



CHURCH OF  
OUR SAVIOUR  
圣公会救主堂

# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS 2022

*In this special section of The Messenger, our many ministry leaders share the past year's highlights, challenges, and their hopes for the future.*

## Acolytes

Hannah Riley, Acolyte Wrangler

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Our COS Acolyte Squad continues to be a joyful, lively, and unexpectedly holy group of dedicated kids, teens, and adults. We are 23 strong this year and still growing. The highlight of this year has been watching a tight-knit community grow within the program. The acolytes celebrate wins together, look forward to learning new things (often fighting over who gets to "do the lavabo bowl"), and are thrilled when new members join our squad.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

The challenges we face are the best kinds of challenges. Because of the size of our squad, we are short on acolyte robes. Acolytes of years past were very tall. We are on the shorter side. With some creative budgeting and help from our COS "seamstresses," I am confident we can tackle this challenge. The other challenge is getting the kids ready for services. It is utter chaos. We are so grateful for parent helpers, especially Charity Xia.

### What are your hopes for the future?

My hope is to continue to grow our squad, both outwardly and inwardly. We will continue to hone our skills and look for wonderful ways to serve during worship. This Lent we will have an Acolyte Master Class. Our bishop is excited for us to host an "Acolyte Olympics"—an event where we will invite other diocesan churches to compete and to celebrate our acolytes across the diocese. I also plan to more deeply explore the mechanics of what makes our program so successful and how it has created an incredible bridge between our English and Mandarin communities. I feel that this is true work of evangelism and inclusivity in the Episcopal Church. I cannot wait to see what the next year brings with this incredible, rowdy, and holy ministry!



## Altar Guild

Patti Beith, Altar Guild Directress

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

We continue to be a fellowship of Christian women doing God's work in his house. We have combined the Chinese speaking and the English-speaking Altar Guilds into one guild, sharing the workload between all of us. When the Sacred Garden blooms we use the flowers from the garden for the altar bouquets. We now have a greenhouse to store our plants during the week rather than leaving them on the open patio.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

Our biggest challenge is expanding our membership. We especially would like to welcome younger women to join us in our activities. The Guild is open to all women in the parish.

### What are your hopes for the future?

Our beautiful but old vestments for our priests have deteriorated with age. The Altar Guild is looking at our options for obtaining new vestments. The new vestments will have our clergy in high fashion!





# Adult Formation

Kit Shenk

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

The Forum committee continued to organize its programs around the “four legged stool” of Faith Formation, Fellowship, Education and Outreach. We began the year celebrating Epiphany and Chinese New Year and sharing stories about our lives. We responded to parables, enjoyed Ed Andersen’s many presentations of famous Christian authors and Fr. Reese Riley’s presentations on spiritual topics. We had several Rector’s forums and presentations on the Foster Care program. We are blessed to have many wonderful presenters in our midst. Deacon Bill Doulos, Fr. Tim Hartley and David Stoller are a few. Patti Beith’s presentation on her experience living around the world serving the State Department was a highlight, especially as she shared her worship experiences abroad. We also initiated a monthly breakfast provided by our various ministries as well as Bret and Lucy Thompson of Pez Cantina fame.

The Journey in Joy women’s Bible group led by Kit Shenk and Rosemary Choate studied, Luke, a variety of Christian based stories and poetry, and viewed several Christian based movies. We began the study of John in November. The growth in participation has been a highlight.

We are grateful for the involvement of COS parishioners and staff in planning, leading and participating in our programs.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

We would like to encourage greater participation in the Sunday morning forums. And we always seek feedback in order to provide programs that interest and inspire our parishioners.

## What are your hopes for the future?

We look forward to additional Adult Formation offerings for the parish and for opportunities to invite the surrounding community to join us.



# Audio & Streaming Team

John Ballance

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Our Audio/Video team members manage the sound levels inside the church during worship services, and manage the video streaming of the services. As our church services are returning to normal, the team is becoming more familiar with the mechanics of arranging and managing the live stream production. Our video streaming system is now installed in its permanent location, and we are now learning how it operates.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

The team has faced two basic challenges: finding enough members who are willing and able to operate the audio and video systems on a regular schedule, and learning to operate the new video production tools. With the system now fully installed, we can focus on expanding our team and providing training so that all team members are comfortable with the new systems and equipment. We still need a few more members to operate both the audio and the video streaming systems on a monthly rotation.

## What are your hopes for the future?

Ideally, we need one team member to operate the sound settings at each of the weekly 8:00 am services, and two team members to operate both the audio settings and the video cameras at each of the weekly 10:00 am services. To meet that staffing need, the team needs to find and train eight new members to help manage the audio and video settings for the Sunday morning services. The audio and video needs for the 4:00 pm service are evolving and may require additional Audio/Video team support. Additionally, replacing the audio equipment in the church is a priority this year. Upgrading the equipment will ensure that in-person worshippers are able to hear the liturgy as well as expand our capability to provide quality video streaming of our services and enhanced concert audio/video programming.



# CAMP Afterschool Program

The Rev. Anne Thornberg, Associate for Children's Ministry & Pre-School Chaplain

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Since WHAM and Children's Choir were set to separate, we breathed life into a new program called CAMP that would meet on Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesdays. Our goal was to create a loosely scheduled space for the kids to build community and have fun. We call it "camp" because there is something magical that happens in summer camp where you learn a lot about yourself and the world around you. We are trying to capture some of that magic here each week. Over the last five months we have built a strong community of 5 to 11 year olds who religiously attend each week. The big highlight thus far was our overnight campout back in August. We had tents strewn all along Peppertree Lane, we played games, made lanyards and buttons and ended the night with a campfire singalong.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

Starting a new program always has its challenges, but I believe that consistency, passion, and patience are the key recipe for success and growth. We also need to do a better job advertising in the community.

## What are your hopes for the future?

To continue to offer a place for children to experience the incarnational love of God through their relationship and experiences here at COS.



# Children's Ministry

The Rev. Anne Thornberg, Associate for Children's Ministry & Pre-School Chaplain

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

One of the many highlights of the year for me was the way in which the children remember the Godly Play stories we have told and begin to ask me to tell them again. This is such beautiful reminder of how the rich tradition of storytelling from our sacred narrative can begin to be a part of a person's life at such a young age.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

One of the challenges that I have faced is having families come to what we have traditionally thought of as the "Sunday School hour." We do not have regular attendance during that time, so we do not have a strong program of kids who meet on Sunday mornings.

## What are your hopes for the future?

My hopes are to continue to figure out ways in which I can create space for children and families to experience, wonder and talk about God. To continue to foster many loving and life-giving environments (not only Sunday mornings) for families to walk together through life and be vulnerable with one another.





# Communications

Hannah Riley, *Staff Communications Team Member*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

The best part of 2022 was holding monthly meetings to better strategize for upcoming campus events and activities. At the staff level, staff members participated in helping choose headline and spotlight articles. We also re-introduced the “Everyday Saints” series to the parish. This year was truly a year of “better living through collaboration.”

## What challenges did your ministry face?

Because of the ever-increasing activity at COS, news doesn't happen on a 9-5 schedule. Our biggest challenges are receiving breaking news and then quickly turning that news out to the parish. One of the ways we are working on combatting this issue is to work more closely with our Vestry and Rector to ensure that important news and events are relayed to the parish in a more timely fashion.

## What are your hopes for the future?

We hope to grow in our creativity in 2022 by better marketing our growing community—our website, social media, and newsletter should reflect this growth. We hope to continue to find new ways to spread the Word of God through COS's robust campus life. Our greatest hope is that our media presence accurately and seamlessly reflects our beautiful parish community.

## Chinese Ministry & Li Tim Oi Center

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Ni, *Associate for Chinese Ministry*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

*Chinese Ministry:* We started the Year of 2022 with a collective New Year's Eve prayer posted in our WeChat group. We had our hybrid services including in-person and online worship. We continued to post a short biblical lesson with a reflection and a prayer in our WeChat Group every morning.

During the season of Lent, we made a series of videos introducing Lent and special prayers, including the Fourteen Stations of the Cross.

We maintained our weekly Bible Study via Zoom.

We celebrated the Chinese New Year and the Moon Festival together with our English-speaking members. We also had a special thanksgiving sharing on Thanksgiving Day and a Christmas party with gifts for all our children.

We had four adult baptisms and rebuilt some of our service teams including Choir, live streaming team and usher/newcomer welcome team. Choir members pre-recorded hymns for live streaming.

*Li Tim-Oi Center:* We started to make a series of short videos on Social Justice, Racial Reconciliation, and Building Beloved Community. In these videos, we interviewed religious leaders including Bishop Taylor, Fr. Jeff and clergy from various Asian ministries. We also interviewed elected officials, law enforcement officers, lawyers, and community leaders.



## Chinese Ministry Continued...

## What challenges did your ministry face?

*Chinese Ministry:* The biggest challenge in 2022 was the fear of the pandemic within the Chinese Community, which prevented people from attending Sunday worship and fellowships. The other challenge was that people either got used to staying home for online worship or had less interest in community activities including church activities.

*Li Tim-Oi Center:* In addition to the lack of qualified lecturers to teach courses, we also didn't have significant financial resources, including a lack of funding from the China Fund of The Episcopal Church which offered more lay leader training classes last year.

## What are your hopes for the future?

*Chinese Ministry:* I hope the fear of the pandemic will ease as the situation in China gets better, so we can restart ministries and develop new programs to welcome parishioners back to church while also attracting new people to our church. I hope we can raise up more lay leaders and have the financial resources necessary for these programs to succeed.

*Li Tim-Oi Center:* I hope we can get funding for continuing lay leadership training. I hope more Chinese clergy will participate in this important program and more lay leaders from other dioceses will participate in the courses we are going to offer in 2023.



## Dorris Dann Kids Campus

Marguerite Ponce, *Dorris Dann Kids Campus Director*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

The many highlights of our program at the Dorris Dann Kids Campus included being able to supply a six-week summer program to 150 youth from the community and increasing our expanded learning program accessibility to other schools due to a waitlist at our local schools. We did that with support from the El Monte City School District. We also implemented transportation for all students from Durfee Elementary School to Dorris Dann Kids Campus daily.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

Keeping up with the constant turnover of staff without time and funding for professional development. The upkeep and improvement of the facility and program budgets that are not at pace with the rising costs of running programs that are being strained by last year's rapid inflation.

### What are your hopes for the future?

To have a clear vision of our mission and purpose in our community.



## Education for Ministry (EfM)

Kari Stewart & Juli Kennedy

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Juli Kennedy and Kari Stewart are the current co-facilitators. We meet most Sunday evenings in a small group during the fall and spring. The group has read many current academic textbooks, theological essays, and the Bible as part of the EfM curriculum. Meeting via Zoom, we offered two 2-week mini sessions exploring two theological books from the EfM program. These sessions were open to EfM graduates and any other COS members. These books were *The Dream of God* by Verna J. Dozier and *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers. These mini sessions led to meaningful discussions. It was a nice way to give the congregation a taste of EfM.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

It has been challenging to recruit new members. This program requests a minimum of a one year commitment, but in theory is a 4-year program with considerable but meaningful reading.

### What are your hopes for the future?

We are hoping to offer a mini-EfM experience for all when we read our common reading books. This year the books will be *Reading the Bible for the Margins* by Miguel De La Torre and *Healing Our Broken Humanity* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim & Graham Hill. We look forward to graduating 3 participants in the Spring.

## Greeters

Charlotte Van Fleet

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Mary Kingman designed and created the lovely blue Information tablecloths. Also, it's great to have all 10:00 AM service Greeter positions filled.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

It's such a privilege to be a Greeter, requiring only a small amount of time for so much fun! The challenge is to help others realize it's not a "job," that greeting is fun and is an opportunity answer the front door for COS. It would be wonderful to have Greeters at all 8:00 am services.

### What are your hopes for the future?

Every Sunday we have visitors and, as in your own home, we want to warmly welcome all. It would be nice to greet all worshippers, whether at our front door, in the pews or on the patio. Our current Greeters are Debbie and Ed Andersen, Nancy Burrows, Gail Cooper, Bev and Jerry Harris, Marcia Kreditor, Henrietta Ma, Kathy Macauley, and Nancy Smith.



## Hospitality

Rex Botengan

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

I am so very grateful for the donation of snacks for coffee time and for the volunteers who hosted our fellowship breakfasts. My thanks to everyone for their support!

### What challenges did your ministry face?

Initially, getting the coffee set-up in time was challenging, but thanks to staff, it is now running smoothly. Ensuring that all days are covered for snacks is always an interesting task, but we usually manage to have a little something to go with coffee.

### What are your hopes for the future?

Expanding gatherings and get-togethers outside of after-church coffee. Providing opportunities for the community and non-parishioners to experience the amazing hospitality of COS.



# Jubilee Transitional Housing

The Rev. Bill Doulos, *Director of Jubilee Homes*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

1. We survived the pandemic. A few of our residents and a couple of our managers caught the virus and had to be quarantined, but no one had to be hospitalized, and no one suffered any lasting effects. 2. We grew stronger as a community, despite adverse circumstances, through weekly meals that were provided by our advisory committee for each of our four homes, although we had to forego a few of our larger group events. 3. We celebrated our annual Christmas dinner for all of our residents and some of our alumni. 4. The majority of our residents stayed clean and sober and reached important goals in their journey to recovery from addiction. 5. We met and surpassed our financial goals for the year.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

1. We had the challenge of the pandemic, and especially the challenge of maintaining a very personal and face-to-face ministry in the world of Zoom 12-Step meetings. 2. The continuing challenge of living in a high-tech world in terms of mailing lists and databases and financial approaches that I am not equipped to face. 3. One of our homes was built in the 1890s, another in 1927. The two others are vintage 1950s homes. The maintenance needs of these properties are a continual challenge. 4. We pride ourselves in our personal and sometimes pastoral contact with our donors, including many who are not connected to our Church community. To maintain this personal contact, through visitation and through our gratitude dinners, which we have had to forego the past two years, is an ongoing challenge.

## What are your hopes for the future?

1. There is always the abiding hope of realizing recovery for each of our residents. Our resident managers and our staff are sometimes frustrated with the slow pace of recovery. Our various addictions do not easily give up the fight for the soul of the addict. We have to pace ourselves, and realize that we are not in control of another person's progress (or lack thereof). 2. With my pending retirement in July of 2023, our advisory committee and Vestry have put a plan in place to assure a continuation of the values that our ministry embraces, a smooth transition, and continued financial growth. 3. We look forward to a new administration at Jubilee Homes and the new vision that will enrich our efforts for years to come.



## Music Ministry & Choirs

Paul Kilian, *Music Search Committee Chair*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

For the first half of the year the music program continued much as it had heretofore. The 10 am worship service was served by the choir directed by Taylor Vazquez-Reyes and accompanied by pianist Jane Lin. Alice Rucker provided the organ music, and offertory music was performed by cellist Dustin Sao accompanied by Jane. The choir and the hymn-singing of the 10 am Mandarin service was organized and led by pianist/director Jessica Jin. The 4 pm contemporary worship service utilized guitar and other ancillary instruments.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

During the summer, Taylor resigned her position as Music Director in order to teach music in for Monrovia School District. Fr. Jeff took that as an opportunity to reconsider COS' music program and assembled a committee to do just that. The committee includes Fr. Jeff, Fr. Thomas, Debbie Andersen, Vera Hoalim, Juli Kennedy, Paul & Gloria Kilian, Robin Nixon, and Patti Teele. Their first act was to affirm Jane Lin as interim choir director with organist Alice Rucker and Juli Kennedy selecting the hymns for Sunday worship. Private funds were donated to allow the adult bell choir to resume rehearsals under Alice Rucker. The committee is now in the process of re-imagining the entire COS music program including music for all our services and a vibrant children's music/educational program.

## What are your hopes for the future?

We are currently creating job descriptions for a minister of music position. Also of primary concern is hiring soloist/section leaders for the adult choir. It is our plan to begin advertising for these openings in the near future. We are also reconsidering the music needs and salaries of all our other music positions, both current and to be created. We have high hopes of ultimately instituting a comprehensive children's music program incorporating all the Sunday school youngsters as well as those who attend A Child's Garden School. It is abundantly clear that the Church's music programs exceed the current budget, so the committee's task is to explore additional revenue sources including donations, perhaps some fee-based endeavors, and other endowments. When the committee has completed its visionary outline for the COS Music Program, it will be shared with our parish.





# Laós Chamber Music Concert Series

Dustin Seo

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

The fact that we have been able to program an entire season from scratch in our inaugural year is just absolutely amazing. I have felt so blessed to be able to bring Laós to life and share music making in such a beautiful space. In particular, the November 19th concert felt so fulfilling. We had record attendance and I received fantastic feedback from both the musicians and the audience about how special the evening was.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

The biggest challenge was definitely my personal bandwidth. Since Laós has been more or less a one man show, I have felt a little overwhelmed balancing the workload of my professional and personal life with the workload of my passion project.

## What are your hopes for the future?

I am excited to push forward and hopefully fundraise for a season 2 of Laós. I need to work strategically to create more effective fundraising strategies and models so that we can have more financial security moving into the next season.



# Organist & Handbells

Alice Rucker, *Organist and Handbell Director*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

1. Playing organ music, liturgy and hymns for the 8 am and 10 am and any special services.
2. Holding a handful of handbell choir rehearsals in preparation for the May recital where we played several pieces, and contributed to the Christmas Eve services with a smaller group of players.

## What challenges did your ministry face?

Not having a regular budget for an ongoing handbell choir.

## What are your hopes for the future?

To continue as organist, and as director of our adult handbell program.

# Our Saviour Center

Rose Gonzalez, *Chief Development Officer*

## What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

For 38 years, Our Saviour Center's programs and services continue to provide a safety net for thousands of children, families and seniors in El Monte and surrounding communities, and 2022 was no exception. The Food Pantry served 130,643 individuals, including 44,437 households. As cases of Covid-19 decreased statewide, the food pantry's drive-through parking lot conversion resorted back to a pre-pandemic walk-up format. As of July 1, the second and fourth Saturdays of each month were added to the regular Tuesday and Thursday food distribution days, particularly for working clients who are unavailable during the week and need a helping hand. The ten Saturdays added to 2022's food distribution schedule enabled 1,133 additional individuals to obtain much needed food staples.

The Emergency Temporary Housing Program served families who turned to us in their moment of crisis, including 198 adults and their 272 children, providing them with 867 shelter nights. While it is a relatively small program, we are humbled to continue to be able to serve so many families in this capacity.

The Kids Campus provided afterschool expanded learning for 280 children in grades TK through eight during the school year. The summer program provided 161 children with social emotional learning and creative space. Kids Campus served a record number of youth in 2022!

As a ministry of the Church of Our Saviour Center, we are pleased to report the ongoing success of serving those in the heart of El Monte. We are grateful for the steadfast, ongoing support of COS parishioners, who truly believe in our mission; the Rector, who offers his continuous and unconditional support; and of the Vestry, who ensures that Our Saviour Center continues to thrive.



## OSC Continued...

### What challenges did your ministry face?

The pandemic's ongoing demand, coupled with inflation and the rise of energy, food supplies, childcare, and housing costs, continues to tax Our Saviour Center's programs and services. This particularly puts a strain on our very small but very busy emergency temporary shelter program. As affordable housing becomes increasingly obsolete, our struggling community end up in emergency situations that leave them desperate for shelter. While we focus on families that include children, our emergency temporary housing program continues to receive more requests than we are able to fulfill, from seniors, veterans, disabled persons, and families without children. Another challenge Our Saviour Center continually faces is the need for volunteers at the Food Pantry. As most adults and college students are now back to school and work in-person and full time, our Food Pantry's need for volunteers is a one we face each week, rain or shine.

### What are your hopes for the future?

Our Saviour Center welcomes all members of the COS family onto our campuses as volunteers. Time and talents are valued, and the dedication to working with the children at the Dorris Dann Kids Campus or with adults at the Food Pantry is always appreciated. We look to the years ahead for continued organizational sustainability, stability and growth in revenue so that we may continue to provide much needed assistance in the midst of indescribable hardship. We hope to celebrate our 38th year by living our mission of *sharing love, hope and resources with our neighbors in need*.

## The Sacred Garden

Carrie Voris

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

The Sacred Garden looks incredibly different than it did at the last Annual Meeting!

- We now have a beautiful wrought iron gate at the entrance and a concrete ramp down into the garden.
- On the east side of the garden we have a new storage shed to house tables, chairs and other large items and protect them from the elements.
- Along the southwest corner we have a thriving compost center where we have been able to amend our flower beds with the compost we have created while diverting 3,346 pounds of green waste from the landfill!
- Next to our greenhouse hut we have repurposed some raised beds for the ACGS children to experiment growing veggies.
- Generous gardeners have put in countless hours with the upkeep of the garden beds and donations of supplies, seeds and plants.
- We supplied the altar guild with blooms for the altar throughout most of last summer and a few other events as well.
- When we had an abundance of flowers, we sold bouquets after service that supported the SG fund for more soil, seeds and plants.

## Sacred Garden Continued...

- We were gifted a bunch of pottery the the friends of the Sacred Garden cleaned up, repotted with plants and sold as a Garden fundraiser.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

Time and money. Always so much to do and we have so many hopes for the Garden, but it all costs time and money. We are so grateful to those who have supported the Garden through plants and seeds.

### What are your hopes for the future?

We would like to continue expanding our growing season and varieties of flowers. We are still working towards accessible pathways and lighting and also expanding our raised beds. We are also planning to incorporate more perennial and pollinator flowering beds throughout the garden and take advantage of some of our "non-flower bed" areas to grow some new stuff! We would like to educate the COS and ACGS communities on the importance of composting and encourage them to participate and help us double our numbers for next year.







## SPARK and Youth Ministry

Hannah Riley

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Fr. Thomas approached me last Spring and asked if I could teach a public speaking course to kids from the Mandarin-speaking congregation. And from this little idea, SPARK (Speech and Reading Kids) blossomed. Ever since then, after church on Sundays, we gather in Grace Chapel or Allan Hall and explore different ways that God offers us gifts – through public speaking, reading in front of an audience, dramatic performance, creative writing, and all manner of creative expression. The highlights are so many – watching the little group grow into a beautiful cross section of our community with kids participating from both our Mandarin and English-speaking congregations, from our preschool, and from our CAMP program; putting on a glorious pageant with a life-sized camel complete with sets decorated by the class (all those stars!!!); watching our public speaking skills shine as SPARK kids read in church.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

The biggest challenge is the age range of kids. We have kindergarteners and high schoolers all in the same group at times. I look forward to figuring out a way to split the kids into age-appropriate groups, staff those groups, and keep the class fun and life-giving.

### What are your hopes for the future?

My hope is to continue to grow SPARK and start building back up a vibrant youth ministry that works for today's middle school and high school students. I plan on utilizing the many talents of our excellent parishioners through special classes and presentations, creating opportunities for SPARK students to form intergenerational connections within our parish.

## The Strategic Plan

Ed Andersen, *Strategic Plan Committee Member*

**Strategic Planning Update** One year ago, Fr. Jeff called together a small group to consider the next phase of the strategic planning process that began in 2008. The "Strategic Planning Task Force," comprised of Fr. Jeff, John Vandercook, Eric Miller, Hannah Riley, Paul Kilian, Juli Kennedy, Tom Shenk, and this writer agreed on a process to best prepare COS for what lies ahead. It was the consensus that without a bold new growth strategy we will never fully be the church that God wants us to be. As former Notre Dame football coach and leadership guru Lou Holtz observed, "In this world you're either growing or dying, so get in motion and grow."

The congregation's responses from the 2022 questionnaire have been helpful in preparing the preliminary COS2030 Strategic Plan. The initial draft has been drawn up and will be reviewed by the Rector and Vestry for their consideration. The plan will then be presented to the congregation for review and comments. When every voice has been heard, the vestry will formally adopt the COS2030 strategic plan.

The ultimate goal of strategic planning is to ensure that Church of Our Saviour will be well prepared and ready to continue God's work in the world. We might take inspiration from the story Jesus told in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The servant who hid his talent feared his master and was punished, while the servants who took courage and invested wisely were rewarded. Our church has been given much and much will be expected of us as we contemplate our calling in the world. With the Holy Spirit as our guide, let's be brave and choose the wisest road ahead, even if it's the one less traveled.

The Strategic Planning team will keep you updated as the strategic planning process unfolds. In the meantime, we urge you to contact us to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns as we prepare for the wonderful things God has in store for us.







## Stewardship and Annual Giving

Rose Gonzalez, *Chief Development Officer*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

2022 was my first year overseeing COS' annual giving campaign. Along with learning the ins and outs of the campaign itself, it was an absolute pleasure to work alongside an enthusiastic and dedicated Annual Giving Committee. We received eight new pledges from families who are wonderful and exciting additions to COS. I look forward to building on its positive momentum and incorporating tried and true as well as new methodologies into the next campaign.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

While we are steadily bringing in new pledges, there is a predictable shortfall that occurs when long-beloved parishioners pass or move away. We not only lose COS family members, but their longevity equates to bigger, longstanding pledges, which do not always equal those of new pledges. I believe that the COS family is steadfast in understanding the true cost of maintaining and growing this parish, and that under the leadership of our Vestry, we will continue on the path to efficiency and transparency.

### What are your hopes for the future?

I look forward to working with our Rector and Vestry to build a more robust, year-round stewardship plan, including reviving COS' planned giving prospects. I am excited about keeping all members of our parish up-to-date on the ongoing needs of our church and meeting and getting to know so many members I have yet to. Hearing suggestions from the COS family on ways to improve annual giving, while cutting costs, is a high priority for my position and my transition to COS this year has been a wonderful one. My family and I are incredibly fortunate to have been so warmly welcomed to COS. I am enthusiastic about strengthening COS' financial foundation and building for its future sustainability.

## Weddings

Nancy Duling, *Wedding Coordinator*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Meeting and assisting brides and grooms with their special day is why I do this. Such a happy time for all involved. I acted as the day-of coordinator for two of our COS parishioner weddings. I learned a lot about running a wedding reception. (Buy more comfortable shoes for one thing!!).

### What challenges did your ministry face?

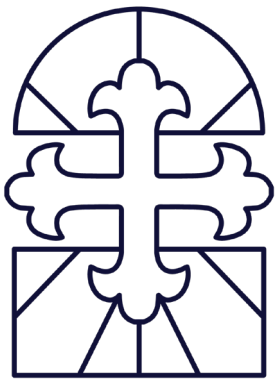
Learning and creating COS protocols. Trying to streamline our process. The fewer the cooks in the kitchen the better, but it takes a lot of cooks to make weddings work! Also, getting our pricing right is challenging. We increased them for 2023.

### What are your hopes for the future?

Holding more weddings at COS with the hopes of to train an additional wedding coordinator!







## Worship at Church of Our Saviour

8 am Rite 1 Sunday  
Service  
*Vera Hoalim*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Seeing, hugging and interacting with the members of our 8:00 am congregation on a weekly basis. It is a blessing.

Hearing organ music every week at the 8:00 reminds us of what we missed during the lockdown. Alice Rucker is a delight in that she plays works from the Hymnal and from other sources that are appropriate to the service, and she is always willing to talk about the music after the service.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

The members of our aged congregation frequently comment on how cold the church is during services in the winter months.

Some parishioners have difficulty walking up and down the stairs for communion. We need a solution to ensure everyone's safety, while allowing for individual preferences when receiving communion.

We need to increase the number of qualified Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Readers at the 8:00 Service. We also need a review class of the "Lay Eucharistic Minister as Church of Our Saviour" to ensure that all the ministers participating in that service are following the processes codified therein.

Finally, we lost several members of our family; some to death, some for personal reasons. The challenge is missing them and praying for them.

### What are your hopes for the future?

That we continue those highlights listed above.

## 10 am Rite 2 Sunday Service

*Joanna Cory, Verger*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

I was delighted to experience worship in the Historic Sanctuary each Sunday this past year. Although we still wear gloves while serving Communion to our parish family, that seems to be just a small reminder of the experiences of "Covid past". We seem to have settled in as a parish family and enjoy our worship experience on Sundays. It was a great pleasure to welcome Tim Hartley as a deacon and preacher and to finally to welcome him as a newly ordained minister.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

We are now presented with the task of getting all of our Eucharistic Ministers to complete the diocesan training for safeguarding the church. This training is usually repeated every three years, but due to the chaos created by Covid, we are behind and will need to catch up with the training.

## Worship Continued...

### What are your hopes for the future?

I see a need to begin training new Eucharistic Ministers to help serve at the 10am service. I would especially like to have younger people involved with the ministry. This would be a great opportunity for those who served as acolytes in the past and who will carry their experience into the service of Eucharistic Minister.

## 10:10 am Children's Church

*The Rev. Anne Thornberg, Associate for  
Children's Ministry & Pre-School Chaplain*

### What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?

Most Sunday mornings, we invite all children ages 4 years through 5th grade to process out of the Sanctuary during the "Gloria" to have their own worship experience. Once we are gathered in our worship space, we start in prayer, sing a song of praise and tell a sacred story. We also incorporate prayers of the people, the confession and wrap up our time together by passing the peace. We find that giving the children their own opportunity to worship together makes it possible for them to make the sacred narrative their own and create community among other children in the parish.

One of the many highlights of the year for me was the way in which the children remember the Godly Play stories we have told and begin to ask me to tell them again. This is such beautiful reminder of how the rich tradition of storytelling from our sacred narrative can begin to be a part of a person's life at such a young age.

### What challenges did your ministry face?

One of the challenges we face is finishing in time to go back for the rest of the service! Being in the Atwill building has been a huge blessing in that regard as we haven't had to waste precious time traveling to a building across campus, but can instead use that time worshipping together.

### What are your hopes for the future?

My hopes are to continue to figure out ways in which I can create space for children and families to experience, wonder and talk about God. To continue to foster many loving and life-giving environments (not only Sunday mornings) for families to walk together through life and be vulnerable with one another.





## *Worship Continued...*

### **10 am Mandarin Sunday Service**

*The Rev. Dr. Thomas Ni, Associate for Chinese Ministry*

#### **What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?**

2022 was a very special year for our Mandarin worship service on Sundays. We started the year with a joint service in our historic sanctuary. The service was in person as well as online. We continued using PowerPoint slides with pre-recorded hymns. Then, our service moved back to Grace Chapel with worship starting 10 am instead of 11 am. The Mandarin tech team quickly learned how to use the new system for live-streaming, and other service teams quickly adjusted.

#### **What challenges did your ministry face?**

With the departure of Gabe and Samantha (our original live stream experts), we have had to recruit and train a new Mandarin live-stream team to control the Grace Chapel audio-visual system. A few young volunteers joined our live-stream team and are learning how to live stream the Mandarin service without having to pre-record hymns.

#### **What are your hopes for the future?**

I look forward to a time when the Chinese members no longer fear the pandemic so that we may rebuild all our service teams and give them more training. I also hope that the Chinese choir will receive more instruction so they may us in song during worship so we no longer need to pre-record hymns.

### **4 pm Sunday Worship in the Garden**

*Virgina Barger*

#### **What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?**

We were grateful that the 4 pm service has continued throughout the year. We started in the outdoors in the Telleen Courtyard and then when the heat/rain/cold came, we moved inside to Grace Chapel. We enjoy the beautiful setting with all the windows in the chapel giving us the sense that we are amid the surrounding trees and lawn. Then we hear the beautiful melodies from one of our musicians, George, Sara, or Joe. We truly have the feeling that we are in a special place of worship. Soon our service will be followed by Jeff's Lenten series and a nice potluck dinner. In the warmer months, we hope to expand our service to have an informal BBQ dinner afterwards.

#### **What challenges did your ministry face?**

We normally have a small number in attendance, so we also have an even smaller number of lay readers. Some of our best readers were pulled in different directions to serve in other areas of the church. Fortunately, we have decided to "Stay Calm and Carry On" and have someone ready to do the readings and prayers of the people. We are looking for lay reader volunteers, if anyone is interested. No prior experience necessary — training available.

#### **What are your hopes for the future?**

We hope that more people will discover the beauty of the intimate 4 pm service. What better chance to get to know Jeff+, Annie+, Father Ni, Deacon Bill and our newly minted priest, Tim+.



## *Worship Continued...*

### **11:30 am Wednesday Healing Service**

*The Rev. Tim Hartley, Associate for Recovery Ministries and Pastoral Care*

#### **What were the highlights of the year for your ministry?**

One of the positive outcomes to emerge despite the restrictions of Covid has been the Wednesday Healing Service. With the incredible work of Hannah, who developed a format for a slide show that is used during the service instead of a printed bulletin, the Wednesday Healing Service runs incredibly smoothly. Shortly after I joined the COS staff, Hannah and I worked to make the Healing Service available in-person while still keeping the online options available for those who prefer to worship from home. This "hybrid" service now takes place in Grace Chapel with a number of people attending in person and a large group of regulars whose smiling faces are projected on a big screen allowing everyone to feel a part of the service.

#### **What challenges did your ministry face?**

While the hybrid Healing Service we have in place now has exceeded our expectations, we still have the challenge of how to offer the service when key employees are absent.

#### **What are your hopes for the future?**

One of the group's goals is to reintroduce our practice of eating lunch together after the Wednesday Healing Service. Now that we have an established in-person worship in Grace Chapel, we hope to start offering an opportunity, at least once a month, to eat together after the service.