# **Annual Report to the Parish**

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Diocese of Arkansas Mountain Home

Sunday, January 21, 2024



A year-end overview of the life and ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

# During the calendar year of 2023

# **Table of Contents**

Meeting Agenda	3
Reports:	
Associate Priest – Father Bob	5
Senior Warden – April Baily	
Junior Warden – Magda Rodriguez	
Building and Grounds Committee - Sue Geery.	
Treasurers – John Van Eps & Bill Weeks	
2024 Budget - pending adoption by the Vestry	
Worship and Prayer:	
Choir - Bill Weeks	10
Altar Flowers - Gail Alter	
Altar Guild - Kathy McClellan	
Welcome Ministry - April Baily	
Labyrinth- April Baily	
Spanish Language Eucharist- April Baily.	
Study and Learning:	
Adult Forum – April Baily	11
Education for Ministry - April Baily	
Daughters of the King Jane Darr.	
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - Deanna Van Eps	
Life in Community:	
Men's Group	12
Pub Theology – April Baily	
•• •	
The Arts at St. Andrew's – April Baily	,13
Action:	
St. Martha's Guild - Cheryl Nichols	13
Search Team – Bonnie Smith.	13
Mission and Outreach	14
Taste of St. Andrew's – <i>Cheryl Nichols</i>	14
Mardi Gras Frannie Landry	14
Food Pantry - Gail Alter	
Little Free Library - Deanna Van Eps	15
Giving Tree - Kathy McClellan	
Celebrate St. Andrew's – April Baily	
Epiphany Proclamation	16

# **2023 Annual Meeting Agenda**

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Vestry Election
- III. Question and Answer Period
- IV. Closing Prayer

## A Note on How this Report is Arranged

Our annual report is laid out according to the elements of parish life that are essential to a healthy church: Worship and Prayer, Life in Community, and Action. When each of these aspects of life together are present, it helps us understand ourselves as the Body of Christ. Our worship and prayer remind us why we are together and strengthens us to do God's work. As God's work permeates our life, it impacts our life in community, in how we care for one another and how we enjoy fellowship with one another. It also impacts how we respond to the needs of our community - the work (or action) we do to help bring about God's Kingdom. When our lives are filled with worship, prayer, caring for one another, fellowship, and service, we identify ourselves as a parish, responsible for ourselves and service. You may notice that some of the lines between the elements of parish life listed above are blurred. We sometimes mix our worship with action, as we do when we invite the Humane Society to our Pet Blessings and collect food for them or when we combine opportunities for fellowship with action with events such as our Mardi Gras party in which we raise money for a special community programs.

#### A Musing from the Associate Priest

The old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun". This really seems to be true. I'll defer to the other reports to fill you in, but for me in-spite of losing some parishioners, the life of the parish has been very affirming. Wednesday mornings are always a highlight in my week, as well as Sunday mornings, of course. The love and grace that abounds here is truly remarkable and an example to the larger church. I thank you for the opportunity to share God's love with you all.

Reverend Dr. Bob Williams

### Senior Warden's Report

During this final year of my experience as senior warden, I again have to comment on the love and support I've received from everyone in this community. Without it, I'd have accomplished absolutely nothing, but with it, we have done well. We continue our ministry of the food pantry. We have started celebrating a Spanish-language Eucharist weekly, with the help of the Diocesan Spanish-Language Missioner, Padre César. We continue our search for a rector. We have a monthly healing service. We've had successful Arts at St. Andrew's events, we enjoyed a picnic, we celebrated Mardi Gras. The Adult forum participants engage in lively discussions on what might be prickly subjects. Our community has opened its arms to people in need within our own community and outside of it. We show that we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world, and I'm grateful to be a part of it. It's not all been fun - we've discussed at some length safety issues and security, and have invested in cameras around the property. We've also had 'active shooter training' which could apply to situations besides actually having someone with firearms threatening us, and you will be seeing more information about that in the upcoming months.

As the new vestry commences its leadership, I urge you to continue the support and help you've given me. The new senior warden will be elected by the vestry and that election confirmed by the Bishop, since we don't have a rector to make that decision. The vestry is a cross-section of the congregation, and is deeply committed to the life and health of St. Andrew's. They will serve you well. Give them any aid you can.

I would point out that it is too easy to say "When we get a priest, that person will do...." fill in the blank. If something needs to be done, let's continue the habits we've developed during this interim time, and just 'get er dun!' It's a habit that will contribute to the life of the church when we DO have a rector. That individual can't do everything - we must continue our ministries as we've been doing. Let's always 'get er dun!"

Thank you for letting me serve you the past three years. It's been great and I've loved (almost) every minute of it. ~April Baily, Senior Warden

## Junior Warden Report

This year, 2023, was one of more downs than ups for me. However, you know what? God was so good to me and never left me alone. He sent angels to my rescue, and everything was more bearable and better. My St. Andrews family was there to meet all my needs. So, having said that, I honestly feel like I did not do much this year. The star of the group is my beloved friend Sue Geery, who became the chair of the Building and grounds Committee in 2023.

Among the things done during the 2023 are:

- ✓ Programmable thermostats were acquired and set up.
- ✓ Change of malfunctioning LED light bulbs throughout the church.
- ✓ New speakers for the organ were bought and installed.
- ✓ The pending painting of the church and repairs were completed.
- ✓ A contract was made for the care of our lawn, shrubs and trees.
- ✓ The ice-maker was moved to the inside of the kitchen.
- ✓ The parking lot was stripped, sealed and painted.
- ✓ Keller Hall Usage Policy was updated.
- ✓ Security Cameras were ordered and installed.
- ✓ Video camera in the Sanctuary was replaced, installed and is working well.

As time flies, there are still some things pending for next year 2024.

- Verify status of caulking of the windows B&G Committee
- Acquisition of a storage shed- Tabled for now
- As reported by Bill McClellan, there is some work pending in the Columbarium.

I think this year our beloved Sue was busy as a bee and accomplished a lot for St Andrew's. She is the one that deserves all the credit. This was my last year as Junior Warden. Thanks all for your trust, patience and support. God bless you all!

Magda Rodriguez

### **Building & Grounds Committee Report**

In 2023, building and grounds needed a lot of work. Air filters were purchased. The furnace rooms were cleaned out of flammable items. New smaller tables were purchased and the larger ones were sold. The playground equipment received new swings and hardware. New speakers were installed for the organ. Handicap signs were installed in the parking lot. New LED and flood lights were installed in Keller Hall and the sanctuary ceiling. The parking lot was paved and sealed. New video equipment was purchased to record the services. The lawn, Memorial Garden, and landscaping were cleaned up. The ice maker was moved to the kitchen because of the noise it would make during events. A maintenance agreement was set up for twice a year for air conditioners and heating units. A new air conditioner was purchased to replace an old unserviceable one. The floors were stripped and waxed. I hope the work I have had completed will help keep the church in good repair for 2024. I appreciate your support and donations to complete the work.

Sue Geery

# **Treasurer's Report**

St. Andrew's church has had an exceptional financial year. We have totally paid off our mortgage and are now debt free long term. The vestry has instituted a number of extensive programs which include upgrades in high tech security, building refurbishment, replacement of air conditioners, repair of parking

areas and music enhancement. These upgrades would not have been possible without total congregational support Father Bob must also be commended for his numerous gifts of time, talent, and financial support of St. Andrew's. Thank you for your leadership Father!

We are always looking for help in the treasurer's office. Stop by with questions or a cup of coffee.

John VanEps & Bill Weeks

# **2024 Proposed Budget**

Accounts	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Contributions		
1751.00 - Plate Offerings	5,000	5,000
Total Pledged	138,000	143,000
2021 pledges are not reduced**	138,000	143,000
1753.00 - Special Offerings	1,000	1,000
1754.00 - Prior Year Pledge	1,000	1,000
Miscellaneous Income		
1756.00 - Unrestricted Gifts	1,000	1,000
Total Contributions	146,000	151,000
Non-Operating Revenues		
1759.00 - Designated Offerings	25,000	25,000
1759.01 - Capital Campaign Revenue	1,000	500
Total Non-Operating Revenue	26,000	25,500
Total Revenues	172,000	176,500

Expenses		
1864.00 - Commitment to Diocese (2020-10.50% of total contributions)	14,412	15,278
1866.03 - Communications	3,000	3,000
1866.04 - Children & Youth Activities		
1866.05 – Lectionary Inserts	600	

Total Program Expenses	20,312	20,378
1866.12 - Pastoral Care (St. Martha's Guild)	400	200
1866.09 – Liturgical expense	500	500
1866.10 - Diocesan Convention Del. Exp.		
1866. 08 - Altar Supplies	1,000	1,000
1866.06 - Music & Choir	400	400

Clergy		
1867.00 - Cash Stipend	35,177	42,042
1867.01 - Cash Housing & Utilities	16,000	16,000
1867.02 - SECA Reimbursement 7.65%	3,915	4,808
1867.03 - Pension (18%)	9,917	11,313
1867.04 - Health Coverage (church portion)	9,500	9,850
1867.05 - Life & Disability Insurance	302	310
1867.06 - Professional Expense	2,000	2,000
1867.07 - Travel/Business Expense Reimbursement	2,000	2,000
1867.08 - Dental	606	606
1867.09 - Supply Clergy		
1867.10 - Designated for Health Insurance (employee portion)		
Clergy Reserve (Sabbatical, Search Committee, etc.)		
Total Clergy	79,417	88,929
Lay Salaries/Benefits		

1868.07 - Pension/Admin (9% base pay)	900	900
	900	900
1868.04 - Tax Expense - employer		
1868.03 - Custodian	4,500	5,200
1868.01 - Organist	4,500	4,500
1868.00 - Secretary	12,000	12,000

Other Administrative Expenses		
1866.13 - Kitchen/Hospitality	100	100
1869.00 - Worker's Comp. Ins.	435	435
1869.01 - Office Supplies & Expenses	1,500	1,500
1869.02 - Postage	200	200
1869.03 - Telephone & Fax Expense	1,500	700
1869.04 - Computer Software/Tech Support	1,200	1,260
1869.05 - Leasing - Office Equipment	1,500	2,500
1869.06 – Internet & Cable Services	1,500	1,500
1869.07 Payroll Services	700	700
Total Other Administrative Expenses	8,635	8,895
Property Expense		
1870.01 - Casualty & Liability Insurance	5,000	5,500
1870.03 - Water	1,000	1,000
1870.04 - Gas	1,800	1,800

1870.05 - Electricity	6,000	6,000
1070.03 Electricity	0,000	0,000
1870.06 - Trash	400	400
1870.07 - Custodial & Lawn Supplies	1,400	1,000
1870.08 - Maintenance & Building Repair	1,400	3,400
1870.09 - Service Contracts	850	850
1870.12 - Security System	400	400
Total Property Expense	18,250	20,350
Total Expenses	148,514	161,152
Net Total	(2,792)	(10,152)

# Worship & Prayer

## St. Andrew's Choir

What to say about the choir and music in the last year? Robert Lowry almost 200 years ago wrote: "My life flows on, in endless song, above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, tho' far off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from SINGING?

6 or so of us carry on, and are grateful for the therapy and joy singing provides and a supportive reception from most of you. We wish our numbers were greater, and are forever welcoming. We hope you saw the stream of the installation of our new bishop: singing was an important part of that, and we hope he will encourage music in the liturgy as others have before him, 3 of us were able to swell the ranks when an enthused pickup choir was able to enrich the work of the Mountain Home orchestra just before Thanksgiving.

You have been very supportive of Steven's work at the organ and overseeing some refinements of what it can do in the sanctuary, Also, he has now given us 2 Advents worth of an arts event for that season. Thank you! As the late Rev. Arthur Logan Bice, my longtime mentor (and undergraduate classmate of Bishop Keller!) told me years ago, '...the best all of this can do is heighten the intensity of emotion that makes liturgy effective and memorable..."

So, sing on and enjoy being part of this community. It's not about comparing yourself with the 'professionals': it is about the joy of sharing.

Peace! BILL WEEKS

#### **Altar Flowers**

Once again, getting members of St. Andrew's to sign up for the 42 Sundays that flowers are used on the altar went very smoothly. Having been in charge of flowers for over 20 years, I am so appreciative of the fact that our parishioners are so willing to support St. Andrew's Flower program.

Annette's Flowers has been our florist since 2017 and continues to do a fine job of providing flowers weekly and the greenery needed during the Advent season. If you have any flower needs, consider using them as your florist. Their number is 870-424-7673, and they are located at 1104 US 62, Mt. Home, AR. Ask for Nancy. Several times last year, members who wanted to pay for a more spectacular arrangement for their Sunday were very pleased with Nancy's work.

Cost continues to be \$38 for the regular weekly arrangement. Our secretary Cheryl appreciates everyone who signed up for flowers getting their flower form filled out, their check attached, and submitted to her two weeks before the flowers are to be on the altar. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Alter by phone at 870-405-1647 or by email at <a href="mailto:galter0909@gmail.com">galter0909@gmail.com</a>.

Gail Alter

#### **Altar Guild**

A very special Thank You to the members of the Altar Guild doing such a spectacular job in 2023. Preparing the altar for services and special occasions were: Joyce Polacek, Sue Geery, Sharon Ward, Donna Stading, and Kathy McClellan. Magda and Krizia Rodriguez set the altar for the Spanish service.

If you are interested in being a member of the Guild please talk to any one of us.

A very special thanks to Jeff Loveless for making our brass vases, candleholders, and cross beautiful.

Special services in 2023 were;

Funerals Carolyn McVicker April 2023

Margaret Weeks June 3, 2023

Al Newton December 29, 2023

Kathy McClellan

## **Welcome Ministry**

The Welcome Ministry has a simple job – send a note to visitors who sign the guest book, thanking them for worshipping with us and providing the office phone number with a request that they call us if we can be of service to them. If we could get two or three people to volunteer, each person would have to write notes only one or two months of the year, which means about **6 total notes** (numbers vary, of course). If you could help with this ministry, please contact April Baily at <u>abaily4994@usa.net</u> or at 870-421-5395.

April Baily

#### **Labyrinth**

The Labyrinth is open for prayer and meditation on the second Friday of each month from 10:30 AM til Noon. The Labyrinth provides an opportunity to disconnect from the busyness of our world and reconnect with the Infinite. We ask nothing of participants other than masking and distancing appropriately, and respecting the quiet and meditative atmosphere created for you.

The labyrinth is an ancient practice which offers a chance to quiet the mind, leaving it open to inspiration and peace. There is no right or wrong way to walk the path, and there are no wrong turns. Like life itself, there is only one way to go at any one moment, trusting in God to lead your feet in right pathways. If you have any questions, please contact April Baily at <a href="mailto:abaily4994@usa.net">abaily4994@usa.net</a> or at 870-421-5395.

April Baily

# **Spanish Language Eucharist**

The Spanish language Eucharist (SLE) had an uncertain beginning, with differing formats and different times and days of the week being part of the concern. But finally we decided to have our SLE every Saturday afternoon at 4 PM. The Dioscesan Spanish Language Missioner, Padre César Hernandez, is based in northwest Arkansas, at St. Andrew's in Rogers, but he, along with his wife Silvia and their daughter Sofia, drive over on Saturdays to lead the worship. We have about 12 regular attendees, who all speak English to one degree or another, but who find worshipping in their first language to be a soulwarming experience. Magda Rodriguez is learning to lead the services, so that on those occasions when Padre César cannot make it, we can still have a worship service.

# Study and Learning

#### **Adult Forum**

We have read and discussed several books this past year, including "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faiths of Others" by Barbara Brown Taylor and "If Grace is True: Why God Will Save Everyone" by James Mulholland and Philip Gulley. We have lively discussions about these potentially prickly subjects, and find new ways to look at God's love.

We begin each session about 15 minutes after the service ends each Sunday, and are always done no later than 11:30 AM. Y'all are welcome to join us. And if you have suggestions for discussion topics, please either email me (abaily4994@usa.net) or call the office (870-425-3560) and let us know.

April Baily

#### **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

EfM is a four-year distance learning course offered by the University of the South at Sewanee, TN. The curriculum consists of reading assignments done on one's own, with the first-year students reading the Old Testament, second year the New Testament, third year church history, and the fourth year theology. Seminars are held weekly at a time agreed upon by the group, and the reading assignments are discussed, and different subjects used for theological reflections. The four-year curriculum must be taken in sequence, but a participant can skip a year or more as needed.

We've not conducted the seminars since 2020, but hope to restart the program in Fall of 2024.

Many members of the congregation are EfM graduates. Almost universally you'll find that they valued the course for what it taught them, and for how it engaged their hearts and minds in new ways.

If you have questions, please contact April Baily at abaily 4994@usa.net or at 870-421-5395.

April Baily

## **Daughters of the King (DoK)**

The DoK welcomed three new members in 2023, after they had spent several months in a discernment process to help them be sure that taking the vows of the DoK was where they needed to be. The group has decided to increase the level of service offered the community, and so in addition to praying for every church member every day, we will prepare 'to-go' food bags for hungry people who come when the pantry is not open, and also bags containing useful items such as personal care products to be available to newcomers to the women's domestic violence abuse shelter. We will also have casseroles frozen and available to parish members or friends with an unexpected need for such help. We do it all For His Sake.

Jane Darr

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

We have not had younger children attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd this school year, therefore Krisia Rodriguez and I have been working with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II materials since September. We are currently engaged in a Bible study which involves matching cities, areas, rivers, and seas with the events and ministry in Jesus' life. We are amazed at how this activity, in addition to a manipulative map, helps us to learn and retain these events. We also agree that many adults would enjoy and benefit from these Bible study exercises.

Although we have been working on Level II, we are prepared to work with younger children who might attend on Sunday morning, or as we have said with enthusiasm, "we are open for business"!

Submitted by, Deanna VanEps

# Life in Community

### Men's Group

The Men Group of St. Andrew's did not meet during 2023.

#### **Pub Theology**

We met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for most of the year at various restaurants, and enjoyed good food, good margaritas, good company, and, occasionally, some fairly serious theological discussions. The location may change, but the fellowship does not. Watch your email or Facebook for updates on location. The time will remain the same; 5:30 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Come enjoy this charming mix of fellowship and learning.

April Baily

## The Arts at St. Andrew's

The Arts at St. Andrew's is a series of artistic or educational presentations that we give as a gift to our community. Last year we enjoyed concerts by Beci and Kent Coffey, a history lecture about the "Bad Boys of the Civil War" by Father Bob, and a Christmas concert starring Steven Vinas-Jamison, Beci and Kent, and guest performer Doug Hallenbeck. Stay tuned for more in 2024.

**April Baily** 

# Action

#### St. Martha's Guild

St. Martha's Guild coordinated three funeral receptions during 2023. Thank you to all who helped prepare food, set-up, and clean-up for the receptions – we are truly fortunate to have so many wonderful parishioners to support this important ministry. The guild is working on a casserole program to provide food for our parishioners who are homebound due to illness, recovery from surgery, or loss of any kind. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering or if you know of those in need of meals. The blessing of this wonderful congregation is that we care for one another in so many ways.

Cheryl Nichols, Chair

#### The Search Team

Our current search committee consists of Chuck Orvis, Bill Weeks, Magda Rodriguez, DeAnna VanEps, and Bonnie Smith, chair. Jason Alexander is our liaison with the Bishop. It is thru him that we get referrals of potential priests for our parish. When we began our search we completed an Office of Transition Ministry Portfolio. That paperwork is available to be viewed on the National Church website by anyone but is targeted to a priest looking to relocate. We did our best to describe St. Andrew's, Mountain Home, our wider community here in the Ozarks and what we are looking for in our next priest. During our search thus far we have interviewed a few priests but all have taken positions elsewhere. The good news is that there are several new candidates coming out of Sewanee Seminary this spring. We have been told that it is one of their largest graduating classes in a while. The committee will be reviewing our portfolio and making whatever changes we feel will attract someone considering locating to our region. In the meantime, we are so blessed to have Father Bob with us.

Bonnie Smith, Chair

#### **Mission and Outreach**

St. Andrew's has a rich history of reaching out to help others. We do so as individuals, small groups, and as a church. A food pantry to helps families put food on their tables and a "Little Free Library" greets folks just outside our Keller Hall doorway, offering books for children and youth to share... always a gift! We have had to cancel most of our favorite annual events (our Mardi Gras Party, Bluegrass and BBQ), which we host to highlight the work of worthy local non-profits and gather the community in support. But we continue to feature the lovely "Giving Tree" in the Narthex, created by our Bill McClellan which suggests other community ministries. The good times and special events enthusiastically supported by the men and women of the church are only a reflection of the leadership and service our members offer the wider community. Here is a description of 2023 outreach events,

programs, and results. 2024 does look promising for hosting community events, we will do what we can, and we give thanks for the opportunities to help our neighbors!

**Taste of St. Andrews** – Following a fun and successful event in October 2022 that raised over \$4,000 for Kindness, Inc., we decided to take a break in 2023 to focus on other outreach activities. We are planning this event for October 2024, so stay tuned for more information!

Cheryl Nichols, Chair

**Mardi Gras** – Mardi Gras 2023 was much needed for all involved – we were all missing each other so much thanks to Covid! Thank you to all involved in the planning, decorating, prepping, cooking, serving, and cleaning! It takes a small army to pull this event off. We raised more than \$2,300 for the Robert R. Brown Camp for adults with disabilities. In 2024, our Mardi Gras party will raise funds for our very own food pantry. Once again, we will have a delicious menu and fun games and prizes. If you have suggestions or would like to help with this event, please let me know by emailing me at <a href="marsustylandry@gmail.com">mrsrustylandry@gmail.com</a>. And remember... Cajun/Creole doesn't mean it's hot! It meas "Ca C'est Bon!" (That's good!)

Frannie Landry, Chair

**Food Pantry** – St. Andrew's Food Pantry had a very busy year in 2023. Last year, we began to use the computer provided by the Food Bank to keep track of the clients using our pantry. Tracking our clients with the program shows us how many households we are serving every month. The program does not take into consideration how often clients from each household pick up food. We are the only pantry in our area which does not limit a client to one pick up a month. Whenever a client has a need for more food, they are welcome. Several of our clients come weekly. As of the end of November, St. Andrew's had served 304 households with a total of 590 individuals. On November 15, we had 34 clients pick up food for Thanksgiving--our biggest number ever! Thanks to the generosity of our bishop and members of St. Andrew's, our food pantry has been able to provide food for these needy families in our area.

Before we began using the computer, one volunteer was enough to run the pantry each Wednesday. All volunteers have been trained to check in our clients; but because of the time involved, most volunteers appreciate having another volunteer to help distribute food. Starting in January of 2024, each volunteer is now working one Wednesday every month whereas in the past, only once every other month was required. Thanks go out to our hard-working current volunteers--Kathy Bauwens, Jane Darr, Nell Engeler, Linda Hipes, Jeanne Patrick, Bonnie Smith, Deanna Van Eps, and past volunteers Jeff and James Loveless. There is always a need for more volunteers especially in the winter time when two volunteers are in Florida. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile ministry. For further information, contact Gail Alter, Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:galter0908@gmail.com">galter0908@gmail.com</a> or by phone at 870-405-1647.

Gail Alter

**Little Free Library** – The Little Free Library continues to be used and books disappear. Therefore, we assume they are in the hands of children, which is the purpose of this program. We are always grateful to receive donations of gently used children's books and monetary gifts which help us replenish the library. Thank you for continued support.

Deanna VanEps

"She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live." – Annie Dillard

**The Giving Tree** - The Giving Tree located in the Narthex is our way of spreading our mission field to the community of Mountain Home. We sponsor a school, community organization or group that are in need. Such as the Literacy Program in the schools, Our Little Free Library, Gamma House, Needs of Many (fans and heater

collections) and many others. If you are aware of a need in the community and would like to have it displayed on The Giving Tree, please let Cheryl or Kathy M. know.

Kathy McClellan

**Celebrate with St. Andrew's** – In 2023, beginning in June, each month we had a presentation on the third Saturday of each month that celebrated the demographic we honored that month. In June, for example, the program featured two videos by two different Episcopal priests who happen to be gay, wherein they discussed their journeys through life and to their priesthood. In July we celebrated the founding of our nation, and the presentation featured the National Cathedral, its music and its gargoyles. October was a travelogue of Puerto Rico. Attendance was spotty, but the effort sincere.

THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION for the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2024

ear friends in Christ, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Paschal Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the 28th day of March and the evening of the 31st day of March.

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the 14th day of February.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the 12th day of May.

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the 19th day of May.

And, this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the 1st day of December.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.