

2021 OCC ANNUAL REPORT

Orinda Community Church

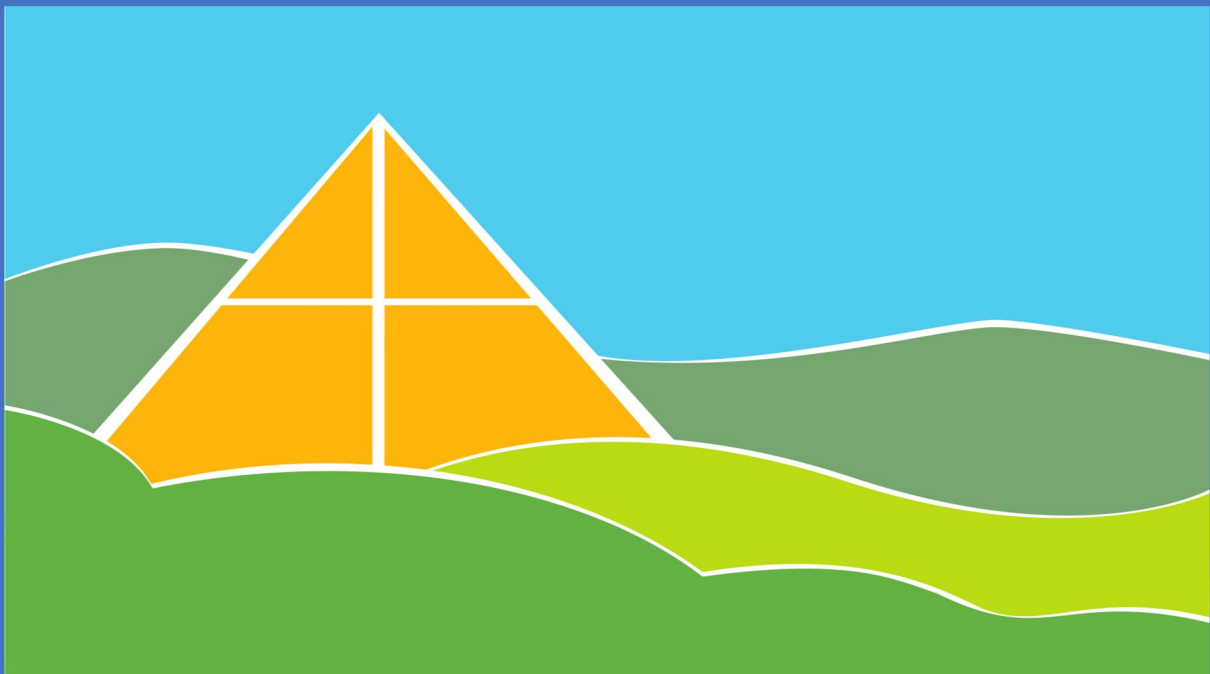


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MINUTES OF THE 82nd OCC ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk

We started the meeting with 45 participants who met via Zoom for the Annual Meeting. Moderator Kurt Sunderbruch called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

The minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020, were moved and approved unanimously.

Stewardship Report: Per Bill Abriel, 75% of church revenue comes from pledges. We've raised \$345,000 in pledges so far for 2021 so a big congratulations to all who pledged. Bill also thanked the stewardship committee for their hard work.

Budget Review and Approval: Lani Shepp indicated we came out the end of 2020 positive. We had a PPP loan that was forgiven so we didn't have to pay it back. That, plus everyone's generosity, got us through 2020. The 2021 budget is almost balanced with only a slight deficit projected right now. Lani reviewed the revenue items: pledges are at \$345,000; rental income and loose offerings items are down due to continuing Covid restrictions; we received a large donation; we will do more fundraising.

Responses to Zoom audience questions revealed the following information. The large drop in budget money for Children and Youth is due to just trying to predict what is needed in 2021. The drop in staffing is based on having one full time pastor and increasing Leslie to half time as of 1/1/21. Chris Mead and Kurt Sunderbruch thanked Lani for her work year-round on the church budget and for quickly applying for the 2020 PPP loan. Thanks were also expressed for Gail Mead's and Kathy Kling's financial efforts. Provisions have been made to compensate Elizabeth for her long hours on the job. She received a raise and will be able to take time off throughout the year via additional vacation time and guest preachers. Lani will send a copy of the budget information to anyone interested. The 2021 budget was moved and approved unanimously as presented.

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(82nd Annual Meeting continued)

Moderator's Comments and Report: Per Kurt Sunderbruch, 2020 has been quite a year. With Covid we were not able to be together for services, fellowship hours, events, or fundraisers. We had to find a way to do something else and we did a remarkable job. There were many disruptions and challenges. Kurt thanked the Council for helping him navigate through the unprecedented times. He thanked the PRC for their patience and vision on how to best support our new pastor. He thanked Roger Samuelson, who led the Search Committee for Elizabeth Robinson, for his advice. He thanked the congregation for being steady through the challenging times and willing to help. He is grateful for so much including our music program and those who maintain our buildings and grounds. We keep coming together and being the church. We are blessed on multiple levels. Leslie O'Brien mentioned Kurt has always been there for the church and presented him with a Bev Mo gift certificate. Anne Barr and Tom Norris also thanked Kurt for his work.

Pastor's Comments and Report: Rev. Elizabeth Robinson thanked Kurt Sunderbruch for all his work behind the scenes and for his friendship and leadership. She has relied on him and welcomed his theological discussions. She sees all the love and effort everyone has put in over the past year. We have deepened in faith and are entering the new year with hope. She has watched us care for each other, pitch in, and be all the things the church should be. There's a lot of grief and loss on so many dimensions and we want to address that this year. There will be time to mourn with each other and maybe have some memorial services. Thanks for our care for each other. Technology has been a useful tool and we may want to continue with it even after we are able to meet again in person. The campus is looking better as we care for it. We are finding ways to be the church inside and out, e.g. to make beautiful music; to have meaningful conversations; to become a Creation Justice church. Elizabeth is impressed by the dynamism of what we've done. Let her know if you have questions or ideas. She sends love and congratulations to all for their generosity and creativity. She is glad we found each other and that we have welcomed her into our family.

Elizabeth will do an installation in March to welcome Mitch Breitwieser and Mary Volmer as new members to the congregation; recognize the lay ministry of Leslie O'Brien, and recognize the music ministry of David Milnes. Based on an audience suggestion, she will extend recognition to all those on the ministries so we can celebrate all their contributions.

Nomination and Election of Church Leaders: Per Anne Barr, most of our elected officials' terms aren't up this year; the transition is next year. However, Mitch Breitwieser has agreed to

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(82nd Annual Meeting continued)

join the Council and we need to renew Gail Mead's Council term. We moved and approved unanimously to accept Mitch and Gail as at-large positions on the Council. Anne indicated the Pastoral Relations Committee now includes John Thursby (the Annual Report will be updated) and that we still need someone to join Anne on the Engagement Committee. She thanked everyone serving on committees for their participation, talents, friendship, and spirit. Lani Shepp pointed out that in 2022 there will be a lot of vacancies to be filled on our committees as terms expire. Kurt Sunderbruch mentioned anyone interested in joining committees/ministries in 2022, should contact Anne Barr. He also explained that today's meeting didn't cover everything laid out in the Annual Report so please refer to it for additional information on ministries, committees, boards, etc.

Installation of Church Leaders: Rev. Elizabeth Robinson installed and blessed the church leaders and thanked all for their involvement and for accepting the challenges.

Green Team Update: Nancy Thursby thanked everyone who voted to become a Creation Justice (CJ) church. She is checking to see if our application has been received and approved by National and that they send us our CJ banner. Green Team met in January and adopted an online program called Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. OCC will have an account, but individuals can set up one too. There will be a presentation on this at the 2/14 Zoom Fellowship Hour. Nancy will provide a link to the online welcome page so anyone can set up an individual account.

Other: Joy Elkinton-Walker is very impressed with all we've accomplished this year. She recommends we write an article to let the community know OCC is alive and functioning and has a lot to offer.

Kurt Sunderbruch adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk

MODERATOR

Kurt Sunderbruch

One of the great and challenging spiritual teachings is to find a way to be grateful for everything that happens in one's life. At times during the past two years as OCC has experienced so many challenges, it has been a difficult at times to remain grateful as Moderator. One Sunday worship a few months ago, it came to me that not everyone is called to service in challenging times, not everyone has the privilege to be trusted to lead through trying times. I have had that privilege, and I am deeply grateful to have been entrusted with the leadership of our beloved community.

Among the gifts of that experience has been the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with the OCC Council, with Elizabeth, David, and Leslie. We are blessed with committed volunteers who make our community vibrant, and who regularly demonstrate the words of scripture that they'll know who we are by our love for one another.

It truly has been a privilege to work so closely with such a strong Council, but not just strong; committed and loving too. People, who like the rest of the congregation, are on a faith journey, and who live that journey out loud, day in and day out, bringing the love of God to our community. I have seen the faith and industry of our Vice Moderator, Anne Barr up close and in many evening meetings. I have seen the focus, hard work, perseverance, and commitment of Lani Shepp, the quiet reliability and astute insights of Kathleen Wiegand, the knowledge of church polity and navigation of the conference provided by Gail Mead, the sense of church history in people, policies, and physical plant provided by Bob Winbigler, and the erudite observations coming from the "beginner's eyes" Mitch Breitwieser. I cannot imagine a better Council to work with through these trying times than this team. They have worked countless hours in meetings, and even more hours outside of meetings to keep OCC healthy and vibrant. I owe them a debt of gratitude, as does the congregation. They have sweated both the big and small stuff with equal enthusiasm. Without them, my term as Moderator would not have succeeded.

The deep faith and spiritual gifts, as well as the friendship, of Elizabeth Robinson are the gifts that keep on giving. With the collaboration and support of David Milnes, soloists Jesslyn Thomas, Nik Nackley, and Julia Hathaway providing music, and Leslie O'Brien with the children, have all contributed to bringing OCC magnificent and transcendent worship experiences. For many of us, this is the most important part of our interaction with the community, and this group of talented people have continually done their all to bring us closer to God. A shout out to Leslie in particular

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(Moderator's Report continued)

for her tireless efforts in ministering to the children of our community, and leadership of Women of Spirit. Thank you, Leslie for bringing all your many gifts to bear for the benefit of our community.

The successful administration of the church is profoundly dependent upon groups you may not know much about because their work is entirely in the background, in the service of assuring that others can bring OCC what we need. Specifically, I'm referencing Jeane Samuelsen and the Pastoral Relations Committee, and Greg McCall who leads Staffing and Personnel. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for keeping the wheels on OCC.

No organization of the size and complexity of OCC can long survive without the careful use of money. Our finance office, comprised of Kathi Kling, Lani Shepp, and Gail Mead are very careful custodians of your money, doing everything they can to assure that OCC can be the church and fulfill our mission. Of course, the great loss this past year was the passing of the spiritual leader of financial operations, Betty Karplus. Betty's contributions of time, commitment, insight, and, yes, money have benefited OCC more than most of us will ever know.

OCC could not operate without the many volunteers who usher on Sunday morning, or serve communion, or who volunteer to be lay liturgists, or the many volunteers on Buildings & Grounds whose tireless efforts to maintain our aging physical plant is usually not noticed because thanks to them things just work. There have been notable accomplishments over the past year:

- Bill Abriel led us through another successful pledging season. Thank you, Bill.
- Thanks to Gail Mead for making the auctions just happen. Such a key part of church traditions that have been disrupted by Covid-19. Gail figured out a way to make it happen, and quietly managed helpers, donations, bids, and deliveries.
- Fred Matteson and Lani Shepp initiated and managed the Next 80 program designed to keep the church's physical plant maintained and improved for the benefit of the future members of OCC. Thank you.
- Thanks to those OCC members who serve on the OSHF board, one of our most important ministries of OCC is housing, and that's what OSHF does so well.
- Thanks to Gail Mead and Anne Barr who worked closely with me and other members of the Council to reach an agreement to develop the upper hillside into a senior housing project that will deliver badly needed housing to the City of Orinda while providing a long-term income stream to OCC.
- Continuing on the topic of housing, thanks to the tireless Lani Shepp for overseeing the stay of Winter Nights families at OCC. This is truly God's work.

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(Moderator's Report continued)

- Thanks to Elizabeth, David, Nik, Gail, and others who drove the project to make it possible for OCC to livestream our Sunday worship services, which has been a huge benefit to all our members, and prospective members in these days of Covid-19.
- Thanks to Tom Norris, and all the other members of Buildings & Grounds for addressing the needs of our site, and in particular, thank you for sorting out the lighting in the sanctuary.
- Thanks to Mary Volmer and Elizabeth Robinson for spearheading the Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, a new way to bring our witness to the community. This is truly groundbreaking, and will only improve the way we serve the area.
- Thanks to Anna and the office team for keeping OCC operating, and serving not only our members, but our partners, including TOPS and Holden.
- Thanks for the ministry leaders for continuing to lead the church during these trying times. I particularly want to thank the Mercy and Justice committee for their efforts this past year.

We have much for which to be grateful. It's easy to overlook all this work, but without it, OCC would cease to be a vibrant, spiritual space.

Not everything has been as we would have liked. We managed to return to in-person worship, though we are having to take a temporary break right now. We lost beloved, longstanding members of our community, and it has been a struggle to provide memorial services and room to grieve due to the delays necessary to keep people safe. Covid-19 disrupted our ability to host our partner organizations, TOPS and Holden and the many regular renters of our facilities. We've been able to bring them back, but there are still challenges.

Looking ahead, while we have enjoyed remarkable accomplishments, we still face challenges. Budgets will likely continue to be a challenge. We still have staffing vacancies to fill. Our physical plant is still aging. We're not out of the woods with the pandemic yet. With all that, we remain a community bound to one another in love and faith and commitment to the good news. We are a community who welcomes the Holy Spirit to be among us, to guide us, to support us, to fill our hearts with love, and to encourage us to share that love. I am confident that the slates of volunteers we are voting on will rise to whatever challenge may present itself, and with the leadership of Anne Barr, I expect we will continue to be the church.

Coming back around to gratitude, I am reminded of a quote from Isaac Newton who said, "If I have seen further, it's because I stood on the shoulders of giants." In my case, I may not have seen further, but together with Elizabeth, the Council, Staff, and our many volunteers, we have

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(Moderator's Report continued)

been able to overcome challenge after challenge by working together in love and support of our shared mission. I'm deeply grateful to all of you, as well as the many Moderators and Councils and volunteers who've come before over the course of the past 80+ years, leading us all forward in our faith. You have lifted me, and I thank you.

CLERK'S REPORT

Kathleen Wiegand

Membership as recorded on 1/1/21: 189

Membership as recorded on 1/1/22: 183

Baptisms 0

Additions to Congregation in 2021 1

Reactivated Member:
Jason Hurley

Losses to Congregation in 2021 7

Transfers 0

Resignations 0

Deaths 7

In Memoriam (Members):
Deborah Barnell
Daniel Holmes
Betty Karplus
Ronald Loos
Lloyd Stone MacDonald
David Starkweather
Mary Alice Townsend

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lani Shepp

2021 has been another unusual year for everyone and church finances have been impacted. Thanks to the steadfastness and generosity of our congregation we have come out in good shape and ready to go into 2022.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Reopening of our facilities and Sunday services
- Bringing on staff a part time Office Manger
- Initiating a capital campaign called Next 80

As we approach 2022, preparing a budget has to consider some unknowns. Staffing continues to fluctuate and difficult decisions are being made for the new year.

The Finance and Operations Commission and Church Council recommends a budget for 2022 with an initial deficit. This budget is the result of generous pledging in the campaign just completed and careful review of all expenses. There is a 2.5% increase in salary for the two staff people. Fortunately, there is a sizable cash balance ending 2021 and this will provide the additional needed funds to balance the 2022 budget. That cash appears under Additional Sources in the budget. Generous support from the Endowment Fund continues to be required.

The Next 80 campaign resulted in pledges to be paid over three years of \$296,000. The Endowment donated \$100,000. Thanks to all of this generosity OCC now can count on \$396,000. to apply toward needed maintenance and repairs over the next three years and beyond. Exterior and interior painting has been undertaken and new carpeting has been installed in the Narthex. Continuing explorations are occurring concerning drainage and seismic upgrades. The funds as they are collected are kept in a separate savings account and are not mingled with our regular checking and savings accounts. It is anticipated that the pledged funds will be sufficient to meet maintenance needs for the coming two and a half more years.

Our volunteer financial staff is Gail Mead (Financial Secretary-income management), Lani Shepp (Treasurer-Accounts Payable) and Kathi Kling (Assistant Treasurer-Accountant). Many thanks for the hours spent by this staff keeping OCC on the right track financially. All have worked throughout the year, coming to OCC weekly to manage necessary financial business.

Detailed financial information is available on request from the Treasurer.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Anne Barr

The Endowment Fund of Orinda Community Church was established in 1984 with initial contributions by members of the church. They had the foresight to create an enduring mechanism to support many non- budgeted items that enhance the activities of the church. Another core mission of the endowment fund is to support our Senior Pastor with her housing needs in our high cost of living community. The goal of the endowment fund is to continue to grow principal through investment returns and new gifts while setting aside a portion of each year's income to fund grant requests.

2021 Grants

In 2021, the Endowment Board made several significant investments to support the future growth and vitality of Orinda Community Church. The Endowment Board helped to seed the *Next 80 capital campaign* with a \$100,000 challenge grant in the spring. The congregation was able to match and exceed the initial goal, paving the way for much needed investments in the church property over the next few years. Endowment also underwrote a new venture of the Church, Alta Mesa Center for the Arts. A significant contribution by endowment was to fund the equipment so we can live stream our church service. Endowment provided substantial salary support for our Youth and Children ministries as it has in many past years. Lastly, Endowment helped Elizabeth finance the purchase of a house.

Endowment Fund Growth and Legacy Circle

During 2021, Betty Karplus and Lloyd MacDonald of the Legacy Circle died. During their lifetime, they had each designated OCC in their Will. The Legacy Circle is an important way you can consider giving to the endowment from your estate. Please see the Legacy Circle Page in the Annual report which lists our current Legacy Circle Members.

The assets of the Endowment Fund are invested in United Church Funds, an organization who invests on behalf of the United Church of Christ. Our investments in 2021 performed well mirroring a strong stock market increasing our invested assets.

Endowment Fund Members

In 2021, Allison Skidgel, Gail Mead, Andy Weber, Kathi Kling with Anne Barr as Chair serve on Endowment. Lani Shepp and Elizabeth Robinson serve as ex-officio members. I appreciate the input and perspectives of each of the members of the Endowment Board. A copy of the 2021 year-end Endowment Fund financial statement is available from Fund Treasurer, Gail Mead.

LEGACY CIRCLE

Anne Barr

The Legacy Circle of Orinda Community Church was established in 2004. Its members have modified their will or trust to leave a bequest to the Church upon their death. If, in the future, we expect the Church to be able to support its physical plant, to provide affordable housing in the Lamorinda area for its ministerial staff, and to support vibrant Church programs, then we must continue to grow the basic Endowment Fund of the Church. Bequests from past members of the Church have been the primary source of funds for the Endowment during its first 30 years. Similarly, future bequests from current members will determine if the Endowment Fund can continue growing and supporting the type of needs described above.

To join the Legacy Circle, you need to set aside some assets in your estate naming Orinda Community Church as the designee. A simple way to join the Legacy Circle is to put Orinda Community Church as a beneficiary or partial beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA or similar retirement account).

We are most thankful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the following Church members who are already members of the Legacy Circle:

- Bill and Vangie Abriel
- Anne Barr and Fred Matteson
- Tom and Sandra Hill
- Hillary and David Hoppock
- Kathi Kling
- Gail and Chris Mead
- Jeanne Milligan
- Roger and Jeane Samuelson
- Katrina Staten
- Frank Baldwin
- Bruce and Trudi Garland
- Peter and Grace Hartdegen
- Margie Hitzl
- Kay and Dalton James
- Elisabeth and Michael Kersten
- Anne and Richard Long
- Elva Rust
- Lani Shepp

If you would like more information about the Legacy Circle, or about various methods for leaving a gift to the Church, you are invited to contact Anne Barr or a member of the Endowment Fund Board.

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MINISTER'S REPORT

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

If you are like me, it is a bit of a challenge to separate the events of 2020 from 2021. We seem to be living through an extended Covid blur. World events continue to be tumultuous. Community events also shake us. In the past year, we have lost some beloved members of our congregation.

Despite these continuing disruptions and losses, I experience God as guiding us steadfastly to safe haven. Navigating the tides of Covid, I see people maintaining contact in important ways. Certainly, there is no less energy committed to the welfare of the church. I have been going to church all my life, and I have never seen such dedication and generosity in any church. I am so grateful for you.

Let me take a moment to give particular thanks to our church council who have been rock solid throughout this tumultuous time (Jim's departure, the pandemic, financial ups and downs, work on the Hillside project, changes in personnel, a burglary and so on!). I cannot adequately thank Kurt Sunderbruch for his efforts, faith, creativity, and love for this community. Probably none of us will ever know all that he has done. Similarly, the rest of the council constantly pitched in with advice, resources, and care. I salute you Kurt Sunderbruch, Anne Barr, Mitch Breitwieser, Gail Mead, Lani Shepp, Kathleen Wiegand, and Bob Winbigler.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to the staffing and personnel committee (Greg McCall, Robin Spencer Holmes, and Chris Mead) who have worked overtime this year as we have seen changes to our staff. We are happy that Dion, as he has moved on, has found a situation that suits him. We have now employed a professional cleaner who is doing excellent work. By the end of the month, we hope to have Marcel McClain living in the cottage as a short-term caretaker. Since the cottage will be torn down when the Hillside project commences, we are pleased to have found a person who can work with us but already had plans for moving at about the time we will begin building. Stay tuned for an introduction from Marcel. We all rejoice to have Anna Gregory working in the office. She makes every day easier, better, and more fun.

We are all saddened at the thought of Leslie stepping out of her position at the church even as we celebrate and cheer her on in her next adventures. Her kindness and cheer animate the church from its very core. It is a wonderful thing that she will remain a member of the church (and that way we can continue to thank and pour love on her!). Thank you, Leslie, for hours upon hours of song, prayer, play, labor, and faith.

Our relationships with our community partners continue strong. We had a moving worship service with Holden this fall, and delight in the play of the TOPS preschoolers. In March, we look forward to celebrating another group of Boy Scouts who have achieved Eagle Scout status. It has been a pleasure (and a relief) to see groups coming back to use the church. This reaffirms our ties with the larger community.

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(Minister's Report continued)

I won't go into great detail concerning committees that have provided their own reports, but I want to commend the church for finding the determination and creativity to be so lively and productive through thick and thin. While we were meeting for Zoom fellowship, we had the opportunity to learn about such things as building a donation garden and learning about the tragedy of capital punishment. It was meaningful time, and I look forward to what may emerge for Life Long Learning in the coming year.

In addition, we officially became a Creation Justice church, and we have the banner to prove it! Our vegetable trug experiment had mixed success, but at least we tried it. It's been fun to see families share garden produce and leave donations that benefit local food banks. Our Mercy and Justice committee ensured that once again we built a house—a house!—for a family in Guatemala. We also made and served a thanksgiving dinner to residents at a Hope Solutions apartment complex and provided Christmas gifts for six families. This year has seen us reignite our partnership with Interfaith Council of Contra Costa, participating in their Transgender Day of Remembrance service. We continue to work with the Multi-Faith Action Coalition, and have contributed to their ecumenical Thanksgiving service again.

It was deeply moving to me to see people back in the sanctuary in June. In-person worship has permitted us to be the “body of Christ” in ways that are consoling and familiar to us even as we keep working to improve our livestreaming so that people can worship and participate from home. How great to see the bell choir back in action! I am still savoring their December performance. And Christmas Eve was transformative with the children's pageant and the full choir. I see your faces lit by candlelight in our great circle.

This year saw the return of great traditions like Homecoming (a joyful day for me as well when I was officially installed as your pastor) and our Advent Workshop. We also marked significant moments in the church year with an altar-building workshop and then an All Saint's table in the sanctuary. Our Advent Story Hour and Solstice Labyrinth Service were by turns fun and reverent. These are traditions to continue.

Groups around the church engage in regular, meaningful conversations. How exciting that the “Bible Study” rechristened itself as the “Theology and Scripture” group; there is no challenge of faith or intellect that they aren't willing to take on. The writers' group now meets twice a month and has built trust and creativity while producing powerful writing. You can see framed samples of their work in the sanctuary. Another group was founded when Katrina Staten had the excellent idea that we read through the Gilead novels of Marilynne Robinson. What a pleasure to be weaving our way through those theologically rich writings!

Mary Volmer has created Alta Mesa Center for the Arts seemingly out of thin air (and a little assistance from the endowment fund). We are opening our doors to the larger community through art. The motto Mary has provided for Alta Mesa expresses this eloquently: *Art is a spiritual act and a human right*. Mary has taught, and arranged for others to teach, writing workshops through Alta Mesa. She also spearheaded our (hopefully) annual lecture, featuring author Natalie Baszile, author of *We Are Each Other's Harvest* and *Queen Sugar*. Mark the date,

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(Minister's Report continued)

March 20, on your calendar.

Along with all these positive manifestations of God's energy in our faith community, we—of course—face challenges. I hope to spend some time in the coming months doing some visioning work with you. What justice issues to you feel are most urgent and how can we work together on them? How do we get out the word to a larger community that we are here and welcome folks with open arms? How do we keep people who are less mobile vitally connected to the activities of the church? What kind of children's ministries do we want and how will we find leadership for it?

Big challenges, I am convinced, open to big opportunities. Orinda Church will get to do what it has been doing so well for over 80 years: be the church in its own unique way. Many of you have heard me say over the last two years, "God loves an improviser!" I look forward to finding our way into more faith, more resourcefulness, more joy, and above all, more love. We are blessed to be held in the sustaining arms of God.

In faith, Elizabeth

MUSIC REPORT

David Milnes

Great music helped us get through the difficulties of this past year. The first half of the year was spent remotely, and we were greatly aided by the installation of our new live-streaming system. With the support of the Endowment Board the system now streams all our services live with excellent video and sound, and then saves them permanently on the church's YouTube Channel. This has helped immeasurably in keeping our community together. While performing his regular duties as assistant music director and principal soloist, Nik Nackley has ably taken on the role of cameraman!

Our fantastic musicians have offered inspired and powerful interpretations of an incredibly wide array of sacred repertoire and styles - stretching back to the 14th century, through the great classics of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical eras mixed with great hymns of several different dominations and centuries, and including contemporary classics by Ned Rorem and Jake Heggie together with a healthy dose of jazz, spirituals, gospel, Broadway favorites and popular song from Gershwin and Bernstein through Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen to Andra Day. We enjoyed doing an extended survey of the great African American women composers of the mid-twentieth century, including music by Florence Price, Undine Smith Moore, Margaret Bonds and others.

Many thanks to our gifted and devoted soloists and guest artists, including Jesslyn Thomas, Julia Hathaway, Judy McCall, Chris Jackson, Nik Nackley, Fred Matteson, Greg McCall, Robert Steiner, Kathy Kling, Trudi Garland, Leslie O'Brien, Miles McCall, Weston Carpenter and Amelia McCall, all of whom made incredible contributions to our worship as musical soloists this year. The bell choir is thriving as well under the energetic leadership of Maestra Nancy Thursby. Many of us are pinching ourselves to make sure this is all actually real - that we are living through an amazing, golden era of spiritual music-making at our church, not to be taken for granted.

It was thrilling to return to in-person worship, and it proved again that actually being together is best, in so many ways. The music sounds better when the acoustics can help a musician to communicate a personal, spiritual message directly, without electronics. Yet, we are also grateful that our new live-streaming capability continues to allow us to share our messages with friends and parishioners across the world.

The Chancel Choir stayed dormant throughout 2021 out of concerns for safety - until Christmas Eve. The choir reconvened with a single rehearsal and picked up as if they had not missed a beat. What a joy that was, and what a talented group of people! We look forward to being together more when restrictions relax during this new year.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Director of Music continued)

Infusing all of the music this year was the grace, spirit and encouragement of our dear Pastor Elizabeth. She is so attuned to the depth of music and art, so poetic in outlook and so eager to embrace new experiences. Again I say that we are living through a golden period at our church, one that has resulted from sustained hard work and vision on the part of our congregation. I am proud to be a part of it.

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE & FAMILY OUTREACH

Leslie Darwin O'Brien

Dear Church Family, thank you for the opportunity to serve during these past fourteen years. This year, with the cumulative effects of the pandemic, we worked even harder to stay connected, with porch visits to children, youth and seniors. I tried to meet members of our extended community exactly where they were, as I felt that many folks were on the precipice of a mental health crisis.

One thing that was new this year is that the kids worshiped from the balcony in order to stay socially distant from our other members. Elizabeth and I decorated it with pinwheels and posters to make it more cheerful for the children. I am grateful to Hilly Hoppock, Leslie Schonborn, Mary Volmer, and Michaela Thomas who jumped in to teach Sunday school which we held in The Olive Grove. One challenge we faced (and continue to face) is how to meet the needs of a 7-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl during Sunday school. Therefore, most of my ministry with our teenagers was during the week, when I would attend their events and talk with them in their backyards.

A highlight for me this year was the hiring of Anna Gregory, who brings fantastic energy to our office. In addition, I've been deeply moved by Elizabeth's contemplative services and centering prayer services during which we gathered in the chapel for a peaceful, calm time of reflection. When the whole world was falling apart, Elizabeth's centering prayers helped me.

Other high points for me this year include:

- *Elizabeth's installation service with a photo booth at the luncheon!*
- *Writer's Group*
- *Writing Reflections for the Friday eblast*
- *Meeting weekly with John Thursby who offered me spiritual guidance*
- *Sabbatical direction with Jeane, Gary and John*
- *Preaching a sermon while Elizabeth was on vacation*
- *Meeting with John Thursby for spiritual mentorship*
- *Singing on Zoom on Thursdays*
- *The vegetrug carrots!*

Other Activities with Details:

Front Porch Sunday School - in Martinez almost every week. We'd do a craft, say prayers, read a story and sing. I LOVE those kids and I feel I know them even better than ever because I have been with them in their "natural habitat."

(Pastoral Outreach continued)

Christmas pageant - We did two versions, a front porch live version in which the kids got to play every character they wanted! We also returned to our beloved Christmas Eve pageant featuring two Magi who were over six feet tall and one three-year-old king whose cape touched the ground.

Confirmation Retreat - We spent the night in Half Moon Bay and examined our faith and denomination. We looked at some tough questions and got to know each other better. The future looks bright as long as Mimi, Nicole and Laurel are in charge.

Outdoor decorations and special banners - I don't think we can underestimate the power of our messages on the hillside (including the marquee Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor). We share our good news of inclusion with our flag and with our banners: 1. From now on all generations will call us blessed. 2. God is at home, it's we who have gone out for a walk. 3. God writes the Gospel not in The Bible alone, but also on trees and in the flowers and in the stars. 4. To love is to make of one's heart a swinging door.

Women of Spirit - In spite of the pandemic, Women of Spirit continued to thrive via zoom, connecting women from Lamorinda, New York, Los Angeles, Arkansas and Chicago. It's a monthly gathering of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women from diverse faith traditions.

WOS has covered many topics including:

- *How do you nurture your faith?*
- *When has someone in your life helped you find hope or reinforced your faith?*
- *When have you felt the power of helping someone?*

The five founders of Women of Spirit have been thrilled by the number of people who have joined. We have 187 people in our Facebook group and we have around 60 participants in our gatherings each month. We've welcomed speakers with varying backgrounds including: Sikh, Japanese/Brazilian, Muslim, Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints, and Jewish. I am honored that our church is a founding partner of this dynamic group. Women of Spirit concludes with us saying, "Salaam, Shalom, Peace." Sweet, even on zoom.

Thank you again for the honor of serving OCC in a paid capacity. I'm grateful that you have entrusted some of the leadership to me, and I thank you for your love and support. The traditional symbol for the 14th anniversary is the elephant, so I'd like to reminisce a little bit of what I'll never forget with you all:

JAMM Camp

34 Hours of Service

Writing Workshop for Kids with Elizabeth

TMI: Love, Faith, Dating and Sex: A Workshop for Teens And Their Parents

60 Kids at Vacation Bible School with our teens as counselors

Taking sandwiches to People's Park

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Pastoral Outreach continued)

GirlPower: Message and Music

Nik singing *O Holy Night*

Writer's Group with Elizabeth

Singing in the chapel every week with the kids

The love and support y'all offered Tim and me when Tim's sister was dying of ALS

Frank's confirmation class for Charlie and Eli

Women's Spirituality Group led by Bryn Smallwood-Garcie, Kelsey Peterson, Sally Train,

Jackie Brown, Leslie Moughty, and Christy Schults

Watching Mimi and Nicole acolyte over a hundred times

Isaac in his unicorn mask at Starbuck's

Two retreats with Elizabeth

Lee Cruise dancing in her sparkly blouses

Blessing of the animals when Matthew "went water skiing" behind our dog

With love, Leslie Darwin O'Brien

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

ANNA GREGORY

Since starting here in June of 2021, it has been a bit of a whirlwind. Trying to remember names by a person's hairdo alone can be challenging. In spite of this pesky thing called COVID, I am getting there! After working many years in healthcare, I am finding working for a church incredibly refreshing. People are *very* kind here and it is truly a wonderful place to work, and a place that does good work.

In the past 6 months, I have become acclimated to the office routine, but am still learning the nuances of how things have been done and at the same time trying to provide a fresh perspective on how things can be done. In 2021, I hired cleaners and signed a new contract with our printer company which should save quite a bit of money moving forward. We said goodbye to OCC's caretaker Dion, and I found myself doing a lot of work outside my normal wheel house, but I think we have managed pretty well, in spite of being shorthanded. Prior to Omicron, we were booking a lot of events, but now we are in the process of rescheduling many events. I expect things will pick up again as Omicron winds down, and we can improvise as the next wave comes. We do have a wedding happening in June, and that is exciting.

Goals for 2022 include creating an Office Procedure Manual, as well as developing an updated Directory with photos, with help from the marvelous Dave Hoppock. The Procedure Manual is indeed a must, and no office should be without one. I also have plans to go through some of our unused office equipment, and try to find the best way to utilize these items to the church's benefit.

I am grateful to everyone for their support and guidance, including, but not limited to, our fearless leader, Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, as well as the lovely and loving Leslie, the 'real boss' Lani, fun and steadfast Gail, chipper and kind Kathi, my buddy Tom, and especially John Creech. Truly, all the members of the church have been so warm and gracious that I can report in this report, they get an "A+" for making me feel welcome and accepted.

Lastly, I am so grateful to have found a place where profits aren't the main concern, but instead, people and spirituality are the focus. I hope to have many years here working with you and for you.

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY REPORTS

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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Tom Norris, Chair

A HUGE thanks to the amazing crew who are keeping us current on the many fixes and maintenance. These tireless folks and their most used specialties are Karen Sanford, drainage & plumbing; Bob Winbigler, electrical management; Pete Hartdegen, air moving & related mechanical equipment; John Creech, air filtration & thermostats; Mike Kersten, landscaping maintenance; Greg Hartdegen, skilled carpentry and jack of all trades; Kier DeAnda, lighting, communication systems and furnace matters; Mark Nichols, drywall and maintenance management; Les Simmonds, professional electrical design; and Dion Maskaleris, who is still relaying to me knowledge of what is where and how to find it. My apologies if I forgot to mention someone. Bob Winbigler ably represents B & G at Church Council meetings. Thanks, Bob!

The list below does not include many of the infrastructure and renew/remodel projects of the Next 80 Years funding, and I likely missed a few others, too.

In 2021, B&G worked on three major projects, and pesky maintenance items that multiply faster than rabbits.

The three big jobs were:

1 Replacement last year of almost every foot of buried gas pipe between buildings, about 160 lineal feet. The final county inspection of two pipe supports is pending. New landscaping (by others) is still in process-the outdoor hallway facing the sanctuary now has a new, much more open look toward the open lawn.

2 Sanctuary lamp replacements. The eight chandeliers had failed repeatedly. We began with removing and analyzing, then decided due to heat, to make “all-new“ innards (the “light engines” in trade parlance.) Work was interrupted by urgency of Task 1, above, Covid, and other emergencies. In June, we finally hung the chandeliers with their new light engines. The new lights are all brighter, and if desired, are dimmable.

3 Replacement / refurbishment of about one third of the benches and retaining walls in Narthex Patio area. This was done entirely by our Scout Troop 237, specifically Scout Ben Guthrie who organized and supervised as part of his Eagle award campaign. Thank you, Ben, Scouts, and Assistant Scoutmaster Rob Guthrie, who was present as one of the two token adult observers and is Ben’s Dad.

Some other jobs done, large and small:

4 Continuing repairs of Memorial Wall fountain. There are original design issues that will need to be addressed to avoid burnout of the tireless volunteer. It is like carrying water in a sieve! (John, THANK YOU!)

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Buildings and Grounds continued)

5 Make digital backup copies of the architectural drawings of the entire campus. Thanks, Karen Sanford! And thanks to Tek Pe, our structural engineer, who finally found an imaging company in Richmond who could digitize very old, fragile drawings at reasonable cost.

6 Replace yet more outdoor irrigation valves and pipes. Huge job-big thanks due to Karen Sanford, Pete Hartdegen and John Creech.

7 Fill in one gas pipe and one water pipe hole in ground (Christy boxes.) Thanks, Pete and Greg Hartdegen!

8 Converted sanctuary thermostat to one that is connected to office via wi-fi, to ease one of us having to drive to church to re-program heat settings for each sanctuary event, mostly rentals. These thermostats also log furnace use, which data will be used to monitor gas use by each furnace. This is both good business and a very “green” project! (We have 12 furnaces-that’s a lot of furnaces to maintain and track manually!)

9 Switch from florescent to dimmable LED lamps in kitchen, Board Room, Fireside Room, and church offices. Thank you, Chris Reiser (one of our contractors), Kier DeAnda (another under contract), and Pete Hartdegen! The lighting switch to LED is both labor saving and Green.

10 Replaced almost all outdoor lights with LED lamps. The pole lamps, outdoor cross lights, and numerous small lamps remain to be addressed.

11 Evaluate and replace quartz halogen bulbs in sanctuary spot lights. Also, re-direct one lamp. That is high aerial work on a slim ladder. Thank you Kier DeAnda and Nik Nackley!

12 Continue to monitor outdoor water leaks on hill below sanctuary. These pipes need replacing.

13 In response to Covid 19, changed all furnace filters to MERV13, which will filter out most but not all virus-size particles. This is the filter grade now required for most schools. It was clearly feasible to upgrade the sanctuary filtration to MERV 14, a higher grade of filtration. So, this year, we did that upgrade. Thanks, John!

14 At the Agape building, monitor storm water seeps and building settlement. This year, a water level survey found that the most settlement is not on the downhill side, but is on the uphill side, facing the Washington-Mayflower building. Why? The soil settling is in an old earth fill placed where the California and Nevada Railroad used to run. Thanks, Karen!

15 Concern regarding narthex soil settlement. Narthex is over the same filled-in railroad right of way!

16 Keep solar collector reasonably clean, important for function.

17 Near “Bell” sign near Irwin Way, installed a water valve so that the Mayflower Building and TOPS back yard play area may be isolated for maintenance without shutting down most of the campus.

18 Again this year, cleared brush and weeds on lower slope, below Holden parking lot down to Orinda Way. Thanks, Mike!

19 After gas pipe work, re-landscape along Fellowship Hall west hallway and TOPS lawn. Looks great. Thank you, Rosario’s Garden Service supervised by Lani Shepp. Thank you, Lani!

(Buildings and Grounds continued)

Safety and reliability items that will reduce future maintenance costs and made some of last year's projects possible.)

- 20 Install roof downspout drain pipes for Washington-Mayflower and for Agape. Thanks, Karen Sanford!
- 21 Find root causes and fix four small roof leaks: Music room outdoor hall, narthex, Board Room, and a nearby window wall.
- 22 Coordinate tree cutting with our neighbors and with PG&E, Thanks, Mike.
- 23 Act as communicator with neighbors regarding upper hill trees and brush. Thanks, Bill Abriel!

Outside services comment:

24 Again, we didn't have to hire an electrician this year, and same for plumbers. Commercial grade plumbers are over \$250 per hour, and usually come in pairs. Electricians are close behind. We will continue to try to avoid these professions. But, we will stay in touch in case of emergencies.

Pending Work:

- 25 Tackle failing windows that have or are developing or have dry rot.
- 26 Continue monitoring water pipe leaks below sanctuary
- 27 Coordinate with Boy Scout Troop 237 on further narthex patio bench/retaining wall repairs/replacements.
- 28 Implement plan of attack for halting settling of Agape EAST end. The settlement is visibly stretching the building (apparent in Agape Hallway overhead beam) and settlement totals 6 inches at the far corner of the covered walkway nearest the big Sequoia tree AND in the Boys restroom.
- 29 Plan on future Sanctuary and Holden furnace replacements.
- 30 Complete Music Room lawn drainage
- 31 Begin Fellowship Hall and Washington-Mayflower window work.
- 32 Evaluate replacement of flammable ceilings in Holden hallway and library
- 33 Begin seismic analysis of campus by Tek Pe, Structural Engineer
- 34 Convert remaining florescent T12 tube lamps to LED lighting in TOPS spaces. We have converted about 60 florescent to LED's, have 50 more LED lamps on hand, and will buy another 32 or so. Thank you again, Pete Hartdegen, Kier DeAnda, and Chris Reiser!

Quiz: How many light bulbs are on the OCC campus?

Quiz Answer: Regarding the number of light bulbs on our campus. I really don't know. I quit after a couple of hundred. Actually, Dion did a great job of listing each bulb type for the entire campus and sent me a nice Word listing. My Excel from his list has 710 regular lights. I think that the actual total is maybe around 750, including exit sign lights. Thank you, Dion!

LIFELONG LEARNING and SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Mike Kersten

Ministry Membership: Mitch Breitwieser, Joy Elkinton-Walker, Mike Kersten, Karl Schonborn, Robert Steiner, Mary Volmer, In Suk Kim-Andersen (Chair).

Ex Officio Member: Elizabeth Robinson.

2021 Activities Sponsored and/or Supported:

- The Anti-Racist Study Group met on Mondays at 7 p.m. via Zoom and discussions moderated by Lani Shepp included the following: YouTube videos of a discussion between Jacqui Lewis and David Kyuman Kim on racism and “Black Jeopardy” episodes on Saturday Night Live (Feb. 1), “The Fire Next Time” by James Baldwin (Feb. 15), “White Too Long” by Robert T. Jones (Mar. 1), “The Warmth of Other Suns” and “Caste” by Isabel Wilkerson and group member sharing of journeys with race (Mar. 15), and “The Sum of Us” by Heather McGee and more group member sharing of journeys with race (Mar. 29 and Apr. 12).
- The Theology and Scripture Group (formerly the Bible Study) met on Thursdays at 2 p.m. via Zoom and Pastor Elizabeth moderated discussion of the following three books: “The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church’s Conservative Icon” by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, “Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas” by Elaine Pagels, and “The Dark Interval: Towards a Theology of Story” by John Dominic Crossan. A few meetings also discussed selected writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson and the lyrics of selected Christmas carols.
- Fellowship Hour Speakers: Barbara Barrigan Padilla, Restore the Delta, on the importance of the Sacramento River Delta and its threatened ecosystem (Feb. 21); Rev. Sophia Dewitt, East Bay Housing Organizations, on housing and homelessness in the East Bay (Feb. 28); Judy McCall on her faith journey (Apr. 18), Shelley Sandusky, senior counsel, the Habeas Corpus Project, on capital punishment (May 2); Rev. Pete Terpenning, Boulder, Colorado, on his ministry experience with gardening to produce food donations (May 23).
- Weekly Contemplative Worship Services: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the chapel starting June 16 and by email and online links.
- Weekly Centering Prayer: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel beginning June 21.

(Lifelong Learning and Spirituality Formation)

- Advent Story Hours: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Islamic holiday, Yalda, with Parmis Rad (Dec. 7); “The Velveteen Rabbit” read by Pastor Elizabeth (Dec. 14).
- Solstice Contemplative Service and Labyrinth Walking in Fellowship Hall (Dec. 21).

2022 Goals (to the extent safe, appropriate and feasible under current pandemic conditions)

- Congregant Faith Journey with McCall
- Spirituality and Art (Part 3). Dance with Genia Simpson.
- Talk on cannabinoids led by In Suk Kim-Andersen.
- Continue weekly contemplative and centering prayer.
- Continue book group meetings, including the Theology and Scripture Group and the new group doing a close study of the novels of Marilynne Robinson on Thursdays at 4 p.m. led by Katrina Staten.
- Continue the Fellowship Hour Speaker Series.
- Another congregant faith journey presentation.
- Two faith formation programs (e.g., centering prayer, healing prayer, labyrinth walk, “Two Popes” film discussion).
- Half or all day retreat.
- Update on UCC happenings.

MERCY & JUSTICE MINISTRY

Karen Sanford

Members: Nancy Thursby & Karen Sanford (co-chairs), Elizabeth Robinson, Eartha Newsong, Jan Rosefield

Goals: To promote Mercy and Justice according to the tenets of the United Church of Christ. To provide current, reputable information about organizations doing Mercy and Justice so our church may donate funds wisely. To provide ongoing information to the congregation about local service opportunities. To provide church sponsored community service trips locally, nationally, and internationally.

Re-group of the finance accounts: In the spirit of better organization the committee re-arranged some of the accounts, so it was clearer where money was going and where it was coming from. We developed a separate account for Creation Justice (green team) because their work has become very strong and is done much of the time independently from M & J.

M & J continued, with B'nai Tikvah, to be a part of an accompaniment team for an immigrant family. OCC members include Eartha Newsong, Jan Rosefield, Alison Skidgel and Lin Lyons. Eartha being the main contact for the family, from OCC. Andrew is doing well in school this year. A new child is part of the family now. Leandro had problems with his arm and couldn't work for a long time so through our financial assistance budget and other funds we were able to help with a month's rent for a new place for the family. Attendance at court appearances continued in 2022. Lin Lyons and Eartha went to the family's house on Christmas Eve and "Santa" (Lin) delivered gifts.

Physical and Financial Service for 2021:

Winter Nights - Lani Shepp was the OCC leader again this year. Due to Covid restrictions, the program had 4 families staying in fellowship hall in March and the food donations were different. All the food had to be prepared in a commercial kitchen, so we asked the congregation to donate money for prepared meals. Some congregants picked up and delivered already prepared food for our guests.

Food Drive Fundraiser for Alameda and Contra Costa County Food Banks: the food banks are better served with money than food in bins. We continued to donate to the Alameda County and the Contra Costa County Food Banks. Creation Justice and the youth group started a garden with all the proceeds from the sale of the produce going to the food banks.

Members of the congregation donated produce from their gardens and the proceeds from this also went into the food bank funding.

(Mercy and Justice continued)

Internal Service: We sponsored a clean-up day at the church and about 8 people helped clean the narthex bathrooms and the sanctuary woodwork. The narthex bathrooms were also painted, and a few things were fixed.

No weeklong, summer, service project was taken this year. With the Covid situation still in flux, we decided to wait to plan a summer service project. We plan to start a three-year rotation for these projects so it will be easier to organize.

Alameda County Food Bank: We did not volunteer in person anywhere this year due to Covid.

Hope Solutions Backpack Drive: Last year and this year the Hope Solutions backpack drive has been run by an outside fundraising agency. Members of our congregation were encouraged to participate. We did not do physical backpack collections this year.

Creation Justice (Green Team): Nancy researched becoming a Creation Justice Church and her team lead us through all the steps to become this. We are now officially a United Church of Christ Creation Justice Church and have the sign in front of the sanctuary to prove it. Yes for us!!

Hope Solutions Monthly Dinner: In November we provided the monthly Hope Solutions dinner to the Pleasant Hill Apartments. This was a Thanksgiving style dinner. About 8 people provided hot food and some other/some of the same people went out to Pleasant Hill to serve the meal. A great way to help but we won't volunteer for this in November again.

Hope Solutions Spirit of Giving campaign: In November and December we served 6 families from Hope Solutions for the holidays by giving gifts and Safeway cards to enhance their holidays.

Financial Donations:

Yearly Planned Giving:

\$1500 to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

\$1500 to Holden High School

\$1000 to Common Hope (\$1800 for our Faith Partners House) plus \$800 from discretionary and other funds

(Mercy and Justice continued)

Discretionary Spending:

\$200 to Interfaith Council of Contra Costa

\$150 to Back Bay Mission

Discretionary Spending (continued):

\$150 to the Arlington UCC for their reparations project (Nate)

\$200 to Save the Delta

\$200 to Jewish Community Services

\$200 to NCNC-UCC Haiti Relief

\$200 to NCNC-UCC Severe Storms Relief

\$100 to Hope Solutions in honor of Liz Simmonds

\$200 to Rainbow Community Center (LGBTQ agency for youth in Contra Costa)

\$200 to S. F. Night Ministries

\$200 to Honor the Earth

\$500 to Alameda County Food Bank

\$500 to Contra Costa County Food Bank

Our hopes for 2022:

We hope to be able to provide a venue for a multi-generational in person service project.

We hope to be able to return to in person volunteering at the Alameda County Food Bank and possibly other local agencies. We hope for youth involvement in ideas/participation in this.

We investigated a group called Segorea Te (Native American local group working on voluntary land tax to create a Land trust for reparations/co-operative use of formerly tribal lands). We would like to find some way to work with this group and support it.

More in-house clean up days and possibly a bigger, on the property, garden.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Mercy and Justice continued)

The intention of Mercy and Justice is to continue to provide service opportunities to our congregation with the understanding that a balance between physical, local service and financial donations is important. We hope to involve more of the congregation in good mercy and justice actions in the future.

CREATION JUSTICE

A Sub-Committee of Mercy & Justice

Nancy Thursby, Facilitator

The Creation Justice Committee Mission Statement:

- To be personally committed to be stewards of God's creation,
- To explore with the congregation the theological basis for the care of creation,
- To inform the congregation on matters of environmental concern,
- To involve the congregation in taking action within the local and broader communities, and
- To partner with other environmental groups and organizations.

Becoming a Creation Justice Church:

Our application to become a UCC Creation Justice Church was approved, and Orinda Community Church was declared a Creation Justice Church in February. In recognition, the church received a banner that was dedicated during worship on October 10, and now hangs over the entrance to the sanctuary. In response to our new identity, the Green Team changed its name to the "Creation Justice Committee (CJC)."

Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

Early in 2021 the committee promoted the CCCC. A representative from Sustainable Contra Costa attended a zoom meeting to train the committee on launching this project. A few of the CJC members attempted to participate in this program, but it did not generate any interest among the congregation members. Members who trying to participate found the website confusing and time consuming, so the project was dropped.

GreenFaith: Sacred People—Sacred Faith Global Virtual March, March 11, 2021—a Multi-Faith Day of Action

GreenFaith is an international faith-based climate action organization. On March 11, congregations from around the world rang bells, blew shofars, and sounded gongs to rally for a compassionate, just response to Covid-19 and climate change. The CJC participated in this event, with Eartha Newsong ringing the church bell 11 times at 11 AM on that day. The significance of the number 11 is that it is the 11th hour for the climate.

Interfaith Power & Light Climate Action Week, 2021: Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate

- Due to the pandemic, it was impossible to have a second hour film and discussion. The CJC promoted private viewing of the film, "Kiss the Ground" and held a zoom discussion during Fellowship time on April 25.
- Rev. Elizabeth planned two Earth Day observance worship services on April 18th and on the 25th.

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Creation & Justice continued)

- The CJC welcomed the Rev. Peter Terpening from Boulder to discuss his experience with church-based gardening on May 23rd.
- Two food projects evolved from Climate Action Week. Unable to find a suitable location on the church campus for a vegetable garden to support the food banks, the CJC purchased a “veggie trug.” Karen Sanford put the trug together and Leslie O’Brien engaged the youth in planting vegetables in the trug. Also, a table was placed near the entrance to the sanctuary with signs asking for congregation members to donate extra garden produce and to purchase the produce donated. The proceeds were donated to the food banks.
- The CJC promoted a postcard writing campaign to the Secretary of Agriculture in support of small farmers, farmers of color, and farmers trying to transition to regenerative farming. Twenty-six postcards were signed by congregation members and sent to IPL to be included in a mass mailing.

Bay Area Action

- Early in the year, the CJC voted to emphasize two area issues: The first is Decommissioning of power plants and a just transition to clean energy. The Bay Area has been home to five refineries. CJC members have taken action on legislation written to ensure a safe decommissioning and a just transition.
- The second area of emphasis is Restore the Delta, an organization that works to preserve the environment of the Sacramento River delta.

National UCC

- At General Synod this past summer, “Who Shall Speak for the Trees? A Resolution on Rights of Nature” was passed. It offers several suggestions to congregations, which the CJC will consider in 2022.
- The “Council for Climate Justice” has decided to focus this coming year on Honor the Earth. The CJC has decided to support this organization and has supported the Stop the Dakota Pipeline 3 movement.

Active members during 2021: Joyce Crawford, Tre Frane, Robin Holmes, Dottie Hutch, Mike Kersten, Gail Mead, Eartha Newsong, Leslie O’Brien, Bob Orr, Rev. Elizabeth Robinson, Jan Rosefield, Emily Wheeler, and Nancy Thursby, Facilitator.

All are welcome to join us. To attend our zoom meetings and/or join our Green Enthusiasts email group contact Nancy Thursby at: nlthursby@comcast.net

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Jeane Samuelsen

The purpose of the PRC is to facilitate, build and maintain relationships and communication between clergy and lay leadership and members of the church, and to evaluate the performance of ministers and communicate its evaluations to the Council.

As we shared Elizabeth's self-assessment in June, she pronounced the last year "improvisatory" - which perfectly sums up what Elizabeth has been faced with. We didn't expect a pandemic and she didn't expect to be a Senior Pastor guiding us all down the path of virtual church to church with masks and distancing and finally to Christmas Eve with the Choir back. All through this challenging year Elizabeth's goal has been to assure the OCC congregation that God is with us every moment.

PRC has met with Elizabeth monthly, with Leslie occasionally and with both occasionally as they have worked together to minister to their often shut-in flock – calling, visiting, sending cards, singing – deepening relationships.

In March we celebrated Elizabeth's Editors' Choice Award from the poetry magazine *New Letters* for her work, Indigent – a reminder that our Pastor is also a celebrated poet! She has been working with Mary Volmer to create The Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, an interfaith arts and spirituality hub sponsored by OCC.

PRC has supported Elizabeth as she has dealt with personnel matters, the departures of Dagmar and Dion and the very successful hiring of Anna and very recently, Marcel.

In October we celebrated Homecoming and, finally, the Installation of Elizabeth as our pastor!

In November, Leslie took a leave to begin discerning her life/work journey and we supported her, as we did Elizabeth as she found Mary Volmer and Barry Cammer to fill in. Leslie, sadly, has decided to seek opportunities elsewhere, so staffing is once again an issue.

We on PRC feel blessed to be doing this work at our beloved OCC. In one of his wonderful opening prayers John Thursby referred to our church as "oasis and launching pad".....indeed, even in Pandemic, there is so much of God's work going on and always God's warmth with us.

We hope you will always feel free to contact any one of us with your comments and suggestions.

Chris Mead, Jeane Samuelsen, Chair, Craig Taatjes, John Thursby, Joan Upshaw

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Craig Taatjes (chair)

Bill Abriel (stewardship chair)

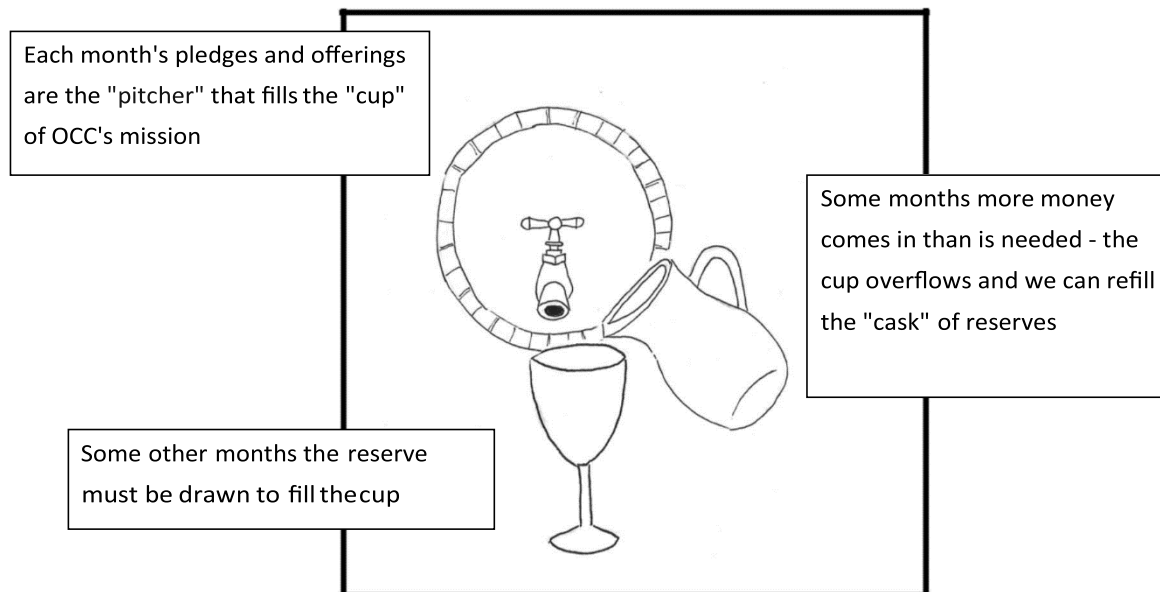
Gail Mead (Financial Secretary)

Lani Shepp (Treasurer) (Ex Officio)

Kathi Kling (Asst. Treasurer) (Ex Officio)

The finance and stewardship committee works to maintain the financial operations of the church through development of the annual budget, administration of licensing or leasing agreements for the use of Church property, design and management of stewardship and fundraising campaigns. The Finance and Stewardship Committee also works closely with the Staffing and Personnel Committee on budgetary aspects of church staffing.

During the year the Committee watches the flow of funds from income to reserves to operations, as offerings and pledge fulfillment bring money in to balance ongoing expenditures:



(Finance and Stewardship continued)

In 2021, the Finance and Stewardship committee has continued to respond to the changes in our church and our world. The call of Elizabeth Robinson to be our settled senior pastor has been a great blessing for all of us, and has opened up many new channels of ministry and care. Unfortunately, as in the prior year, COVID restrictions affected our cash offerings and the loss of facility rental income challenged our cash flow. In these difficult and fearful times, we have been able to draw on the backing of our endowment board and the steadfast support of our members to maintain operations. Our OCC community has held each other in care and fellowship.

Pledges make up about 70% of our revenue. The 2022 stewardship drive was carried out at a time when our congregation was just beginning to be able to meet again in person, and the congregation responded as usual with tremendous generosity, showing that we are tied by God's love and our commitment to doing God's work. Thank you to all of you for helping support OCC's mission.

SEWING CIRCLE

Kathleen Wiegand

We were very busy this past year:

- We donated 30 quilts to CEID (Center for Early Intervention on Deafness) in Berkeley. Each December Santa distributes our quilts to the children at their annual Christmas party. CEID is very appreciative and often sends us pictures of the children with their quilts. It is a remarkable place doing wonderful things for the children in their care.
- We sold quilts, quilted totes, bottle bags, and reversible table runners for the OCC Auction, raising \$426 for the church.
- We once again donated a Christmas tree to the Orinda Women's Club for their annual Festival of Trees fundraiser.

A big "thank you" to all of you for supporting the Sewing Circle. Your quilt purchases and sponsorship donations help the Sewing Circle buy essential quilt supplies so we can continue making the quilts. We look forward to having you visit us in the sewing room when it's safe to do so.

Melody Ferreira, Barbara Beck, Karen Norris, and Kathleen Wiegand

HANDBELL CHOIR

Nancy Thursby, Director

The handbells that were stolen in September 2020, were covered by insurance after a deductible. Replacements were ordered in March 2021. New locks were installed on the bell closet doors.

The church began in-person worship again on June 30, 2021. Kathi Kling, Ellen Prater, and Nancy Thursby played “Song of Hope,” arranged by Larry Sue, during that worship. The melody of the piece is based on an Argentinian folk song.

Regular rehearsals began again in September. All seven members played “Child Born of Mary,” arranged by Malcolm C. Wilson during worship on December 19, 2021. The piece is based on a 16th century Scottish lullaby, “Baloo Lammy,” (translation: Hush, Little Lamb). It is a Christmas hymn, about the “blessed bairn.” “Bairn” is Scottish for child and is pronounced “bern.”

Lyrics by Martin Luther:

1. This day to you is born a child
Of Mary meek the Virgin mild:
That blessed bairn so loving and kind,
Shall now rejoice both heart and mind.
Baloo, lammy, balulalow.

2. And now shall Mary's little boy
Forever be our hope and joy;
Eternal be his reign here on earth,
Rejoice then all people for this holy birth:
Baloo, lammy, balulalow.

3. Sleep gently, sweet Jesus, and know no fear,
Thy subjects adoring watch over thee here;
God's angels and shepherds and kine in their stall,
And wise men and Virgin, Thy guardians all:
Baloo, lammy, balulalow.

Choir members this year were Kelly Connolly, Robin Holmes, Kathi Kling, Cheryl MacDonald, Gail Mead, Ellen Prater, and Kathleen Wiegand.

Anyone interested in joining us, should contact Nancy Thursby at:
nlthursby@comcast.net

ACOLYTES

Karen Norris

The acolytes returned when we resumed in person worship, last Spring. Mimi McCall and Nicole Parlett have really stepped up to keep the candles lit and the Singing Bowl rung. With over 100 points each, they are essentially assistant managers. They have even been known to handle all the duties alone, if need be. Prudence Hurley has served well, as has Ava Skidgel. The four young ladies were the narrators for the Christmas Eve pageant, some in costume. Sterling participation by Beatrice and Josephine Nackley and also Amarise Gonzalez is appreciated.

Due to fewer youth this year, we have occasionally recruited adults—Thank you to alum Georgia Carpenter and Bell Ringer Kathleen Weigand. Tre Frane and the extended Hurley family have kindly been on hand as needed, too.

Any youth in Fourth Grade or older is welcome to join and be trained.

—Karen Norris (925) 360-4704

RUDI'S BIZARRE BOUTIQUE

Karen Norris

This report covers two years as we have been only open for occasional appointments during the Pandemic, like for some Winter Nights or OSV people. We “in-house” folk cannot resist making purchases either. We receive anonymous drop offs, so please feel free to leave your name to be appreciated, which we do. Some we do know, like the family of Betty Ann Williams who donated lovely, practical clothing that is like new. Thank you also to Lis Velasquez who makes us her first consideration for outgrown, but nice clothes. *As coffee hour is less often upstairs, please ask if you would like to visit.*

Our major donor this year was from Peter Hartdegen. He not only donated the amazing bicentennial quilt the church auctioned off, but welcomed the Boutique staff to come to his home as he was moving. He set aside Grace’s wonderful vintage and collector ornaments and table decorations, like foot-tall Santa’s and Angels, for us. He allowed us also to pick up as many other items as we could handle before they were donated elsewhere. That included glassware, bowls, a lit-up Christmas wall hanging, and even an artisan sink. His son, Greg, delayed starting the minor renovations and painting for a few days to accommodate us.

Thus, at the Church’s November 7th Fundraiser (and three days following for TOPs families,) the Boutique’s Table raised over \$550. About \$175 items were also given to the Orinda Woman’s Club Fundraiser for Contra Costa and Alameda charities. And the Boutique itself has collected another \$75 or more, with items remaining. We send a heartfelt thank you to the Hartdegen family.

There have been periodic cleanups of the room, but another is due before Winter Nights arrives. Our account stood at about \$1,500 in December and we were able to donate \$1,000 back to the church—separate from the Fundraiser. It is a long-held goal to open on days other than Sunday, and we may have a volunteer or two to help with that. You are most welcome, as well. Just contact one of us!

Vangie Abriel and
Karen Norris (925 360-4704)

ALTA MESA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Mary Volmer

In 2021, the Endowment Fund provide the seed money to start the Alta Mesa Center for the Arts. With these funds and under the direction of Mary Volmer, the AMCA has accomplished much, including the following:

- Arts business workshops and learning materials at Intersection for the Arts
- Development of the AMCA mission/vision statement
- Ongoing development of the AMCA business plan
- Creation and maintenance of the AMCA website
- Planning three, and teaching one generative writing workshop
- Creating (with Elizabeth Robinson) the AMCA Reading Series which occurs on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00pm.
 - Hosted over 20 writers and poets
 - Averaged upwards of 30 attendees at each of the readings (about 230 people total)
 - Supported and promoted numerous community organizations including the Sogorea Te Land Trust
 - Upcoming readers will include: Elizabeth Robinson and Jennifer Livovich in February; Kaya Oakes and the Ink Sisters in March; and Nate Klug and Kate Peterson in April.
- Create and maintain AMCA YouTube channel (begun in September 2021)

The reading series has been AMCA's most successful venture. In 2022, AMCA hopes to build on the success of the reading series and establish workshops that are both affordable and accessible to people of all physical and economic realities. The larger goal of this venture, beyond serving the art community, is to highlight Orinda Community Church's long tradition of excellence in the arts and to encourage others to participate in our vibrant community of faith.

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 237

Tom Norris, Chartered Organization Representative from OCC

During 2020 and 2021, Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda Community Church has, despite restrictions from Covid, kept a strong program going. With social distancing and masks, there was much less camping but the community service work was less curtailed. Troop meetings were online until summer 2021; then we met in person (Hooray!) outdoors in the upper parking lot, still with Covid precautions, now with temperature checks.

Troop 237 was established in 1953 and joined with OCC in 1990. The troop operates under a charter agreement with OCC. This agreement is renewed annually.

Scouting's mission is preparation of youths for an ethical and satisfying adult life. Toward this goal, while running most of the meetings Scouts learn how to be leaders and just as importantly, when it is better to follow. This is a "Boy Led" troop, where scouts plan many of their adventures.

There is a strong emphasis on volunteer service to community. An abbreviated service hour report is attached. Briefly, the Scouts gave **1646** service hours, mostly to schools, the community, the needy including seniors, Covid relief, and for OCC, a start on rebuilding and painting the benches and rock wall in the Narthex Patio area.

Camping and hikes help teach independence as there are no "helicopter" Moms and Dads hovering nearby. Camping and adventure are main attractions to the program, and provide a vehicle that promotes learning to be independent and taking on more adult responsibilities.

We hope for a more normal program in 2022. In 2021, Scouts resumed camping both in California and the "high adventure" camps in New Mexico and Florida. If needed, the troop makes available scholarships so that no scout misses out because of a financial situation. There are also week-long summer camp programs at Camp Wolfeboro in the Sierras and on Catalina Island run by the BSA which are very popular.

Looking ahead, a new activity under discussion is teaching about religions around the world. We would invite Elizabeth Robinson as teacher. For some Scouts, this might be their only exposure to religion.

Troop 237's service activities most often fit into Orinda Community Church's missions.

A partial summary of Troop 237 Scout Service Hours in 2020 and 2021 follows. This "snapshot" in time does not include the adult volunteer hours that are also as significant.

(Boy Scout Troop 237 continued)

In terms of scout lingo, below are milestones:

- Maintained troop membership at 90-100 boys, with about half of parents involved
- Maintained strict Youth Protection procedures and annual training for scouts and adults
- Established meeting structure for Troop meetings (weekly, typically 40-70 attending, led by Senior Patrol Leader)
- New patrol leaders learned how to use the patrol method (Patrols are about 10 scouts)
- Reaffirmed and used Boy-Led approach. Planning is emphasized; adults are present for safety
- Fifteen boys earned their Eagle rank, 200 other rank advancements, 400 merit badges.
- ZERO Covid cases and ZERO Covid transmission

Tables follow on pages 60-61

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(Boy Scouts Troop 237 Report continued)

Troop 237				
Service Hours Summary Report for 2021				
Service performed	Date	Scouts	Hours	Hrs
				Sub totals
<i>Service for the Needy and Seniors:</i>				
Pick Fruit for Urban Garden	19-Jan	8	24	
Shelter, Inc. in Mt. View	20-Feb	7	28	
Sorting for Monument Crisis Center	2-Nov	3	6	
Adopt a Family Xmas Gifts –Deliveries	12-Dec	5	15	
Senior Christmas Gift Deliveries	19-Dec	8	32	
Bay Area Rescue Mission, Hygiene Kits	13-Feb	16	48	
LS Eagle Project - Hunger relief/food drive	20-Feb	17	51	
LS Eagle Project - Hunger relief/food drive	21-Feb	2	4	
LS Eagle Project - Hunger relief/food drive	27-Feb	12	36	
Shelter Breakfast	16-Apr	3	9	
Sort & Pack Food, Shelter, Inc.	17-Apr	1	2	
Sort & Pack Food, White Pony Express	24-Apr	9	18	
GB Eagle Proj - pre school supplies	7-Jun	8	24	
GB Eagle Proj - pre school supplies	4-Sep	12	24	
Operation Dignity Sanitation Kits	30-Sep	23	46	
Grateful Gathering	13-Nov	14	52	
Distribute "Scouting for Food" Door Hangers	13-Jan	32	64	483
<i>Orinda Community Church:</i>				
Attend Scout Sunday, Make Breakfast	9-Feb	22	88	
BG Eagle Project: Planter box repair, paint	13-Feb	9	33.5	
BG Eagle Project: Planter box repair, paint	28-Feb	15	43.6	
BG Eagle Project: Planter box repair, paint, moss rock wall	13-Mar	15	54	219.1
<i>Covid Support Work:</i>				
Special Outreach	30-Jun	15	71	
Face mask Refurbishing	10-Jul	9	108	
Same for N95 masks	5-Oct	7	28	
Face Shield Assembly	13-Jan	8	48	
CERT Distribute Water	27-Mar	1	3	258

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Conservation Work:				
At Wagner Ranch Nature Area:				
13 sessions, typ. Lasting 3 hours each	various	63	185	
LL Eag Proj - Turtle Nests	6-Feb	5	15	
LL Eag Proj - Turtle Nests	28-Feb	5	15	
At Del Rey School:				
AS Eagle Project	22-Feb	5	14	
Conservation work	6-Mar	5	13	
At Ocean Beach SF				
Cleanup Projects, 15 Aug and 5 Dec	two	10	25	
At Glorietta School				
Help at "Funfest" Halloween	30-Oct	8	22	
At Sleepy Hollow School				
"Creepy Hollow" PumpkinPatch10/30	30-Oct	15	30	
BM Eagle Project - Garden bench build, 15&21Nov	15-Nov	7	34	353
Orinda Intermediate School:				
Gardening and yard work: 2,8,9,15,17,22,24July; 27 May	eight	56	176	176
Community Work				
Help with Lamorinda Idol	14-Aug	5	10	
Tree of Lights	4-Dec	3	6	
Clean and repaint Lafayette hillside crosses, 20 Jan, 15 May	20-Jan	23	85	
WH Eagle Proj.	6-Feb	8	32	
WH Eagle Proj.	7-Feb	6	24	157
		Scouts	Hours	Hrs Total
Totals		505	1646.1	1646.1

HOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Abby Tuttle

Holden is a private, non-profit, WASC-accredited high school that has been addressing the needs of teenagers since 1969. Our student body comprises a max of 40 students in grades nine through twelve with a student-teacher ratio of 5:1 or smaller. Students graduate from Holden with academic confidence and intellectual curiosity, the ability to advocate for themselves, a strong sense of community, a passion for learning, and solid plans for their futures. Students come from all over the Bay Area and reflect its diversity. This year marks our 51st year in the lower level of the Orinda Community Church, and our 52nd year in existence!

The pandemic continued to have a major impact on our program in 2021. We spent the first months of the year in remote learning and in March reopened our 2-day-a-week hybrid program at limited capacity with weekly PCR testing, physical distancing, daily professional sanitization, and masking. After spring break, we reopened 4 days a week, and most of our staff returned to teach in person once they were fully vaccinated. This summer we enrolled many new students and returned to full in-person instruction for fall semester with vaccination requirements for all students and staff. We continued through the end of the year with weekly testing, daily sanitization, and strict mask requirements.

Holden has a long history of serving students with mental health challenges and the need for support has been greater than ever this past year. In December, the US Surgeon General issued an urgent advisory about the need to address the youth mental health crisis that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. Holden has realized that the mental health needs of our students would be better met by more experienced counselors so worked to secure a grant over the course of the next several years to support bolstering our counseling program from the Cammack-Sanderson family.

Eight students graduated from Holden last year. In June, we held an in-person graduation ceremony limited to immediate households of graduates and staff outdoors in front of the OCC sanctuary. Some graduates chose to participate in an individual graduation ceremony over Zoom instead. Some Holden graduates' headed off to colleges including Willamette in Salem, Oregon; University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington; and Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Others went on to internships in cinematography, courses in aviation maintenance, community college, and jobs.

Our work against racism and for equity continues. In 2021, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee evaluated systems at Holden that may be impacted by bias. As a result we have improved our disciplinary tracking systems and implemented improved hiring practices. We created a climate survey and embedded a wheel of privilege into our weekly staff meetings to remind us to consider the many ways members of our community are marginalized. Several staff members also participated in a professional learning

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(Holden continued)

community cohort called Equity Teams which gave Holden staff a chance to collaborate with other schools.

Throughout the year students presented grade level projects. 9th and 10th graders completed community service projects including phone banking, working in animal shelters, stocking food pantries, and co-teaching childrens' Hebrew lessons. 10th graders completed interest projects involving a variety of student passions such as design, gaming, horse care, scuba diving, and driving. 11th graders completed jobs and internships. 12th graders completed transition projects exploring post high school options including jobs, internships, creative and independent living skills, vocational schools, colleges, and scholarships.

As always, we are working hard to recruit families who would be a good fit for our small nurturing program. If you know of a young person whose needs would be met by our unique and innovative school, please refer them to us.

Holden is eternally grateful for the generosity of the Orinda Community Church in supporting our mission. We would like to thank the Rev. Elizabeth Robinson, former staff Dion Maskaleris, members and volunteers John Creech, Pete Hartdegen, Dalton and Kay James, Les Simmonds, Andy Weber, Tom Norris, Chris Mead, Leslie O'Brien, The OCC Sewing Circle, Mission and Outreach, and, last but certainly not least, members of the OCC who serve (or have served) on our board: Lani Shepp, Gail Mead, Lee Cruise, Elisabeth Kersten, Kay Norman, and Joyce Crawford. We could not be the school we are today without you! We are excited to be renewing our lease and so grateful to be able to call 10 Irwin Way home for another 10 years.

ORINDA SENIOR VILLAGE BOARD

Gwen McNeilus

Orinda Senior Village (OSV) is one of OCC's oldest and historically longest lasting mission partner. OSV is a subsidized housing project begun in 1983* when members of the Orinda Community Church congregation and other Orinda residents combined to support the establishment of subsidized senior housing to be built on land donated by the Church. The Bylaws of OSV require that a majority of the members of OSV's board be members of OCC.

Orinda Community Church 2021 OSV Board Members:

- Gwen McNeilus - OSV Officer, Secretary
- Chris Mead - OSV Officer, Treasurer
- Fred Matteson
- John Thursby
- Lee Cruise

A few of the projects at OSV this past year included:

- Focus on health and safety has been the top priority for 2021. This concern for the wellbeing of others resulted in a wide range of services from best practice COVID cleaning protocols to partnering with outside resources to bring Covid and Flu vaccination clinics to OSV for residents
- Maintenance projects included a) Energy Efficient Lighting upgrades complete in 120 units and to continue when the apartments turnover until all units are complete. b) Elevator Modernization is underway with a vendor secured, contract signed and parts on order. When the materials are received the job will be scheduled and should be complete in 2022. c) Plumbing Upgrades have been completed d) Kitchen Cabinet Replacement: 145 kitchen rehabs are complete. The only remaining kitchens to be updated are long term tenants who do not want the disruption of a rehab.
- Fire Prevention/fuel build-up mitigation: OSV landscaper cleared all weeds and brush and PG&E also cleared the brush below the electrical lines. Several dead trees on the property were removed

ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(OSV Board continued)

- Garden Relocation: A plan is being developed to relocate the OSV garden from above caretakers cottage
- Parking: A comprehensive strategic plan for parking is under development. Capacity is 63 resident spaces and 10 for visitors. Steps taken have included enforcement of parking rules, asking for registration and proof of insurance. OSV has implemented a sign-in process for guests to register their vehicle when they arrive so we know who is parking on the property. There is more work ahead to address this issue and OSV is committed to finding a long term sustainable solution.

Orinda Senior Housing Foundation (OSHF):

- This fulfills OCC's mission of providing affordable housing and as a by-product of that, helps meet the church's income needs through a long term lease providing for annual payments to OCC
- OCC's and OSHF's legal counsel have come to an agreement and terms finalized
- Vista Verde Community Housing is the name of the project
- Application to City complete with submission to planning the next step planned for early 2022.
- Presentations throughout the community have taken place this past year and the project is receiving a high level of support from the city and the majority of members of the community.
- The Vista Verde Community Housing Website is live now. Use the link which follows (or search for Vista Verde Orinda) to see the website and for more information: <https://vistaverdeorinda.com/>

In closing, Orinda Senior Village management and residents appreciate OCC for their partnership with other concerned Orinda residents establishing OSV and OCC's continued involvement and commitment to subsidized senior housing.

*Contract of intention signed in 1983.