



172nd Annual Meeting January 14, 2024

Emmanuel Church

admin@emmanuelnewport.org

<https://emmanuelnewport.org>

401-847-0675

42 Dearborn St, Newport, RI
02840



SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

In late 1841 mission worship services, called “cottage meetings,” were organized for the millworkers of the fifth ward and held in private homes. As our numbers grew, in 1849 we bought an unused Baptist Meeting House at the northeast corner of South Baptist and Thames Street, and a nearby store was used for the Sunday School. Because Emmanuel welcomed all—with or without money—the parish developed around the needs of the poorer members, through the support of wealthier members. A state charter was granted on June 2, 1852 by the General Assembly and we officially became (and still are) known as “The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Emmanuel Church.” On March 13, 1852, we became a mission congregation under the name of Immanuel Free Church. Land on the corner of Spring and Dearborn Streets was purchased by Edward King in 1852 and donated for a church to be built. Fundraising began and the church was built and furnished for \$15,000.¹⁹ It was a wooden Tudor structure designed by Richard Upjohn, famed churchman and architect. Michael Spencer, a Newport native, was the builder.



A group of parishioners gathered in 1860 to establish and support a weekday school in connection with the parish. After a few years, as neighborhood children went to local schools, the church school disbanded. It was re-established in 2006 as a preschool. The Emmanuel Day School closed permanently in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

While in New York, John Nicholas Brown contracted typhoid fever and died unexpectedly on May 1, 1900. He was survived by his young wife, **Natalie Bayard Brown** and ten-week old son, **John Nicholas Brown, Jr.** As a memorial to her husband,

Natalie Bayard Brown gave a new church to take the place of the Upjohn building, which was in disrepair.

In 1922, Newport Hospital named Emmanuel “**the church of the people**” saying, “*only strangers can realize how few open doors there are in a small conservative New England city. If we are at times disconcerted, we try and remember how few desirable avenues are open. In this connection, we must thank Emmanuel Church for its wonderful hospitality.*”

Emmanuel has long been a meeting place for numerous community organizations, some of which began at Emmanuel, outgrew our facilities, and continue to this day, including “Soup’s On.” With a goal of simply feeding people, this endeavor blossomed into a cooperative ministry of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and twenty-two houses of worship from fourteen different denominations, working together to provide at least one meal every day of the month. A community meal, free and open to everyone, is still offered at Emmanuel at 5pm on the first Tuesday of every month. Also starting at Emmanuel was a support group for parents with developmentally challenged children, now the James L. Maher Center; as well as Hospice, and the Church Community Housing Corporation, a program which helps low-income families buy an affordable home. We have welcomed the Island Dance Company, Seele Chamber Musicale Ensemble, and the St. Petersburg Men’s Choir from St. Petersburg, Russia to share our property. In 2021, we established a long-term space sharing collaboration with Newport Classical now at home in the Newport Classical Recital Hall, allowing Newport Classical to provide year-round programming with the community.

In 2019, we welcomed the Rev. Della Wager Wells as our Rector to lead Emmanuel in our next chapter.

CONTENTS

Serving Our Neighbors _____	2
Vestry _____	4
Staff of Emmanuel Church _____	5
Agenda _____	6
Minutes _____	7
Rector's Report _____	7
Senior Warden's Report _____	17
Junior Warden's Property Report _____	19
Music at Emmanuel _____	21
Ministries of Emmanuel _____	23
Stewardship Report _____	26
Treasurer's Report _____	27
Nominating Committee Report _____	31



VESTRY



The Rev. Della Wager Wells
Rector



Deb Venancio
Senior Warden



Jim Kaull
Junior Warden



Elisabeth McCarthy
Treasurer



Carolyn Swiggart
Assistant Treasurer



Valerie Martin
Vestry Clerk



Brian Ladley
Vestry-at-Large



David Frazier
Vestry-at-Large



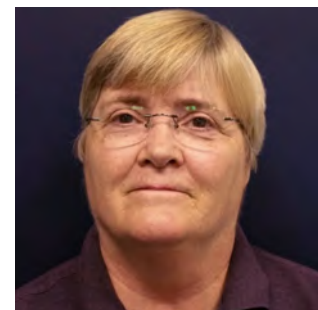
Cindy Larned
Vestry-at-Large



Ed Gosling
Vestry-at-Large



Fay Gosling
Vestry-at-Large



Ellen Vadney
Vestry-at-Large

STAFF OF EMMANUEL CHURCH



The Rev. Della Wager Wells
Rector



Randy Elkins
Director of Music
and Events and
Parish Administrator

Choral Scholars



The Rev. Prof Maggi Dawn
Resident Theologian and
Priest Associate

Ali Hosford
Artist-in-Resident

Olivia Kirshy
Choral Scholar

Ethan Boucher
Choral Scholar

Nellie Horvath
Choral Admin Intern



AGENDA

**The One Hundred and Seventy-second Annual Meeting
of
Emmanuel Church
January 14, 2024
11:30 AM in the Church**

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Moment of Silence for Necrology

George Phelps Clayson III

Joan Soares

Janet Hunt

Lillian Rarity Hargrove

Irene Laramée Lemoine

Minutes of the 171st Annual Meeting

Rector's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Junior Warden's Property Report

Music Report

Stewardship Report

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

Open Discussion

Nominating Committee Report

Parishioner Recognition

The Saints Among Us & the Lil Hargrove Service Award

Closing Prayer

MINUTES

Emmanuel Church 171st Annual Meeting

January 22, 2023

I. Vestry Present

The Rev. Della Wager Wells, Senior Warden Deb Venancio, Junior Warden Valerie Martin, Assistant Treasurer Liz McCarthy Members-at-Large, Jackie Breen, Ed Gosling, Fay Gosling, Cynthia Larned, Catherine Curtis (Clerk).

II. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Della Wager Wells offered an opening prayer.

III. Necrology from Annual Report

IV. Approval of Minutes of 170th Annual Meeting

Motion from Glenna Randall, approved unanimously.

V. Rector's Report

Della+ gave the Rector's Report included in the Annual Report.

VI. Senior Warden's Report - Debra Venancio

Deb gave the Senior Warden's Report included in the Annual Report.

VII. Junior Warden's Report - Valerie Martin

Valerie gave the Junior Warden's Report for the Property Committee. Refer to 2022 Annual Report.

VIII. Additional Reports from Annual Report

Refer to 2022 Annual Report.

IX. Treasurer's Report Liz McCarthy on behalf of Dave Monroe

Income greater than budgeted a year ago.

Your generosity has given us the opportunity to move amounts in addition to budgeted amounts into restricted funds for endowment, which is the most productive way for us to deploy your generosity from 2022.

8 weddings, rental apartments, kitchen, bell tower, and now space collaboration with Newport Classical have yielded a much stronger position for 2022.

Newport Classical had its first successful full year of chamber concert programming, sharing almost \$35,000 to add to our operating budget.

We are able to allocate funds to flowers/hydroponics and Soups On.

We raised money for the sound and video streaming and recording system with copper hearing loop from grants, donations and a fundraising dinner. We have also received grants for major capital projects, including the re-sealing of the rubber membrane on the roof over the nave and the restoration of the chapel windows from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, and for the HVAC system from the McBean Foundation.

We were able to fund the purchase of the pre-owned Allen 450 digital organ from the Parker Fund as the first stage in the necessary restoration of the existing organ with money remaining for any required service and repair.

Our budget for 2023 is balanced. In 2023, our budget provides for Randy's responsibilities as Music Director, Parish Administrator, and custodian to aggregate to the equivalent of a full time job with health and pension benefits. We are also able to add two choral scholars and a soloist to the Music Program and do more with Soup's On.

Major restoration projects are funded by grants and will not affect our operating funds.

Looking forward to a prosperous year in 2023 because of all that we do together.

Lil Hargrove shared additional information regarding the Parker Fund, clarifying that a number of churches on the island had received Parker Funds.

Lil added that community engagement is our weak point. Doesn't see Emmanuel Members going into community and being seen in Community.

Della+: Lil, that's a great point. In recent history, Emmanuel has imagined our community engagement as financial only, sending checks for distributions from the Baum Fund ("for the poor of Newport County") to outside social service organizations, rather than equipping Emmanuel's parishioners for ministry and engagement in the community. Historically, Emmanuel had used Baum Funds to build community at Emmanuel, not just for the poor in income, but also for the poor of spirit. Only in more recent years has Emmanuel given the moneys to outside social service entities for their use in their own missions. We need to deploy our community engagement resources, including Baum Fund moneys, to build community and equip our members to go out in the community and build ministry.

"Inreach" and Outreachcommunity building BOTH ways. That helps us to reach out in a way that is not difficult but people can experience community through harvesting. That can evolve into people who might not otherwise come to church and are not traditional Sunday morning people coming into Emmanuel to harvest kale on the hydroponics units, tend community gardens, attend concerts, pop up cafes or community dinners, or engage in community activities.

The other things I wanted to comment on (said Della+) included Liz's report: Nothing is wasted in God's economy, and there's no such thing as excess, or "too much." Amounts additional to budgeted requirements are "AGP," or "Available for God's Purposes." AVP moneys are a very good thing. In God's economy nothing is wasted. Over the 20 or so years prior to 2019, Emmanuel has made withdrawals from its endowment funds at a rate of roughly 11% annually. Withdrawals at this rate are not sustainable, and we have eroded our corpus (the

main investments on deposit) by spending more than the interest earnings on the corpus. One thing that these funds (the “AGP moneys”) allow us to do is to pay our endowment back so that we can begin to look forward to withdrawing amounts equal to 4% (on a three-year rolling average) interest earnings on the endowment annually and having that be a meaningful source of budgetary support we can count on. Good financial discipline in this area is essential to Emmanuel’s thriving for generations to come. Our endowment funds’ ability to generate meaningful support requires us to fund our endowment with any AGP (“Available for God’s Purposes”) moneys we can allocate to restricted use. When Liz spoke about putting funds we didn’t need for budget purposes in 2023 into the endowment, she was referring to creating an endowment, and an endowment financial discipline, that will support Emmanuel for generations to come.

Our beloved parishioner Janet Hunt has left us a proportional amount of estate. \$48,775. When this amount is added to what we can pay the endowment back from AGP moneys, we will begin to be able to generate steady, reliable annual withdrawal amounts based on a discipline of taking no more than a 3-year rolling average of 4%, representing the interest income on the endowment funds, annually into budget.

**Resolution
Of the Members of Emmanuel Church, Newport
In Gratitude For
Janet Hunt’s Generous Bequest**

WHEREAS, faithful and longtime parishioner Janet Hunt was actively engaged in supporting Emmanuel Church throughout her retirement years in Newport, leading ministries such as the Salon Discussion Group and the Discernment process for parishioner Charles Lane Cowan who is today a priest; successfully approaching any number of Newport businesses who gladly donated for many years to Emmanuel’s Silent Auction at the Autumn Fair; faithfully participating on the Vestry and in Bible Study; and supporting Emmanuel Church generously throughout these years, and who was generous at her death, leaving Emmanuel Church a proportionate bequest from her estate; and

WHEREAS, we have received the first distribution from Janet Hunt’s estate in the amount of \$48,775, and expect additional increments as additional funds are liquidated for distribution to beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, over many decades, Emmanuel has turned to its endowment funds for operational and emergency funds, drawing down on the endowment corpus, rather than limiting withdrawals to interest earnings on the funds; and

WHEREAS, with Janet’s generous, and unexpected, bequest, Emmanuel has the opportunity to pay the endowment back, so that going forward we can draw the recommended rolling 36-month average interest earnings only from the endowment, preserving the endowment’s capacity to support Emmanuel Church for generations to come;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Members of Emmanuel Church that Janet Hunt’s generous bequest is accepted, with profound gratitude to God for her life, faith, and works.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 2023, by the full Membership at the Annual Meeting.

X. Nominating Committee- Deb Venancio

Members of the Nominating Committee were Deb Venancio, Catherine Curtis (vestry members elected by vestry), Suzanna Laramée, Stephen Huttler (parishioners appointed by the

Rector), and Janet Park and Janet Nobis (parishioners elected by vestry), all in accordance with Emmanuel's bylaws.

Leaving the Vestry are: Junior Warden Valerie Martin, Treasurer Dave Monroe, Assistant Treasurer Liz McCarthy, and Clerk Catherine Curtis, and At Large members Jackie Breen, Glenna Randall

Officers:

Junior Warden Jim Kaul (2 year term)

Treasurer Liz McCarthy (1 year term)

Assistant Treasurer Carolyn Swiggart (1 year term)

Clerk Valerie Martin (1 year term)

Vestry at Large:

Brian Ladley (3 year term)

David Frazier (3 year term)

Diocesan Convention Delegates: Deb Venancio and Valerie Martin

Alternates: Janet Park, Ellen Vadney

Motion for nominations to be closed made by Ed Gosling and seconded by Ellen Vadney. Motion passes unanimously.

Ellen Vadney moved that the Clerk cast one vote to elect slate of nominees. Valerie Martin seconds. Motion carries unanimously.

Clerk Catherine Curtis casts vote to elect slate of nominees, and all nominees are elected.

XI. Parishioner Recognition

Lillian Hargrove Award (renamed from Deaconess Bertha Butts Service Award):

The first recipient of our newly renamed Lillian G. Hargrove Service Award, Bobby Gaines. Just as Lil, the award's new namesake, exemplifies faithful commitment and service, Bobby has served Emmanuel selflessly all his life. He grew up at Emmanuel Church, led Scout troops, led and trained generations of acolytes, and is a main component of Emmanuel's institutional memory. Bobby is the face returning Emmanuelites remember and recognize, as he continues in his lifelong service of replacing candle wicks, polishing brass, leading the greening of the church at Christmas, finding lost altar cloths, setting the hymn boards, changing the altar frontals and paraments, serving almost every Sunday, year in and year out, as crucifer and acolyte, and adapting seamlessly to the practices and theology of individual priests in matters of Advent liturgical colors, camel placement, and hand washing.

Saints Among Us Award

Fay and Ed Gosling together were the recipients of the Saints Among Us award. Fay and Ed give generously of themselves every day at Emmanuel, from the most humble service in

thermostat monitoring and maintenance to contractor supervision and systems diagnoses that require advanced degrees in electrical engineering and an adept assistant. The Goslings especially shine at Coffee Hour, where Ed specializes in operating our big church coffee pot, making coffee for just about every host of Coffee Hour, and Fay makes what I'm certain are the best lemon butter ginger cookies on the planet, along with some seriously delicious breakfast casseroles and breads.

I. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourns at 12:45 pm on Sunday, January 22, 2023.



RECTOR'S REPORT

2023 — the Year of Manifesting Community

We set 2023 as our Year of Manifesting Community, drawing our scriptural inspiration from God's manifestation at Epiphany, which we celebrated again in 2024 just last Sunday. What has Epiphany meant to us at Emmanuel over the last year? We know the Feast of the Epiphany as that moment when God is manifest among us in the person of the new baby king. In a more common sense, an epiphany is a moment, usually sudden, when we all at once understand the essential nature or meaning of something. It's that moment when the lightbulb goes on, and we see something we haven't noticed before, and 2023 was certainly a time for new realizations and understandings of the sheer tensile strength and abounding capacity of our community.

Last year at this time, I was attending the Annual Meeting remotely, speaking to you from my GermSafe zone at Emmanuel North on Mary Street, then being at the neutropenic low point in my fourth chemo cycle. My cancer diagnosis in October of 2022 required a lot of this community. At the same time, 2023 was also a long, steady reveal — in that late 2020s use of the word — of God's presence among us at Emmanuel. I want to start with the image of the beautiful prayer shawl knitted by so many of you — Emmanuelites and friends from our wider community. Fay Gosling led the project, sitting with new knitters and old pros, as they stitched row after row of squares, knitting our community together in encouragement, solidarity, and love.

Throughout my treatment last year, I often felt your healing prayers as a mantle around my shoulders, just like the warm, comforting, soft weight of the prayer shawl. I'd like you to imagine the prayer shawl around your shoulders over these next few minutes as we talk about all the ways God's love was manifest in our community, and that we manifested to each other and to the world.

First, we manifested community with and through the preachers we met! My disability insurance allowed us to double Randy's parish administrator hours, and to pay the priests who preached while I presided, or both preached and presided when I was in my neutropenic lows in my GermSafe Zone: European Convocation of Episcopal Churches Bishop Mark Edington, St. George's College, Jerusalem Associate Dean Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens, Yale Divinity School Professor Chloe Starr, Berkeley Divinity School Dean of Formation Yejide Peters Pietersen, long-distance Emmanuel parishioner Roger Bullard (home also for last year's Annual Meeting), tax lawyer turned novelist Olga Hartwell, our own inimitable Andy Ross, the Revs. Liz Habecker, Norman McCleod, Meghan Kelley Brower, and our own Susan Barnes — almost all of them multiple times.

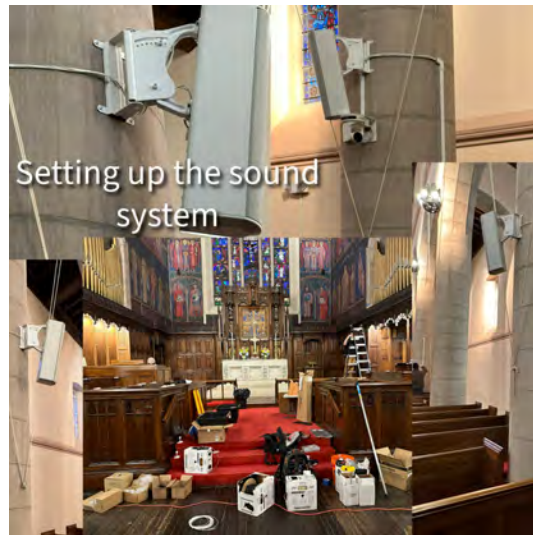


And something bigger happened as The Rev'd Prof. Maggi Dawn, former Dean of Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School (and my theology professor!), came to support us through my five weeks of daily radiation in May and June. She is now the theologian in residence in the DoRI and theologian in residence and associate priest at Emmanuel in her time away from her scholarship and teaching at Durham University in Northern England.

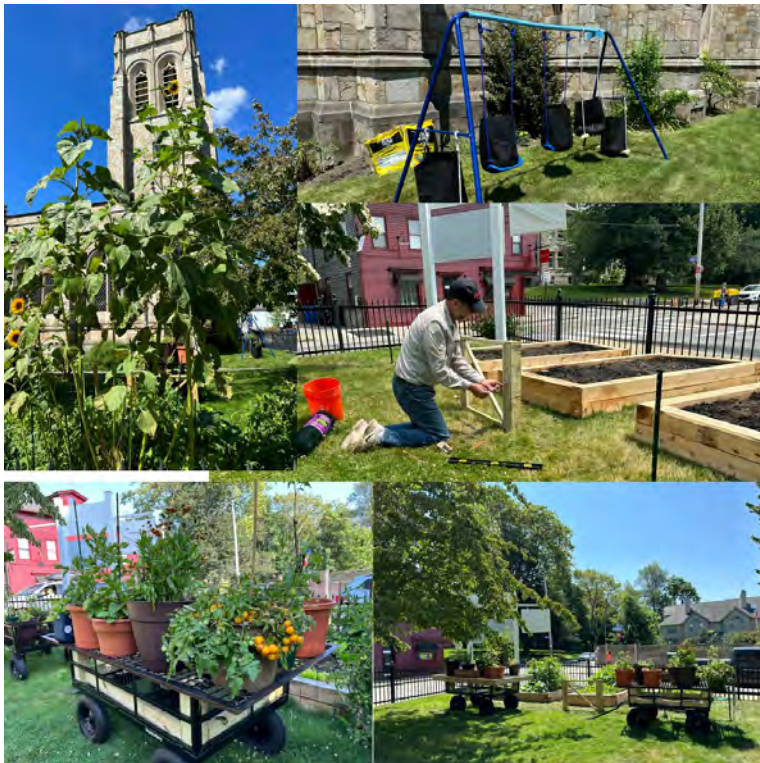
Emmanuel manifested community as I met with the McBean trustees in January before we applied for, and received, the McBean grant for \$180,000 for the new heating system in the church, which will also ultimately provide for air conditioning in all the public spaces in the church. The McBean trustees have been encouraging in their intent to help us finish the project.

We manifested community as we collaborated with Newport Classical to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation

to replace the tile roof over the Recital Hall, and as the new sound and streaming system was installed over the first quarter of 2023 and used for the first time on Easter.



Emmanuel manifested community in our new community garden, brought into being by Jere Wells, Jim Kaull, Alfred Ironside, Myles Decker, and Liz McCarthy, and many other helpful community observers in May and June, dreamt and built from the proceeds of a grant from the Aquidneck Land Trust and a gift from Joan Sweeney, Newport Classical board member, and her husband, Jim Godbaut.



Office hours moved to the garden as we engaged everyone passing in conversations about abundant life over heirloom tomatoes in the shadow of our 15-foot sunflowers, using our churchyard fence as a trellis to support conversation with neighbors, summer residents, and tourists, rather than a barrier to keep us apart. Margaret Keiran was the daily gardener, and David Thalmann extended his Flower Guild role to adopting foundling plants at area nurseries to thrive with us on our garden carts. God was manifest in community through the bumper crop of tomatoes and delicious, peppery arugula and edible nasturtiums, culminating in a great pot of bolognese sauce for spaghetti at our September potluck. As the garden springs into life in this next growing season at Emmanuel, we're looking for more gardeners — we have plenty of space yet to cultivate community at Emmanuel!

We manifested community when piano man Larry Brown lent us a beautiful Knabe grand piano early in the year and helped us to adopt upright pianos for the parish office and the Library, where they're now used for choir rehearsals and fun at potluck dinners.



And in August, we watched as Larry Brown and his crew lowered Newport Classical president Suzanna Laramée's beautiful Yamaha grand piano out of a third floor window at Bonniecrest by crane and installed it in the Nave at Emmanuel, where Suzanna now often plays for services and concerts.

We manifested community by engaging in conversation with Mayor Xay for the City of Newport to take over patrolling, ticketing, and maintenance for our parking lot, giving the city previously nonexistent public parking access in the Fifth Ward while enabling Emmanuel to use and enforce our access to the lot during the summer season.

I returned to work full time July 1, beginning with a Compass Rose communion visit to the Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT), traveling with the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and the primate and provincial secretary of ACT. In the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, I preached to over 1600 people at a service where our friend Bishop Emmanuel Bwatta confirmed 180 new Christians. Our contexts are very different, but we can still learn about community building from our sisters and brothers in Tanzania.

We are manifesting community here at Emmanuel based on these experiences in Tanzania. Every time I preached or taught in East Africa, parishioners came forward and wrapped me in kitenge — gorgeous African cloth — which Abeya, a young woman seamstress on the bishop's compound, made into clergy clothes for me. Abeya was trained as a seamstress by DWT's Mothers' Union, the women's ministry in the Anglican Church that is responsible for pretty much everything good that happens in East Africa. After conversations with Emmanuel's stitching community, gathered by Deb Venancio on Thursday afternoons, we decided that we could build community at Emmanuel while knitting our connection with Tanzanian Anglicans by raising money to buy sewing machines for the DWT Mothers' Union sewing program. The women keep the sewing machine after graduating from the program to start their sewing businesses, helping them to become independent and support their families. In December, we combined a



gift from the Rector's Discretionary Fund with a personal gift from Jere and me to buy 50 sewing machines for DWT's Mothers' Union sewing project as a first step in our relationship.

We manifested community as we were approved as a Community Anchor Institution by the Ocean State Higher Education and Administrative Network (OSHEAN), a community broadband provider, and as we assigned our Verizon bell tower contract to market aggregator Vertical Bridge to stabilize our revenues for the future.



We manifested community in our shared grief at the loss and violence in the Hamas-Israel War, lamenting all lives lost, and grieving all violence. The Rev. Canon Nicholas Porter, founding director of Jerusalem Peacebuilders, presented a forum on peacebuilding, adding Emmanuel's voice for peace and justice to the conversation in the wider community.

We have manifested community in our conversations with the Aquidneck Island Resilience Project connecting with our environment, and through those conversations joined with the City of Newport, including Mayor Xay, Fire Chief Harp Donnelly, MLK Community Center Director Heather Strout, Newport Mental Health leadership, and others for the creation of a

warming center in Newport, making a gift from the Baum Fund to support MLK's new permanent warming center as further state support was secured.

And we have manifested community as we became the permanent meeting location of reNewport, a council of the leaders of Newport's nonprofit and social service organizations, working together to help our community excel in every important category — education and truancy mitigation; diversity, equity, and inclusion; affordable housing; food scarcity mitigation, and cultural and civic literacy. November's keynote speaker David Ciciline spoke of the need for community nonprofits to collaborate *here in the Library* — the site one of the only nonprofit collaborations in the region. Mayor Xay Khamsyvoravong attends regularly, and Governor Dan McKee is expected to speak at the March meeting through our own Steve Huttler's efforts.



Through all of this — good, difficult, rewarding, and scary — YOU held it together, with God's help, and we all grew stronger for it. These challenges were not always welcome at the time, and we would definitely

say “no thank you” to many of them if it were up to us. But nonetheless we strengthened ourselves and our community as we walked together through the year with God among us.

How does this all come together in our Year of Manifesting Community? Remember the prayer shawl I asked you to imagine around your shoulders a few minutes ago? Mine was draped around Lil’s special New York Yankees chair as we celebrated her life December 9th. Our whole community turned out for this event, except — as it turned out at the very last minute — Randy. Randy and Lil had been working together all Fall to plan the special music for her service, but when he tested positive for Covid the afternoon before her celebration, our triumph in manifesting community was our newfound ability to execute Plan B.

The Musicians’ Circle, carefully nurtured by Randy throughout his tenure, rose to the occasion, with Randy texting all of us about 7 times every 5 minutes. Ali sang beautifully, along with our awesome Salve student members and the whole Musicians’ Circle. Suzanna’s Yamaha and Larry Brown’s Knabe were placed head to head in the South transept for four-handed accompaniment by Musicians’ Circle members Suzanna Laramée and U.S. Navy musician Caleb Dinger. Caleb’s wife and prospective Emmanuel vestry member Paige Williams joined in on pocket trumpet for the postlude — a New Orleans jazz version of *When the Saints Go Marching In*, Lil’s surprise gift to our community. Lil’s chair held her place, as it had since she first started using it last year, with the prayer shawl all of you knitted, manifesting God’s love among us.

We will look forward to **2024 as the Year of Widening Community** as we continue to share our home, building a vibrant and loving community.

2020 — Year of Growing in Faith in Community

2021 — Year of Rooting Community

2022 — Year of Extending Community

2023 — Year of Manifesting Community

2024 — Year of Widening Community



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

2023 was another exciting and productive year for the vestry.

From improving our sound system, to replacing our ancient heating system and yes... adding air conditioning to our worship space and recital hall. By negotiating our vertical bridge with the hopes of ensuring our financial future renting our belltower roof space to Verizon and other communication vendors.



The Emmanuel "Wedding Team" at the New York Yacht Club

With the amazing grant writing skills of our Rector Della+, we have made many improvements to our building, including the stained-glass windows in our chapel and further improvements to the roof, to prevent the many leaks that could potentially harm the interior beauty of our beautiful, historic building. Important to all our improvements and maintenance was the relationship of Emmanuel Church with our neighbors throughout the Newport community and beyond. Salve Regina College has joined us on several levels including clean ups, music, and entertainment. Due to the networking of our Director of Music, Randy Elkins, with the music department at Salve, we now have regular members of our choir, and

other musicians, enhancing and improving our choir and entertaining us at potluck dinners. Many of our parishioners support the Salve students by attending their concerts and performances.

Meetings of the vestry finally were able to be held in person, utilizing ZOOM or facetime for those members of the vestry who were out of town, maintaining attendance requirements for a quorum at each and every meeting.

Sunday attendance has slowly increased, and it appears that with improved communication and great networking, we are seeing new faces from week to week. And while our Rector Della+ needed to step back a bit due to her illness, her relationship with priests in the area and "across the pond", she found wonderful priests and preachers to help us celebrate the eucharist, preach the word, and lead us in Morning Prayer.

Our Community Garden was a great success, with the support and tender care of Margaret Keiran, David Frazier, David Thalman, Della+ and Jere Wells who faithfully pruned and weeded to keep the crops growing and healthy. It is hopeful that we can get more parish involvement in the garden as it grows this year. The hydroponics garden under the guidance of Catherine Curtis and her team, has continued to produce lettuce and kale to support MLK's food pantry.

Other community efforts were discovered including engagement with members of other faiths and their experience of spirituality in nature. The Reverend Norman McCloud presented information related to Creation Care at the September vestry meeting and between the 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock services.

Our collaboration with Newport Classical has continued to grow and flourish. NC has continued to hold "sold out" performances, including the Christmas Concert this December with members of the Emmanuel Musicians Circle and members of NC. We enjoy and appreciate our continued relationship with NC and support of their members by their presence and commitment to Emmanuel church as pledging members, and living into our mission, "sharing our home, building and vibrant community, welcoming everyone at all times and in all seasons."

Early on in the year, the Stewardship Committee held an educational program on Planning of our Funerals to assist our loved ones in the plans of how our Celebration of Life would look and sound. This program was culminated with a potluck dinner where we all shared food and Randy played many of the hymns that could be used to enhance our church service.

We have enjoyed the potluck dinners and the musical entertainment, finally returning to coming together as a community “up front and personal”. Each dinner has had better attendance than the last. It feels right to be together again.

I never even dreamed of being the senior warden. When I was asked by Dave Monroe, four years ago, I had no idea what I was in for. I in no way could fill the shoes of Lil Hargrove, our forever Senior Warden. I frequently, ran things by her in the early part of my term, seeking her approval first. I have enjoyed every minute of the challenge of these past four years. Being your Senior Warden, under our magnificent Rector Della+, I have grown ever more deeply into my faith in Jesus Christ, and this community of Emmanuel Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Venancio



JUNIOR WARDEN AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Church Yard and Garden

The weekly maintenance of the lawn and watering of the gardens and planters is done by church volunteers. Margaret Keiran, Jere Wells, Chris Mohr and Jim Kaull. Barbara Warder from Newport Classical maintained the stone planters.

Volunteers gathered for the annual Spring cleanup and trimming throughout the church yard and gardens.

The building and planting of the Emmanuel Church Community Garden began in June with three fenced raised beds, two farmers carts and a “potato” swing. Rev. Wells and Jere Wells organized, planned and constructed the gardens with assistance from Margaret Keiran, Jim Kaull, Myles Decker, Kevin Venancio, Jim Godbaut, David Thalmann, and Alfred Ironside.

Completion of Restoration of Chapel Windows

A complete restoration of the six pair of leaded Chapel windows by Malone Studios, Inc. was completed in June 2023. Funding for this specialized work was secured by a grant from the Van Beuren Charitable Foundation.

Programmable Electronic Lock and replacement of Panic Bar Narthex door

We purchased a fully electronic Eflex 5210 programmable lock with individual codes and other safety features for access to the Narthex (lobby of church) door. The cost of the lock was shared with Newport Classical. The lock will be operational shortly. There have been a couple of obstacles to the installation including the unusual thickness of the Gothic Style door and obtaining a new panic bar to meet the fire code. Vestry member, David Frazier is currently working on loading the lock program to a computer for ease of management.

Rainwater Drainage

The south half of the church, chapel, narthex and library roofs drain into eight, five-inch downspouts into a very old dry well located in the church yard. For several years the water from the downspouts has backed up flooding the basement of the church during heavy rains which seem to be happening more frequently. After an exploratory dig we discovered the dry well comprised of a large hole filled with rocks had collapsed allowing it to fill with dirt. We have a bid from a landscape construction company to replace the old dry well with four connected cement “beehive like” dry wells. To address any very heavy rainfall”, the system will have an outlet at the fourth well to let the water escape at the edge of the lawn farthest from the church. The North side of the above-mentioned roofs drain into downspouts connected to the City of Newport storm drains on South Baptist Street. This connection was made before the city prohibited any new drainage of private property into the city storm drains.

Sewage Backup

Twice this past year the oldest of the three South Baptist Street side sewage drains to the city sewer system backed up and had to be snaked out by removing a toilet for access. During the second back up it was discovered that the drain ran through a an old “house trap” incased under the basement cement floor with no cleanout opening. The plumber suggested that we have the floor cut and hammered out by a contractor so that they could assess the situation. In doing so, we discover that the floor was poured and tiled over

the cleanout to the trap. After gaining access to the trap, we discover an old cleaning rag in the trap. The plumber then extended the cleanout above floor level for proper access. Recementing the floor will follow.

Replacement of Commercial Dishwasher Hot Water Heater

At the end of the summer, the booster hot water heater to the Church commercial dishwasher suddenly failed and leaked out onto the kitchen floor causing a bit of a flood. After receiving a \$7500 estimate from an emergency plumber for replacement, we approached Nasons the HVAC contractor already working on site and they offered to let us purchase the replacement heater directly from a plumbing supplier at their cost - \$3,450. Church member and licensed plumber Perry Venancio, son of Debra and Perry Venancio, installed the new heater to the water supply and church vestry member and retired electrical engineer, Ed Gosling connected the electric all at no cost to the church.

Parking Lot

We experienced a surge in unauthorized parking and late-night partying at the beginning of the summer. We addressed the problem by chaining the open perimeter of the lot restricting access to only one entrance and by aggressively placing orange illegal parking notices with threats to tow on unauthorized cars. Both actions have had a positive impact. Reverend Wells has submitted a proposal to the City of Newport giving them authority to manage the lot and charge for public parking during the tourist season.

Two large sink holes in the asphalt were professionally filled in at no charge to the church.

Replacement of church heating system and adding air conditioning.

The vestry accepted the proposal from UG Nasons Inc to be the contractor for the replacement of the aged heating system in the church and chapel with a state-of-the-art, three zone, HVAC system and the addition of central air conditioning to the library, Guild Room and the concert hall. Funding for phase one of this work was secured by a grant from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust.

To date, Nasons has completed the installation of the heating system in the church.

Work will continue over the winter completing the AC in the Church and Concert Hall and upgrading the necessary electric feed.

Phase two, replacing the heating and adding air conditioning to the Chapel and adding air conditioning to the Library and Guild Room subject to obtaining additional funding.

Minor Repairs

There were many minor repairs and the hauling of unused items and materials by members of the property committee. Members of the committee are Jim Kaull, Chair, Kevin Venancio, Ed Gosling, Dave Monroe, Jere Wells and Chris Mohr.



MUSIC AT EMMANUEL

2023 Annual Report of the Director of Music and Organist

The Musicians' Circle of Emmanuel Church has seen significant growth in participation during this calendar year. We currently have 25 on the roster and regularly sing with 15 or more on a given Sunday. The streamlined rehearsal process for a Sunday service continues to serve our needs and attract people who otherwise could not participate.

To prepare for a big Evensong service and the Christmas Concert put on for Newport Classical extra rehearsals were held early on Sunday mornings and following the service and a quick cup of coffee. I made rehearsal recordings and distributed them to the singers either through my YouTube page or as an attachment to an email. I also made use of existing rehearsal recordings posted by other musicians to YouTube. There has been a tremendous increase in the availability of these since the pandemic and we will benefit from them forever it seems.

In addition to the regular services of Emmanuel Church the choir sang 2 evensongs and 1 concert. New choir members are fully invested in the congregation as well as in the musicians' circle as evidenced by participation in fellowship dinners, community dinners, toy drives, pledging to the capital campaign, singing in funerals, supporting each other through illness and grief, establishing friend groups outside of church and recruiting their friends to participate.

We have also had a group of tower bell ringers develop this year led by the occupant of the 40 Dearborn St apartment! She recruited her book club and they are bringing more folks and we're hearing our bells more often.

We were very fortunate to have Lyndsay Brown move back to Newport area with her husband Ryan. Lyndsay now supports the church services and live streaming by running our sound system from an iPad in the congregation. Ryan plays percussion with the Musicians' Circle. I look forward to this continuing to develop.

Suzanna Laramee has loaned us her Yamaha conservatory model grand piano for use in the church. We continue to enjoy the loan of one of Larry Brown's pianos, a Knabe grand, as well. We have enjoyed guest instrumentalists from the area including oboist Cheryl Bishkoff (from the Rhode Island Philharmonic) and violinist Alicia Winslow (from the Fall River Symphony) during December. We have had several instrumentalists who are affiliated with Salve Regina University as guests as well. Among them are Tony Gutierrez (fiddle), Derek Martin (guitar), Luke Byane (trumpet). I look forward to continuing to welcome them. Our choral scholar program is populated by students from Salve and continues to be very valuable. We've even picked up two volunteer singers as a result of that program - certainly a sign that things are going in the right direction.

This year we have certainly also enjoyed the talents of our two singers/songwriters: The Rev Prof Maggi Dawn, and Caleb Dinger. Each of these folk also play keyboards and guitar and a plethora of additional instruments. They graciously share their talents and their art with our congregation enriching our worship.

We continue to enjoy the extraordinarily talented Suzanna Laramee's participation as well as the loan of her marvelous piano. Artist in Residence Ali Hosford is an enthusiastic participant and effective leader in the program. Her personal growth vocally as she gets back into singing professionally has been tremendous and fun to watch and hear!

This is the first music ministry I have had the pleasure of working with that has active participants in

one ensemble who are in their teens, twenties, thirties, forties, fifties, sixties, seventies and eighties! This breadth of experience enriches everything that we do. And everyone truly loves working together. The support from the Rector, Wardens and Vestry is invaluable. The love and admiration of our congregation and the larger community and their willingness to put into words how they've been moved spiritually through our leadership is inspiring and keeps everyone enthusiastic about the effort required to participate. We all count it a privilege to serve at Emmanuel Church and to be a part of the fabric of its life.

Randy Elkins,
Director of Music and Organist
December 27, 2023



MINISTRIES OF EMMANUEL

Emmanuel's many important ministries are led by our parishioners. In late 2022, the Vestry created committees made up of both Vestry members and parishioners to help share the story and purpose of these ministries so that they can expand and grow. All are welcome!

Altar Guild—Bobby Gaines, Sandy Chapman, Brian Ladley

A group of parishioners cares for the altar linens, and prepares the altar before each service for the eucharist, including for funerals, baptisms, and weddings. Altar Guild is a wonderful way for those who enjoy beautiful linens, setting the table for warm family meals, and getting to know others as we innovate to make our worship more meaningful and engaging for the whole congregation. All are welcome!

Coffee Hour—*All* of us!! Please sign up!!

The community gathers each week in the Library after the 10:00 service for coffee, conversation, and light morning snacks. Parishioners sign up for a Sunday, bring in their treats (deviled eggs, or “church eggs” as Randy calls them, are particular favorites, but some people bring cookies, brownies, doughnuts, fruit, or muffins). The big point is to show up! Sign up on your own or with a buddy to set up the catering and clean up afterward. Coffee Hour is an important time for us to mingle, meet new people, and share ourselves. Ed Gosling has prepared the coffee most weeks for us.

Bible Study—Jere Wells

Emmanuel's lectionary-based bible study meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Library. Led by Jere Wells, the group explores the background and significance of the scriptures that are part of the day's worship and discusses their spiritual significance for our lives. It is also a time of meaningful fellowship that informs our lives as members of the Emmanuel community.

Communications—Ellen Vadney, David Frazier, Cindy Larned

The Communications Committee oversees policies for communications for the Emmanuel community, including event announcements in our own and outside newsletters and information boards, the Emmanuel web site, all social media, and our service and event streaming. Are you a techie? Do you like to write? Maybe have a knack for taking great candid photos of our events? This group's for you.

Community Engagement—David Frazier and Brian Ladley

The Community Engagement Committee has taken over the work of the committee formerly referred to as “Outreach,” in order to expand our understandings and the resulting scope of our full engagement with each other and our wider community and encompasses everything from gardening and feeding ministries to the ways we use our resources to prepare us to follow the cross out into the world.

- **APREP**—Brian Ladley and Jere Wells

The Aquidneck Island Resilience Project was formed to implement the terms of a grant to the Diocese of Rhode Island from The Episcopal Church for the nine Aquidneck Island parishes, including Emmanuel, and our response to our changing climate. The project includes familiarizing ourselves with the particular features of our surrounding climate, as well as the effects on our built environment's resilience in climate change. This is an ongoing ministry that needs to engage as many people as possible in this important conversation.

- **Community Garden**—Margaret Keiran, Della+, Jere Wells, Jim Kaull, David Thalmann

The Community Garden was dreamt, planned, and built in May and June 2022 from the proceeds of a grant from the Aquidneck Island Land Trust and a gift from Newport Classical board member Joan Sweeney and her husband Jim Godbaut, as another way to engage with our neighbors. Della+

and Jere Wells built the gardens and wagons with key assists from Jim Kaull, Liz McCarthy, David Thalmann, Myles Decker, and renowned Aurelia's Garden volunteer Dr. Carrie Wagner of Boston, with neighbors, summer residents, and tourists offering advice and encouragement along the way. Margaret Keiran was an active gardener, with David Thalmann providing plants and pots, and others bringing in their plants that were struggling at home to thrive as we are doing in community. Jim Kaull identified the perfect grate for the garden cart that made the rector's heart sing! We brought the produce forward at the offertory for blessing, and shared the bounty of our community with all, culminating in a nice pot of bolognese sauce for spaghetti at our September potluck. We're recruiting now for gardeners for the spring garden — no experience or religious affiliation required! And the produce was shared by many. Bring your green thumbs, or just your sparkling personality to engage passersby in our lives at Emmanuel, and tell all your friends about this opportunity for getting to know each other and our environment. If you are theologically- or gardening-curious, or just looking for a way to dig deep in the community, this ministry is for you!

- **Hydroponics and Groceries**—Catherine Curtis

Led by Catherine Curtis, Emmanuel's hydroponics ministry tripled its production of kale, tender lettuces, Swiss chard in 2021, enabling MLK to offer year-round "veggie day" in the food pantry. The hydroponics ministry expands Emmanuel's community to include MLK board members and volunteers, professors and students from Salve Regina, Newport Classical staff and volunteers, and others from the wider community who may not yet join us for worship services. There is no need to be a current member of Emmanuel, an experienced gardener, an Episcopalian or even "spiritual but not religious" to join. All are welcome in this vital community function of providing nourishment to share with the most vulnerable among us.

- **Stitching Group**—Debra Venancio

Deb Venancio has convened a group to stitch, knit, crochet, embroider, hem a skirt, or just hang out and chat and enjoy cookies and tea or coffee. We meet every Thursday from 2-4 in the library to enjoy each other's company while brainstorming about ministries that help our Anglican sisters in Tanzania to support their families as seamstresses and tailors.

- **Soup's On**—Jackie Breen

Our monthly Soup's On has been growing this past year as we rebounded from the COVID closure. Jackie, with help from Margery Cousens with prep, and Nina and Jim Kaull with cleanup has grown to include Salve Regina students and others who are drawn to this ministry of preparing and serving a tasty and healthful dinner with our up to 50 guests. The Maher Center team comes each month to set up the tables and enjoy the dinner, and the famous Dennis Bristow is our resident busker.

Counters—Carolyn Swiggart

The Counters record the gifts for the support of Emmanuel, after the services on Sundays using our Realm accounting system. The Assistant Treasurer provides all necessary training! This is a great ministry for those who enjoy counting, computers, or conversation as you work in pairs after Sunday services to gather and record our community's resources for good.

Newport Classical Concerts

Newport Classical holds concerts in the Recital Hall during the non-summer months, filling the hall. They hold their intermission receptions in the Library. The tickets for Emmanuel parishioners are discounted; be sure to buy a ticket for their concerts.

Property Committee—Jim Kaull's report is under Junior Warden.

Stewardship—Carolyn Swiggart’s report is under Stewardship.

Worship Committee—Debra Venancio, Brian Ladley, Ellen Vadney, Randy Elkins

The committee meets throughout the year to assist in planning feast days in the church and other special services throughout the year including Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints’ Day, Advent, and Christmas. All ideas and recommendations are presented to Della+, our rector, for approval and implementation.

Ideas offered this past year:

- Palm Sunday processional with palms and red ribbons strewn in the aisle to represent the march into Jerusalem.
- Washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, with abbreviated Gethsemane Garden watch.
- Easter Sunday celebration with Easter Egg Hunt, coffee hour and Lil Hargrove’s ministry of passing out violets to all, following the service.
- Pentecost Sunday with reading of the Acts lectionary for the day in several languages, dressing in red and a post service photo of parishioners surrounding Lil at the baptismal font.
- We approached Advent this year as a season of hopeful anticipation using blue vestments and blue altar hangings in place of the purple hangings and vestments that we also use in the penitential season of Lent.

Through the Worship Committee, Deb Venancio and Randy Elkins also coordinate **Lectors and Intercessors**. Lectors read the Old Testament lesson and the Epistle from the lectern in both the church and All Saints’ Chapel. Intercessors lead the Prayers of the People during worship. There is a monthly schedule, and all are welcome to join, especially those who can read the Old Testament in Hebrew!

Valerie Martin coordinates the **Ushers and Greeters** schedule through the Worship Committee. Greeters provide a warm welcome to everyone who comes through our doors, answer questions newcomers may have, and introduce them to the Rector and other parishioners. They also distribute the bulletins and assist with seating before the service. During the service the Ushers count the attendees, pass the offertory plate, carry forward the gifts, and usher for communion. There is a monthly schedule and all are welcome to join this important ministry.

If you are looking for connection and better understanding of our worship or with our congregation, the Worship Committee is the ministry for you! Plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent begin as soon as possible as Lent comes early this year (February 14, 2024).



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2023 Committee: Carolyn Swiggart, Chair; Rev. Susan J. Barnes; Fay Gosling; Dave Monroe; and Deborah Venancio

This year, the Stewardship Committee shifted its focus from being primarily concerned with the pledge campaign to strengthening the relationships between the church worship and our parishioners. The Rev. Susan Barnes led an evening workshop on advance planning documents for end of life services with Randy Elkins offering guidance on music selections for funerals and Dave Monroe speaking about the “final tithes.” Deborah Venancio organized well-attended potluck suppers each quarter. Over the summer, the committee made telephone calls to parishioners to touch base and re-establish contacts with those we had not seen in a while. Many thanks are due to our committee members for their dedication and countless hours of service.

The 2023 pledge campaign theme was “Rooted in Abundance,” which evoked the new burgeoning community vegetable garden at the church. Constant Contact emails were sent out each week to parishioners to encourage support of Emmanuel’s operations and ministries. One goal was to increase the number of those pledging. We had a wonderful response with 60 families pledging, including a 10% increase in new pledgers, and a 13.4% increase in contributions (\$231,376 so far).

Emmanuel’s pledges fund our operating expenses, which have increased with the general economic situation this year. Each family’s pledge is very important, and we are so grateful.

We are also grateful for the legacies left to Emmanuel by our parishioners who passed away this year: Janet Hunt and Lillian Hargrove. The legacies are not added to our pledged funds, but are now deposited in an endowment account.

We look forward to continued growth of our parish and all the blessings which we have been given.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn C. Swiggart



TREASURER'S REPORT

I finished last year's financial report with a prediction for 2023,

"As the stewardship report noted, from many of our members we have increased pledges and we have new pledges which will give us support for our operating expenses and for new programs. We are now able to support Randy with full-time status, wearing many hats, and provide him with health benefits and a retirement plan, as he gives so much of himself to us. We can expand the music program with student scholars, singers and musicians that will continue to enhance our worship. We have more funds to support our Soup's On program and our hydroponics food ministry and monies to allow us to engage in new programs to connect us to each other and to the community."

And much of that has come true. We have been blessed with the pledges and other gifts from our local members and our online friends and members. We have had new members join us over the year and they have contributed their time, talents and treasures. Just look at the choir! You can feel the energy at Emmanuel and our finances reflect that idea.

This spring with Della+'s leadership and Jere's skills, we started a community garden, funded with gifts that will carry over to buy new plants for this coming year. We completed the Copper Loop hearing system and funded the video recording systems. Now we broadcast every event.

The major building restoration projects planned over 2023 were funded by grants; the Chapel windows from a van Beuren grant and the Heating system funded from a McBean grant, to be completed in 2024. We keep getting closer to securing the building structure as we invest our resources into new projects and Della+ looks for additional grant opportunities.

The budget benefited from a mix of items. The Disability Insurance payments for Della+'s medical leave were used to cover our new expenses for what were her normal activities, we were able to pay for the extra support staff and we had some left over. Newport Classical had a successful season and we benefit from their inhouse concerts. Last winter was very mild and we had much lower utility costs. The funds given for designated expenses such as flowers, Soup's On and Community Garden that were not spent last year will be used for 2024.

One major change financially was the establishment of the Emmanuel Endowment Fund with Rockland Trust. With our agreement with Vertical Bridge, who prepaid their lease with over \$500,000 and a legacy gift from Janet Hunt, we paid down a portion of our SBA roof loan and setup up the new endowment fund. We will continue to add to this fund as we are given other legacy gifts. Is Emmanuel one of your beneficiaries?

This fund is established to provide a 4% return each year for the operating budget, beginning in 2025.

Each month the vestry reviews our financial statements and last month they approved the budget for 2024. If anyone would like to review these statements, they are available in the office and I can meet with you to explain the numbers.

The finances for 2023 were very healthy for these reasons I've noted, plus others, and because of the generosity of so many. You have funded projects, pledged your share and contributed by being part of this community. We are growing because of each of you, your help with coffee hour, greeting new people, Soup's On helpers, serving on Vestry and singing in the Choir. Some of our resources from 2023 will be used to fund necessary repairs on the property and some will be invested in the Endowment Fund for the future.

The budget for 2024 is more than last year for salary increases but also for the music program. We want to continue to support our Choral Scholars, and add more musicians and music. When the spirit moves you, gifts specifically for the music program would be greatly appreciated.

I have served on the vestry as the Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer these last three years. As much of a challenge as it has been, I have truly enjoyed myself. I know more about Emmanuel than I ever expected to know. I'm not going anywhere but will step back and let the new vestry members take the reins.

Thank you all for your commitment to Emmanuel. As the pledge campaign said

“We are rooted in abundance”

Peace

Elisabeth McCarthy

Treasurer 2023

Treasurer's Report

2023 Income

Offerings	\$ 264,291
Rents, fees +	176,482
Community Designated gifts	<u>79,190</u>
Income	\$ 519,963
Capital expense project grants	<u>445,080</u>
Total	\$ 965,043

2023 Expenses

Personnel	\$ 212,273
Office operations	14,338
Worship	16,823
Facilities	86,065
Community Designated	72,124
Apportionment	<u>31,813</u>
Expenses	\$ 433,436
Capital expense grant expenditures	<u>205,392</u>
Total	\$638,828
2023 Net Operations Income	\$86,527

Assets & Liabilities

<u>Unrestricted Accts</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022--</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>
BankNewport Checking	\$ 76,080	\$ 171,372	\$ 76,166
BankNewport Money Market	3,686	198,505	197,934
Rockland Trust Investments	330,270	115,150	128,121
DIT Investment Account	371,408	258,175	-
<u>Restricted accounts</u>			
Endowment Fund—Rockland	\$ 655,095	-	-
Parker Organ Fund—Rockland	14,124	15,414	75,815
RIF Baum Engagement Fund	226,763	225,069	267,370
RIF Brown Operations Fund	<u>229,612</u>	<u>227,899</u>	<u>270,734</u>
Total	\$1,907,038	\$1,211,584	\$1,016,140
<u>Liabilities</u>			
SBA Roof mortgage	\$ 70,035	105,173	121,201
Escrow Deposits	<u>32,530</u>	<u>6,247</u>	
Net Asset Total	\$ 1,804,473	\$ 1,100,164	\$1,004,020

2023 Projected Income

Offerings	\$ 245,850
Rents, fees +	138,446
Designated gifts	21,000
Capital expense project grants	<u>266,258</u>
Total	\$ 671,313

2023 Budgeted Expenses

Personnel	\$ 207,802
Office operations	14,450
Worship	19,150
Facilities	100,933
Community Designated	18,759
Designated Gift Expense	10,859
Apportionment	43,863
Building Grant expenditures	<u>266,258</u>
Total	\$ 671,215

Nominating Committee Report

This year's Nominating Committee members were Debra Venancio, Liz McCarthy, Steve Huttler, Suzanna Laramée, Janet Park, and Janet Nobis. After discussion of available positions to be filled, and conversation with potential candidates the following slate is proposed to the voting parishioners of Emmanuel Church.

Senior Warden	Valerie Martin
Treasurer	David Frazier
Assistant Treasurer	Carolyn Swiggart
Clerk	Margaret Keiran
Vestry-at-Large	Robert Messore, Robert O'Donnell, David Thalmann, Paige Williams
Diocesan Convention Delegates	Valerie Martin Debra Venancio
Alternate Delegates	Vickie Hicks Ellen Vadney
Audit Committee	Ellen Vadney, Sandra Chapman, Janet Nobis
Returning Vestry Members	Brian Ladley Ellen Vadney

Those who have been nominated have agreed to serve.

Please say hello to these fellow parishioners and thank them for their time and effort in their past, present and future work supporting Emmanuel Church and its mission as we "Share our home, building a vibrant and loving community".

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee,

Biographies of nominees are on the next page.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Valerie Martin, Senior Warden

Valerie Ann (Lynch) Martin was born in Newport, RI and was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Church. Valerie married Michael Martin in Trinity Church in 1975. They moved to Tiverton RI in 1981 and attended Holy Trinity Church. Upon moving to Middletown in 1987, the Martin family with children Christine and Michael Jr. began attending Emmanuel Church. She has stayed at Emmanuel since that time, even when moving to Bristol and then back to Tiverton, because she loves the people here. Valerie has three grandchildren ages 25, 23 and 16. She and her husband Michael also have a beautiful Cavapoo named Teddy.

Valerie has served on the Vestry in multiple roles over the years - Junior Warden X 2, Treasurer X 3, Assistant Treasurer X 1, Vestry at Large and most recently as Clerk. She served as the Chair of the Search Committee for a New Rector in 2009-2010, has Co-chaired the Stewardship Committee, was a member of the Forever Emmanuel Steering Committee and Chaired the Special Events Committee. Valerie serves as a Counter and is the Lead for the Ushers/Greeters. Most recently she has been named one of the four Trustees of Emmanuel Church.

Valerie is a retired nurse executive with over 36 years of leadership experience. She looks forward to continuing to serve on the Vestry as Senior Warden.

Jim Kaull, Junior Warden

Jim Kaull is a third-generation parishioner of Emmanuel Church. His beloved late uncle, James T. Kaull, Jr. was Junior warden at Emmanuel for twenty years ending in 1981. Jim and Nina returned to Newport in 2020 after 39-year careers in Boston and Washington DC. Since returning they have been regular volunteers for “Soups On” and Jim has served as one of the four church volunteers who maintain the Emmanuel grounds. Jim is currently a licensed real estate agent with Gustave White Sotheby’s International Realty.

David Frazier, Treasurer

David Frazier was born and raised in Oklahoma, graduating from Oklahoma State University with a BS in mathematics. After graduation, David moved to Houston to work for Exxon in information technology. In Houston, David met Lorraine (Quinn), and they married in 1979.

David and Lorraine moved to Oklahoma, where David accepted a job with Halliburton Co., and where their daughter, Molly Kathleen, was born. Molly was born with severe mental and physical limitations. Molly lived a happy and peaceful life, but, sadly, passed away in January 2022.

David and Lorraine traveled internationally with David’s job, residing in Duncan, Oklahoma; London; and Houston. David retired in 2017 as the Sr. Director of Information Security and Risk Management after 38 years of service at Halliburton. David and Lorraine moved to New York in 2018 when Lorraine was appointed dean of the Columbia University School of Nursing. David and Lorraine currently split their time between New York, Houston, and Newport, traveling to Newport as often as Lorraine’s schedule permits!

David characterizes his faith journey as “a continuing process of prayer, faith, growing, and learning more about Christ’s love and His mission for me in this world.”

David and Lorraine have always been active in church life. David served on the board of deacons in the Baptist church that they attended in Oklahoma and served on the church council at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston, where David and Lorraine both sang in the choir. They also attended Christ Church Cathedral in Houston and Christ Episcopal Church in Little Rock (where Lorraine served as dean of the University of Arkansas School of Nursing).

David has also been active in civic life, serving as treasurer and president of his local Kiwanis club and Toastmasters club. In Oklahoma, David and Lorraine formed a non-profit, Centennial Park, Inc., and David served as President of this organization that successfully raised funds, organized community volunteers, and built the first handicapped-accessible playground in Oklahoma.

David enjoys music (particularly jazz!) and photography, and both he and Lorraine are happy to be members at Emmanuel Church Newport, where the music is beautiful, the gospel is preached, and the community is served!

Carolyn Swiggart, Assistant Treasurer

Carolyn C. Swiggart came to Emmanuel Church through The Rev. Della Wells and her husband, Jere. My late husband, John Wayt, and Jere were high school friends in Atlanta, and we had a happy reunion in 2020 after the Wells moved to Newport. Upon meeting Della, I moved my "letter" to Emmanuel Church in 2021. I am a life-long Episcopalian, and I enjoy the mission and history of Emmanuel. I live in Jamestown, and I also have a law practice and a residence in Greenwich, Connecticut. Over the years, I have served on the boards of several organizations, including the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, Rotary, United States Power Squadrons, and the Daughters of the Cincinnati. I am also a "Blue and Gold Officer" (candidate liaison) for the United States Naval Academy Admissions Department. My avocations are boating, history, and art.

Brian Ladley, Vestry-at-Large

Brian Ladley moved to Newport with his spouse Andy and their son Jordan in 2020. He has been an active church participant since childhood, first where he grew up in greater Philadelphia, PA and later at churches in places he and Andy have lived, including Santa Fe, NM, Brewster, MA then back in PA before relocating to Newport. He began serving on the Altar Guild at his most recent church in PA and is thrilled to continue to serve in that capacity here at Emmanuel.

Brian works in visitor relations at both the Newport Art Museum and the International Tennis Hall of Fame. He recently joined the Elks Club and enjoys volunteering at the Newport Mansions whenever he has the chance.

Ellen Vadney, Vestry-at-Large

Ellen has been a member of Emmanuel since 1998 where she has served in most positions except Altar Guild and Usher. She currently serves as the Virtual Verger livestreaming the Sunday service on Facebook and posting the edited service and sermon on the Emmanuel Website, and posting the sermon on Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram. Ellen also sings in the choir.

Robert Messore, Vestry-at-Large

Robert Messore grew up in Providence, R.I. He now resides in Exeter, R.I. with his wife, Monika, daughter Elizabeth, and grandson, Jesse. He retired as Director of Sales from a small company in Connecticut in 2020.

Robert is a certified Spiritual Director, retreat leader and a Dorcas House volunteer. He facilitates a Contemplative Prayer group by Zoom and a weekly Prayer meeting by Zoom. Robert has been in various church leadership positions for over twenty years.

He has been attending Emmanuel Church for over 7 years and is inspired by Emmanuel's vision and community building focus.

Robert O'Donnell, Vestry-at-Large

Robert moved to Newport full time with his wife, Carol, about two years ago from Connecticut where he was a member of Trinity Church, Southport. Originally from Haverford, Robert was confirmed at the

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, PA. He attended the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia and went on to attend Washington & Lee University. Robert continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design and the Christie's Fine Arts Course in London. Robert has three sons and one grandson. Robert's charitable interests include the Newport Hospital, the Newport Tree Conservancy and the Preservation Society. Robert was a senior investment professional in New York with over 40 years of experience in alternative investments. He is a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) charter holder, founder of the New York Chapter of CAIA, and is on CAIA's Exam Council.

David Thalmann, Vestry-at-Large (2-year)

After a 30 years career in finance based in New York domestic and international corporate finance, private banking, mergers and acquisitions and leveraged finance private equity I "retired" to Newport in 2004 having spent summers in Newport since the 1980s.

For ten years in Newport I served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Aquidneck Land Trust. In 2016 I accepted an offer to be the Finance Director of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum, a position I still hold today.

I have served full terms on the Potter League, Newport Performing Arts Center and St. Michael's Country Day School Board of Directors. Currently I am a trustee on the Newport Hospital Power by Prince Foundation and the EJMP Fund for Philanthropy.

In addition to continuing my connection to the Aquidneck Land Trust as a member of the Finance Committee, I have served on the Finance Committee of the Newport County Choir School.

I was raised as an Episcopalian as the son of Canon Frederick E. Thalmann who was rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Troy, NY) and summer intern at St. Anne's By the Sea in Kennebunkport, ME.

While living in New York I was on the Junior Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Church (Park Avenue) and spent 8 years as a member of the usher core of St. Thomas Church (5th Avenue).

I have a deep connection to the great outdoors having had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout six continents (Antarctica remains) with highlights including climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro twice to raise funds for an eye clinic being built in Flores, Guatemala; exploring the headwaters of the Amazon River; sailing the Galapagos Islands and the south Pacific islands; having a photography show in Zanzibar; touring six countries of Europe with an 18 member acapella group; being a guest of HRH Prince Phillip at Buckingham Palace for two days; serving as a Barclays Bank VP in charge of the US & British Virgin Islands and visiting friends living in Europe, Moscow, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Hong Kong and Japan.

My primary hobbies and interests include hiking, golf, 6-wicket croquet (member of the Newport Croquet Club – the oldest in America), photography, equestrian sports (esp. 4-in-hand coaching) theater (I performed in Off Broadway musical theater in NYC), canasta, mahjong and music music music!!!! My local Newport memberships include the Clambake Club of Newport.

Paige Williams, Vestry-at-Large (1-year)

In 2023, Paige moved to Newport and began attending Emmanuel Church shortly after. Since then, she has been an active participant the Musician's Circle at Emmanuel.

Paige was born and raised just south of Nashville, TN in Brentwood. She is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and met her husband, Caleb Dinger. For several years, Paige and Caleb lived in Franklin, TN where she worked for her family's business doing administrative and bookkeeping work and he was a working musician.

In 2022, Caleb joined the United States Navy as a musician. Since Caleb's career in the Navy brought them to Newport in 2023, Paige has been working in the Navy Exchange Tailor Shop as a seamstress assisting with service members uniforms.

Parishioner Recognition

The Lil Hargrove Service Award

??

Saints Among Us

??

??

Parish Statistics As Taken from Parish Records						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Active Individuals	265	250	254	178	178	195
Active Under Age 16	26	40	40	4	4	4
Active New Members	10	30	4	10	5	5
Families With Children	23	28	0	1	1	2
Children Enrolled in Christian Formation for Young People (including Angel Choir)	21	30	0	0	0	0
Individuals Receiving the E-Pistle (electronic newsletter)	401	460	400	399	410	354
Average CC Open Rate (Industry Average is 20 percent)	29%	34%	36%	41%	51%	70%
Average CC Click Through (Industry Average is 8 percent)	9%	10%	13%	7%	12%	13%
Followers on Facebook	295	339	464	513	546	570
Sunday Services	105	104	62	81	100	102
Weekday Eucharists (Christmas, Holy Week, Marriages and Funerals)	83	94	8	5	3	2
Private Communions	0	1	0	0	0	0
Daily Offices (Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline)	-	4	32	22	4	17
Other Offices (EDS Chapel, VBS Chapel, House Blessings)	-	69	0	4	2	3
Daily Offices Held on Weekdays per Parochial Report (including EDS Chapel, Chanting, House Blessings, Morning Prayer, Evening, Prayer, & Compline)	95	69	4	6	4	8
Baptisms – under age 16	6	2	0	3	0	0
Baptisms – over age 16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Confirmations	2	0	0	0	0	0
Receptions	1	0	0	0	3	0
Marriages (Eucharists and Offices)	6	4	0	3	8	3
Burials (Eucharists and Offices)	8	6	2	6	12	5
Total Sunday Attendance	5547	4871	2288	2687	4688	4426
Average Sunday Attendance (includes Saturday evening services)	106.7	93.7	44.0	51.7	90.2	83.5
Communions (includes weekday communions)	5557	4671	1078	1881	3292	3354