

MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIZED

MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIZED

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Following is our "Mission Statement". We review the three parts of this statement at each meeting to help us properly balance our general directive to change lives.

Mission Statement

- A. Focus on those ministries which have an Episcopal tradition.
 - B. Evangelize to the West County community, first then the greater community
 - C. Support individual/personal needs only as recommended by St. Martin's or Community Agencies.
-

The Outreach Team – Alice McLaughlin, D'Arcy Elsperman, Loretta Go, Anne Fischer, Mary Edmonson, Linda Biederman, Ann Russel. Angela Logan and Dana Griggs

Following are St. Martin's Outreach supported ministries:

The St. Martin's College Scholarship – This ministry supports ambitious West County students from low income families. This past year we again supported Circle of Concern's scholarship program financially from Outreach funds (\$600), down \$200 from 2022

Food Pantry support - Daryl Norman insured that food contributions to Circle of Concern were delivered. All Sundays are now food pantry Sunday. Daryl delivers food to Circle whenever the donations warrant a delivery.

Thanksgiving Food Collection – There were 37 bags of Thanksgiving food collected, plus \$200 was donated from Outreach to support the Thanksgiving food drive.

Christmas Giving – Mary Edmonson arranged for Toys for Tots to provide a giving box for the church. By pick up time the box was filled. We also supplied gifts to the Episcopal City Mission. St. Louis Post Dispatch's Neediest Families received \$185 and Christmas Adopt-a- Family program at Circle of Concern also received \$185

Blood Drive – Linda Biederman organized two American Red Cross blood drive at church. However the drive scheduled for May 2nd was canceled by the Red Cross due to lack of personnel. The one scheduled of Sept. 19th generated 13 units. The next blood drive is scheduled for April 2nd, 2024

Peace Meal – Mike Kelly organized the St. Martins participated effort for the St. John's Tower Grove Episcopal Church's Peace Meal outreach program. Since Covid it

has been very difficult to staff this volunteer effort. In 2023 we volunteered only 2 times, down from 4 times historically. Even this was difficult.

Mike Kelly has advised St. John's that we would not be able to continue our participation in 2024, but would re-assess again for 2025.

Laundry Love - Founded nationally in 2003, in support of low income people needing clean cloths and bedding, in hopes of making people feel better about themselves. St. Martin's joined LL in late 2021 and during 2023 we served 128 clients(approx. 11 clients per month) and used \$3476. We serve clients at Winchester Cleaners on Manchester the second Tuesday of the month(rain or shine). The number of clients served in 2023 has risen throughout the year and we expect that to continue into 2024.

Spring Festival and Car Show - The festival supported St. Martin's outreach to our local community and generated \$1000 for Episcopal relief. See the Men's Group report for more details.

Following are charities supported at the direction of the Outreach Committee. These charities were supported by some individual donation. In addition \$3920 was designated by the Vestry from the Legacy Fund.

Legacy Funding:

- \$1000 Laundry Love
- \$ 500- Episcopal Relief (Lahaina fire and general relief)
- \$600 - Circle of Concern Scholarship fund
- \$950 - Episcopal City Mission
- \$300 - St. Andrews Resources for Seniors
- \$200 – Thanksgiving Food
- \$185 – Adopt a Christmas family (Circle of Concern)
- \$185 - St. Louis Neediest Families (Post Dispatch)

Outreach Committee
Dana Griggs

Blessings Box report
January 2024

The Blessings Box, created as part of a Venturing Summit Award, was completed, installed and stocked with the first round of food, personal care items and school supplies the second week of August, 2022.

Costs for the Blessings Box were \$1145.25 for the year for food, clothing and school supplies.

Supplies including food items, personal care items, feminine hygiene supplies for donations for the Blessings Box have been purchased from Aldi. Additional Winter warmth items have been purchased at Savers.

There have been regular donations placed into the plastic bin in Park Hall, including several generous donations of many pairs of socks, gloves and hats, as well as food items and personal care items.

In general, the Blessings Box is resupplied over the weekend with occasional mid-week resupplies needed as well. There have been several parishioners who have been extremely helpful in keeping the box stocked when timing challenges have arisen, which is very much appreciated.

There continues to be a steady use of protein items (tuna, chicken, canned meats), beans and soups. There are currently extra items of most of those stored in the unfinished part of the basement, for easy restocking. There has also been regular use of all personal care items including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss and hand sanitizer. Feminine hygiene items are also taken on a regular basis. This year, there were several donations around the holidays, of new children's books, new shoes, new slippers, new scarves, a box with lotion, a candle and other "spa" type items. As with last year, when cold weather began, we began putting socks, gloves, hats and scarves into and expect to continue stocking those through mid to late spring.

The LEF Grant generously offered to fund the Blessings Box for 2023, for \$750 and we had additional money left from last year, which we were grateful to be able to "roll over" into this year's expenses.

We look forward to being able to continue this important Outreach Ministry in our Community.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Montgomery

2023 Garden Report

This year was our eighth year in the garden. It was also our best year. Thanks to the blessing of this good earth and the hard work of our volunteers we were able to produce over 3,350 lbs. of fresh produce for the folks at Circle of Concern. In the past we have reported only the top line of our harvest. However, this year I would like to share with you more detail.

Below is a listing of our garden production over the last eight years:

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
750	1450	1886	1254*	1989	3045	3026	3350	*insects

Next, is a listing of the sixteen vegetables we raised this season and their respective weights and percentages:

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>%</u>
Tomatoes	959	29
Yellow Squash	476	14
Zucchini Squash	470	14
Lettuce	294	9
Watermelon	218	7
Onions	200	6
Cucumbers	170	5
Swiss Chard	116	3
Turnip	103	3
Butternut Squash	100	3
Beets	65	2
Collard Greens	51	1.5
Okra	48	1.5
Radish	31	1
Carrots	28	1
Eggplant	21	-

- All Greens combined (lettuce, Swiss chard, collard greens total 461 lbs. at 13.5%
- All Squash combined (yellow, zucchini, butternut) total 1046 lbs. at 31%
- Tomatoes, Greens and Squash represent **73.5%** of our garden harvest

Here is a listing of our harvest by month:

<u>May/June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Oct./Nov.</u>
547	979	1008	436	380

As you can see, the hot summer months of July & August are our most productive. As they say: *If you like to sweat, you're going to love the garden.*

Finally, we asked the question: What would it cost to buy these vegetables at the grocery store? Scott Pattengill worked on this question for a couple of days and came up with an estimate of over **\$5,600 at retail**. On average it costs us \$600 a season for plants, seed, fertilizer/chemicals and soil. That means our **return to cost ratio is 9 to 1**. Not too shabby.

Thank You's

This season we made 90 trips to Circle of Concern. Most of these trips were done by **Scott Pattengill**. But as the season wore on **Daryl Norman** also helped us out by delivering on Mondays. On average, the round trip from our garden to Circle and back home averaged 25 miles. That's a total estimated mileage of **2,250 miles**. **Thank you, Scott and Daryl**. We could not have done this without your service and commitment.

But there are others who devoted their time and talent to the garden and deserve notable mention:

Gary Harstick was in the garden almost every day along with **Scott** to help weed, water and harvest. **Thank you, Gary**.

Kitty Harstick helped us plant flowers and those flowers were essential in attracting butterflies and bees. We also harvested these flowers to give to our Eucharistic Visitors for parishioners' who couldn't be with us on Sunday morning. **Thank you, Kitty**.

Mike Kelly helped us mow the garden lawn every couple of weeks. This helped us keep down the weeds and made our garden the *best-looking garden in the dioceses*. **Thank you, Mike**.

Judi & Chuck Batch helped us out with watering, particularly during the hot summer months. They also helped with delivery. **Thank you, Judi & Chuck**.

Lincoln Drake supplied us with much needed mulch that we used along our fence to cut-down on the weeds. **Thank you, Lincoln**.

Eshwar Murali worked on his Eagle Scout Badge by organizing the Scout Troop to build an additional shed and second compost bin for the garden. These two additions will go a long way in helping improve our productivity. **Thank you Eshwar and to all the Scouts who helped make this project a reality**.

And congratulations to Eshwar on achieving his Eagle Scout Badge.

Every year, after putting the garden to bed, we review the highs and lows for the year. This year was no exception. Below are the highlights and lowlights for the season:

Highlights

Onions
Swiss Chard
Squash
Flowers

Lowlights

Watermelon Patch

Highlights

- Most of the onion plants we planted produced an onion that was nearly a pound each.
- Swiss Chard was our *Eveready bunny*. We were able to harvest the Swiss Chard four times this season. It kept producing & producing & producing.
- Our squashes produced a total of 1046 lbs. – need I say more?
- Flowers were a big hit. The attraction of much needed pollinators helped our productivity immensely.

Lowlights

- This Spring we created 32 pods with the expectation to raise pumpkins. However, our customer, Circle of Concern persuaded us to plant watermelons instead. We found out that our customers at Circle like watermelon but so do the deer. Silly me. I thought we could pull this off without a fence. I thought wrong. The deer destroyed most of our harvest. We had hoped to harvest 64 watermelon (two per pod) we were only able to capture 10 – the deer got to the rest. That's why for next year we have requested monies to build a fence. And that of course leads us to what is planned for next season.

Next Season

As said, our plan next year is to extend our fence so it encloses our pumpkin patch and we can keep the deer away (The pox be upon the deer!) With 32 pods we hope to raise 4 pumpkin per pod for a total of approximately 120 pumpkins. We intend to sell the pumpkins to the public by mid-September at competitive prices (same price as Dierbergs). Our goal is to raise enough money so that **the Garden is self-sufficient**.

In addition, we will continue to nurture our 34 raised beds so that we produce the best we can for our customers.

Final Word

I know this has been a long report and hopefully you have not been bored. And I know we have used a lot of numbers to tell our story. **But the numbers are not the story. It's people who are the story!** It's the people who we are able to provide fresh vegetables to – that is our story. The protocol at Circle is for us to drop off our vegetables at the warehouse so they can be weighed. As a result, we are not able to easily go to the food bank to see for ourselves how the produce is being received. So, we miss the one-

on-one connection and we rely on feedback from the folks a Circle. So far, the feedback has been good – and much needed. I would like to tell you that hunger is no longer a problem in America – but you know it still is. So, we forge ahead, trusting in God that we are able to make a small difference in the lives of a few families. We are thankful that God has given us the work that we are about to do. And we are thankful for you – the good people of St. Martin’s. Thank you for your prayers and thank you for your support.

And may God bless us all; everyone.

John

Post-Script:

As a courtesy, we sent this report to Cyndi Miller, Executive Director of Circle of Concern. In reply, she sent us this kind note. I thought the congregation would like to read it.

From Cyndi Miller, Exec. Director, Circle of Concern

Nov. 29, 2023

Hi John,

Thanks so much for the comprehensive report on the St. Martin’s garden effort. It is so impressive what you and other St. Martin parishioners have accomplished through this beautiful – and USEFUL project. We are eternally grateful for the fresh vegetables and fruits shared with our client families. When I speak to groups, I often share the idea that, when you feed people *good food* it can make them feel cared for – and even hopeful. When they see a clean facility, with stocked shelves, fresh dairy and fresh produce, it truly makes an impact. Clients have told us this in various ways throughout my time here at Circle.

I remember one young mom, who said, “When I walked into the pantry and saw fresh apples and oranges, I felt like my life was headed in a new direction.” I remember the excitement of another mom, who during the early months of Covid, said, “Today was my first visit to Circle. I can’t believe the quantity and the quality of the food I received. I’m so excited...I love to cook, and I can make this food last. And, today, I’m bringing my children home...thanks to you!” *She had sent her children to stay with family members because she had so little food in her house.*

Others have expressed excitement that they could make salsa with the fresh tomatoes and onions...and a big pot of greens with the fresh greens. Another man was elated to tell us he tried okra for the first time, and loved it – thanks to a visit to Circle. I know our pantry team could share more feedback with you. Our clients truly appreciate these gifts.

John, I have a small garden at home, and I know the work that goes into the planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. Your garden is much, much bigger. My hat is off to you and your entire team. Thank you for your hard work, your faithful support, the coordination, the drives to and from Circle, the beautiful, nutrient-rich foods...all of it.

Sincerely Yours,

Cyndi

Cynthia Miller

Executive Director

Circle of Concern

Lunch Bunch

Contact: Jim Hankemeyer

Phone: 636-273-1221

E-Mail: jhankemeyer@msn.com

Enjoy friendships with fellow retirees (not required to be retired, although most are) and visit some great places the St. Louis metropolitan area has to offer. Some outings are over-night trips such as the Lyceum Theater or Bald Eagle watching at Père Marquette Park. Most outings are day trips and include lunch at a near-by restaurant (wine is often involved).

This group meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 in Park Hall to plan upcoming "field trips". No meeting in November and December since those two are such busy months. Each person brings their own lunch and the couple or person hosting/leading the meeting brings desert for the group and takes notes for the minutes. Minutes from previous meetings are mailed out to the group and also can be found on the hall bulletin board outside Park Hall.

Chair Exercise Class

The chair exercise class meets at 10:00 on Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall.

We do 50 minutes of stretching, aerobics, weight lifting and balance. (Yes, the balance does involve standing, but you can hold onto the chair.)

We exercise to a video that is easy to follow, and participants are encouraged to participate at their own ability level. It is a surprisingly good workout without being exhausting.

Weights of various sizes are provided and there is no charge for the class.

Come and try us out - we can help with that New Year's resolution to be healthier. The class is open to everyone, so you can bring a friend.

MEN'S GROUP REPORT 2023

Traditionally, the Men's Group meeting is held on the first Saturday of each month, with some exceptions to calendar events, for fellowship and breakfast with an agenda for discussion. The meeting updates the group of attendees with ongoing news within the parish, discussing how it can continue to support the church and surrounding community through Outreach, Fellowship and Philanthropy in line with the Mission of St. Martin's. Announcements and invites to all men of the parish are sent out, as well as other members and guests with interest to our goals and concern for open communication. Additionally, the group recognizes our diversity and welcoming culture of our church. We are now extending participation to all members who wish to support the growth of St. Martin's Church and its missions.

Minutes to our meetings are posted on our community bulletin board found in the Narthex hallway. Financial records are maintained and reported to the church office and Treasurer,

Last year we again participated, supported or encouraged many of our outreach programs. A few to mention were the well-attended Breakfast with the Bunny in March and Breakfast with St. Nicolaus in December, cooking and serving a meal to attending children and families.

In July, we participated in our Outreach through Episcopal City Mission, supporting birthday celebrations for children at the St. Louis Detention Center.

We have also committed to financial support for the funeral urn boxes fabricated by Bill Scoopmire, as well as offering support to transport them for engraving and return for anyone requesting one through our Rector.

We held another successful Festival on May 7th, with our 2nd Annual Auto Show and BBQ. We had dinners for sale, a BBQ Contest supported by the STL BBQ Society and the St Louis Corvette Club displaying their cars with a contest for Best in Show (by dollar donations for voting). We held a Silent Auction, as well as the opportunity to showcase many of the charitable outreach programs we support while opening our facility to the community. \$2,000 in proceeds were distributed to Circle of Concern and The Episcopal Mission for Ukraine, with nearly 200 people attending.

In 2024, we will be sponsoring our 3rd Annual Festival and Auto Show on April 28 following much of the same format, as well as continued support to our parish programs.

COLUMBARIUM URN MINISTRY REPORT

2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

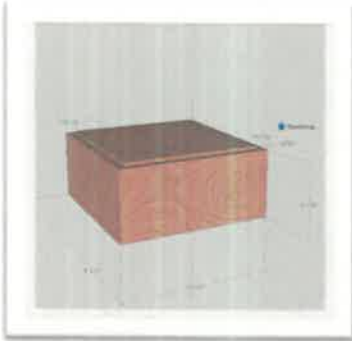


With a generous donation of \$250 from the **St. Martin's Men's Group** in 2023, material was procured that will produce 10 columbarium urns. Each urn is handcrafted from scratch using high quality domestically-sourced red oak or black walnut species. The components are fabricated, assembled, and finished in a manner that involves spiritual devotion, reflection, and many, many prayers. This process takes longer, as it should, and consumes about 22-26 hours of time over a 2-week period. The urns are finished with a mixture of Danish oil and holy oil before taken on the 95-mile round-trip to the laser engraver near Elsberry, Missouri.

Average production rates have ranged from 6 to 11 urns per year with yields improving from 71% in 2019 to 100% in 2022 and 2023 as a result of a re-tooled workshop and increased skills and experience of the woodworker.

COLUMBARIUM URN MINISTRY REPORT

2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – ST. MARTIN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Respectfully submitted with love and memories of those who have passed,

- Bill -

William Scoopmire

Scouting at St. Martin's

St. Martin's is the Charter Organization for Boy Scout Troop 601 and supports Cub Scout Packs 601 and 623 as well as Daisy Scout Troop 18 and the Venture Scout program.

All units would welcome new members. Anyone who has interest should feel free to contact me by email or phone and I will initiate contact with the appropriate leadership.

Lincoln Drake, Charter Organization Representative for St. Martin's

Troop 601 is pleased to create opportunities for youth ages 11 through 18 to learn life and leadership skills, give back to their community, and enjoy the outdoors. At the end of calendar year 2023 the Troop recorded 14 active Scouts on their roster aged 12-17. Our Troop generally holds 2-3 Troop meetings at the church each month on Monday evenings. Our youth leaders meet on the 4th Monday each month to plan activities for the Troop.

Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden Powell said, "A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room." With this in mind our Troop works to provide at least one overnight outing per month along with a week of summer camp and at least one high adventure outing. In 2023 our Scouts logged a combined 220 nights of camping. This included a week of summer camp at Camp Gamble, located at the S-F Scout Ranch near Farmington, MO. While in camp our boys worked to earn merit badges in a range of activities, participated in swimming, sailing and motor boating, prepared their own meals and generally had fun in the outdoors. Four of our Scouts achieved their mile swim while in camp as well.

The highlight of the year for our older Scouts was a 9-day trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico. For many a trek at Philmont is the highlight of their Scouting career. Our Scouts were divided into two groups who took different routes based on their age and level of difficulty. Each group backpacked for over 40 miles over the course of the week, stopping in a new location each night to build camp. Along the way they were exposed to some amazing scenery and had the opportunity to participate in activities such as black

powder rifle shooting and spar pole climbing. This was a physically demanding experience for the group but well worth the effort.

Other outdoor activities during the year included shooting sports outings, cold weather camping, service and hiking. In total the boys of Troop 601 logged 439.9 miles of hiking in 2023. Service activities for the Troop included honeysuckle removal, multiple Eagle projects, service to other Scouts and our Council, and Scouting's annual Scouting for Food drive to collect food those in need. In total our Troop recorded 165 hours of service including 40.75 hours of conservation service.

Merit badges are one of the most familiar aspects of Scouting. Merit badges help Scouts learn valuable life skills as well as explore interests that otherwise may not be accessible to them. Between them our Scouts earned 73 merit badges in 2023. These covered a wide range of topics including first aid, welding, small boat sailing, chemistry, and personal management, among others. Other awards earned by the Troop included National Outdoor Achievement Awards in Camping, Hiking and Aquatics. Two of our Scouts earned the Outdoor Ethics Awareness award and seven of our Scouts were inducted into The Order Of The Arrow, the honor society of Scouting.

In addition to earning merit badges our members earned 18 rank advancements. Among these advancements were two new Eagle Scouts, Clark Taylor, and Logan Fischer. This is the highest rank in Scouting and is a significant achievement. It requires years of discipline and dedication towards the achievement. Nationally only ~2% of those who enter the Scouting program earn the Eagle rank.

Troop 601 remains grateful to St. Martin's for supporting our Troop. We would not be able to provide these life changing and character forming experiences to our youth without the support of St. Martin's.

Yours in Scouting

Mike Nagel, Scoutmaster