

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the Community of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
on Sunday, February 7, 2016



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
1072 Ridge Avenue
Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
www.StNicholasEpiscopal.org
[Facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal)
[Vimeo.com/Welcome2Nick](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWp33333333333333333333)

Michael Curry,
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Jeffrey D. Lee,
Bishop of Chicago

Christopher Epting,
Assisting Bishop of Chicago

Manuel D. Borg, Vicar

Mary Fletcher-Gomez, Organist / Choirmaster

Jessica Tamaski, Sr. Warden

Penny Mandziara, Jr. Warden

Hal Stratton, Vergier



-Table of Contents-

| | |
|---|----|
| Agenda for Annual Meeting - February 7, 2016 | 4 |
| Vicar's Report for the Year 2015 | 5 |
| Bishop's Committee | 8 |
| Adult Education - Contemporary Issues Program | 8 |
| Organist / Choirmaster Annual Report 2015..... | 9 |
| Children's Formation - 2015-16 Summary..... | 10 |
| Support Groups..... | 10 |
| Building Committee Report | 11 |
| Outreach Ministry 2015 | 12 |
| Healing Ministry 2015 | 13 |
| 2015 Diocesan Convention..... | 16 |
| Verger Ministry | 19 |
| Bursar's Report..... | 20 |
| 2015 Financials..... | 20 |

The Community of St. Nicholas
Agenda for Annual Meeting - February 7, 2016

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Vicar's Remarks
- III. Bishop's Committee / Warden Elections
- IV. Finance / Budget Report

Vicar's Report for the Year 2015

Food Pantry

As the days slip by, Holy Innocent's Food Pantry moves, too. We are blessed to have generous sources that provide the goods to keep our pantry shelves stocked and at the ready. We thank the good people of this faith community, St. Nicholas Episcopal who give so much of themselves to aid those who are less fortunate. Also, we thank St. Simon's Episcopal Church and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew who provide food on a monthly basis. We continue to keep alive the connection we have with the food warehouse in Romeoville. This trip, while filled with traffic issues, tolls and the lifting of several dozen boxes proves to be a huge feather in our cap. Last and not in the least, we have our weekly Wednesday pick-up at the local Jewel store. While this may not be the most "reliable" source, we are grateful for however small or large the donation is. We humbly accept donations as God's gifts to be shared with the less fortunate.

Again in 2015, we were fortunate to receive 20 turkeys from our friends at St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church. The turkeys were passed out for Christmas. Thanksgiving hams were purchased with funds from our pantry account.

Our faithful team of volunteers, sad to say, will decrease in size. We will say goodbye to Jeff Westerheide who, along with his partner Vince Otero are moving to the sunny beaches of Florida. The south's gain is our loss. Thank you Jeff, for your service, your friendship and your generosity. You both will be sorely missed. Fortunately, we still have the collective efforts of Bob Kalicki, Gary Lackey, and Eve Gatwood who do amazing work.

If you feel you are called to serve in this special ministry, do know we could certainly use a little help. Anyone with a truck that can be used once a month for food pick-ups in Romeoville would be most appreciated. The Holy Innocent's Food Pantry is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month with our doors opening for service at 4pm and closing at 6pm. All are welcome to receive assistance: we have no boundaries or Village residency requirements. A few extra hands are always welcomed.



Rummage Sale

Any such church sale is only as successful as the quality and quantity of things one has to sell. Fortunately, last year's St. Nick's Knacks Rummage Sale was very successful and profitable. The sale was held on the 3rd weekend of August, the 15th and 16th to be exact. The sale was held primarily in the Hall but stretched out into the Gathering Space, too.

This year the sale will be held, again, on the 3rd weekend of August, Friday and Saturday, the 14th and 15th. Hours will remain the same, as we open at 9am both days, closing at 7pm on Friday and 3pm on Saturday.

Of course, we need many hands to make sure this sale runs smoothly. We start setting up this year's sale on Sunday afternoon, August 9th, clearing out the Hall and setting up the tables. We will ask parishioners to bring extra tables from home...we need as many as possible. Also, we will need newspapers for wrapping and plastic/paper bags, too.

Let's see if we can surpass last year's total. Start collecting those items now, clean out those closets, the attic, basement and garage, hold on to them and come August, bring them to St. Nick's and we'll sell it all!

Events

St. Nicholas made its presence felt throughout the Village. The Village Parade and Little Boots Rodeo certainly had a definite St. Nicholas presence. People knew who we were; as our volunteers wore our traditional "Follow Me to St. Nicholas Episcopal Church" blue tee shirts. Hard to miss, that's for sure.

I continued to represent St. Nicholas at the monthly Interfaith and Elgin Deanery Meetings. Also, I was asked to offer one of the prayers at the annual Ecumenical Prayer Day held in May and also opened a session of the Village Board of Trustees with a prayer. Continuing to spread and share the good name of St. Nicholas is a task we are all encouraged to take upon ourselves. Bring friends and family to church...we have room for more to come and be part of this community of faith.

Bible Study

St. Nicholas was blessed with another wonderful and spiritually rewarding year of Bible Study. Much thanks goes to our Connie Nicholson who coordinated, prepared and led our conversations. We continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, starting the program in late September and running until the end of May.

Our conversations and study ranged from a comparison of Islam and Christianity, the Prophets and a special course on Mary and her journey to Bethlehem. We have dealt with Scripture as a living entity and as such, the words of the Bible continue to evolve and grow, just as we do in our relationship with the Creator, God's Son and the Holy Spirit.

Bible Study is lay-led. We welcome any and all to join us in this intriguing and thought providing opportunity. Getting to know the history and nature of Sacred Scripture is important and rewarding. The joyful gift of delving deeper into the Word of God can only strengthen and reinforce our faith and relationship with the Creator. Again, we welcome all to come, share and open our hearts and minds to the Word.

Grants from the Diocese

We continue to pay the Diocese back for the loan we took out for the completion of the heating/cooling system installed in the church and Hall. Blessedly, our payments have been consistent and when able, we make addition restitution to the Diocese. Our positive actions certainly are looked upon favorably by the leadership at St. James' Commons downtown.

New, energy efficient, low heat and low cost LED bulbs were installed throughout the church and Gathering Space. This was all part of the Capital Campaign. Consequently, no additional costs were to be had. Also, additional light fixtures were installed in the church. These fixtures are near the Baptismal Font area, where, in the past, it was terribly dark. In time, we hope to replace

the lighting system in Holy Innocents Hall with similar LED bulbs. The current lighting system in the Hall is very expensive as the bulbs used come at a steep price to say the least.

5-Year Mission Plan

Steady as we go. The conversation has begun: do we seek the path of becoming a “parish” thus dropping the title of “mission church?” This is a very serious matter, not to be taken lightly. Certainly, finances dictate heavily in this matter and will ultimately inform and affect our decision. There is no time table set for this discussion...it will take as long as it takes. It is my hope that everyone actively engages in this and all conversations and matters pertaining to our St. Nicholas Church. This church belongs to all of us and as many voices as possible must help in deciding our future. There is great light ahead of us. My hope and prayer is we all venture, together, as we forge a stronger, healthier and sustaining faith community built for today and the future.

In the Future

SHARED MINISTRIES: In order for St. Nicholas - for any church - to succeed, it needs the assistance and cooperation of all its members. We have plenty of ‘shared ministry’ activities that can be taken on as part of our “Building the Church.” Provided here are some ministry opportunities that we can all share in.

- **Bread Bakers:** Yes, it takes some time, but the rewards are divine! Recipes and baking pans are in the church sacristy.
 - **Readers at Liturgy:** To share in the ministry is quite special. Proclaiming Sacred Scripture is a gift that is received by all. Voices that give praise to the Lord are voices that are meant to be shared and heard by all.
 - **Acolytes at Liturgy:** Assisting at the altar is another special ministry, a gift that is shared with the entire community...and, you’re assured a pretty good seat in church!
 - **Cup and Gift Bearers:** The gifts in the Liturgy are meant to be shared. Members are needed to help bring the Offertory Gifts of the Bread and Wine to the altar for the Eucharistic Feast and others are needed to bear the cups that contain the consecrated wine and juice. Consider signing up for a once a month commitment. Families, couples, or individuals...are all welcomed.
 - **Children’s Formation Leader:** In order for our children to be raised in the Church and to better know Jesus as found in the Gospel stories, we need adult members willing to take a Sunday a month and share in the teaching of our children.
 - **Keeping Our Church Clean:** Needless to say, our house of worship is like our own home...it needs to be kept clean and tidy. Consider taking a few moments either on the weekend or after work one night a week and help vacuum the carpets, clean the windows, dust the woodwork, clean bathrooms, wash floors, clean the kitchen...there’s a lot to choose from.
 - **The Giving Tree:** We all live within a budget. Certainly, this is certainly respected and appreciated. Consequently, not everyone is able to provide a pledge or increase their pledge. The Giving Tree is a great and inexpensive way to share with the church and help make a difference. Consider taking a “donation sheet” and purchase a pound of coffee, a ream of paper or ink for the color printer used in the church office.
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Bishop's Committee



In 2015 the Bishop's Committee was able to finish up a few building projects that had been started. We completed the installation of the shades in the worship space, we have begun repayment of the loan for our new boiler, and we completed the installation of the stained glass windows. The Bishop's Committee also participated in its first retreat day. The retreat consisted of a day of prayer, team building and enlightening discussions. We are planning on making

this retreat an annual event to allow for a more productive Bishop's Committee. I would also like to thank the out-going members Mike Golden, Bob Kalicki, and Colleen Davy for serving on the Bishop's Committee. The community of St. Nicholas truly appreciates your service and commitment to making St. Nicholas the wonderful community it is! I am looking forward to a successful and prayerful 2016!

Submitted by Jessica Tamaski, Senior Warden

Adult Education - Contemporary Issues Program

The Contemporary Issues group has returned to its format of past years, in which we focus on one broad topic of interest for a series of months, always addressing topics and the intersection of faith and - almost anything else. Meetings are after Sunday liturgy once a month, generally the second Sunday, but variable according to the needs of those attending. (Please let us know your interest so that we can consider your preferences!)

We began 2015 in our already ongoing discussion of Marriage, including such issues as why marriage is of importance to most or all religions; why it is of importance to the state; and to what extent these interests can be separated. Early in 2015 we then took up Politics and Religion, which was already a hot topic in the news well before the 2016 election season officially started. Issues of major interest included the conflict between freedom of religious expression and antisocial behavior (such as bullying) as an expression of religious belief; the difficulty of drawing a line between the "free exercise of religion" and "establishment of religion" clauses of the Constitution; public schools teaching what they consider to be legitimate Social Studies topics, but some parents consider contrary to their own religious beliefs; election rhetoric focusing on the religious beliefs of candidates; and the conflict over licenses for same-sex marriage in Kentucky and elsewhere. The newspapers continued to provide us subject matter for discussion all year; they surely will continue to do so; but at the start of 2016, we are turning our attention to a study of how we decide what we know and what we believe, and how we choose our beliefs.

Our next meeting is on Sunday, February 14. We are actively seeking other ideas for both topics and meeting places and times. Please contact any of the members, or e-mail steve.gruenwald@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions. Some materials gathered over the course of our existence can be found online at <http://steveonline.net/StNick/>.

Submitted by Steve Gruenwald

Organist / Choirmaster Annual Report 2015

It seems almost impossible, but this Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of my tenth year at St. Nick's. The time really has flown by. As to the recent past...? After the jam-packed workload we took on during our anniversary year, 2015 seems a little tame in retrospect.

But...we did some very interesting new hymns and anthems that all of you seemed to enjoy along with revisiting pieces of existing repertoire. There have also been some adjustments in choir personnel with new and returning members, creating the challenge of blending and rebalancing the sound of the ensemble. Kudos to the choir because they came through in fine style!



I have to take this opportunity to thank all of you who made our Christmas Eve services so lovely. The early and late services are very different but both were absolutely beautiful, each in their own way. If you couldn't be with us, I can only say I'm sorry you had to miss a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of the Child who after all, gives the "reason for the season."

Some of you may have noticed that I've begun to list pre-service music by titles and composer. Personally, I've always paid close attention to the music as it relates to the liturgical year. But I've started to give my choices a bit more emphasis in the weekly service guide for those of you who like to use the fifteen minutes between choir warm-ups and the opening hymn as a time to meditate and personally prepare for Worship.

As we go forward, I want to say again, the position at St. Nick's has been the favorite of my professional career and since I've been doing this since 1954, one could say that I've been at this for a while. It would be ungrateful in the extreme for me to sign-off without thanking Hal and Tony for doing so much with the Saturday services and for thanking the choir, our string trio and all of you for being so supportive of the work we do! I'm looking forward to year number 10!



-Mary Fletcher-Gomez

Children's Formation - 2015-16 Summary

The children of St. Nicholas continue to grow and flourish, blessing us with their open hearts - and energy!

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we've continued having a separate child-oriented activity during part of the liturgy.

We read a version of the Gospel story the children can grasp more easily, and do a mini-project to help make the message meaningful in the context of the children's own experiences. In addition to focusing on the Gospel stories, and seasons and holy days in our liturgical year, we've learned about the lives of saints as we've observed their feast days - making gifts of pet treats to honor St. Francis, and discovering shoes filled with "people treats" after reading about our beloved patron saint, St. Nicholas. Through this past June, the children met again after the liturgy to put God's love into action through service projects, and to expand our understanding of different worship experiences - having a multi-generational mini-Seder last March. We haven't had the "manpower" to continue the second session since resuming in the fall.



The young people participating in Children's Formation this year range between the ages of six and eleven. Typically, two to six children attend the liturgy and participate in the children's formation sessions. The children have enjoyed special activities led by a variety of adults and teens in our congregation.

Looking forward, we hope that St. Nick's adults and teens will continue to share their unique gifts and faith experiences with our children, and that the children will participate in meaningful ways in the liturgy. There is no better way to show children that faith is active, brought to life by people of all ages, and nurtured through our liturgy.

Our children are not just the future of our church; they are treasured members of our church family and equal partners in our faith journey right now. We invite everyone to help bring the message of God's love to the young people of St. Nicholas.

Submitted by Valerie Gruenwald

Support Groups

Our Saint Nicholas Community consists not only of our worship services, but also many support groups. We have agreements for rental of our space with AA, GA, and Al-Anon. AA, being the largest group, rents our space for a total of ten meetings per week, GA and Al-Anon each rent for one meeting per week. Basically, the funds from these organizations cover the cost of utilities for the Saint Nicholas worship and meeting space.

Not only does AA rent space from us, but they contribute a great deal to the maintenance of our building and grounds – shoveling snow, mowing, and taking out the garbage. Members of AA have worked on the boiler, plumbing and lighting at little or no cost to Saint Nicholas. All of the groups are participating in the giving tree with the purchase of supplies for the office and items for the cleaning and upkeep of our building.

We have added another group which meets Saturday mornings at 7:30am. This is a specialize group that gathers to discuss numerous topics that pertain to recovery, living a full life free of any dependencies. At the moment, the Tuesday Night AA group is on a hiatus. We hope they will reconvene in due time.

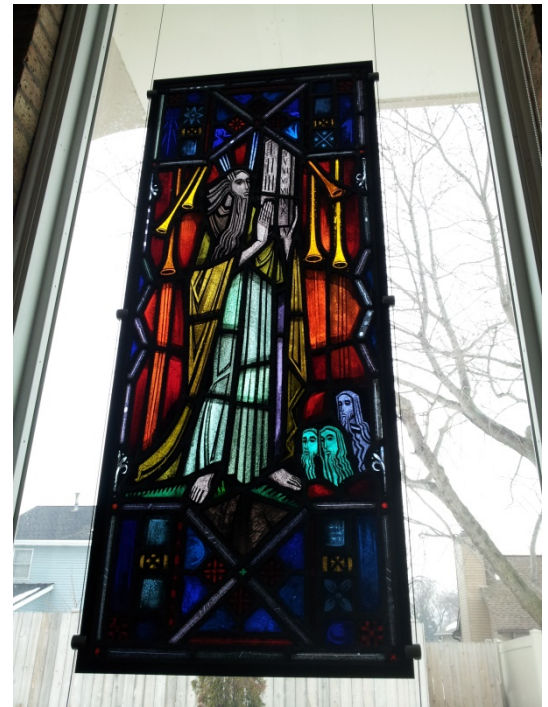
The contributions all these groups and the individuals who make up these groups are invaluable and cannot truly be measured. The members of these groups, AA, GA, Al-Anon: are all equal members of the community and family of St. Nicholas.

Building Committee Report

I would like to thank Bob DeHaven, Bob Kalicki, Hal Stratton, Steve Raftery, Michael Ruele, and Father Manny for their dedication to our community and for their ongoing encouragement and support throughout the year.

As a community we accomplished much throughout the year!

- Installation of a new energy-efficient boiler
- Installation of air conditioning in our sanctuary
- Installation of additional insulation above Holy Innocent's Hall
- Installation of exterior shades on the south sanctuary wall
- Installation of interior shades on the west sanctuary wall
- Installation of the stained glass panels from St. Bede's (originally from St. Mary Magdalene's)
- Installation of interior and exterior LED lighting throughout the facility
- Installation of new LED fixtures in the Gathering Space and sanctuary



All of these improvements and modifications could not have been accomplished without the generous financial and spiritual support of our community and the Diocese of Chicago. May God help us to share this beautiful place with those we are yet to meet!

Respectfully submitted,
Hank Mandziara, Chairperson



Outreach Ministry 2015

The Outreach Group has been meeting continuously since last September 2015. The group has gone through some changes with members leaving but that has not deterred the Group from expanding our visions for what Outreach can do for the church community and the surrounding communities of St. Nicholas.

Outreach started to expand the church community's horizons by redesigning the concept of the church's website.

We discussed ways to expand our social media; reaching more people in one easy accessible click. A few plans for the church's website include adding links to Instagram and Twitter. Pictures can be

shared and conversations can keep flowing on and on. Also, prospective church attendees can get a view and feel of what this Episcopal Church is all about.

We are also in the works of expanding our video and sound presences. We will update you soon as to what is to come.

Outreach is also planning on future surprises that are new, fun, and will lead you to unforgettable experiences.

Please join us in our activities or just support us.

Our door is always open for you to come in and join in the conversation or just sit and listen.

Submitted by Carol Payne



Healing Ministry 2015

By The Very Rev. Tony Begonja, OSL

The charism (gift) of healing the sick by loving touch (the laying on of hands), by the anointing with oil and by intercessory prayer is a wonderful, powerful tool God gives to the church through the Holy Spirit. God really does love us and wants us all to be whole and well. Jesus had intended for all believers to have access to this gift -- it is God's love and God's power that really does the healing. But after the apostolic era, the Christian Church started to restrict the use of this gift to ordained clergy - the Letter of James in fact reflects this post-apostolic shift. In its wisdom, in 1956, at the urging of Fr. John Gaynor Banks, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA authorized trained lay persons to administer this sacrament.



The International Order of Saint Luke the Physician (OSL) is a world-wide ecumenical religious order whose mission is to preach the healing Gospel and to heal the sick. Historically, our Order has

conducted healing ministry during liturgies and worship services in churches, conducted parish missions and revivals focused on healing, and has published a bi-monthly magazine and other healing literature. During the past year, the leaders of the Order have discerned that we need to take the healing touch of Jesus beyond the walls of the church building into hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living center, into street fairs and public places, and, in fact, into the greater community - anywhere people are in need.

This is what the Saint Nicholas Healing Ministry - staffed by members of The Healing Journey Chapter OSL (Ray, Thelma, Jennifer Brundige, Hank, Penny, Connie, Fran, myself and now Colleen) accomplished during 2015:

- We offered healing prayer, anointing, intercession and blessings at both liturgies each healing weekend (the 3rd weekend of each month). Typically, one to four folks approach us for healing or intercession during the Saturday night liturgy and from four to seven folks after the Sunday liturgy.
- We met as a chapter at twice a month, usually in the parish office, for prayer and praise, for study/continuing education, and for intercessory and healing prayer. We continued to support and encourage an Order of St. Luke study group in Belize, Central America.
- Throughout much of the year, we read and discussed the book, UNBOUND Ministry Guidebook, as part of our ongoing study on how to lead folks through a process of inner healing to freedom from stuff (anxiety, addictions, ongoing inner turmoil, spiritual bondage, etc.).
- In January, we inducted Kent Farbelow, a member of our OSL chapter, into Full membership on the 24th during a 5 PM Eucharist at his parish church, Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Algonquin.
- Also in February, Tony participated in the Ashes-to-Go initiative by publically distributing ashes and Lenten blessings during lunchtime at the Riverway Office Complex in Rosemont.
- In March, the chapter attended and helped staff a weekend OSL Region 11 healing conference at an Episcopal parish in Janesville, Wisconsin. The missionary was OSL leader and Episcopal priest Fr. Nigel Mumford.
- And in March, Fran and Tony were appointed Interim Regional Co-Directors for Region 4 of the Order. (This position is much like a Provincial Superior position in a more conventional religious order.)
- Also in March we celebrated the Feast of Saint Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr, with pizza and a viewing of the movie "Romero" -- which is a sobering drama about the life and martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero of El Salvador. We held a discussion afterwards.
- In April, Tony and Fran assisted with a healing mission at a Presbyterian Church in Avon Lake, Ohio.
- In July, Tony and Fran attended the OSL North American Healing Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, and were formally installed and blessed as Interim Regional Co-Directors.
- In July, Tony attended the funeral of a man involved in healing ministry within the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and met an OSL member there and connected her to our chapter.
- In September, members of the chapter attended the priesthood ordination of Dick Hattan. He serves as Co-Convener and Chaplain of the OSL chapter at St. Charles Episcopal Church in St. Charles.
- In November, with Manny's encouragement, we started a monthly healing-prayer outreach to Asbury Court Retirement and Assisted Living Center in Des Plaines. In December, we added Eucharist to the healing prayer. This ministry was previously performed there by the late Fr. Paul Brouillette.

- Also in November we formally inducted Connie Nicholson, RN, and Colleen Davies, RN, as Associate Members of OSL.
- In December, Tony and Fran travelled to both Michigan City, Indiana and Cranbrook, near Detroit, to concelebrate healing Eucharists and induct over thirty members into Full membership between them.
- Also in December, Tony read From Generation to Generation: A Manual for Healing by Rev. Patricia A. Smith, OSL, and has recommended it as a must-read for the chapter.
- And Fran and Tony vested and processed at St. James Cathedral for a Memorial Eucharist for Fr. Rod Reinhart, OSL, pastor of the Episcopal parishes in Blue Island and Harvey. They also met another OSL member who attended the service and invited her to our chapter.
- We ended the year with a wonderful holiday fellowship supper in the parish office.

This coming year, we aspire to:

- Continue (and refine as needed) our current ministry of healing and intercession at both liturgies of the third full weekend each month.
- Continue (and develop) our new outreach at Asbury Court.
- Continue to let folks know that private sessions of healing prayer, inner healing/UNBOUND, and generational healing are also available by appointment (either at St. Nick's or in the privacy of their own homes).
- Continue to remotely support and encourage the OSL study group in Belize, Central America.
- Induct Connie, Colleen, Hank and Penny as Full Members when they complete their studies.
- Invite additional folks to join the healing ministry, and if the need arises, to conduct an additional Spiritual Bootcamp and/or Spiritual Enrichment (Life in the Spirit) Seminar.
- Conduct an OSL Candlemas Generational Healing and Inductions Eucharist Friday evening Feb. 5th at 7 PM at Saint Nick's.
- Possibly conduct a Pizza, Eucharist and Movie night honoring Saint Oscar Romero around his March 24th feast day.
- Attend the April 15-16 healing conference at Avon Lake, Ohio - Episcopal priest Fr. John Rice, OSL, will be the missionary.
- Fran and Tony will tentatively travel to Flint, Michigan, sometime this spring to conduct inductions and participate in a Healing Eucharist.
- Participate in a possible "flash mob" type of healing event sometime this coming summer.
- Conduct a "Taize" style healing night sometime during the year.
- Attend the Region 4 bi-annual healing conference, location and date TBD.
- And once again celebrate Saint Luke's Day Weekend at St. Nick's in October.

Manny, Fran and I and the members of The Healing Journey Chapter OSL cordially invite everyone at St. Nick's who is at least of high-school age to consider whether they might feel called to participate in the healing ministry.

As before, I'll end this report with a line from a hymn played at the Funeral Mass for Mother Theresa: ***"Your love within my heart, Lord - holds me, heals me, brings me to myself - Like the North Star in the sky, [it] brings me home."*** God bless!

2015 Diocesan Convention

November 20-21, 2015

Hal Stratton and Jennifer Brundige, Delegates

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

The 178th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago was held Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21 at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center in Lombard. The Annual Convention meets in the fall each year to elect officers, consider legislation, hear reports from agencies and organizations, participate in workshops, enjoy fellowship, and gather for common worship in daily prayer and the Convention Eucharist. The convention theme was "Love Heals," inspired by our keynote speaker, the Rev. Becca Stevens. Becca is an Episcopal priest, author and founder of Thistle Farms-Magdalene, a community of women who have survived prostitution, trafficking and addiction.

The Peace and Justice Committee presented the 2015 Michael Yasutake Peace and Justice Award to the Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, and the Episcopal Church Women awarded grants to four parish-based outreach projects around the diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Benito Juárez, bishop of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, attended the convention and brought greetings from the people of his diocese, and the Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem, bishop of the Diocese of Renk in South Sudan sent a video greeting. The Diocese of Chicago has longstanding companion relationships with both dioceses.

ELECTIONS

Elections were held for "Bishop and Trustees", the "Standing Committee" of the Diocese, and the "Cathedral Chapter."

The chief function of the **Bishop and Trustees** presently is to hold title to and oversee the use of, the real property used by the mission parishes (including St. Nicholas) of the Diocese. Purchases, sales, construction projects involving mortgages and other transactions affecting mission real estate all come before the B & T for approval. B & T also holds title to the Episcopal Church Center property. In recent years B & T has moved more actively in support of the bishop and his staff, to inventory mission property, consider where sales of excess property can be made, and move to acquire property in areas where new missions should be established. Canonically, B & T has other financial authority, notably the program and administrative budget of the diocese and the management of investments, which in actual practice have devolved upon other bodies. There are twelve trustees who serve three-year terms; each year's class includes one clergy and three laypeople. Elected for Bishop and Trustees - Clergy: Robert O. Wyatt; and Lay: Doug Hoffman, Lonn Myers, Robert Neal III, Hal Stewart.

Canonically, the work of the **Standing Committee** has three major components: participating with the Commission on Ministry in the process leading to ordination; giving authorization to parishes to sell or encumber real estate; and providing advice and counsel to the bishop. Other canonical responsibilities include concurring in the election of all bishops and being in charge of the diocese in the absence or disability of the bishop. For the **Standing Committee** - Clergy: Eric Biddy, Victor Conrado; Lay: Kathleen Leson.

The **Cathedral Chapter** serves as the legislative and administrative body of the Cathedral Corporation of St. James Cathedral. The chapter oversees important ministries of its five commissions. Committed Christians are needed on chapter and especially those persons who

understand in depth some of the concerns of urban life, those who have experience in reaching out to city (apartment) dwellers and those who have been involved in funding ministries and programs. For the Cathedral Chapter - Clergy: Ethan Jewett; Lay: Doreen Baker.

RESOLUTIONS

Ten (10) resolutions were brought before the Convention and voted upon by the delegates of Convention:

- **Resolution A** was to redefine that makeup of the Diocese based on the merger of the Quincy Diocese back into Chicago. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution B** was related to Missions and the Convention - that Mission churches will have equal lay delegate representation as a Parish at Convention with three (3) delegates. This change to the Constitution will require a second vote at the 2016 Convention (if approved) to take affect. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution C** was related to the Convention Secretary - basically cleaning up the language. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution D** was related also related to Missions and the Convention -- that Mission churches will be included in the count of representation for the determination of a quorum for Convention. Like Resolution B, this requires a second vote to take place at the 2016 Convention (if approved) to take affect. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution E** was related to Elections at Convention - another one cleaning up Constitution language. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution F** was related to the Historiographer for Convention. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution G** was related to clergy cost of living compensation increase. This is a resolution that must be voted upon every year. The Treasurer of the Diocese made note that this resolution keeps in place the salary that was passed at the 2014 Convention, as there is NO cost of living increase this year. **(PASSED)**
NOTE RELATED TO ST. NICHOLAS: This would apply to Father Manny as a ¾ time salary, without housing. The Bishops Committee discussed this Resolution prior to the Convention and all agreed that in the future, we discuss this with the Congregation and make them aware of what a full time clergy would be payed, and should be our goal for pledges to allow us to increase Father Manny from ¾ time to full time pay.
- **Resolution H** was related to asking each congregation to have discussion on gun dealers and distribution of material related to it. **(PASSED)**
- **Resolution I** was related to new investments the Diocese may make related to companies doing business in the West Bank/Gaza Strip. That we NOT invest in companies who contribute to Israel's occupation in the West Bank/Gaza Strip. **(FAILED, by 1 vote)**
- **Resolution J** was brought before the Convention unannounced prior and was to have the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago sending Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner a message to urge him to be open to Syrian immigrants. Individuals and congregations are urged to send their own communications to the Governor. **(PASSED)**
NOTE RELATED TO ST. NICHOLAS: The Bishops Committee is in agreement to send a communication as the Bishops Committee on behalf of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church. Father Manny developed the letter to be sent to the Governor's Office.

WORKSHOPS

Jennifer had the opportunity to attend the following workshops:

- **How We Heal as Communities** Led by the Rev. Becca Stevens
How does community hold us up and hold us accountable? Why does healing happen in community? Who is our community and what are we trying to heal? The case study for the workshop was the justice tea movement of Thistle Farms that brings a global perspective to healing. Tea was served and it was quite tasty.
- **How We Heal as Individuals** Led by the Rev. Becca Stevens
Graduates of the Magdalene House program in Nashville shared a bit of their stories as survivor leaders, and talked about the courageous and long road we walk towards healing. Becca shared share healing oils produced by Thistle Farms social enterprise, which were used later that day for Evening Prayer.
- **Panel Discussion on Racism: Calling Episcopalians to Respond Faithfully**
The Episcopal church is where ALL ARE WELCOMED. Even though we believe that we are not racist, the church, as a result of our national history, has been soaked with institutional racisms for a long time. The Commission on an Anti-Racism put together a two a half day workshop on this very topic. They also have other resources available to congregation, deaneries and other church organization which include a list of books and movies to open up dialogue and provide direction. I think this topic would make a good discussion.

Hal had the opportunity to attend the following workshops:

- **Websites that Work** Led by Rebecca Wilson and Jim Naughton, Canticle Communications
In this workshop, they talked about how to figure out your website strategy and chose tools—content management systems, databases, calendars, typefaces and more.
 - **Church Finance 101: An Introduction** Led by Keith Kampert and Courtney Reid
This workshop provided an overview of best practices for church finance and an introduction to the tools and resources available. It was open to all who were interested in learning more about this vital function.
 - **Starting Planned Giving in your Parish** Led by Jim Murphy, ECF Managing Program Director
It took the mystery out of planned giving and endowments for our congregation. Covered how “planned giving” differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns, and how our congregation can build endowments through wills, life income and other planned gifts. ECF (Episcopal Church Foundation) and Shay Craig for the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago has tools to and is willing to do a presentation/workshop to our congregations about making life and financial planning related to end of life. This program can help us with developing an Endowment.
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Verger Ministry

Verger? Virge? Verger's Guild?



I know that some may still wonder, "Why does Hal sometimes dress in a black cassock, long black sleeveless robe, and carry a stick?" In the Episcopal/Anglican Church, we have a ministry known as the "Verger." A verger is a lay person within the Church who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship. It is said that the verger serves the church in a ministry of welcome and the duties of the verger vary from parish to parish. The "Office" of Verger dates back to the Middle Ages when the Verger was the "Protector of the Procession." It shares certain similarities with the former minor orders in a monastery of "porter" and "acolyte." Generally speaking, in the olden days, vergers were responsible for the order and upkeep of the house of worship, including preparations for the liturgy, the conduct of the laity, and grave-digging. The Verger led the procession into the church or cathedral, clearing the way for the procession and protecting it from vagabonds and animals that tried to attack it. In many Episcopal Churches today, you will see a verger ceremonially leading the procession. The verger wears a gown (cassock and chimere) and carries a virge (Staff of Office) to help clear the way, and point the way for the procession. You may also notice that at the bottom of my chimere, is an emblem of the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church. The Latin phrase "Servitas in cultu, et cultus per servitatem," translates as "Service in worship, worship in service" - the motto of the Verger's Guild. We serve the people/church during their worship, and our worship is done in being servants to all. The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago there are currently between 25-30 vergers serving at various churches and at St. James Cathedral.

I have served at St. Nicholas as Verger since June of 2012. It was our Bishop, Jeff Lee, who first encouraged me to officially become a verger, after his Episcopal visit the prior year. Father Manny agreed, and with his support I gratefully took on this role.



This past year, I once again attended the Verger's Guild conference which was held Oct 1-4, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference was held at the historic St. Louis Union Station, hosted by the vergers and clergy at Christ Church Cathedral. 133 vergers from around the country attended. There are currently 1,294 active vergers who are members in the United States and Canada. Four (4) vergers from the Chicago Diocese were in attendance. This year's 2016 conference will be held in Spokane, WA and 2017 will be in Atlanta, GA. I approached the head verger at St. James Cathedral to start the discussions to see if we could pull things and have the 2018 conference be hosted in Chicago. With our new Dean named to the Cathedral (and he is from England), there is a good chance that we may be able to do this.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal Stratton

Bursar's Report

The Bursar is the person who counts all the money received for the week and makes sure that it is attributed to the correct donor's account and to what bucket the money goes. We make the weekly deposit in the bank and provide the treasurer with a summary of all the money that was collected and into what bucket it should go. Who audits our work - YOU the good people of our congregation. We send out statements at the end of each quarter via email. We ask you look at your statement on a quarterly basis to make sure that we have all of your offerings made to the church and that we have it accounted for in the correct bucket. If you have any questions or need to get a copy of your statement, please contact Jennifer Brundige or Tess Setchell. We will be happy to answer all your questions.

Submitted by Jennifer Brundige

2015 Financials

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church Budget vs. Actuals: 2015 Budget - FY15 P&L January - December 2015

| | | Total | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| | Actual | Budget | over Budget | % of Budget |
| Income | | | | |
| 4100 Congregation Income | | | | |
| 4101 Pledge Payments | 65,852.50 | 66,954.00 | -1,101.50 | 98.35 % |
| 4102 Prior Year Pledge Income | 360.00 | 0.00 | 360.00 | |
| 4105 Plate Offerings | 13,663.10 | 10,200.00 | 3,463.10 | 133.95 % |
| 4110 Special Holiday Offering | 3,242.00 | 3,600.00 | -358.00 | 90.06 % |
| 4115 Miscellaneous Income | 982.61 | 300.00 | 682.61 | 327.54 % |
| 4120 Investment Income | 6.55 | 0.00 | 6.55 | |
| 4125 Facilities Use | | | | |
| 4125.10 AA Sunday Night | 1,350.00 | 900.00 | 450.00 | 150.00 % |
| 4125.20 AA Nooners | 4,302.00 | 4,440.00 | -138.00 | 96.89 % |
| 4125.30 AA Monday Night | 576.00 | 0.00 | 576.00 | |
| 4125.40 AA Tuesday Night | 774.00 | 576.00 | 198.00 | 134.38 % |
| 4125.45 AA Saturday Morning | 20.00 | | 20.00 | |
| 4125.50 AA Saturday Big Book | 820.00 | 864.00 | -44.00 | 94.91 % |
| 4125.60 AA SATurday Night OS | 774.00 | 864.00 | -90.00 | 89.58 % |
| 4125.70 GA Thursday night | 260.00 | 240.00 | 20.00 | 108.33 % |
| 4125.80 AI-Anon Wednesday Night | 480.00 | 480.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 % |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 4125.90 Other Users | 872.00 | 1,800.00 | -928.00 | 48.44 % |
| Total 4125 Facilities Use | 10,228.00 | 10,164.00 | 64.00 | 100.63 % |
| 4130 Fundraisers | | | | |
| 4130.10 Rummage Sale | 5,394.45 | 4,200.00 | 1,194.45 | 128.44 % |
| 4130.15 Chili Supper | 1,341.00 | 1,500.00 | -159.00 | 89.40 % |
| 4130.20 Fannie Mae Candy | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 4130.30 Carson Coupon Book Fundraiser | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 4130.40 Dominick's Fresh Values Card Fundraiser (deleted) | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 4130.50 Arts and Crafts | | 1,100.00 | -1,100.00 | |
| 4130.80 Giving Tree | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total 4130 Fundraisers | 6,735.45 | 6,800.00 | -64.55 | 99.05 % |
| Total 4100 Congregation Income | 101,070.21 | 98,018.00 | 3,052.21 | 103.11 % |
| 4128 Rebate Capital Campaign | 1,550.00 | | 1,550.00 | |
| 4200 Diocesan Assistance | | | | |
| 4201 Diocesan Cash Assistance | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total 4200 Diocesan Assistance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Income | \$102,620.21 | \$98,018.00 | \$4,602.21 | 104.70 % |
| Expenses | | | | |
| 5000 Diocesan Pledge | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 % |
| 5015 Maintenance & Repairs | 1,416.81 | 1,800.00 | -383.19 | 78.71 % |
| 5015.20 Cleaning Service | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total 5015 Maintenance & Repairs | 1,416.81 | 1,800.00 | -383.19 | 78.71 % |
| 5016 Fire Monitoring System | 1,012.68 | 1,016.00 | -3.32 | 99.67 % |
| 5021 Capital Campaign Loan | 2,302.99 | 2,220.00 | 82.99 | 103.74 % |
| 5100 Outreach Expenses | 178.52 | 200.00 | -21.48 | 89.26 % |
| 5500 Personnel Compensation and Expenses | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 5501 Vicar Compensation | | | | |
| 5501.10 Vicar Stipend | 25,999.92 | 26,000.00 | -0.08 | 100.00 % |
| 5501.20 Vicar Housing Allowance | 19,999.92 | 20,000.00 | -0.08 | 100.00 % |
| 5501.30 Vicar Misc. Income stipend | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 5501.40 Vicar Pension | 8,100.00 | 8,280.00 | -180.00 | 97.83 % |
| 5501.50 Vicar Medical Insurance | 8,851.00 | 8,817.00 | 34.00 | 100.39 % |
| Total 5501 Vicar Compensation | 62,950.84 | 63,097.00 | -146.16 | 99.77 % |
| 5505 Clergy Pension | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 5512 Vicar Cell Phone | 288.00 | 288.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 % |
| 5515 Clergy Mileage Allowance | 415.95 | 600.00 | -184.05 | 69.33 % |
| 5520 Clergy Continuing Ed | -52.82 | 400.00 | -452.82 | -13.21 % |
| 5525 Clergy Life/Disability Insurance | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 5580 Staff FICA | 597.00 | 588.00 | 9.00 | 101.53 % |
| 5590 Payroll Processing Expenses | 260.70 | 326.00 | -65.30 | 79.97 % |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Total 5500 Personnel Compensation and Expenses | 64,459.67 | 65,299.00 | -839.33 | 98.71 % |
| 5526 Payroll Expenses | 266.00 | | 266.00 | |
| 5575 Music Director Compensation | | | | |
| 5575.10 Music Director | 7,800.00 | 7,800.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 % |
| Total 5575 Music Director Compensation | 7,800.00 | 7,800.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 % |
| 5600 Property/Liability Insurance | 2,597.00 | 3,120.00 | -523.00 | 83.24 % |
| 5601 Workers Compensation Insurance | 481.00 | 795.00 | -314.00 | 60.50 % |
| 5900 Miscellaneous Expense | 898.22 | 808.00 | 90.22 | 111.17 % |
| 6000 Office Expenses | | | | |
| 6001 Office Supplies | 989.82 | 1,200.00 | -210.18 | 82.49 % |
| 6002 Copier Contract | 571.19 | 600.00 | -28.81 | 95.20 % |
| Total 6000 Office Expenses | 1,561.01 | 1,800.00 | -238.99 | 86.72 % |
| 6200 Internet Access Expense | 742.80 | 744.00 | -1.20 | 99.84 % |
| 6201 Constant Contact | 69.95 | | 69.95 | |
| 6300 OBOB Website Expense | 269.95 | | 269.95 | |
| 6500 Utilities | 113.58 | | 113.58 | |
| 6501 Telephone | 1,018.41 | 816.00 | 202.41 | 124.81 % |
| 6502 Electric | 3,522.24 | 2,760.00 | 762.24 | 127.62 % |
| 6503 Gas | 4,624.52 | 4,825.00 | -200.48 | 95.84 % |
| 6504 Water | 307.00 | 539.00 | -232.00 | 56.96 % |
| 6505 Trash Pickup | 566.90 | 552.00 | 14.90 | 102.70 % |
| Total 6500 Utilities | 10,152.65 | 9,492.00 | 660.65 | 106.96 % |
| 7000 Liturgy Supplies & Expenses | 215.47 | 400.00 | -184.53 | 53.87 % |
| 7001 Music Supplies | 14.10 | 165.00 | -150.90 | 8.55 % |
| 8005 Evangelism & Stewardship | 407.05 | 0.00 | 407.05 | |
| 8010 Fundraising Expenses | | | | |
| 8010.1 Rummage Sale Expenses | 190.98 | 0.00 | 190.98 | |
| 8010.2 Fannie May Expenses | | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 8010.3 Chile Supper Expenses | 72.46 | 0.00 | 72.46 | |
| Total 8010 Fundraising Expenses | 263.44 | 0.00 | 263.44 | 0.00 |
| 9000 Christian Education | 80.61 | 540.00 | -459.39 | 14.93 % |
| Total Expenses | \$96,389.92 | \$97,399.00 | \$ - 1,009.08 | 98.96 % |
| Net Operating Income | \$6,230.29 | \$619.00 | \$5,611.29 | 1,006.51 % |
| Other Expenses | | | | |
| 9999 Reconciliation Discrepancies | -27.00 | | -27.00 | |
| Total Other Expenses | \$ -27.00 | \$0.00 | \$ -27.00 | 0.00% |
| Net Other Income | \$27.00 | \$0.00 | \$27.00 | 0.00% |
| Net Income | \$6,257.29 | \$619.00 | \$5,638.29 | 1,010.87 % |

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2015

| | Total |
|---|-------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| 1000 Chase Checking | 31,977.10 |
| 1001 Chase Savings | 40,008.73 |
| 1002 Advantage National Bank | 0.00 |
| 1003 Discretionary Fund (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 1004 First Am Bank Money Market (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 1005 First American CD (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 1010 Closed Chase SAVINGS (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 1011 Closed Citibank Checking (deleted) | 0.00 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$71,985.83 |
| Other current assets | |
| 1400 Prepaid Expenses | 0.00 |
| Total Other current assets | \$0.00 |
| Total Current Assets | \$71,985.83 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$71,985.83 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Credit Cards | |
| 1500 Chase Freedom | 0.00 |
| Total Credit Cards | \$0.00 |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| 2002 Children's Church School | 75.00 |
| 2004 Clergy Discretionary Fund | 419.04 |
| 2005 Columbarium Fund | 156.00 |
| 2006 Deacons youth guidance | 0.00 |
| 2007 Diocese Incentive Grant Sat Night | 0.00 |
| 2008 Episcopal Relief & Development | 0.00 |
| 2009 Vicar 403B Annuity | 0.00 |
| 2200 Payroll Taxes Payable | |
| 2201 Federal Payroll Taxes Withheld | 0.00 |
| 2202 Federal Social Security Withheld | 0.00 |
| 2203 Federal Medicare Withheld | 0.00 |
| 2204 State Taxes Withheld | 0.00 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total 2200 Payroll Taxes Payable | 0.00 |
| 2300 Building and Trust Funds | 0.00 |
| 2400 Grants & Dedicated Funds | |
| 2401 Grant for AV Equipment | 0.00 |
| 2402 Installation Donations Manny | 117.00 |
| 2403 Romanian Children's Fund (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 2404 Landscape Donations | 0.00 |
| 2405 Haiti Relief (deleted) | 0.00 |
| 2406 Saint Bedes | 0.00 |
| 2407 Bulding Fund | 0.00 |
| 2408 Second Family | 10.14 |
| 2409 Icon Donations | 0.00 |
| 2410 50th Anniversary | 0.00 |
| 2411 Capital Campaign | 947.00 |
| Total 2400 Grants & Dedicated Funds | 1,074.14 |
| 2500 Other Dedicated Funds | 10.00 |
| 2501 Annual Chili Supper | 0.00 |
| 2502 Coffee Hour Donations | 0.00 |
| 2503 Fannie Mae Outreach Fundraiser | 0.00 |
| 2504 Flower Fund | 365.26 |
| 2505 Food Pantry | 947.76 |
| 2506 Prayer Blankets | 79.10 |
| 2507 Outreach Programs | 2,268.09 |
| 2508 Outside Sign | 8,067.88 |
| Total 2500 Other Dedicated Funds | 11,738.09 |
| 2600 Gift Fund Liability | 0.00 |
| 2700 Uniforms & Vestments | 0.00 |
| 2701 Altar Guild | 0.00 |
| 2703 Choir Robe Fund | 60.00 |
| 2705 T-Shirts | 0.00 |
| 2709 Pass-Thru | 0.00 |
| Total 2700 Uniforms & Vestments | 60.00 |
| 2704 Endowment Fund | 2,500.00 |
| 2800 PrePaid Offerings | |
| 2801 Prepaid Christmas offering | 0.00 |
| 2802 Prepaid Easter Offering | 0.00 |
| 2803 Prepaid pledge income | 300.00 |
| 2804 UTO Offerings | 0.00 |
| 2805 2015 Rummage Sale | 0.00 |
| 2806 Next Year Rummage Sale | 521.85 |
| Total 2800 PrePaid Offerings | 821.85 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 2900 Other Liabilities Associate Vicar Salary | 0.00 |
| Charlies Paws (deleted) | 0.00 |
| Chase Freedom Card (deleted-1) | 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | \$16,844.12 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$16,844.12 |
| Long-Term Liabilities | |
| 2950 Memorial Fund | 495.00 |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities | \$495.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$17,339.12 |
| Equity | |
| 3000 Opening Balance Equity | 38,330.65 |
| 3500 Retained Earnings | 10,058.77 |
| Net Income | 6,257.29 |
| Total Equity | \$54,646.71 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$71,985.83 |

Beloved

Accepted

CELEBRATED

These are the only labels
we use at St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

1072 Ridge Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007

www.StNicholasEpiscopal.org

[Facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal)

[Vimeo.com/Welcome2Nick](https://www.vimeo.com/Welcome2Nick)

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

1072 Ridge Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
(847) 439-2067 www.StNicholasEpiscopal.org
[Facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal](https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasEpiscopal)

Manuel D. Borg, Vicar
manny@stnicholasepiscopal.org

Mary Fletcher-Gomez, Organist/Choirmaster
diva6953@sbcglobal.net

Hal Stratton, Verger

Tony Begonja, Saturday Musician

Jessica Tamaski, *Sr. Warden*

Penny Mandziara, *Jr. Warden*

Ray Malecek, Treasurer

Bob Kalicki, Financial Secretary

Bishop's Committee

Katie Black
Colleen Davy
Mike Golden
Kristen Jacobs
Bob Kalicki
Laura Lampe
Thelma Malecek
Neal Setchell
Hal Stratton

Worship With Us:

Saturday:

4:30 pm - Holy Eucharist

Sunday:

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist