

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

"A community of faith seeking to love and serve in the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MINISTRY REPORTS

February 27, 2022



The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright, Bishop

The Reverend Brandon Mozingo, Rector

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Rector's Report

The Rev. Brandon Mozingo

I could not be more proud of this parish than I am!

The Church and Family of the Holy Spirit have been through a tremendous amount of transition in this past year. This time last year saw you under the inspired leadership of our skilled and insightful Vestry—including our amazing Wardens Mark Bohan and Joanie Anderton—as well as Interim Rector, Mother Mandy Brady. Through the hard work, diligence, discernment, and prayer of the Search and Nominating Committee, you were able to transition to your new rector. All the while, the Vergers, Altar Guild, Lectors, Flower Guild, Choir, and Compline Leaders provided a continuity of worship, while the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committees tended to those in need. And all of this during a pandemic!

Over and over, when called upon to care for the vulnerable members of our church community, and those beyond, by masking, by being vaccinated, and by adopting other protective measures, our church stepped up and did so with grace and a willingness to serve. Placing others above ourselves was difficult at times, and placed many burdens and stressors on us, but we did it, and I couldn't be more proud of you for it!

As those burdens began to lift, the resilience and joy of this family was remarkable! We rushed back to join each other in worship, in service to others, to social activities, to learning, and many other things which make this place so beloved by so many. Worship services, EfM, Bible Study, AA groups, Family Promise, InStitches, the Holy Mowers, the SASSE, the Holy Rollers, the Men's Breakfast Group, coffee hour, parish dinners, and many other beloved institutions and activities have seen a renewed vigor as of late.

We have been averaging a new person or new family to our parish every week as word spreads of how wonderful a place this is. We have seen increased interest in church involvement by many people, including many of the younger families in the parish. Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Nursery, the music program, EfM, Bible Study, numerous committees, and Vestry all have new people who have joined the ranks this year. Not only that, but several people who had previously stepped away have returned to their ministries. Indeed, there has been a renewed dedication to sustaining the parish through our work and our gifts. We have many new people and families pledging this year, and those who have long been good stewards have increased their pledges. This community prospers because of the ample generosity of all of you!

We also benefit from what might very well be the best church staff in all of Christendom. Cathy Schlecht continues to be the touchstone of the parish, an abiding presence who keeps this place running smoothly, who knows and cares for everyone around her. Tom Elston has been resilient and innovative in his work since he arrived, playing outside in the cold and rain when protocols demanded it, starting up new music ministries, getting people involved in ways they never before imagined, recognizing the particular gifts in those whom he meets, drawing those gifts out, and lifting them up to the greater glory of God. Shannon David continues to do great work with the Youth, providing a safe and affirming place wherein all of the burgeoning ideas, emotions, concepts, identities, stresses, and angst inherent in adolescence can be explored and discussed while surrounded by love and community. Julie Wilson is a rockstar with our children, helping them to explore the world in fun, captivating, ever-inventive, and faith-informed ways, helping them to be formed in God's love.

Julie also continues to do amazing work leading our principal outreach into the community: the pre-school. Word is constantly spreading about the quality of our program here, and, so, every month sees

more children joining. Despite the hardships of the pandemic, due to Julie's leadership, our outreach into the larger community of Forsyth County is thriving!

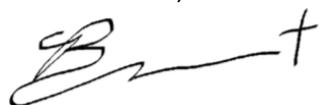
Fiona Norris has continued lovingly and diligently leading our outreach of giving to the community through The Pantry, while Midge Printz' passionate and selfless leadership of Family Promise continues to inspire our care for the displaced and unhoused. Cathy Schlecht continues to oversee the Backpacks of Love program, Carol Franklin leads the Angel Tree outreach, and the InStitches group, lead by Ro Woodhead, compassionately lends their skill and talents to make the distressed and distanced of our community feel loved and cared for.

Our tradition of exceptional leadership continues with our new Vestry members: Janet Mc Dermott, Putnam Smith, and Sylvia Cardona, who also reprises her role as Senior Warden, alongside Russ McClelland, our new Junior Warden. We are also proud of lift up Shannon Darke to service in the larger Church as we sponsor her as a Postulant to Holy Orders.

We are continuing this amazing momentum as we move forward into the new year, with a focus on more and more opportunities for us to come together in fellowship and to celebrate our church family. The Youth and Men's groups will be joining forces to provide our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner this year. After that, we will have Wednesday Lenten Dinners, with prayer, dinner, programs for the children and youth, and an adult series exploring the concept of forgiveness. Easter will see a return of the Easter Brunch, and the weekend after that, Holy Spirit will be returning to Camp Mikell for our parish weekend!

As I look back at all you've accomplished and overcome this past year, I couldn't be more impressed and proud of you. As I look forward to what this year has in store for us, I couldn't be more hopeful and joyous. It's an exciting time to be a member of ECOHS, and I'm looking forward to joining with you on this path God has set before us!

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Brandon Thomas Mzingo+
Rector, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mark Bohan

During the past year, I have been humbled and amazed at the grace and commitment which one will find when they walk through the red doors at ECOHS. Not only are we all learning to appreciate all the talents of our new rector Father Brandon brings to the table, but we have continued to learn to deal with the ever-changing covid environment and the restrictions that have come with these changes. As always, our ECOHS family has grown stronger through the opportunities and challenges we all faced in 2021.

The year started out with our Nominating committee zeroing in on and eventually presenting Father Brandon as the candidate for our next Rector. That meant we had to say a heartfelt goodbye to Mother Mandy who had carried us as a faithful and diligent interim rector for the better part of two years. The month of June wound up being both a sad and happy time for our Parish!

We had to deal with a second covid outbreak in August as we were just getting settled in with Father Brandon. Through it all, we somehow managed to continue the good work of our many ministry areas

even with some areas being restricted due to covid. It is amazing how much our Church has been able to accomplish even with the challenges of 2021.

The great work of our Finance and Stewardship committees along with our parish family keeping to their pledges helped us navigate a challenging financial year that was heavily impacted through covid limitations on our preschool. Through it all, we have prevailed and are in a good place as we move into 2022.

As I reflect on the last three years, I am thankful to have had each one of you as an extended family who love and support our wonderful Church. We have been and continue to be blessed with a family who isn't afraid to give time, talent, and treasure to keep our wonderful Church going in support of God's great plan for us. We will continue to learn who we are going to be post covid and that is ok. Just remember we are here to do God's great work when and wherever he needs us.

I want to thank every member of our parish community for what you do to make our parish family so very special. The Holy Spirit is alive in each of you and is allowing us to fulfil our mission.

God bless,

Mark Bohan
Senior Warden, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Junior Warden's Report

Joanie Anderton

2021 was a year to be grateful and brought continued changes. Grateful to be back into our beloved building for worship and communion (with masks and seating charts but back), finding Tom as our new Music Minister, saying goodbye to Mother Mandy, welcoming our new Rector, Father Brandon, Jessica, and Eden to our worship community, and a return to a new normal. We got Live Streaming to have church on line and cannot thank Meg and Moffet enough for all they do. Ministries like Wendy's Place, In Stitches, AA, Women's Spirituality gatherings on Zoom, Backpacks of Love, and Family Promise continued, but sometimes in a different way. We returned to Sunday School, Bible Study, Coffee Hour, and our Preschool and children's education classes and EYC continued to wow us. Thank you Julie and Shannon David for all you have done for us. We have learned to adapt, be flexible, and take things in stride. While financial issues continued to challenge us, we found ways to rebound and are grateful to all who continued to love this church financially, with time and talents, and with prayers. So, we have survived and in many ways flourished. Our core is strong and our love for one another gives us strength and courage to face the future. Thanks to all who make this church the wonderful place it is.

Blessings to each of you as we enter 2022,
Joanie Anderton

Building and Grounds

Dane Bohnstedt, Vestry Liaison

I cannot tell you how excited I am to see everyone back on campus and our facilities once again in use, but with the renewed traffic comes renewed projects for Buildings & Grounds. I would be remiss if I did not start this report with a giant THANK YOU to Jay Franklin, Chad Cartwright, and the whole team of Holy Mowers who work diligently throughout the year to ensure our campus stays well-maintained and presentable! In addition to their contribution, we had a successful Fall Parrish Workday where numerous members from various groups came out to conduct a deep clean of the church both inside and out. We were blessed by the kind donation of one parishioner who donated a second Hustler Mower so that we could retire the old Ferris and another parishioner who stepped up to cover the cost

of septic pump replacement when we had major plumbing issues. All in all, I feel blessed to be back on campus and even more blessed to have such a terrific team of volunteers who are willing to give of their time and talents to make ECOHS shine. There is a tentative plan to conduct our next Parish Workday Saturday, April 9th so that the campus is in great shape for Easter Sunday. If you are interested in helping with this or joining the team of Holy Mowers, please reach out to Dane at daneb@cedcumming.com

Thanks.
Dane Bohnstedt

Children's Christian Education

Julie Wilson, Children's Ministries Director

Children's Christian Ed is a thriving and much loved part of our community. We welcome children ages 4 years old through 5th grade. We follow the lectionary and use all sorts of centers to engage our children and the different ways in which they learn. Some of the favorite centers we like to use are cooking, art, music, construction, legos, science and animals. Several times a year our lessons are intergenerational and available to the entire parish, for example our Advent and Lenten evenings. We meet at 9:30 in the children's area downstairs. During the pandemic we were able to continue Christian Ed through virtual lessons that included take home Sunday School bags. From time to time we continue virtual lessons to engage some of the children for whom a Sunday morning does not work for their family. We are always searching for ways to engage the children of our community in fun and exciting ways and introduce God and His eternal love for us to all.

Julie Wilson

Music Ministry

Tom Elston, Music Director

The ECOHS musical community has come a long way over the year as we have all navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic. The following highlights show both the milestones and the successes we've achieved.

- **From New Year's through most of Holy Week**, the parish's worship life was largely based outdoors. No matter the temperature nor the weather, ECOHS musicians stepped up to provide vocal music accompanied by electronic keyboard. Socially distant solos and small ensembles were presented live by using microphones and voice amplification via Meg Davenport's trusty portable speaker system. An effort to record a "virtual choir" that sang reusable service music was managed by Jeff Daniel and engineered by Meg. Many thanks to all those who presented and supported our musical offerings during that unique time.
- **We collectively celebrated Easter by returning to the ECOHS worship space.** Though protocols were still in place regarding the limitations of (not) singing indoors, the parish was able to effectively celebrate the Feast Of The Resurrection through other inventive means: our Adult Choir presented a festive peal on handbells in place of a choral offering, and thanks to a personal gift from our interim rector, a guest harpist was hired to play instrumental music throughout the service in addition to the organ and piano.
- **From Easter through Pentecost**, members of our musical community were able to rise to the moment by leveraging the narthex to physically sequester themselves while holding forth in song that was broadcast both to our FB online community and through the parish's speaker system. Our singers navigated the dynamics of singing in masks while wearing headphones and the results exceeded expectations and were very much appreciated.

- **Summer saw the return of regularly scheduled musical offerings as protocols allowed.** Though full-ensemble live singing was still being navigated during a season in the calendar year when the choir normally takes time off, the team energetically gathered together to present a cavalcade of solos and duets in a variety of styles from week to week.
- **September brought with it the return of the Adult Choir to regular live worship.** Thanks to a gracious gift from Michael and Jeff, singer's masks were purchased for all who indicated an interest in returning to participate. We began work on anthems for upcoming weeks and a return to singing service music together.
- **Our annual All Souls Evensong & Holy Eucharist service featured traditional canticles, responses, and the offering of a musical setting of a requiem mass.** The Latin-texted movements were sung by the full ensemble and several soloists, who worked hard in coaching sessions before Wednesday evening rehearsals to learn and beautifully present their portions of the work.
- **The choir's efforts in November and December resulted in an exceptional presentation of seasonal music for Advent and Christmas.** The entire ensemble worked diligently together to offer works featured in a 30-minute pre-service concert on Christmas Eve that included solos, small ensembles, full choir anthems, and special seasonal service music. The last Sunday of the year was celebrated with a Lessons & Carols service in which our community of musicians led carol-singing by sitting among the congregation.

In surveying all the music that was offered and all the folks involved in working together to make it happen, I am struck by and appreciate all the effort, interest, and heart-felt dedication of our parish musicians. None of it would have been possible without their willingness to surmount the often uncomfortable and uncertain circumstances we have all navigated to honor our call to make music in worship as we have traversed the road toward a safe and secure end of the pandemic.

I greatly look forward to a time when we can all leave COVID behind and resume musical life as we have known it by welcoming all who engage or would like to re-engage in the celebration of worship by making music together.

To all our musicians in that endeavor—many thanks, kudos, appreciation, and praise!

Tom Elston

Outreach

Donna Kukarola, Vestry Liaison

Good news is that Outreach was alive and well throughout 2021, in spite of the pandemic ECOHS still reached out to the community spreading God's love and understanding. There are so many to acknowledge and thank, everyone that organizes, volunteers, donates – you are so valuable and appreciated. To get details on what each ministry does, and get contact information, please visit our website. All are always welcoming volunteers! Here is a brief update on what was provided in 2021:

Family Promise: This is an organization in our county that empowers families experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable independence. ECOHS is one of the host organizations, providing shelter for a week (for each host period) and meals.

ECOHS was the host three times in 2021; two were at a private residence due to COVID (churches were on lock down) and one was at ECOHS. In 2022 ECOHS will be a host 5 times. Seven families were service in 2021; seven adults and 10 children ranging in age from 5 months to 17 years old.

In Stiches Group: Knitting & Crocheting/Needle Arts volunteers that make and donate various items. Baby Blankets went to Northside Main Campus NICU (120 NICU beds). Baby Hats to the Women's Centre at Northside Forsyth (300+ babies born every month). Baby blankets to the Heart Strings Group attached to Northside Hospital that give blankets and support to families who have lost a baby during pregnancy or soon after. Chemo Hats, fingerless gloves and scarves went to Cancer Centre at main campus which occupies 5 floors of one of the buildings there. Chemo Hats to various cancer departments at Northside Forsyth Hospital. Baby Blankets and children's hats went to the Crisis Pregnancy Centre in Jasper. Prayer Shawls were delivered to members of our church and also family members in need of comfort. They meet every Wednesday morning in the Parish Hall. Generally, have about 10 people who give of their talents and generously buy yarn for the projects we support. They would love to invite anyone to join them to learn knitting or crocheting, or share their crafting talents with the group.

Backpacks of Love: Serving children/families in severe need by providing non-perishable food items. We used to put the food in backpacks, thus the name, but that changed with the Pandemic, now on the 2nd Sunday of each month parishioners drop off the food items at the church and then transported to the Backpacks organization. Between 150-170 children are served by this ministry.

The Pantry: Our non-food pantry for items not available to purchase by food stamps. Distribution is the last Saturday of each month. This ministry has changed from giving out a variety of non-food items to only diapers, feminine products, bed pads. Recently we added in liquid dish washing liquid again. Approximately 40-45 families are served each month. Donations of products are always appreciated.

Prison Ministry: This group visits Arrendale State Prison for Women to help facilitate a day for inmates to meet with their children. This ministry has been affected by the pandemic as the Prison is not allowing any visitation.

Angel Tree: Collection for Christmas gifts for children in the foster care system.

Wendy's Bears will be starting up again this year, had a break due to the pandemic. This is a collection of new or gently used stuffed animals (doesn't have to be bears) to give to children, that through no fault of their own, find themselves spending time in the Forsyth County judicial system. Stay tuned for more info.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kukarola

Parish Life

Meg Davenport, Vestry Liaison

2021 was a surprisingly active year for Parish Life events, given the circumstances! Led by many groups of volunteers and staff, Holy Spirit celebrated together, trying to create a sense of normalcy in a year that was anything but normal. We reimagined some of our traditional celebrations and gatherings, and created some new ones. We worked hard to maintain and expand the sense of community that is so vital to the life of the church.

Below is a chart of some Parish Life events we held, and how many people they reached.

Event	Date	Attendance	Venue
Women's Prayer Breakfast	February 27	51	Zoom
Easter Egg Hunt?	April 4	59	Grounds
Kite Day	April 18	52	Grounds
Pentecost Picnic	May 23	67	Grounds
Farewell Mother Mandy	June 6	102	Pavilion
Welcome Fr. Brandon	June 27	95	Grounds
Popsicle Truck	August 15	34	Front Lot
Dinner on the Grounds	September 26	49	Grounds
Jessica's Shower	October 24	57	Pavilion
Trunk or Treat?	October 31	41	Grounds
Advent Evening	December 8	92	Parish Hall

Pastoral Support

Julie Wilson

We are so thankful for the leadership Mother Mandy and Father Brandon have provided over the past year. Our pastoral support team is in place and we try our best to be responsive to the needs of our parish for prayer, pastoral visits, meals and anything that might ease a recovery or particularly trying time.

Pastoral Support is the group that lovingly lifts and cares for the women of our church through the women's prayer brunch. This year we were equally fortunate to celebrate the birth of Father Brandon and Jessica's baby Eden with a lovely outdoor baby shower. It was one of the first times we could gather together and it was a day filled with love and blessings.

So thankful for the people of this team who actively serve as the hands and feet of Christ in caring and praying for our parish members and those they love.

Peace,
Julie Wilson

Another year seems to be flying by. We are so thankful for our church's involvement and commitment to our preschool. We are thankful for the healthy, fun year we are having with children who enjoy learning and are excited by preschool!

As many of you know, our preschool is one of the primary outreach ministries of our church. It is our goal to be active and contributing members of our community through the way we embrace and welcome a diverse and growing number of children. We recognize that preschool is a luxury, and although a luxury, preschool provides an important stepping stone for school readiness and a child's early learning success.

We do not anticipate raising our rates this year and we have not raised them since prior to the pandemic. You may be aware that we have a scholarship fund available for those that have the desire for their child to attend preschool but lack the financial resources. Our church has generously provided the primary support needed to offset the pandemic expenses such as offering smaller class sizes for children's safety, providing snacks and supplies and helping us adjust to have the best safety practices in place. Being in relationship with each family in the preschool helps us to know who is struggling, who may need help with tuition in order to enroll or who might come upon a rough patch and need help to navigate a few rough months. While our rates will remain the same, we invite you and our parish members to consider donating towards our Preschool scholarship fund.

As we move forward through the remainder of this year we will be creating a gallery upstairs in the hallway to showcase our preschoolers' artwork. This is an outward and visible sign to our parish family of the love, laughter and learning they are supporting in our preschool when they contribute towards the scholarship fund and provide financial resources to support and grow our preschool.

As mentioned before our preschool operates as one of our primary outreach ministries to the community. We want families to be able to take advantage of preschool and do not wish it to be a financial burden. Our scholarship fund is the way that we help embrace and welcome the children of our community. If you are in a place to make a donation towards our Preschool Scholarship fund please consider a donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 a month or a one-time donation towards sustaining our Preschool scholarship fund.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email. We are looking forward to a great year! Our goal is to focus on preparing the whole child for kindergarten in a gentle, loving and confidence building environment and hope that you and your children will be a part of our community.

Peace,
Julie Wilson

Youth Ministry

Shannon David, Youth Minister

The last year had its highs and lows for everyone, but our youth are strong and resilient! After finishing Sunday school through remote learning (thanks for the ones who stuck it out, all 4 of you!), we were delighted to be able to meet again in person for faith formation and fellowship! We have a core group of 10-12 kids who come when they can to Sunday school and always learn and grow. We were able to have a field trips in safe and intimate settings, such as renting a movie theater, hiking Sawnee Mountain, and having a pool party! We look forward to 2022 after kicking it off to a promising start - we get to have the Pancake Supper! We always welcome our fellow parishioners to share passions and talents with our youth. If you have a skill you would like to share, like music or sports or art or craft, please contact Shannon David so we can plan the best way to put you to service!