



Dear Palmers,

When I took over the position of Senior Warden from Jim Key, both he and Neil Willard felt 2020 was going to be a quiet year. Unfortunately, Covid had something else in mind. We have all had to find ways to stay safe while still salvaging some semblance of normalcy. For the most part, our lives have taken on a new look and feel. Some good things and some not so great, I would like to focus on the good.

Before Covid, on February 18th, new members of the Vestry were welcomed at our first meeting. Who knew this would be our only opportunity to be together in-person. By mid-March, the church was closed, as was the city, as well as much of the nation. All contact was reduced to phone calls, emails and our new friend Zoom. Even with this unprecedented challenge, the Clergy, church staff, Episcopal Diocese and the Vestry members began working diligently to find a safe way for our parishioners to continue worshipping at Palmer. By March 22, we rolled out online services via Facebook and YouTube. This was in large part due to the diligence and ingenuity of Dustin Jesudason and David Wantland. Roger Hutchison jumped in and started the Great Wednesday Conversation series via Zoom, which included visits with the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, as well as Professor Brené Brown. These regular connections with the church helped provide much needed relief and spiritual guidance to all of us. By September 22, we were able to open our campus for in person services. Indoor services were discontinued due to an uptick in Covid cases but outdoor services have remained active with no interruptions.

Walking into the role of Senior Warden, the three goals I had planned for my tenure were – to change the Code of Procedures rules around the election process for the Vestry, to form a membership task force, and to continue repairs at the Rectory. I am happy to report headway on all three points. Kristie Van Arsdel, Junior Warden, is leading the committee to rework the Code of Procedures around Vestry elections. The committee also includes John Wallace, Barbara Hass, Michael Chambers and Neil Willard. They hope to have a revised Code of Procedures for the parish to authorize by summer 2021.

The Membership Task Force is composed of Neil Willard, David Wantland, Roger Hutchison, Jim Mercurio, Kristie Van Arsdel, Beth Hunter, Ash Byrnes and me. Our main focus is to bring new families to Palmer. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

Regarding Rectory repairs, Gretta Boshara and David Robinson were able to complete phase one of the repairs, which includes structural, new fireplace and cosmetic repairs, with the help of the Endowment.

On a financial note, the church ended the fiscal year with a \$100,000 plus surplus. This was due in large part to the overwhelming support from the congregation ...thank you ..., help from the Diocese with relief on our assessment and participation in our country's PPP loans. This has been a year for the history books. With team effort and dedication, the Vestry members, Church Staff, and Clergy, created an environment of new ideas and many workarounds to help keep the church on steady ground.

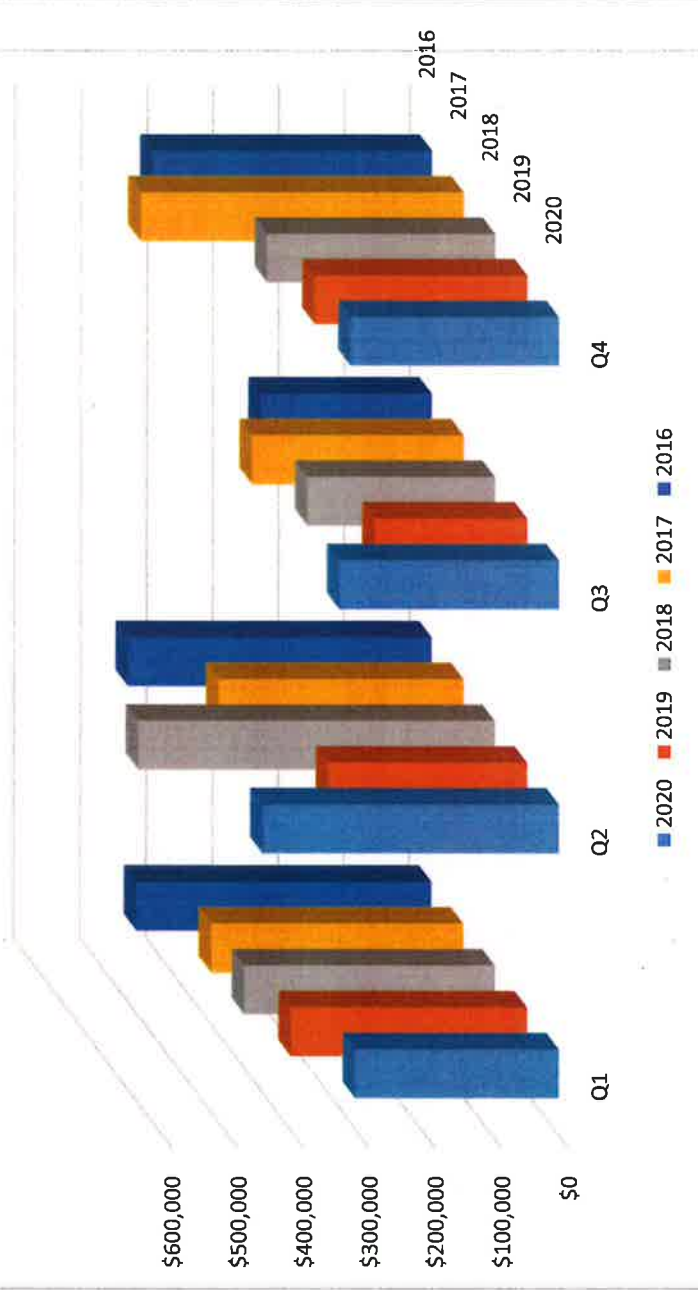
I want to thank the church staff at Palmer: Roger Hutchison, Tara McConathy, Sue Howard, Jessica Evans, Dustin Jesudason, Jack Karn (added this year) and special thanks to Brady Knapp, Ken Cowan and the Choir for the gift of beautiful music. Also, Jimmy PARRALES for managing the housekeeping, Clarence Hulin for leading our devoted security staff, Gerry Sandoval for keeping our building and equipment in good working order, and our unnamed members that volunteer for all of the wonderful committees that we have here at Palmer. Our clergy, Neil Willard, Liz Parker and David Wantland, for their leadership and spiritual guidance during an extremely difficult time in our lives. Finally, I want to recognize the Vestry members – Kristie Van Arsdel as Junior Warden, we have worked as a partnership this year, I could not have done my job without her, Al Hergenroeder (Clerk), Barbara Hass (Outreach), Rita Justice (Stewardship), Susannah Webb (Communications), Steven Killworth (Worship), Shannon Westin(Evangelism), Randy Byrd(Evangelism), Gretta Boshara (Building/Grounds), David Robinson (Building/Grounds), Kelly Williams (Outreach), Libby Spoeede (Worship), Mike Murphy (Finance) and Rand Key (Stewardship). Each of you brought your own unique talents and skill set to ensure all church needs were met. Getting to know each of you has been a gift to me and I am honored to have served as your Senior Warden.

As I close, I would like for all of us to ponder and not to run from 2020, but to move into 2021 with the recognition of the potential gifts from 2020, perhaps the silver lining you found from a year none of us could have considered.

Respectfully,
Burdette Keeland
Senior Warden

P.S. My silver lining was my marriage to Ruth Palmer at Palmer on December 5. Thank you everyone for your prayers and blessings. We felt them all.

Operating & Designated Funds Cash Balance

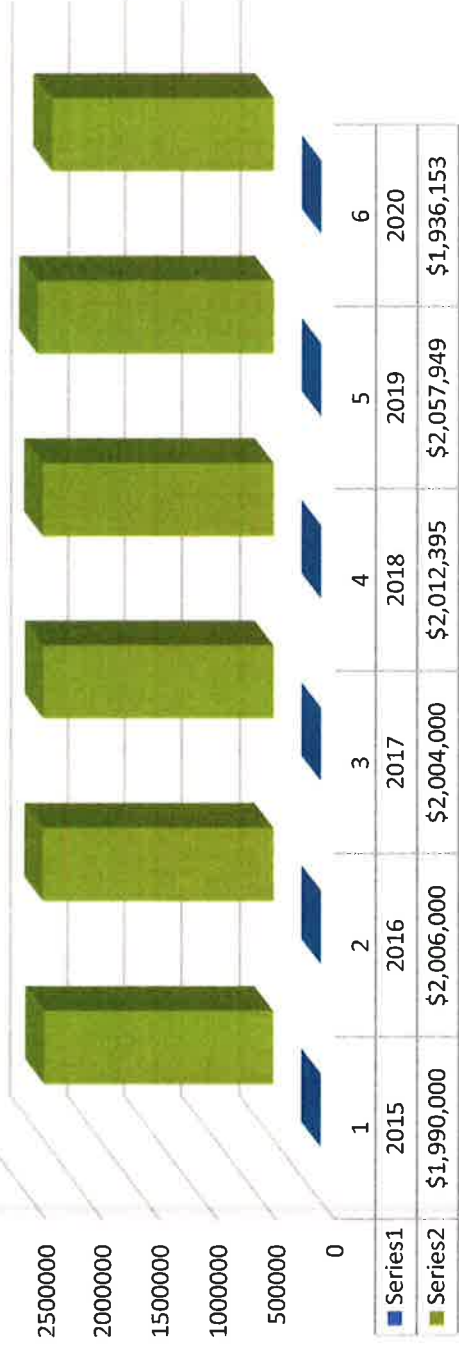


- Average year-end cash balance ~ \$402K

- Actual 2020 cash balance ~ \$315K

- Average pledges increased from ~ \$5,116 in 2016 to ~ \$6,482 in 2021

Operating Fund Expenditures



- Annual expenses ~ \$2MM +- 10% since 2015

- 2021 budgeted expenses decreased ~\$140K from 2020 budget

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PALMER MEMORIAL CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The trustees of the Palmer Endowment Fund (the "Endowment") during the year 2020 were Bob Ittner, Chair; Laura Van Ness, Treasurer; Lynn Morstead, Secretary; Mike Soika and Bet Hunter. Linda Kelly serves as Counsel.

On January 1, 2019, the value of the Endowment assets was \$4,466,940. The major distributions of funds during 2020 were \$185,000 representing funds provided to the Church for maintenance and repairs, and \$300 per month for maintenance of the rose garden. At the end of April Palmerians took over the maintenance of the garden. The Endowment also agreed to fund \$41,462 in rectory repairs although invoices have not been submitted at this time. The Endowment received \$90,263 in contributions for the year. As of December 31, 2020, the value of the Endowment assets was \$4,979,386. The Endowment assets are professionally managed by Vanguard Assets Management Services within the investment policies set by the trustees.

The Daphne Palmer Neville Society continued to add new members in 2020, bringing the total membership to more than 70. The membership consists of those individuals or families who have contributed to the Endowment or have made arrangements in their wills or retirement accounts to contribute to the Endowment.

There was no other activity of the Endowment. We will continue to look for opportunities to build the Endowment and the Daphne Palmer Neville Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Ittner
Chair

Parish Necrology 2020

Remembering parishioners who died last year.

Marvin V. Cluett

Berma Kinsey

William Lawrence Hass

Barbara Jeanne Moore Maxey

Norma Jane Riggins