

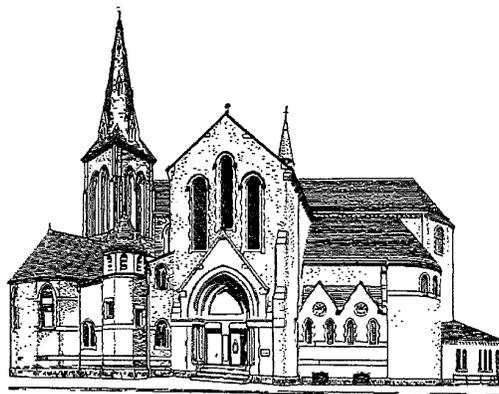
THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

30 BRIMMER STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 6, 2022



THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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STAFF

The Rev'd Douglas E. Anderson	Rector
The Rev'd David Thompson	Parochial Vicar
The Rev'd Dr Jeffrey Allan Hanson	Priest Associate
The Rev'd Moses Buyondo	Deacon
The Rev'd Thomas E. Adams	Honorary Assistant
The Rev'd Dr Clarence E. Butler	Honorary Assistant
Mark Dwyer	Organist & Choirmaster
Andrew Scanlon	Associate Organist & Choirmaster
Karen Harrington	Events & Communication Coordinator
Barbara Boles	Community Dinners Coordinator
James Singletary	Parish Administrator
Joseph Brown	Comptroller
Rich Lyerla	Property Manager
Moses Buyondo	Sexton
Lauren Mojarrab	Church School Coordinator
Raymond B. Porter	Verger

VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Meg Nelson	Rector's Warden
Thatcher Gearhart	People's Warden
Adam Rutledge	Treasurer
Nick Westberg	Clerk
Lynda Blair	John Boyd
Amanda Daley	Dustin Henderson
David Lapin	Philip Le Quesne
Carolyn McDermott	Frederick Ou
Francesco Piscitelli	Julianne Turé

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From the Wardens

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we began our stint as Wardens last May, we were very much hoping that Covid was mostly in the rear-view mirror, with cases trending in the right direction and having come down to fairly low levels, and with effective vaccines widely available and take-up reasonably high. More than anything, with that as a backdrop, we were looking forward to the return of our full life, together in the flesh, at The Church of the Advent. As we all know, however, thanks to Delta and Omicron, history turned out differently than we had hoped. Most of the whole of the last year, like the one before, was characterized by various governmental and diocesan regulations that limited our being together in various ways.

The most important thing of this second year of Covid, however, is the very same as of the first: that, despite Covid, Holy Mass was offered every day at The Church of the Advent, and the daily cycle of prayer was observed. The centrality of our life in the Eucharist never altered. The Advent adapted, and we as parishioners remained in fellowship as best we could, both virtually and in person, while observing appropriate restrictions. There are countless souls to thank for the herculean effort required to pull this off, and on behalf of the whole parish every such soul has our thanks – but none more so than our Rector, Fr Anderson.

He arrived on Candlemas just over two years ago, only to find his new parish substantially shut down about a month later; and things still aren't back to normal. This is a remarkable start to any Rectorate, and that we remained open and alive through it all is a testament to his leadership. That we finished 2021 with more pledging members than we had in 2019, the year before both his arrival and the pandemic, is a further testament both to his leadership and to the very fact that The Advent is really and truly a living part of the Body of Christ. For the last two years, with so many churches closed, many souls yearning to be a part of His Body walked through our doors, and then stayed. We have heard so much praise and appreciation for what The Advent has managed to do these last two years, from members old and new alike. For all of this, we are very grateful.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid, we as a Vestry have also continued to make positive changes in the material running of the parish. Thanks to the fine work of David Lapin and the whole of his Administration Committee, we were able to reform many aspects of the running of our “back of house” these last two years — namely, in the property maintenance and office functions, freeing up over \$100,000 per year, and improving the quality of the results at the same time. This allowed the Vestry to fully fund a new position late last year — the Events and Communications Coordinator, into which role we were delighted to welcome Karen Harrington. Having Karen here will help us to come out of Covid with a stronger infrastructure both for our internal parish life, and for sharing the Good News outside of our walls. In conjunction with a recently launched major redesign program to enhance our website and external face, championed by Fr Hanson, we are trying to build the toolkit to allow us more effectively to “take the bushel off the Light of Christ,” so that we can share what we have more broadly, and welcome more souls into the Life of Christ.

While it is impossible to single out all the people who give so much of their lives to make our shared life at The Advent rich and beautiful and holy, we want to close with one particular expression of deep gratitude. After over thirty years of following quite literally Our Lord's command to feed the hungry, our own Barbara Boles has hung up her apron and retired from heading our Tuesday Night Community Supper. Feeding countless thousands of guests a home-cooked meal over the course of

decades is truly the work of the Lord, and Barbara has done this work tirelessly and out of love for His people. For all you have done, Barbara, we and the whole parish are most grateful.

We wish all of you a most blessed and penitential Lent, and pray that your relationship with God emerges stronger and deeper as we journey together to New Life. And may The Lord continue to richly bless His whole church, and most especially The Church of the Advent, in the year to come.

Yours faithfully,

Meg Nelson & Thatcher Gearhart,
Churchwardens

The Treasurer's Report

1. BUDGETED/ACTUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 (UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income			
Plate Collection	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,445	\$ 1,445
Pledge Receipts	\$ 550,000	\$ 545,409	\$ (4,591)
Endowment Income	\$ 1,029,468	\$ 1,029,468	\$ -
Other Receipts	\$ 149,400	\$ 158,619	\$ 9,219
Total Income	\$ 1,738,868	\$ 1,744,941	\$ 6,073
Parochial Expenses			
Clergy Salary & Allowances	\$ 318,231	\$ 271,265	\$ 46,966
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	\$ 213,203	\$ 222,591	\$ (9,388)
Music	\$ 308,612	\$ 300,465	\$ 8,147
Office & Administration	\$ 145,183	\$ 168,804	\$ (23,621)
Christian Education	\$ 68,500	\$ 9,107	\$ 59,393
Altar Guild	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,703	\$ 5,297
Other Parish Expense	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,011	\$ 1,989
Property Expenses	\$ 300,587	\$ 268,327	\$ 32,260
Total Parochial Expenses	\$ 1,377,316	\$ 1,256,273	\$ 121,043
Non-Parochial Expenses			
Diocesan Assessment Operations	\$ 114,639	\$ 114,639	\$ -
Benefactions			
Diocesan Assessment Benefactions	76,426	76,426	\$ -
Mission and Outreach	10,000	10,000	\$ -
Community Dinner	10,000	10,000	\$ -
Subtotal Benefactions	\$ 96,426	\$ 96,426	\$ -
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	\$ 211,065	\$ 211,065	\$ -
Capital Expenses	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 1,738,381	\$ 1,617,338	\$ 121,043
Net Operating Total	\$ 487	\$ 127,603	\$ 127,116

* Actual financial information is unaudited.

2. BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021
 (UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*)

Assets

Cash	1,441,771
Account Receivable	192,566
Prepaid Expenses	26,437
Total Operating Assets	1,660,774
 <i>Land & Other Fixed Assets</i>	 9,842,722
 <i>Unrestricted Endowment Funds</i>	 11,686,329
 <i>Restricted Endowment Funds</i>	 31,296,500
Total Assets	54,486,325

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	81,934
Prepaid Pledges & Income	74,150
Total Liabilities	156,084

Fund Balances

Unrestricted Fund Balance	
Prior Year Ending Balance	17,728,844
Unrestricted General Fund	6,861,754
Vestry Designated Restricted	3,996,521
Total Unrestricted Fund Balance	28,587,119
 Restricted Fund Balance	
Total Temporary Restricted	2,708,678
Total Permanent Restricted	23,034,444
Total Restricted Fund Balance	25,743,122
 Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	 54,486,325

*Actual financial information is unaudited.

3. BUDGET FOR 2022

Income	
Plate Collection	\$ 15,000
Pledge Receipts	540,000
Endowment Income	1,220,243
Other Receipts	155,500
Total Income	1,930,743
Parochial Expenses	
Clergy Salary & Allowances	\$ 389,572
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	244,368
Music	319,583
Office & Administration	172,474
Christian Education	135,500
Altar Guild	10,000
Other Parish Expense	14,750
Property Expenses	303,269
Total Parochial Expenses	\$ 1,589,516
Non-Parochial Expenses	
Diosesan Assessment Operations	\$ 102,639
Benefactions	
Diocesan Assessment Benefactions	\$ 68,426
Mission and Outreach	10,000
Community Dinner	10,000
Subtotal Benefactions	\$ 88,426
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	\$ 191,065
Capital Expenses	\$ 150,000
Total Expenses	\$ 1,930,581
Net Operating Total	\$ 162



Acolytes Guild

During 2021, the ongoing pandemic continued to impact our liturgical life. A small and devoted crew have been supporting the public worship of the parish throughout these months and will continue to do so. In the fervent hope that the pandemic will continue to abate in 2022, we look forward to being able to restore more familiar liturgical practices and a fuller acolyte staff.

Participation in the Acolytes' Guild is open to pledging members of the parish who commit to regular attendance at worship, are able to work well in a team with defined roles, and are comfortable being 'on stage', while understanding that as liturgical ministers we are expected to be anonymous. Feel free to approach one of the Acolyte Wardens, Paul Roberts (9am) or Julianne Ture (11am) if you are interested and want to learn more.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Ture (for Paul Roberts)



Administration Committee

Since the administration committee was formed, it discharged two very different functions. The first has been planning; this has led to a strategic plan and updates, an organizational chart, job description templates and the like. The second has been oversight of the implementation of objectives. With Father Warren's retirement and Jim Wood's resignation, committee members actively discharged oversight roles that are more properly the responsibility of staff and clergy. Foremost among these was the hiring process that led to the appointment of Jim Singletary as parish administrator.

As Jim and Fr Anderson gained traction in their positions, the need for the administration committee to assume the second role has waned significantly, and as a result we have not had to meet since revisions were made to the strategic plan last year at this time. With that fact in mind, I recommended to the Vestry at our February meeting that the committee be terminated, pending the Rector's consent. With this change, the responsibility for implementing strategic plan objectives returns to staff and clergy. In the event that they determine that a new planning process is needed, a Vestry committee can always be reconstituted.

It has been my honor to work with committee members Judy Bell, Michael Gnozzio, Michael Oliveri, Rick Stone, Julianne Turé and Maggie Westberg. Amanda Daley, Carolyn McDermott, Tom McDermott and Adam Rutledge have also provided invaluable support. I trust that the Advent is in a better place today because of their good work, and I thank them sincerely for their counsel and support.

David Lapin



Children's Ministries

After a summer hiatus, the Advent church school started again in the fall of 2021. The elementary classes began combined, with preschoolers through 5th graders all together. Although this was a big age gap, it gave the older students the chance to lead by example as they engaged with the lectionary texts. After the Christmas break, they split into two classes. The younger class is reading *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, which teaches not only individual Bible stories, but also how each of those stories connects to Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection. The older elementary class is learning from the Connect curriculum by Sparkhouse, which teaches students the biblical narrative by studying passages of the Old and New Testaments side by side, training them in *analogia scripturae*—using Scripture to interpret Scripture. The middle school and high school students meet for a round table discussion of the lectionary readings, challenging them to contemplate God's Word and articulate their faith.

I would like to thank the Rector for his wisdom and guidance, Father Thompson for his leadership and support in overseeing everything from curriculum selection to weekly communications, as well as all who volunteered to teach these classes: Gabriel Ellsworth, John Ferrillo, Sally Koury, Lily Roberts, Maggie Westberg, Frederick Ou, Robin Landrith, Carolyn McDermott, Bryce McDonald, and Daniel Orsen — and thank you to Terry who kept us well supplied with snacks! I anticipate the rest of 2022 to be filled with the robust discussion of sound doctrine, leading students and teachers alike on a closer walk with Christ.

Godspeed,

Lauren Mojarrab
Coordinator for Ministry to Children



The Community Supper

The Supper has continued without a gap as a takeout meal. Near the start of 2021, we began to set up a few tables in Moseley Hal for those who want to stay and chat, as the community aspect has been an important aspect of the Advent Community Supper. Serving coffee and tea has also been very popular! Our numbers have settled into a steady 25–30 a week, much lower than formerly. Is this a good sign, that food insecurity is diminishing? We can't know, but we are grateful to serve those who come. Starbucks continues to provide day-old pastries, a popular addition to our meals.

A big change to the supper is that I will be stepping down; I've been thinking about this for a while, and a recent health crisis precipitated the final decision. Karen Harrington will take over, working with my crack crew of Maggie Dunbar, Genean Stec, Jennifer Scott Sutherland, and Jerry Clabaugh. Many thanks to all of the Advent family who have supported the supper over the years; may you continue to do so!

Barbara Boles
Community Supper Coordinator



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reports to the Vestry, and has two primary responsibilities.

First, in concert with the Treasurer, the committee develops an annual budget proposal for the Vestry's consideration. This process involves a review of expected income from both current gifts and the endowment. There are also discussions among committee members, the Rector, other members of Parish staff, and the leaders of other Committees and Guilds to discuss needs, priorities, and areas of concern. The committee then prepares a draft budget, which the Vestry reviews, amends as it sees fit, and approves in final form. I am pleased to report that, for the 20th year running, the Committee proposed, and the Vestry approved, a balanced budget that fully funds our staff, the Rector's program priorities, and our annual target of \$150,000 for the revolving capital account.

Second, the committee monitors the Parish's assets, in particular the endowment, and advises the Vestry on issues related to the responsible and prudent management of Parish assets. As many of you will be aware, a significant majority of our endowment funds are not in fact our own but are rather held in irrevocable trusts for our benefit by two professional investment managers — the Trustees of Donations, and Rice, Heard & Bigelow — and are listed on our balance sheet thus not as an accounting matter but for disclosure purposes. Our agency (i.e., non-restricted) endowment funds are also held and managed by the Trustees of Donations, which is a non-profit board of financial professionals chaired by the bishop that manages assets for many of the parishes within the Diocese of Massachusetts. At the direction of the Vestry, the Committee has begun a study of how we hold our agency funds. This project was motivated by two concerns. First, although our endowment has grown significantly over the past two decades, there has to date been no systematic review of its structure to ensure that we maximize the twin goals of prudent management and support of the Parish's needs and programs. Second, in connection with responding to the financial needs and government programs related to the pandemic, we became more familiar with different ways that parishes in the diocese with similarly-sized endowments or programs (in particular, Trinity and Emmanuel) structure their endowments to fund their own ministries and programs. This led us to ask whether any of those (or similar or other) models might make sense for us. This project is ongoing, and is aided (with the Vestry's authorization) by the advice of outside counsel. We expect to provide the Vestry with a report, and any related recommendations, for their consideration later this year.

Faithfully submitted,
C. Thomas Brown, Chairman



Advent Flower Arranging Guild

Restrictions on public worship due to Covid kept the parish Flower Guild out of action until late April of 2021. We provided floral arrangements in the church for approximately 24 Sunday and feast day Masses and for 4 funerals. There were only minimal flowers at the high altar for Palm Sunday and Easter, but we were delighted to be able to decorate the entire church for Christmas after being unable to do so in 2019.

The floral decorations in the church are widely admired, and many people don't realize that the flowers are funded by donations and executed by non-professional volunteers. The cost of flowers has increased in the last year, so the minimum donation for a pair of high-altar arrangements is now \$100, with \$125 to \$150 suggested; the money goes a long way because we buy the flowers at wholesale prices. Parish Administrator Jim Singletary ably manages the scheduling, contacting recurring donors, working to fill vacancies, and making sure that the memorials are listed correctly, and also keeps track of the incoming donations and pays the vendors. Contact the church office if you are interested in giving altar flowers.

Donations of time are at least as vital as monetary gifts. The Flower Guild now has eight designers, a wonderfully devoted, eclectic, and good-natured group. This is one more than last year, but we would like to add a few more people to get back to our optimal size of 10 to 12 members. No previous floral design experience is required; we provide on-the-job training for novice arrangers, who work in teams with experienced designers. Members typically come in one Saturday morning every four to six weeks. In addition, it would be impossible to prepare the church for Christmas and Easter without the assistance of many parishioners from beyond the Flower Guild.

Tom Sopko, *Director*



Music Department

During the continued global pandemic, we remain versatile with our musical program, all the while looking forward to the gradual resumption of normal activity. In 2021, the advent of widely available vaccinations drastically changed our lives and the ability to resume social activities for the better. While the first six months of 2021 saw our continued pattern of a reduced number of singers positioned far apart on the nave floor, we were able to move back into the choir stalls with our summer choir and it was as if a whole new musical world opened up to us. Being able to make music, still fully masked, but in a normal configuration, was a revelation.

During the summer, we faced the very difficult news of the death of Organist & Choirmaster *Emerita*, Edith Ho. Hers was a long life, well-lived. She will be missed in her role as *Grande Dame* of the parish. She reinvented herself during her 15-year retirement and was always to be seen working the coffee hours at church, and attending several concerts in the city every week. It was our sad duty to sing her Requiem Mass in early September. It was, in fact, the first rehearsal of, and first appearance of the full choir since March of 2020. The symbolism was not lost on us. The choir offered the Victoria *Missa pro defunctis a sex vocibus* for a very full church of friends and admirers who came to pay their final respects. Well done, good and faithful servant.

In September we had the very happy task of welcoming our new Associate Organist & Choirmaster, Andrew Scanlon, to our parish family. Andrew came to us after 12 years of teaching at East Carolina University and as Music Director at St Paul's Church, both in Greenville, North Carolina. He has already proven to be a valued colleague and a very skilled musician. We look forward to his continued work among us.

In the fall of 2021, our regular complement of 18 singers was able to reassemble on a somewhat normal routine, with the first REHEARSALS in two years. The work of ensemble-building is never-ending for the choir, and what a joy it was to be able to get back to work. We began on the last Sunday of September with the glorious Palestrina *Missa "Tu es Petrus"* for six-part choir. Then,

Michaelmas was observed with the Mozart *Missa Brevis in D, K 194*. Our own parishioner, violist *extraordinaire* Daniel Orsen, arranged a very polished string orchestra for the occasion. It was the first time most of us had worked with an instrumental ensemble in two years. While it was still a muted celebration as we navigated the ongoing reality of the pandemic, it was a very happy occasion for everyone. We resumed our offering of monthly Evensong and Recital as well, though for the meantime, we have suspended the suppers and talks out of an abundance of caution.

All Souls was observed on November 2nd with the Fauré *Requiem, op 48*, for choir and orchestra. The month of November, or the “month of Holy Souls”, was particularly poignant this year, as we remembered those we have lost during these difficult times. Remembrance Sunday on November 11th featured the Victoria *Missa pro defunctis a sex vocibus*.

The Advent and Christmas seasons had their normal pattern with beautiful carol services for both Advent Sunday and New Year’s Eve. And while the month was again muted with the unexpected rise of the Omicron variant, Christmas Eve masses followed their normal and festive pattern with the Lassus *Missa “Bel’ Amfitrit altera.”*

Over 100 webcasts of choral music and the spoken word went up on the internet during 2021. Our resumption of in-person liturgical music-making continues to be life-giving for both those who do it, and those who receive it. We have learned more about the technology of recording, and have acquired more skill in production and editing! Above all, it is my personal hope that this experience will cultivate grateful hearts and creative minds in all of our post-pandemic lives. We are learning to be grateful for the many blessings we have, rather than dwell on those things we have lost. May our works be prospered.

Mark Dwyer,
Organist & Choirmaster



Parish Office

The second year of the pandemic found the Advent moving slightly closer to a state of normalcy—or what might pass for normalcy in the present and immediate future. While physical distancing and nominal mask requirements remained in place by the end of 2021, many of the adaptations required of us during the earlier months of the pandemic, such as capacity limits and reservations for attending Mass, had relaxed significantly, making our work as staff a bit easier. And while the use of the building by outside groups has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels, we definitely noticed an uptick. For instance, the Beacon Hill Garden Club and the Advent School resumed using Moseley Hall and the church for meetings and events, and the Boston Cecilia resumed their tradition of holding their Christmas concert here. The parish also continued its policy of being a good neighbor in our community by making our space available to other community groups having difficulty finding appropriate space open to outsiders, particularly those with ties to the parish. Such events included a fall community-information session on aiding Afghan evacuee resettlement.

From an operational standpoint, our biggest change this year was probably the transition of our church management program from ACS to the company’s next-generation product, Realm. While a software upgrade would rarely be considered a significant development, Realm is a big step forward in that it is designed not just as a product for staff to keep track of parishioner data, but also as a significant communication tool for parishioners themselves. Capabilities include the opportuni-

ty for parishioners to check their own contact and stewardship information (i.e., pledging and giving status), as well as scheduling volunteers for various service teams (acolytes, coffee hour hosting, children's ministry). This latter function will greatly aid Events & Communication Coordinator Karen Harrington in the outreach and volunteer scheduling that are intrinsic to her position. Parishioners will gradually receive invitations to register for participation, and we hope all will respond accordingly so that we can take full advantage of the many opportunities it provides for enhancing parish life.

We also continue to enjoy the reliable and dedicated service of our sexton, Moses Buyondo, and property manager, Rich Lyerla, whose work extends beyond the church proper to our several residential properties. We are similarly grateful for comptroller Joe Brown's financial expertise. And finally, another shout-out to Julianne Turé for providing much office help throughout the year, particularly aiding in the production of the many service leaflets we generate.

Jim Singletary,
Parish Administrator



Property Committee

As always, the function of the Property Committee in 2021 was to oversee repairs, maintenance, and capital improvement projects throughout the church, its related buildings, and grounds. Some of the general maintenance items we worked on this past year include updates to our electrical, plumbing, fire alarm, and HVAC systems, continued maintenance of our foundation well pump, continued monitoring of our established settlement points, oversight of landscaping and grounds (in conjunction with Maria Denslow and the newly re-established Garden Guild), basic repairs to kitchen equipment, as well as minor repairs and maintenance of the Rectory building and our other rental properties (overseen by Peter Madsen and Rich Lyerla).

In addition to the regular repair and maintenance items, the committee has an ongoing list of capital improvement projects. This list is somewhat fluid and items are moved to the top of the list depending on how urgent or timely they become. This past year had us focusing on some projects that have been long overdue as well as items, which if not taken care of, would become more costly in the longrun.

Roof Leak: A leak was discovered in the corridor next to the Archives Room. Thankfully there was no damage to the Archives Room itself. John Henry Roofing was called and made some repairs to the existing rubber roof. The repair work stopped the leaks, but it was determined that this roof ultimately needed to be replaced. A proposal for a new roof (and new flashing) was approved by the Vestry. Unfortunately, due to supply chain issues with material, this work has been delayed, but the hope is to have the work completed this Spring.

Parish House Steps: The concrete stairs leading into the Parish house were repaired by Allstar Waterproofing and Building Restoration. The most important part of this work was to secure the railing posts that had come loose. This repair was made a priority since this stairway is the one used daily by the Park Street School.

Fence: The most significant and noticeable project that was completed this year was the restoration of the wrought iron fence along Brimmer Street and Mount Vernon Street. The fence, a portion of which encloses the memorial garden, is a significant part of the infrastructure of the church and was in desperate need of repair.

This project is one that the Property Committee has been working on for the past 14 years. The fence was showing signs of wear and tear back in 2007 and its condition had been continuing to deteriorate since then. By 2018, it had reached the point where some parts of the fence had actually totally disintegrated. Repairs were definitely long overdue. This project was prioritized due to the increasing degradation and the fact that any further loss of material would lead to even greater costs the longer the repairs were put off.

Due to a slowdown in construction, we were able to take advantage of contractor availability and competition in the market. This resulted in a significant cost savings from what we had seen the past two years. After reviewing the fence with several contractors, we hired DeAngelis Iron Work to do the restoration work.

Although it was determined that a significant portion of the work could be done in place (this included scraping and painting, minor welding, and replacement of deteriorated and missing items), many sections and all twenty-one columns had to be removed and taken to DeAngelis' shop for extensive repair.

Since the columns needed to be removed, we took advantage of this opportunity to re-design the base connection to allow for better drainage. The previous design was allowing water to pool around the base of each column, increasing the likelihood of decay. This new design, along with some regular maintenance, should help to keep the fence in good condition and prevent more costly repairs in the future.

Pew Kneelers: A project which was started last year was the re-upholstering and repair of our 260 pew kneelers. The kneelers offer very little support or cushioning, which is not surprising given the fact that they have not been re-upholstered in over 20 years. Another long overdue project! We have hired South Shore Upholstering Service to repair any broken kneelers, replace the existing foam with a more durable neoprene cushion, re-upholster the kneelers with a heavy-duty fabric, and re-stain the wood. We are also adding glides to the bottoms of the kneelers to help protect the floor. Tony Pulsone has been representing the Property Committee and heading up this work. Tony is coordinating with South Shore Upholstering to determine how many kneelers will be taken for repair at one time and will provide updates as the work continues.

The Property Committee continues to oversee the maintenance of the Church building, Parish House, Moseley Hall & kitchen, Rectory, Landscape & Grounds, as well as the 49 Hancock Street, 140 Mount Vernon Street, and 43 South Russell Street properties.

We commit to continuing to work as hard as ever to keep our beautiful place of worship in the best shape possible.

Carolyn & Tom McDermott,
Co-Chairs



Stewardship Committee

On behalf of the Stewardship committee please find here the summary report of the Advent's Stewardship Campaign 2021.

- Thank you to everyone who pledged during our Campaign 2021. Every pledge, no matter the amount, is important, especially during the pandemic and its impact on our parishioners and community. Through your continuing generosity and care for the Advent, we received contributions above our initial target to support the activities we know and appreciate, such as our renowned music tradition, community supper outreach program, online broadcast for our masses, celebration of holy days, meditations and education sessions; plus much more.
- We had initially used for planning the Advent budget programs parishioner's contributions of \$525,000 for 2021.
- We actually achieved \$537,760 in pledged amount for Campaign 2021, which was especially encouraging given the difficult circumstances we collectively faced. In addition, we received payment(s) of \$7650 from prior-year commitments. Total pledged receipts in 2021 were \$545,410. This was a wonderful and blessed response from all Advent parishioners. Thank you.
- We received 190 pledges in 2021; our 22 new pledges show our continuing growth as a community in Christ, and their pledged amount helped to offset both the decreased and lost pledge amounts versus 2020. The increased pledges from 55 parishioners were instrumental in our campaign, a 23.4% increase in their contributions, truly wonderful. The solid foundation of annual contributions continued by those 75 parishioners who maintained their same level of contributing support for 2021 was another success factor.
- Once again, on behalf of the Wardens, the Vestry, and our Rector, Fr Douglas Anderson, a heartfelt thanks to everyone for making Campaign 2021 a success through your thoughtful consideration for the Advent.

We are now well into the final stages of the "formal pledging period" of Campaign 2022, used to help develop the parish budget for 2022. However, the opportunity for Stewardship pledging is year-round and your contributions are always welcomed. Thanks to everyone who has already pledged in 2022. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to make their pledges for 2022, we would like to encourage your consideration to pledge whatever amount possible to support the Advent. Please send in your pledges to the Parish office by mail, email, online giving through our website, or simply dropping in the Sunday collection.

All the best to everyone and please take care of your health as we hopefully begin to see certain progress in the campaign versus the pandemic and look forward to renewed fellowship and hopes of celebrating Christ together at the Advent.

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer,

Francesco Piscitelli
Stewardship Chairman Campaign 2021



Advent Website and Social Media

In 2021, the Advent's website and social media platforms continued to provide updates for parishioners and our wider audience. A weekly email newsletter keeps our community informed about upcoming events, education and service opportunities, parish news, and other updates.

The Advent's first website was launched in 1997 and has been revised twice since then, most recently in 2015. While it has largely kept up with the times, for its 25th anniversary we are working with the consulting firm Beck & Stone on a major rebranding and redesign that will help the site be a more effective evangelistic tool as well as a doorway to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Turé
Webmaster