

## **St. George's Clergy Report: 2021 Accomplishments**

**presented by the Rev. Belle Mickelson, at the Annual Meeting Feb. 27, 2022**

1. Church every Sunday with music and prayers—on Zoom and when we could—in person. Our attendance decreased to 12.1 but we felt a real closeness to each other. Our attendance was 13.7 in 2020 19.6 in 2019, 19,8 in 2018; 21.2 in 2017; 20.6 in 2016 and 14.4 in 2015.
2. The SouthCentral Deanery gave us a \$1500 grant to install internet at the church. Cece helped CTC with the installation. Seawan Gehlbach has been using her Zoom account to host our church services with the help of Nancy Bird and Barclay Kopchak.
3. Christina Vican and Barclay Kopchak have been providing beautiful music for our church services.
4. To involve the kids in Zoom church—we added a place for the kids to share their God Connections with us. We had occasional Godly Play for our children led by the Rev. Belle Mickelson—and ukulele instruction. And we ordered puzzle sheets that match the Gospel readings for both younger and older students for in person and email use. We had a St. Michael and All Angels Service and an St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals.
5. Red Dragon scheduled, maintained and rented out by Cece Wiese.
6. Red Dragon used extensively for homeless, sobriety, quarantine housing, and visitors.
7. We had a successful bundle of shingles fundraiser for the St. George's roof that raised \$43,000 plus an additional \$15,000 pledged. Nancy Bird also organized and sent out wonderful thank you cards to donors. And Nancy has been writing grants for the St. George's roof—along with the reports. She also maintains our St. George's and Red Dragon Web Pages.
8. Kay Adams keeps track of our donations and prepares the budget.
9. Weekly Community email newsletter with community events and pictures emailed to 440 Cordovans and former Cordovans. Plus a St. George's Church Email Newsletter mailed go over 100 families with the Order of Service, Songs, Children's Puzzle Sheets, photos.
10. Arranged for the Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp to lead three church services in November while I was on vacation. And I helped her write a \$50,000 Gruber Fellowship Grant that will bring Global Justice through Music with Gwich'in elders and youth. Pray for its success!
11. St. George's provided gospel music and the liturgy for Zak Jacobs' funeral June 19 at the high school gym for 400 people.
12. Kendra Wiese's son Henrik was baptized Sept. 12, 2021 and Malia Jarrell Jan. 9, 2022.
13. Support of Salvation Army by Ampy Benninger and others from our church.
14. Additional community outreach—Kris Kokborg running Ski Hill Snack Shack—and each of us living our lives and helping others.
15. St. George's is a Cordova Chamber of Commerce member
16. Virtual October Clergy and Diocesan Convention attended by myself.
17. Out the Road Copper River Sunday Service August 15 plus other outdoor church services in good weather; a March 24 service to remember the 1989 oil spill; plus

- Christmas Eve and Easter combination in-person and Zoom ending with outdoor mini-services.
18. Encouragement and counseling for the villages and Cordova community.
  19. Restarted the Gospel Sing Along at the Hospital on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 pm this summer with Christina Vican, Lynn Hopkins, Cece Wiese, Nancy Bird, Jana Howard, Barclay Kopchak, Anita Smyke, myself and others.
  20. Led Weekday Morning Prayer with Yoga in the spring and fall with Gabby Brown.
  21. Participated in Wednesday night 7 pm Devotions/Meditations at the church begun by Christina Vican for much of the year.
  22. Re-started Morning Music this fall—along with leaders Kim Menster, Aaron Bowman, Anita Smyke and Arlene Rosenkranz. Cordova 4H instruments were stored at the church so they could be checked out to students with the help of Kim Menster and Karen Swartbart. The Sunday School room was used for various 4H projects; Jana Howard and Jessica Smyke organized the 500 Cordova 4H Bands in a Bag; Erik Kokborg taught lessons and set up and put new strings on the fiddles; and in January 2022, professional luthier Jeb Wiemer fixed many of the over 100 4H instruments that he set up and restrung.. I helped the Cordova 4H board planning a July outdoor Cordova 4H camp that had to go virtual due to Covid. And I wrote the Hawaiian and Native curriculum for the Bands in a Bag.
  23. Dancing with the Spirit travels to villages encouraging them with music (and church services in villages with an Episcopal Church) . We've traveled to 55 villages, most of them many times in the last 15.5 years with a goal of preventing suicide, drug, alcohol, and domestic abuse by building self-esteem, preserving musical traditions, and encouraging strong healthy communities. In the pre-pandemic 2.5 school years, we spent 92 weeks in village schools.
  24. In these pandemic times, we began work on a virtual village music curriculum. Currently, Vol. 1 and Holiday Song and Fiddle Videos are up on the website together with Songbooks and Fiddle Tab—all available for free downloading. And we have enough songs recorded for Vol. 2 and 3 which will be uploaded in the coming months. We nominated the Rev. Dr. Trimble Gilbert for a National Heritage Fellowship and we wrote and received numerous Dancing with the Spirit grants: RurAL CAP \$65,650; Tanana Chiefs Conference \$43,000; Faith Into Tomorrow \$5000; St. Matthew's Foundation \$2200; Arnold Schultz Foundation \$2500; Doyon Daaga' \$3000. I also wrote the lead article for the Anglican Musicians Journal.
  25. Regularly attended monthly meetings with other pastors when they started up in the fall. . During Iceworm, I helped with prayers at the Fishermen's Memorial in 2020, 2021, 2022.. And I participated in the community Sunrise Easter Service.
  26. Occasional articles in the Cordova Times
  27. Involvement with the gardening community. Chris Iannazzone continues working on getting a community garden going on the edge of our land. Laura Bowman led the gardening in our garden boxes—and planted donated plants on our church grounds..
  28. Attend Cordova Community Coalition Monthly Meetings (now virtual) with social service people.
  29. Church cleaned occasionally whenever someone notices that it needs it! Neva Nolan changes linens and candles. Thanks, Neva!

Clergy initial priorities for 2022 (before annual meeting)

1. Support for all of you in your needs and missions (lots of listening!)
2. Church roof fundraising and construction.
3. Raise up new church lead
4. Youth Education, Music, Activities
5. Continue to support music in Cordova and beyond.
6. Improve spiritual leadership with more personal prayer and meditation
7. Support in reaching out and supporting Recovery
8. Raise more funding for Dancing with the Spirit (and get an endowment fund going)—so that there can be new directors and funding to reach more villages—with the goal of reaching every village twice a year—with more instruments, curriculum, and in between lessons to keep the music and healthy living going! (Right now our staff are doing lessons with 7 schools—and we hope to start traveling to villages at the end of March.)
9. Improve our local, national, and international funding for missions
10. Encouragement of community spiritual and physical fitness with square dances, youth skiing activities, a gospel music camp, and retreats.