doors for awhile, I



I remember thinking that if we were not going to be able to gather on Easter Day we would at least be able to gather at some point during the 50-Day Easter Season!! We all know what has happened since I had those well intentioned and misguided thoughts.

We did what we could. We pivoted and danced and made do and worshipped God. As a small church it was soon apparent that gathering together live on Sundays made the most sense (as opposed to prerecording worship) and we were able to do so using the ZOOM platform. Each time we gathered we were able to see each other's faces *live* – and hear each other's prayers – *live*! This made all the difference! It was also wonderful to be able to have folks who had moved away or were otherwise unable to join us in person join for some of the online services (we had folks joining from Florida, South Carolina, Idaho and Tanzania!!!)

At first, we gathered for Morning Prayer on Sundays and I led the service from a room in my house. Once we were able to get WIFI installed in the sanctuary I was once again able to lead from the church. Being able to lead from the church also allowed us to move from celebrating Morning Prayer to celebrating the Holy Eucharist. With the help of The Revs. Tricia Lyons and Leslie Steffensen and our two seminarians: Hailey Jacobsen and William Yagel, we have been able to offer the service of Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion since October. Because we cannot ALL receive communion, at each ZOOM service we say a prayer adapted from the Armed Forces Prayer Book and practice Spiritual Communion – as all gathered fast from receiving the actual Body and Blood of Christ.

As COVID numbers went down we were also able to celebrate Evening Prayer and the Holy Eucharist outdoors - in congregations of 25 people or less – receiving in one kind only (bread). These outdoor services enabled families with children to attend worship once again as ZOOM is often not feasible with children who are ZOOMed out after a week of online school. Unfortunately as numbers of COVID cases increased in early December we had to once again cancel all services in which we gathered in person.

The altar guild has been flexible and helpful in the midst of the craziness of trying all new kinds of worship. I am especially grateful for Kathy Keenoy and Joanne Scully who helped set up our outdoor services and Deirdre Brou – who has kept the candle over the tabernacle (and the reserved sacrament) lit all year.



I am also very grateful for our seminarian William Yagel who helped us identify, set up and properly use our new sound system for outdoor worship. Much of this year has been so overwhelming as I have had to learn a whole new way of doing church. It has been made so much easier by everyone lending their individual gifts and talents to the endeavor.

Overall we have had about 35-40 folks gather during our Sunday morning virtual services, and had about 20 gather for in-person outdoor worship. We have had a steady group of about 6-8 folks who met on Tuesdays at noon for Noonday Prayer and about 8-10 who pray Compline together on Thursday evenings. These last two services especially have gone a long way in strengthening our community bonds and prayer practices this year. We all love Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer book and believe the prayers are perfect for these anxious times.

Last but certainly not least – the choir. Wow. As you will read elsewhere in this report (see Monica’s and Rob’s sections), the choir has provided us with the music we didn’t know we needed this year. In all honesty, we have probably never been known for our music program. But at this point I would not want to worship with any other choir. Our folks have poured their hearts into our worship and made beautiful music – from home, with new technology, and a new director!!!! They have worked so hard and leapt out of their comfort zones to make music that glorifies God and adds another dimension to our worship – and our community. Rob and each choir member have led us with joy and enlivened our hope.

Formation

In March 2020, our seminarian Hailey Jacobsen started leading us in a Lenten Series on Prayer. Unfortunately we had to stop after the first meeting due to COVID.

Later in April, The Rev. Tricia Lyons led us in a book study of Rowan Williams book, *Being Christian*. About a dozen people participated in this class via Zoom. Many people enjoyed the opportunity to engage in small groups with one another – despite not being able to meet in person.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

On May 25, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after a convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Soon after his arrest Floyd died. He had been pinned beneath three police officers who knelt on his neck until he stopped breathing. His death sparked protests and calls for justice around the world.

The people of Saint Clement responded in several ways. About twenty parishioners participated in a Race and Faith book study group. Collectively we read from several

books including: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo; *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* by Kelly Brown Douglas; *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi and *I'm still Here: Black Dignity made for a world of Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown.

In addition to the book study, parishioners and friends were invited to make signs for the church yard – a peace and justice garden of sorts – witnessing to the love of Christ in our world.

Several Clementines also joined other Episcopalians in prayer and protest at St John's Church in DC.

As we moved toward election day, we began a 30 day Vows and Voting Challenge (similar to the Confirmation Challenge we did in 2019). This was a 30-day deep dive into the convictions, promises and blessings of our faith as preparation for our civic responsibility to vote. On Sunday, November 1st we celebrated All Saints Day together and renewed our Baptismal Promises. Then on Tuesday, November 3rd, we voted. The Challenge included questions for our spiritual curiosity and spiritual hunger. The topics of the daily posts connected with our baptismal vows and considered how those vows guide our conscience on topics of social concern, like racial justice, immigration and 'the stranger,' public education, housing, and healthcare. There were resources and short videos each day.



Pastoral Care

One of the great challenges of the pandemic was that we were unable to see one another in person. Usually, much of the pastoral care we provide happens in person as we reach out to people and pray with them, visit in hospitals and homes, share stories of pain and hope, offer a hug or the laying on of hands during prayers of healing. It is sad to be unable to reach out and comfort one another. Despite these difficulties, many of us have found new ways to be there

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

for one another – writing cards, making phone calls, joining in socially distant walks, bringing meals. I am so grateful for the vestry who regularly checked in on parishioners and others who took on the ministry of checking in with folks who were especially isolated. In some ways, our ties have become stronger as a community during this time.

Fellowship



We also did not have many opportunities to gather in person this year for fellowship and fun. No chill and grills, no baseball games. We had just started the first round of foyer group dinners when things shut down. The pandemic made it hard to get together in person – but we gathered as we could online. We met for virtual coffee hours after worship. The silver lining in ZOOM coffee hour breakout rooms was that these allowed folks who would not ordinarily speak to each other or get together to talk and catch up with one another in small groups of three or four households. I would love to keep the spirit of these random pairings as we move forward and regather in person.

On Thanksgiving evening about 15 households came together online with pie, coffee or wine to join in fellowship and give thanks for all we have – despite the

difficulties of the time.

Mission and Outreach

The COVID outbreak dramatically affected our outreach activities. By definition our work in this area is “out” in our community. Traditionally, we gather together to make brown bag lunches and then head over to Meade where we distribute them to those in our community who need a nutritious lunch. We make casseroles, bring them to church on Sundays when we worship, and then serve them to homeless residents of the Carpenter’s Shelter. We meet together to pick up furniture for ALIVE! and then deliver them to folks making their new homes warm and comfortable.

After the second week in March, we were unable to do any of this due to the COVID outbreak and subsequent government and health directives to stay home. For the first time in decades, our sanctuary was not needed for the city’s hypothermia shelter (in 2021). As we move into a post COVID world, much will have changed. There still will be needs for support and healing in our communities and in the years to come we will follow God’s call into the way of love.

I am grateful for those who figured out new ways to support our outreach partners this past year – thinking particularly of the creative ways we were able to work with and support area restaurants while delivering meals to the Shelter.

Thrift Shop

Almost as soon as the church closed, the Thrift Shop Board made the decision to close the shop until September 2021. Though no one wanted the Thrift Shop to close, it was clear that they would need to close, in order to protect the volunteers and customers - many of whom are in vulnerable health groups.

As the preschool looked to reopen, Dory realized they could use the larger Thrift Shop sales room in order to provide room for students to move around and maintain a safe distance from one another. After securing the go-ahead from the Thrift Shop, the Red Room moved from their tiny upstairs room into the Thrift Shop sales room.

In order to get this room ready, Thrift Shop volunteers came one by one to pack up and move everything out of the sales room. This was an enormous undertaking and I am forever grateful for the volunteers who made this happen. I am also very grateful that the Thrift Ship Board agreed to give \$9000 to support the church's operating budget through this difficult year.

Stewardship



The 2021 pledge campaign was completed during the fall of 2020. This year's theme was "One Together" and like last year's theme comes from prayers during the service of Holy Baptism.

*There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.*

I was invited to share a reflection with the Diocese on this year's theme and chose to write about some of what was happening at the Church of Saint Clement. I include this reflection here as it captures so much of the spirit of this

place during a time of multiples crises.

"In late August, our community gathered outdoors in the church yard for our first in-person service in months. Just over two dozen parishioners came together for a service of Evening Prayer. Toward the end of the service, we prayed one of my favorite collects: *"Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake."* One of the reasons I have loved this prayer is that I feel every time I pray it, I have covered everyone I know and lifted all into God's loving care – those who are sick, those who are sad, those who are tired, along with those who are happy and healthy.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

When I reflect on this year's stewardship theme, ***One Together***, and specifically that last line from the words from which our theme comes, ***One God and Father of all***, I am struck by wholeness, the completeness of the reach of God's care – for ALL. Our parish communities bring together people who are rich and people who are poor, those who are healthy and those who are suffering, those who are mourning the loss of a loved one to COVID 19, and those who have suffered injustice, those who are untouched by disease, and those who have yet to recognize their privilege. Those who pray everyday and those who find it hard to talk to God (and those for whom both of these descriptions seem to apply at the same time). We are all experiencing these times differently, yet we do so as One Body of Christ, loved by the one whose love makes no distinction between us.

Earlier this year, our parish built a peace garden – one yard sign at a time. Children and adults came by the church as they were walking pets through the neighborhood, or running errands, or chasing each other on scooters – they came by the church and grabbed a yard sign and some markers and put their hopes and prayer to paper: Black Lives Matter; God Bless Everyone – No Exceptions; We are All in this Together; Peace; Love, is Love; Hope.



The most endearing were written in the sloped handwriting of children – words misspelled. Of course the inevitable backlash ensued. I got notes reminding me that ALL Lives Matter and one anonymous neighbor typed out a letter full of Biblical quotes explaining how our children's messages were against the teachings of Christ.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

When we are all suffering and all under the weight of such acute anxiety, it is hard to see through our own pain and experiences towards the pain and experience of others. We lose perspective and the realization that when we lift up one group of people – we all rise higher – together. Our lives and healing are tied up with one another and always, always held together by the hands of our God.

Many of our churches are experiencing on a systemic level what our individual parishioners are experiencing in their own lives: the loss of income, a decline in vitality, a sense of being cut off or alone in our struggles. These are all true and scary experiences. Yet they exist side by side with the strength, creativity, community and generosity that always sustains us in difficult times. It is as it has always been: we live and struggle we laugh and we cry – we lift each other up – all the while being under the care of the angels given charge over us by the One God and Father of all. Praise be to God.”

It was clear that by the end of the year, we were going to be okay. Not only for 2020 but also for 2021. Even though we lost several members who moved away, those who remained dug deep – into their hearts and checking accounts – to ensure the work of our church will continue.

As of today, we have received \$160,670 in pledges from 51 households. Though this is an uncertain time for many, the average pledge *increased* this year from \$2995 to \$3150. In addition, we received one-time gifts totaling \$7500.

Though we passed a deficit budget for 2021, I am excited about the year ahead and know we will responsibly, creatively and faithfully live into what the next year brings.

Vestry and Staff

We recruited four outstanding vestry members for 2020: Deirdre Brou, Kathy Keenoy, Christopher Kent, and Peggy Nigon (for a one year term). We began our work together at a vestry retreat at the National Cathedral in late February. We had a great meeting and built a great starting point for our work together. Unfortunately, the focus of our work shifted dramatically not two weeks following our retreat when the first COVID cases were reported in Washington DC.

Partly through the year Deirdre Brou resigned from the vestry for personal reasons but happily and faithfully offered all her other help to support the mission and ministry of the parish. I am so grateful for her continued partnership in leading this parish and I believe her resignation serves to illustrate that serving on the vestry is a ministry and a call. If it turns out not to be a fit for any reason – that is 100% understandable and I (and other leaders) will always always honor that – whether that is vestry or any other ministry.

Monica Rusk (senior warden) and Rodney LeGrand (treasurer) continue on for one more year. We will elect three more vestry members at the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021: Peggy Nigon (to a three year term as our register), Ben Brown and Michael Gray (to be our Junior Warden).

We are so grateful for Billy Hudson who has served the Church as the Junior Warden the last three years: He will rotate off the vestry at the January 2021 vestry meeting.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

We said goodbye to two staff members and welcomed two new staff members. Artie Roach and Maryellen Tibbs both resigned in late Spring and late Summer, respectively. We hired Rob Passow as our new Director of Music and Gina LeGrand as our new bookkeeper. We had the first ever staff meeting under my tenure on October 13, 2020!! Working with this staff is a bright light in a dim time. Virginia and Gina are working in overdrive to get our bookkeeping on track. Virginia has stepped up to help with Sunday Worship taking on the tech responsibilities of all things Zoom on Sunday mornings. Rob continues to work with the choir to bring beautiful music into our worship. I am so grateful for each of them.

Trustees of the Church

This year one of the trustees of St Clement, William DeVan, moved with his family to Fairfax Station. Unfortunately, this meant we had to name a new trustee to serve alongside our two other trustees Michael Gray and Harry Williams. The vestry approved the nomination of Debbie Tatum Johnson to fill this role. All involved are working with the bank to make this move final. Though there is very little work a trustee must do year to year, they are an important part of the leadership of the parish and will have a very important role if we ever move into a capital campaign in the years to come.

Bylaws

Over the course of this year, we were able to update our church bylaws which had been one of our goals since I first came on board. These new bylaws are based on our previous bylaws (including the changes we made in 2018), the Canons of the National Church and the Canons of the Diocese, examples from other churches which have new and updated by laws and conversations with the preschool director and other clergy colleagues.

The bylaws needed to be updated because they were outdated and overly specific, handicapping the work of the clergy, staff and lay leadership of the parish. Times and roles have changed and the Church (across the country) looks very different now than it did even in 1997 when the previous bylaws were adopted.

The biggest change is in language around the Officers of the Vestry – the old bylaws gave very specific duties that are not canonically mandated to the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Register. We have added a section on Trustees, Delegates to Diocesan and Regional convention and financial issues (Contracts, Checks and Deposit). Dory and I reworked the preschool section as well – strengthening the role of the school committee.

The bylaws have been edited due to feedback from the vestry and other members of the congregation. Interestingly, during the process of updating the bylaws, I found out from Diocesan staff that we don't actually need bylaws in the state of Virginia. But as far as I can tell, even if they are not necessary – or legally binding – it is good practice to have them for a number of reasons (banks and other institutions request them, it is always helpful to have clear guidance for management and decision making, they mark continuity with our history, and they are helpful for clergy who are coming to Virginia from other states).

Building and Grounds

Despite the pandemic and due to the generosity of the diocese and the preschool, we were able to continue to maintain the ground improvements made in previous years and complete much needed work in our building.

- We were finally able to install WIFI in the sanctuary. This allowed us to broadcast Sunday morning services over Zoom. And it also helped with our Christmas Tree Sales.
- Due to a \$5000 matching grant from the Diocese we were able to repair the walls and paint the entire parish hall.



- Thanks to a generous gift from the preschool we were able to recarpet the parish hall as well, installing carpet tiles which are much more easily replaced if damaged.
- While preparing the space for painting and carpeting, much of the junk that had been accumulating in the parish hall was given away or disposed of.
- The preschool also had a dishwasher installed in the kitchen and a washer and dryer installed downstairs. Both of these appliances were needed to meet health guidelines for opening the preschool during the pandemic.

Preschool

I was so inspired working with Dory Herman Sample (Director) and Carole Stover (Administrator) this year. They worked tirelessly, in order to keep the teachers paid throughout the late spring, plan and manage a small summer camp, and reopen for the school year in September. They had to learn skills they probably never wanted to learn!!! They secured an almost quarter million-dollar Small Business Loan as part of the Paycheck Protection Program. They hired new teachers and staff. They also bought new equipment needed to keep up with the new safety guidelines including stand-alone sinks, a new dishwasher, a washer and dryer and plenty of cleaning supplies and Personal Protective Equipment. Two teachers and several school family members came down with COVID 19 and at times certain classrooms had to close for a week or so. Dory was in regular contact with the Alexandria Health Department. If it were not for their individual and heroic efforts, the school would not have been able to open this year.

Faithfully submitted by Rev. Robin Razzino, Rector

2020 Report on Finances

- The final Statement of Income and Expenses by Account for 2020 will not be completed until the end of January as all billing for expenses for 2020 have not been received and paid.
- We brought in nearly \$299,000 and spent just over \$282,000 in 2020.
- We ended 2020 nearly \$17,000 in the black. We were able to do so well because of about \$22,000 in government loans (PPP); \$5000 in diocesan grants, \$9000 in Thrift Shop contributions and \$4000 in waived pension payments for the rector. And of course the overwhelming response of the congregation to our ask for additional gifts for 2020/2021. We took an enormous hit in rental income as we had to close the buildings in March 2020 to our usual renters (two congregations, an area chorus) and private events.
- As of December 31, 2019, we had a balance of \$152,342 in our checking account. Of this about \$51,000 is dedicated to certain ministries like outreach, music and our shelter ministry. We may have to make some adjustments to what is in the dedicated accounts after looking more closely at what we spent in these areas this year (music, outreach etc).
- Going into 2021, as a direct result of the generosity of the Saint Clement congregation, the vestry has passed a budget that continues to show growth and solid financial stewardship despite the pandemic. It is a deficit budget and it is tight. But with the money we can carry over from 2020 (if necessary) we will be fine.
- We completed our audit for 2019 and remain up-to-date with the Diocese.

Faithfully submitted by Rev. Robin Razzino, Rector

Senior Warden's Report

Happy New Year Clementines! We happily ushered 2020 out the door, and hopefully we won't see its like again for a very long time. But as we cautiously move forward in 2021, I hope we can build on the blessings of 2020, because there is much to celebrate from 2020, even as we mourn our losses and worry about the state of our union, our community, and our families.

We brought virtual learning, virtual fellowship, and virtual worship to St. Clement (thank you Robin, Tricia, Leslie, William, Hailey, and Virginia). We rejoice that, for the first time, homebound parishioners and friends and family far away can celebrate with us in real time. I've lost count of the times the tears welled up as someone we wouldn't have otherwise seen popped up on the screen. I will advocate for maintaining live-streaming moving forward so those unable to make the weekly pilgrimage to the building may stay connected and spiritually nourished.

We turbo-charged our music program. Covid challenged our ability to celebrate with music and song, yet Rob's gifts as a musician, teacher, composer, and sound engineer in connection with

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

the choir's many musical talents consistently deliver beautiful offerings. That Rob started in the midst of the nuttiness is especially impressive - thank you Rob! I might almost enjoy the music online more than in person as I can sing along (on mute) without concern for how I sound.

And we reached out, and marched out, and shouted out about racial and economic injustice while we looked internally at how we, as individuals and a community, become the solution. Thank you to all who participated in events in the community, our racial justice and faith book group, the sign ministry, and assorted listening sessions. There were many heart-wrenching days in 2020, but the companionship of Clementines comforted me and kept firm my faith and resolve to live as God intends us - with compassion and responsibility for each other.

Mostly we spent the year hyper-focused on looking after one another - a true blessing. Clementines gave generously to the most vulnerable among us (who would have guessed that in 2020 that included restaurants). We helped one another navigate the challenges of isolation and insecurity and sickness. We found a way to reopen the school to make sure kids and parents were able to lead productive and healthy lives (thank you Dory and thank you to the Thrift Shop for quickly providing the needed extra space). And we called, and we wrote, and we walked, and we leaned on one another. Thursday Compline was an especially blessed time - a respite from the crazy week. I always slept best when I took the time to join Clementines in the quiet evening service.

Thank you to Robin, Dory, Virginia, Gina, our Seminarists, the Vestry, and the Trustees. We managed to keep the business side of church strong: drafting new Bylaws; completing much needed building improvements; securing a PPP loan; navigating Covid restrictions; on-boarding several new employees; and supporting various other needs unique to such a nutty year - whether in the form of sandbags, WiFi boosters, online meetings, or gallons of hand sanitizer. Oh, and we ended the year in the black – thank you Clementines!

Thank you most of all Reverend Robin. As I write the above, I imagine your exhaustion. You spearheaded so much of what I list above and still had to do all the “normal” stuff of a rector, mother, wife, daughter, and friend. You are truly a blessing to St. Clement.

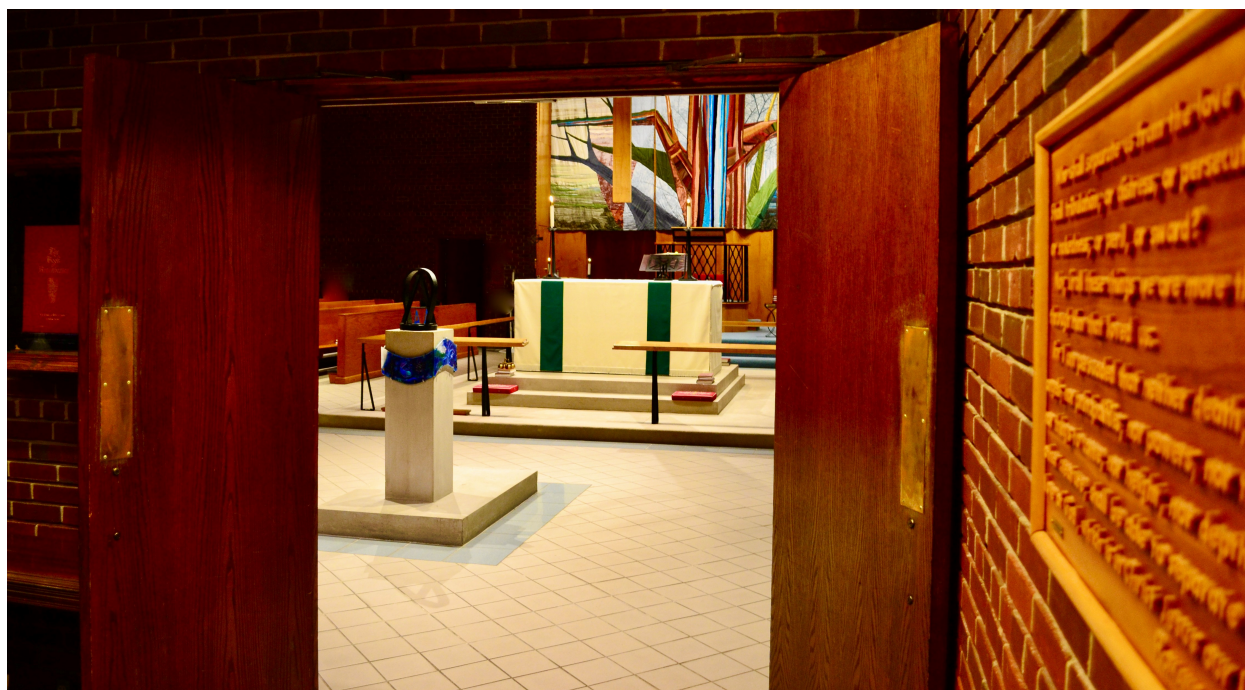
Faithfully submitted by Monica Rusk, Senior Warden

Building and Grounds

Year-to-Date Property and Building Expenses as of 12/31/2020 was \$45,987. This amount included insurance (\$8,334), exterminator (\$1,668), cleaning services (\$12,250), building maintenance and repair (\$7,978), grounds maintenance (\$4,973), and facility improvements (\$10,784).

2020 Summary of Building and Facility Activities

January 2020: The year began uneventfully for the facilities. HVAC troubles, due to a continually malfunctioning heat blower and motor belt, continued in the Sanctuary. H&M began a series of periodic visits to repair the issue.



March 2020: The facility shut-down operations due to the Covid19 pandemic. The facility was disinfected and deep-cleaned by volunteers and Jani-King. Staff began working from home, and the Day School shutdown operations. Most of the Church's recurring bill payments were moved online for autopay.

June 2020: Kraemer and Sons completed the spring / summer HVAC system tune-up. They changed the filters to all systems. They also repaired the HVAC system that powers the Church Office and hallway by the Quaker Lane entrance.

July 2020: Williams Professional Painting completed the MR Hall repainting project between July and August. The entire parish hall received a fresh coat of paint, rendering it bright and cheery in whites and creams.

Courtesy of Deirdre Brou, the parking lot fence between Saint Clement and Deirdre's property has been replaced. The previous structure was beyond its usable life and had blown down during a windstorm.

August 2020: Alexandria Roofing, Inc. completed an emergency repair of the roof on the school building. The School had discovered a massive leakage in the upstairs classrooms during a heavy rainstorm in August.

Blue Ridge Fire Protection, Inc. completed the annual inspection of the church and school fire suppression system. Thanks to our new equipment, which they installed last year, everything passed the inspection and is up to code.

Triple E. Carpet Cleaning, courtesy of Efi Eyo, Jr., completed the annual deep clean of our carpets in MR Hall. The carpets were freshened and ready for the new school year.

September 2020: Alexandria Roofing, Inc. completed an emergency repair of the roof above MR Hall. We had discovered leaks during a September rainstorm, when water infiltrated the freshly painted Parish Hall.

October 2020: Independent contractor, Ricardo Arias, repaired the exterior door to MR Hall. Previously, the door was “sticky” and difficult to open. The door and frame had been rotting and rusting, and aged beyond their usable lives.

December 2020: The lightbulbs in the hallway emergency exit signs were replaced, so they can be properly and safely illuminated. This brings the Church hallways up to code for safety inspections. Envirogrow continued work with lawn maintenance, leaf removal, and gutter cleaning.

Faithfully submitted by Virginia Insley, Parish Administrator

Music and Choral Program during Covid-tide

I joined the choir at Saint Clement about a year ago—just before the building was closed due to the pandemic. When worship moved to Zoom, the choir temporarily became inactive. Live music on Zoom can be less than satisfactory, so recorded music seemed to be the best approach for Zoom worship. One singer suggested we try an iPhone app to make “virtual” music together—a team-led effort. By summer, the choir (and guests) created a hymn for Easter, a Taizé chant, some service music for Morning Prayer, and a hymn for Pentecost.



The choir and I believe that hearing the music and seeing the sung texts are much more important than seeing the singers. We also realized that focusing only on the music allows us to record and provide more music more quickly.

In June, I accepted the offer to become the Director of Music for Saint Clement. During the summer, the choir met every other week on Zoom for fellowship and to discuss music we were preparing. Our summer goal was to offer a new piece of music every other week or so. In September, we moved to weekly “Zoomhearsals,” which I now supplement with rehearsal videos that our singers and instrumentalists can work with in their own time.

The choir and I continue to become more familiar with the audio technology to produce our musical offerings. For each piece we record, I create a basic accompaniment and guide track for our singers and instrumentalists. Each person records and sends their part to me, then I mix the recordings together and add the music to a video that contains the sung text and images (many of which are photos taken in and around Saint Clement.) Two advantages we discovered in recording music for worship are: we can sing multiple parts; and our instrumentalists can both sing and play. Choir folk have adapted well to this new way of sharing our musical offerings. At

Christmas, we invited the congregation to participate in singing Silent Night. In fact, anyone interested in singing (or playing an instrument) with us any time is warmly welcome!

In worship planning for COVID time, I strive to select music that is appropriate for more than one Sunday, so we can reuse the music we prepare. The choir now records two new pieces of music each week. In this way we are building a recorded repertoire of hymns, anthems, service music, and Taizé chants.

We look forward to returning to in-person worship, rehearsals, and fellowship. Meanwhile, our musicians and I continue to learn and work with the technology available to provide music for our weekly worship.

For more information about the music program and/or to participate, please contact Rob at 571-276-2311 (text or voice) or rob.passow@verizon.net.

Faithfully submitted by Rob Passow, Director of Music

Outreach Programs

Winter Hypothermia Shelter



The Saint Clement: Winter Hypothermia Shelter began their season during the first week of January 2020. They provided cots, blankets, sheets and pillows for approximately eight to ten men each evening. Their guests came to the church by way of the Carpenter's Shelter Van. They slept in the Church Sanctuary overnight and left before dawn the following morning.

The men were offered a light snack when they arrived, which they enjoyed in the lobby area with a television. Raymond Johnson purchased the snacks using designated shelter funds. Other snacks sometimes were provided by community members, parishioners and friends of the Church: breads, cookies, and even pancakes and sausages from Shrove Tuesday celebrations.

Approximately seven congregations and the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) sent two volunteers on designated nights to host the

shelter. Last year the shelter operated three nights per week. Each congregation sent two volunteers approximately twice per month. The shelter season ended a night short of the regular January 2nd through March 15th time frame due to the emerging Covid19-pandemic. Also, very sadly, the Carpenter's Shelter Van was involved in an accident which canceled one or two evenings. Given these circumstances, the Winter Hypothermia Shelter had 144 guests in 2020 (down from 223 guests in 2019).

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

New in 2020, was an increase in the McDonald's gift cards, which were given to each guest prior to their morning departure from the Church. The amount of the McDonald's card was doubled from five to ten dollars.

As for Shelter Season 2021: the Winter Hypothermia Shelter will not operate this season due to the ongoing pandemic. Certainly, they hope to open again when it is safely possible. The Carpenter's Shelter is back and bigger than ever at their old location on North Henry Street. The City of Alexandria also has opened space at the Charles Houston Rec Center to care for homeless guests during the winter months of 2021.

Faithfully submitted by Tom Greco

Carpenter's Shelter Dinner Program

In long standing tradition, Clementines generously supported the Carpenter's Shelter through providing meals for the shelter guests each third Sunday of the month in 2020 in cooperation with Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church.

A special thank you goes out to Noelle Williams, our ministry leader at the start of 2020, who organized meal preparation and service during the winter and who saw us through the protocol changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Monica Rusk took over leadership of the ministry through the end of 2020.


With the economic hardship of 2020 facing not just the shelter guests but also our local businesses, Clementines expanded the ministry to include support for our local independently owned restaurants. Monica Rusk also worked with the shelter outreach staff to produce a flyer for the meal providing organizations with useful specification for ordering "catered" meals and a partial list of restaurants interested and capable of fulfilling orders.

Through this ministry, ***Clementines injected more than \$4,000 into the local restaurant community and provided over 500 meals*** to shelter guests. Thank you, Clementines, for your generosity and service! Thank you to the restaurants, who generally augmented the orders with additional goodies in support of the Shelter and a gesture of thanks!

Participating Restaurants:

Aroma Indian Cuisine
Osteria da Nino Italian restaurant

Moby Dick Mediterranean Cuisine
Ramparts Tavern
La Casa



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO MAXIMIZE YOUR COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Carpenter's Shelter Food Provider

Consider ordering food from a local restaurant instead of making food at home:

1. Supports restaurants negatively impacted by the current restrictions
2. Reduces pressure on overburdened grocery stores
3. Reduces your potential exposure while shopping

**CONTACT JAMILASMITH@CARPENTERSHELTER.ORG
TO SCHEDULE A MEAL DELIVERY**

When Ordering please remember: food for 60, high protein entrée with a vegetarian alternative, ready to serve (minimal additional prep), available for pickup at serving temperature

THE FOLLOWING RESTAURANTS ARE INTERESTED AND CAPABLE OF PROVIDING MEALS APPROPRIATE FOR CARPENTER'S WITH 48 HOUR NOTICE:

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

Alexandria Bakery Café

Taco y Pina

Servers (prior to onset of restrictions)

James

Monica

Cindy

Food and/or Restaurant order providers

Kate Nixon Anania

Lauren Borden

Sarah Kusiak and Al Caniglia

Wendy Harper and John Sipple

Hailey Jacobsen

Sheila Kearney and Walter Schaub

Kathy Keenoy

Sarah Kusiak and Al Caniglia

Rodney and Gina LeGrand

Rob Passow

Joy Pochatilla

Delcia and David Rusk

Monica Rusk

Joanne Scully

Deborah Tatum and Raymond Johnson

Noelle Williams

William Yagel

The Vestry is interested in offering an opportunity for new leadership for this ministry for 2021. Anyone interested in pursuing a tighter service relationship with the Carpenter's Shelter (in their new space!) and with your fellow Clementines is welcome to contact Monica to discuss the current status and rewards of this ministry.

Faithfully submitted by Monica Rusk, Senior Warden

ALIVE!

ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) was established in 1969 by members of Saint Clement and other local saints. Currently, more than forty congregations help ALIVE! fulfil their mission to put faith and love into action for those in need. This year we helped sponsor and support the annual Step Alive! Fundraiser; our very own Thrift and Gift Shop donated \$1,000 to this effort. We also collected non-perishable food in March.

We currently are looking for a new ALIVE congregation representative from Saint Clement. Mike and Linda Oliver have served in this capacity for other 35 years. Thank you Linda and Mike!

Faithfully submitted by Linda Oliver

Brown Bag Lunches

St. Clement is one of six local churches that participate in Alexandria's Brown Bag Lunch program for the hungry hosted at Meade Memorial Church. Once every seven weeks volunteers assemble nutritious lunches to be served at Meade.

This ministry is sustained by a dedicated group of preparers and servers. This loyal and committed group of volunteers cheerfully substitute when any volunteer has a schedule conflict.

Due to the pandemic the only month we served in 2020 was January. We look forward to resuming our participation in this important ministry, as soon as it is safe to do so. At that time, we would encourage any parishioners who will be looking for volunteer opportunities to join us in this meaningful and satisfying ministry.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Sheila Kearney (saekks@aol.com) or Ellen Rayner (erayner823@yahoo.com).

Faithfully submitted by Sheila Kearney and Ellen Rayner

Thrift and Gift Shop



Established in 1975, the Thrift & Gift Shop (T&G) is one of the oldest and most active outreach programs at Saint Clement. During their fiscal year, September – May, they are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00AM– 1:00PM.

More than twenty-five people volunteered their time during the year to sort, price and place/purge donations, keep financial records, pack and transfer excess items to other charities, and create sales shop displays and designs. Due to the pandemic, the T&G closed in March 2020. With the help of their loyal

volunteers, they were able to clean out their sales rooms and loan the main room to the Saint Clement Day School to facilitate pandemic-safe spaces for the children and teachers.

Although T&G was closed for the last three months of their fiscal year, their board was able to approve the following donations from the shop's account:

- \$6,000 to the Church of Saint Clement
- \$3,000 to the Church for budget shortfall
- \$1,000 to Step Alive
- \$500 to Saint Clement Day School Teacher Salary Fund
- \$500 to Saint Clement Day School Scholarship Fund
- \$200 to Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Book of Remembrance for Peggy Moore
- \$200 to ECW Book of Remembrance for Bernardine Price

The Thrift and Gift Shop thanks all their volunteers, especially those who helped with the clean out, and the many people who generously donated their gently used goods. Saint Clement looks forward to reopening the T&G, as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so. If there are any parishioners who may be interested in helping in this rewarding ministry, please let them know.

Faithfully submitted by Lauren Borden, Marion Mangus, Linda Oliver and Ellen Rayner

Christmas Tree Sale

For more than 30 years, St. Clement has sold Christmas trees during the holiday season. The activity not only helps fill our coffers, but provides a convenient service for our neighbors, opens a doorway into our faith community, challenges parishioners of all ages to engage in ministry, and helps us all get in the holiday spirit.

Like the rest of the year, Tree Season 2020 featured its own unique challenges related to the Covid19 pandemic. However, its successes were myriad and provided additional financial support to Saint Clement during an already difficult year. An executive summary of the 2020 Tree Sale is provided below.

Financials

Saint Clement ordered 300 trees, 24 wreaths, and 12 lengths of garland for a wholesale cost of \$12,128. The parish spent \$1,550 on freight to deliver the trees. After credit card fees, they made \$24,273.29 and the net profit was about \$10,600.

Successes

- Selling trees by colored tag (labeled by the farm by height) instead of measuring each tree:
 - Quicker check-out time;
 - Easier for customers to understand;
 - No need for volunteers to make judgment calls about tree height; and
 - Ability to build Square-fees into the flat price, rather than charge customers a \$3 fee as done during the 2019 season.
 - Customers seemed unfazed by higher, flat prices.
- Continued use of Square made accounting easy.
 - 75% of transactions (\$19,735) were done by credit card.
 - The paid \$535 in Square fees, which accounts for 2% of overall income.
- Increased efficiencies from colored tags and Square meant fewer volunteers were needed to run the stand.
- Garlands, new additions to the order this year, were a very popular seller.
- Reduced order quantity (300, down from 415 last year) meant we sold out in a flash!
- Ordering 8-9 ft trees as our top size:
 - They're plenty large without having bases too large for standard tree stands.

Challenges

- Late delivery
 - Truck didn't arrive until 4PM on Thanksgiving Saturday, normally our busiest day.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

- If we continue to order a small order, it may be worth exploring renting our own U-Haul to make the drive on our schedule:
 - You never know who might have a cousin looking to make a little money!
 - The semi was only ¼ to ½ full: a waste of fuel and our money.
- Hanging lot lights was challenging without Rudy and Raymond to share their wisdom
- Reduced order quantity (300, down from 415 last year) meant we sold out of trees before many of our repeat customers were able to get one from us.
- Reduced order quantity reduced our income.
- As always, getting the mix of tree sizes just right can be tricky.

Faithfully submitted by, Monica Rusk and Diana McDonald

Saint Clement Episcopal School Annual Report, 2020

In January 2020, the school was operating at full capacity. We had 76 children, and we had completed our enrollment for Sept. 2020, and had only one opening. We had a Movie Night, and were in the process of organizing our Silent Auction. The school held a Lunar New Year Dragon Parade in February. On March 13, the school closed because of the pandemic.

The Director attended multiple Zoom conferences about COVID and schools, and a School Re-Opening Committee was formed, consisting of three school parents, three teachers, and the school administrators. The group met multiple times to determine policy and procedures needed in order to open the school safely. In the meantime, staff conducted remote classes on a regular basis to provide time for the children to enjoy being “together” with their classmates. The Director “read” to children every day (posted on Youtube) and conducted science experiments (posted on Youtube). The Director prepared packets for children to use at home during the “temporary” shut down.

The Director and School Administrator applied for and received a PPP loan that included the Church. Those funds allowed us to continue to pay our staff, the Church staff, and the custodian.

During the summer, the school held a “virtual” science camp, and about 20 families enrolled. Staff created both live and recorded content organized around a theme of “Space”. Ms. Susie



LaValle took the lead in organizing and coordinating the camp. Teachers created packets so the children could continue learning.

When conditions improved, the school opened a small summer camp to give our protocols a test run. We welcomed approximately 15 children to the school and held classes outdoors. Because of COVID, however, we had to reduce the number of children in each room (except in our two older classrooms) so that we could “social distance” appropriately, reduce the number of classrooms (so that we could ensure a separate play area for each classroom), and reduce the school hours (since we cannot combine classrooms in the afternoon). Our school hours this year have been 8 to 4, instead of 8-6, thereby reducing the amount of tuition charged per student. The combination of reduced classes, reduced class size, and reduced hours means that we will probably end the year at a deficit.

School resumed with 6 classes, with a total of 58 children to start. A number of families opted to delay entry until the 20-21 academic year, and withdrew for the 20-21 academic year. School families were also offered the opportunity to pay a reduced Sept. tuition and defer their entry to school until October. Four families chose this option. Two of those families chose to continue to pay tuition in order to hold their slots, but their children did not begin school until Nov.

Plexiglass screens were installed on all tables so children could eat lunch together or play at the same table. Plexiglass screens were installed between the sinks in all of the children’s bathrooms. New portable sinks were purchased so that each classroom had a designated sink. An additional sink was purchased for outdoors so that children could wash hands upon arrival.

Drop off and pick up procedures were altered so parents did not enter the building. We are using the “kiss and ride” format, with children remaining in cars to have their temperature checked, then escorted to wash their hands and join their class, while parents remain in cars. At pick up time, parents pull into the parking lot line and staff escort the children to their parents.

Class Size and Structure

January through March we had 78 children enrolled. We currently have 59 children enrolled, which is the maximum number of children we want enrolled with COVID conditions. We have 29 boys and 30 girls—the most even distribution in years! We have 4 Parish families at the school, and a total of 54 families. We have two sets of twins, and 5 children of Asian descent, and 4 Hispanic children. Our parents come from many nations (Thailand, India, South Africa, Hong Kong, and Croatia). We have several active duty military parents.

We have 6 classrooms, with 7 teachers (one classroom has co-teachers) and 5 assistant teachers. We have three new staff members (two staff members took a year’s leave of absence because of COVID), and welcomed Ms. Diana West back as our floater.

We are beginning our In-House Registration for Church members, current students and siblings. Church members are welcome to go to the school website to download an application and submit it any time in January. In February, we will offer enrollment to those students who had registered for this academic year who chose to withdraw due to COVID. We will open

registration to the public in early March. We are currently working on a “virtual” school tour for prospective parents.

Enrichment Activities

Because of COVID restrictions, we are not having any enrichment classes (unable to social distance, and teachers cannot “mix pods”). The school has held modified versions of our traditional events. The children celebrated Fall Festival (fewer activities and no mixed spaces), complete with pony rides and a pumpkin patch. We had a festive Halloween celebration in our parking lot, with “treat shutes” so that children remained 6 feet from people but were still able to collect treats, a pumpkin patch photo “booth”, and games. Each class celebrated Thanksgiving with a special lunch provided by the school. The following week, the school learned about St. Clement and his life and time period. Each class made a mosaic (a common art form in Alexandria Egypt at the time) which was displayed in the stairwell, dressed in togas, and ate foods typical of the time period (pita bread, honey, grapes, hummus, chicken (nuggets, not traditional!), and clementines). The classes celebrated Christmas with parties in each room.

Photos of the children are displayed in the school hallway on a rotating basis.

School photos were taken.

PTO Activities

PTO activity was suspended due to COVID. There was no Silent Auction in 2020. Because we are not allowing parents/visitors/volunteers, we do not have Room Parents this year.

Physical Plant

The school contributed funds to help pay for the painting in MR Hall.

The school purchased and had installed a new dishwasher for the Church kitchen. This enables us to sterilize small items easily, and provide for Cooking Class when we are able to resume it.

The school purchased a small, temporary fence and installed it along Oakcrest, to help identify a “new” play area. The school “created” six distinct play areas so that no classroom had to share space with any other group. This was accomplished by treating the parking lot as two areas (divided by cones), and the fenced in playground as three distinct areas (divided by stanchions and flags), and the area under the oak tree. The school had three large dead limbs removed from the oak tree.

The school purchased mobile sinks, plexiglass shields (custom made) for the classroom tables, and plexiglass shields for the administrators desks.

Because of COVID, we were unable to use two of the school classrooms—there wasn’t enough space for children and staff to social distance in the classroom. The Thrift and Gift Shop made the decision to close during the pandemic, and very graciously offered the school the use of the main Thrift and Gift shop space for the year. The school would like to thank them again for their incredible work making the space available in such a short time! We are using that space for our Blue Room children (our oldest children).

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

The school purchased and installed a washer and dryer so that all sheets and aprons can be laundered in house, reducing the possibility of any cross contamination. Again, the Thrift and Gift Shop graciously provided space in the far back store room.

Administrative

Carole Stover continues as the School Administrator, and Dory Herman-Sample continues as the Director.

Registration for the public begins on March 6.

The school is developing a virtual tour of the school in lieu of in person visits.

The School received a grant from the Rotary Club to provide free Parent Education evenings. Parents were provided free childcare and dinner for each evening they attended, and given the opportunity to participate in a drawing for school tuition credit. Because school ended so abruptly in March, it was decided to provide a credit to all participating families returning in Sept.

The school sends home weekly newsletters electronically, has a Facebook account, and uses OneCall to provide information to the school community in the event of an emergency or to provide important updates.

All staff have had CPR/First Aid training, and all staff have completed Child Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Training from the Diocese.

Budget

The school budget is in reasonable shape, considering the decreases in classes, student population, and hours. Because we reduced the number of classes, we also reduced the number of staff members, which helped with our overall budget (in addition to salary, it reduced insurance and retirement benefit costs). The school used funds from the PPP loan to cover staff salaries and health insurance. The school used Management Reserve funds to cover all the pandemic expenses that were not included in the budget. The school is extremely grateful to all the parents who paid their full April tuition to insure that the staff could continue to be paid until the PPP loan was successfully acquired.

The summer program operated at a loss, which was expected. It was conducted primarily as an opportunity to test our new protocols.

Currently, expenses are just about equal to income.

The school offers Health Insurance and retirement benefits to staff members, as mandated by the Episcopal Church. This is a significant part of our budget.

The school very gratefully received a donation from the Thrift and Gift Shop.

The staff received a very generous cash gift from the school parents; the school also provided small Christmas bonuses to the staff.

Fundraising

Our major fundraiser of the year was canceled due to the pandemic. We have had school pictures (profit \$300) and Original Art (profit \$600). We did an on-line Scholastic Book Fair. We made \$200 in “Scholastic Dollars”.

Community Involvement

The Director is a member and Secretary of the Alexandria Preschool Director’s Association.

The school donated 200 books to the Reading Connection.

Professional Affiliations

The school belongs to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Episcopal Schools.

The Director is a member of NAEYC and the Alexandria Preschool Director’s Association.



Long Term Goals

Our primary goal is to continue to provide nurturing, professional Early Childhood education to the children entrusted to us. To do so, we continue to educate our staff in best practices in field. This assures our parents that they are getting the best possible experience for their child and their family.

We continue to focus on serving as an introduction, and pathway, to the Church of St. Clement.

We continue to be committed to providing loving, joyous, nurturing care to children, despite all the limits the pandemic has placed on us. We recognize the need for a “normal” school experience for children, and the opportunity to provide parents with safe, trusted, and reliable care so that they can continue to work. Saint Clement Episcopal School provides this, and so much more, to the families of our community, and we are grateful for their support and confidence.

Long Term Needs

Our physical plant needs are those typical of older buildings.

Church of Saint Clement: 2020 Annual Report

We continue to be vigilant about pests; while we have no recent rodent activity, we must, as a community, commit to being sure there is no food left out to attract them.

Faithfully submitted by Dory Herman-Sample, Director

