

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



CATHEDRAL
OF ST. PAUL

from

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe, Bishop
Seasons of transition are filled with rich opportunities. For the first time in more than three decades, the Cathedral engaged a search and discernment process for a new dean. As we give thanks for three decades of the steady leadership of Dean Downey, we also embrace a new phase of ministry with Dean Hall. I commend the Chapter and the search committee under the leadership of Ed Palattella and Jim Steadman, for their vision, wisdom, and willingness to risk for sake of the Gospel. I charge you, now, to embrace God's preferred future for you and know that God will provide all you need.



from

The Very Rev. Dr. John P. Downey, Dean
2019 was a most significant year for the Cathedral and for me. The leaders and members of the Cathedral rolled up their sleeves and did the hard work of searching for the next Dean, as I watched from the sidelines, already somewhat of a "has-dean." Then it was time for our final weeks together and we had a series of most meaningful liturgies and events for the congregation and the wider church and community. I once again want to express my deepest thanks for all the ways people worked, prayed, and gave to make those days so memorable. Sharon and I enjoyed wonderful sabbatical time afterwards, helped in great part by your gift. At the same time Dean-elect Melinda arrived on the scene at the Cathedral, bringing her substantial gifts and talents. Now we move forward into new seasons of ministry for me and for the Cathedral of Saint Paul. In the oft-quoted words of Dag Hammarskjold, "For all that has been, Thank You. For all that is to come, Yes!"



from

The Very Rev. Melinda Hall, Dean
In thinking about the little amount of 2019 I have spent in your midst, it is gratitude that rises within me. I am grateful for how kind and welcoming everyone has been; I am grateful for the time the staff and senior warden have spent orienting me. It is never easy to follow a long tenure, particularly of someone so loved and respected, but your welcome and John's support have been so helpful these last few months. I am excited for many things in our life together as we move into this new year and this new season at the Cathedral. I look forward to experiencing Holy Week and Easter with you, as well as what new ventures we might take on together. I have no doubt God is continuing the work that has been happening here, and I am intrigued to see in what new directions the Spirit will call us to go.



from

The Rev. Canon Kathleen Ziegenhine
For the past 13 years I've been privileged to serve as Pastoral Assistant here at the Cathedral. In addition to taking communion to parishioners in their homes during a convalescence or when coming to church is no longer possible. Many of you have welcomed me in the hospital to anoint & pray with you or loved ones prior & during surgery, welcome a new baby, & to pray, sit, wait & weep with you at the time of your loved one's death. Of course there have been countless spiritual conversations as well as catching up about what's going on in your lives; and it's all spiritual & pastoral care. Holy Spirit is in all of it & discovering where the Spirit is moving in in the joys, struggles, & hum-drum of life. For me, pastoral care is loving God's people, being present in the moment, & being in community. Additionally we've begun anointing & prayers for healing for body, mind, spirit on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Baptismal font after you receive communion. Sometimes we don't know what to pray for but feel drawn to come & see, & that's ok, do come & see! I'm truly blessed to serve as pastoral assistant. Joyous, tragic & everything in between, those are indeed holy moments & I'm on holy ground.

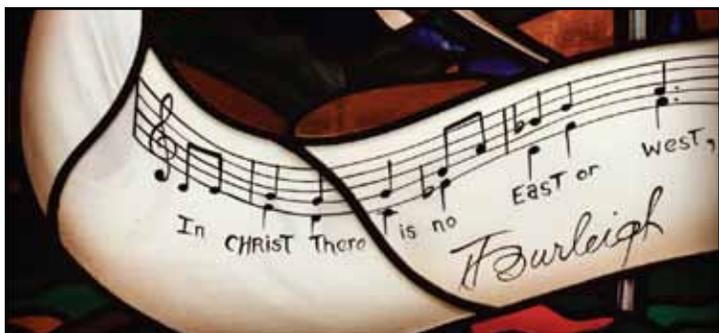


**REFLECTIONS
ON 2019
AT THE
CATHEDRAL**

from

Deacon Dorothy Konyha

This church year marks the third year that we have partnered with First Church of the Covenant to serve the homeless at Our Neighbor's Place which runs from November to March of each year. Our goal each year is to increase our responsibility regarding the preparation and serving of meals, as well as shift work which runs from 7pm to 7am the following day. Our volunteers not only encounter homelessness, but addiction and mental health issues as well. As a result I joined a newly formed committee which comprised of myself and representatives from Emmaus Soup Kitchen and Lakeshore Community Services. We co-sponsored a nationally known trainer, Ryan Dowd, who has worked with the homeless for decades outside of Chicago and who trains those who encounter homeless people. He usually works with urban librarians but we asked him to gear his training with caseworkers of the homeless and volunteers. This was an important experience for all because indeed it takes a village to deal with these serious issues. In this case we worked across faith lines with Emmaus Soup Kitchen which is run by the Benedictine Sisters as well as a secular institution Lakeshore Community Services dedicated to help those with mental health issues. This was the first time the Cathedral has co-sponsored such an event. I am proud to say that 19 people from the Cathedral volunteered to participate in this training. They included volunteers from the food pantry as well as the homeless volunteers. The response to this workshop was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend. For those who were not able to make this workshop or who need a refresher, it is now available through Erie United Methodist Alliance at no cost. I continue to volunteer at Emmaus Soup Kitchen to build my relationships with the homeless and to be chaplain for Our Neighbor's Place throughout the season. I also continue to tutor at Pfeiffer Burleigh with our team and look forward to future events with them in the New Year. Thank you to all who have supported these important ministries and have stepped out in trust.



from

Ed Palattella, Senior Warden

The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul has gone through many transitions in its 193-year history as a church, but one of its most momentous leadership changes occurred in 2019. The congregation celebrated the 30 years of service and retirement of Dean John P. Downey and welcomed Dean-elect Melinda L. Hall, whose installation will occur on Feb. 9.



The Chapter spent nearly all of 2019 conducting the search for a new Dean and then helping Melinda after she started at the Cathedral on Oct. 15, in advance of Dean Downey's retirement on Dec. 31. And though the Chapter was in charge of the search process - with the invaluable assistance of Bishop Sean Rowe - the members of the congregation deserve all the praise.

Your input in the focus groups aided the Chapter immeasurably, and your heartfelt sendoff for Dean Downey represented a touching capstone to the career of a Dean - and newly appointed Canon Theologian for the Diocese - whose influence on the Cathedral will always be felt.

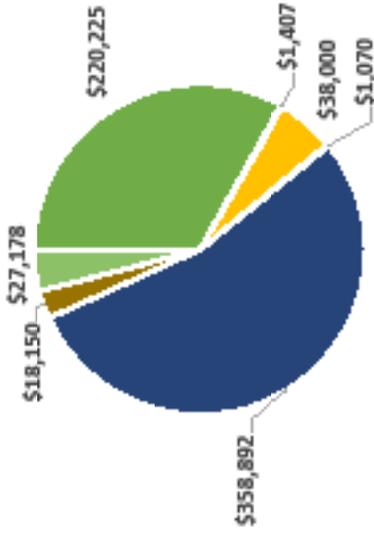
The Chapter followed the Canons in electing a new Dean and sending Melinda's name to the Bishop for approval. But the Chapter's decision was also a congregational decision. The Chapter selected Melinda based on what you told us you wanted in a new Dean: someone who is, among other things, a dynamic community builder with a deep respect for the traditions of the Episcopal Church and a keen understanding of a cathedral's importance to its community.

We are so glad to have Melinda, just as we are so glad to have benefited from Dean Downey's lengthy tenure. The churchwide announcement of Melinda's election highlighted that she is the first woman to be Dean of the Cathedral of St. Paul and she is the youngest Episcopal Cathedral Dean in the United States. These are notable achievements. Even more noteworthy is how Melinda has embraced her role both at the Cathedral and beyond, in the city of Erie.

The Cathedral and Erie are poised for the type of change that can only succeed under strong and committed leadership. We are blessed that, with God's help, the Cathedral built on its past and looked to the future as it completed its transition. We use this phrase often at the Cathedral as we invoke the name of St. Paul, but the words apply particularly well at this point in the Cathedral's history: We shall press on.

2019 Summary Treasurer's Report (unaudited)

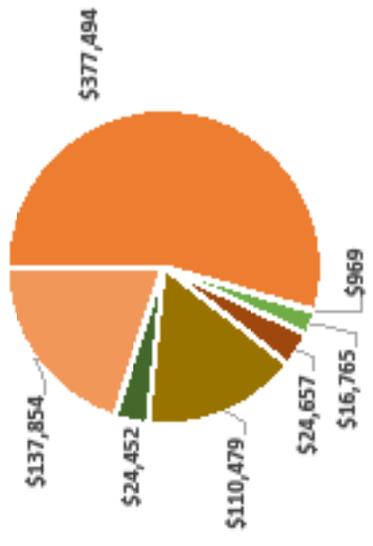
2019 Actual Income



Account Name	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
INCOME			
Pledges	\$200,000	\$220,225	\$243,144
Special Services	\$0	\$1,407	\$0
Rental	\$20,000	\$38,000	\$30,000
Building Use	\$1,500	\$1,070	\$1,000
Endowments (5% Draw)	\$158,892	\$158,892	\$373,434
Miscellaneous Income	\$0	\$18,150	\$0
Special Giving	\$0	\$27,178	\$0
Total Income	\$580,392	\$664,922	\$647,578

EXPENSE

2019 Actual Expenses



Salaries and Benefits	\$359,664	\$377,494	\$402,326
Education	\$1,800	\$969	\$1,800
Operations	\$12,400	\$16,765	\$11,400
Administrative	\$21,100	\$24,657	\$18,600
Property and Buildings	\$94,985	\$110,479	\$94,985
Music Program	\$26,500	\$24,452	\$26,500
Diocese and Outreach	\$145,518	\$137,854	\$146,133
Total Expense	\$661,967	\$692,670	\$705,875
Difference	(\$81,575)	(\$27,748)	(\$58,297)

Additional Draw in 2019: The Wright Fund's remaining balance of \$28,985 was withdrawn for general operations (deficit coverage).

Total Endowment Value as of 12/31/2019: \$9,858,594 (increase of \$1.3 million this year)



I sincerely believe that 2019 was a turning point for the financial life of the Cathedral. During a year when our actual expenses were significantly higher than budgeted due to paying two deans, unplanned HVAC replacements, and emergency sewer work, we managed to dramatically exceed our budgeted income.

Not only did we surpass our budgeted pledge income, but we also came together to show our support for the Food Pantry through a Special Giving campaign. In addition, the Diocese gave generously toward our effort to make the transition to a new dean as smooth as possible. The result was a much lower deficit than forecasted.

I am committed to working toward a balanced budget and a responsible endowment draw. I can feel the energy and excitement as we make a huge transition in 2020!

Should you have any specific questions or a desire for more detailed information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully, *Claudine Thiem*

from

Sharon Downey, Canon Musician

One of the most significant projects I worked on in 2019 was the reestablishment of the Harry T. Burleigh Society now known as Burleigh Legacy Alliance. Some will remember Charles Kennedy and his work in bringing the life and music of Burleigh to life in the region. After Charles died an early, unexpected death, no one emerged to carry on the Charles' vision for the Society. Fast forward to 2019 and a renewed spirit of enthusiasm to celebrate our hometown hero has been found. The Burleigh Alliance is forming new affiliations and partnerships within the community, including our Cathedral. The culmination of last year's work came when the Mayor declared December 2 as Harry T. Burleigh Day in the city of Erie in perpetuity. My work with the Alliance will continue as we build upon last year's accomplishments. My work with the Cathedral Choirs continues to be at the center of what I do. We lost a significant number of choristers this past summer and I am working on a new model for the program in the coming year. The Cathedral Choir continues to be a strong and committed group of singers who many would say, including me, are the one of the best church choirs in the region. My sabbatical time this past October was a truly refreshing and renewing time for me. I fulfilled a life goal of mine...visiting King's College, Cambridge, when their choir was in session. I heard them sing a service of Evensong in October and was not disappointed! My sincere thanks to the leadership and members of the Cathedral for the support and encouragement you have given me and the Cathedral music program for the past 29 years. I look forward to our continued ministry together.



from

Cass Shimek, Cathedral Administrator

Just in case you are curious, it is not easy to come up with new informative and interesting issues to report each year for our annual report. Bottom line the cathedral continues to be a one of the cornerstones of outreach and assistance to the residents of downtown Erie. Thanks to your generosity and the time and tents of our food pantry volunteers, our food pantry served 4214 food bags last year. You contributed over \$22,000 and our volunteers gave over 1980 hours of service. That is absolutely awesome. You also showed your generosity by supporting the clients of Our Neighbor's Place emergency overflow shelter with a special Christmas morning as well as the purchase of bus passes and gas cards for neighbors in need. Again, thank you. The Cathedral's ministry to our neighbors, both downtown and city-wide is vital and I am so privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of that ministry. We are truly making a difference each and every day. In closing I will say that we are still keeping up on the building maintenance and the finances - Terry Bishop our sexton and Sandee Krivonak our financial assistant are rockstars and that's all that needs to be said about that!



from

AJ Noyes, Program Associate

- A sincere thank you to our Lay Ministry, coffee hour, and reception volunteers. All who give their time on Sundays and throughout the year are of vital importance to the life of the Cathedral. Your work and time are greatly appreciated.
- 2019 was another good year for our Christian Education program. Our Sunday School class focused on the importance of being kind. The children are asked each Sunday to tell how they showed kindness to someone and we then talk about ways they can show love and kindness in the upcoming week. We are blessed to have a number of families who are committed to Christian education and worship at the Cathedral.
- In the last couple years, we have been increasing the number of art exhibits displayed at the Cathedral. In 2019, we hosted a solo exhibit by Art Bacchus in the spring and an exhibit by friends of the Cathedral went up in December. We are fortunate to have so many gifted artists in our community. We hope to continue to expand our endeavors in the visual arts here in Erie.
- Our School partnership with Pfeiffer-Burleigh Elementary continues to grow with 7 people from the Cathedral volunteering at least once per week and another 3 who are in the process of obtaining clearances so they can begin volunteering. We donated 150 new polo shirts, 96 pairs of pants, and school supplies in 2019. Many thanks to all our school tutors and those who give to our school partnership fund to make this ministry possible.
- This year of transition has been challenging and exciting. Putting together Cathedral bulletins, e-news, website, and other publications continues to occupy the majority of my time, but it's a task I enjoy. Your feedback regarding Cathedral communications is most welcome.



