ANNUAL REPORTS
to
THE SOCIETY OF KING’S CHAPEL

June 9, 2024
Annual Meeting
of the
Society of King’s Chapel
Sunday, June 9, 2024
5:00-6:00 PM via Zoom

Warrant for the
2024 Annual Meeting
of the Society of King’s Chapel

The Annual Meeting of the Society of King’s Chapel will be held for the purposes of:

(1) electing Members of the Vestry, Committee Chairs, and the 2025 Nominating Committee, and

(2) hearing reports from Parish Leaders including the Wardens, Minister, the Trustees, the Chairs of Parish Council, Committees, and Ad Hoc or Special Interest Groups.
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meeting Agenda………………………………………………………1

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2023…………………2

Reports

Nominating Committee……………………………………………4

The Wardens………………………………………………………5
The Senior Minister ……………………………………9
The Assistant Minister………………………………………16
The Trustees…………………………………………………17
The Treasurer …………………………………………………19

The Parish Council ………………………………………………22

Committees and Ad Hoc and Interest Groups

- Adult Religious Education Committee
- Archives Committee
- Building and Grounds
- Communications Task Force
- Community Action Committee
- Deck the Hall
- Environmental Committee
- Hospitality
- Membership Committee
- Memorial Project Committee
- Music Committee
- Partner Church
- Prayer Circle
- Prayer Circle
- Stewardship Committee
- Youth Religious Education (Church School)
- History Program
CALL TO ORDER Betsy Peterson, Warden

INVOCATION Reverend Joy Fallon, Senior Minister

APPOINTMENT of Parliamentarian - Robert Gulick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTIONS
  Nominating Committee Report, Cathy Price, Chair
  VOTE to Accept Nominations

  VOTE to elect 2025 Nominating Committee

REPORTS

  Senior Warden, Betsy Peterson

  Senior Minister, Joy Fallon

  Trustees, Samuel D. Perry

  Parish Council, Michael Bergeron, Chair

  Committees and Ad Hoc Interest Groups

  History Program, Gianna Russi

CONCLUDING PRAYER Joy Fallon, Senior Minister

ADJOURNMENT
The Annual Meeting of the Society of King’s Chapel was called to order at 6:02 PM by Senior Warden Kathe German. 62 members of the congregation were present, allowing for a quorum to move forward. The invocation was provided by Senior Minister the Reverend Joy Fallon. Robert Gulick was appointed Parliamentarian.

Reports, given by the Senior Warden, Senior Minister and Trustees were brief, as they are written in full in the Annual Meeting Report packet. All members of the congregation were forwarded a copy of these prior to the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Outgoing Treasurer Dorie Seavey shared that while we are only halfway through the year, the budget is already tight. With staff turnover come higher staff costs. Noting that we have already committed to a full-time Sexton and new Assistant Minister at higher wages, we also anticipate the need to pay a higher wage to a new Parish Administrator. There are few sources of revenue for our organization, and we need to look to Stewardship to help pay the higher costs. Additionally, we were approved for the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) and we expect to see around $115,000 by the end of 2023.

Committee Reports: Michael Bergeron provided a synopsis of the past year’s activities of the committees.

History Program: Marissa Cheifetz, Director, shared that over 10,000 visitors have come through the doors already this year, up 72% from last year at this time. She has implemented new programming including express tours, holiday weekend donation only visits, and has created a partnership with GoCity, bringing in 210 visitors in 3 months. The biggest challenge she is having is with staffing, and her need to be present on site due to short staffing, therefore not allowing for time for program development.

Elections:
The report from the Nominating Committee was presented by Sylvia Soderberg and was accepted via unanimous vote. In addition to the list provided in the
Annual Report packet, it was noted that Hospitality is no longer a committee, but that Anne Sexton, Cathy Price and Gregg Sorensen still have a role in planning events and coffee hour.

Memorial Project Report:
Dean Denniston, chair of the Memorial Project Committee, provide an overview of the committee’s work for the past years. There have been numerous meetings to share information with and gather information from the congregation. All can be found in the Annual Report packet. Most recently, a vote was taken at a special meeting to determine whether we should move forward with the Memorial Project, as it has been presented thus far. The vote was positive, and there is now a Motion requesting official confirmation to proceed. The vote was taken via poll, and the results were:

- Yes 38 (62%)
- No 18 (29%)
- Abstention 6 (9%)

New Business:
Kathe German reminded the congregation that Joy had been with us for 10 years. A round of applause was offered. Gretchen Horton has been with us for over 7 years, and round of applause was offered. The Changing of the Guard party for new and old committee chairs will be held on June 22.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Horton
Parish Administrator
REPORT FROM THE 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Under the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of candidates to replace officers, vestry members, and chairs of Committees and Parish Council who have resigned or whose terms are expiring. The names of the nominees in the charts below in **bold italics** will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all members whose terms are ending for their service to King’s Chapel.

### Officers 3-year term, renewable once

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
<th>Renewable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warden</td>
<td>Betsy Peterson</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warden</td>
<td>Stephen Courtney</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Cliff Allen</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Vestry 3-year Term, Non-renewable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Nelson-Hoy</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathe German</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Soderberg</td>
<td>2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Cegielski</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Speight</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felicia Kisselburg</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher La Roche</td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregg Sorensen</td>
<td>2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Sears</td>
<td>2027</td>
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</tbody>
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### Parish Council 2-year term, renewable once

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
<th>Renewable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Michael Bergeron</td>
<td>Tim Nelson-Hoy</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Not Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Religious Education:</td>
<td>Tim Nelson-Hoy</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Not renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and Grounds:</td>
<td>John Bowman</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Not Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Action:</td>
<td>Amanda Pickett</td>
<td>2026</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Genovese</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Fisher</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment:</td>
<td>Kent Wittenberg</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership: Sylvia Soderberg</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Price</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music: Amy Meyer</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship: open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Religious Education:</td>
<td>Sarah Graber</td>
<td>December 2024</td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucy Boynton Melvin</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member-at-large: Amelia Burke</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes, Renewable</td>
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The members of the 2024 Nominating Committee were Cathy Price, Chair; Anne Sexton, and Christopher LaRoche.

### Nominating Committee 2025

The Nominating Committee members are nominated by the Wardens and Vestry. They serve one-year terms and choose their own chair. The Wardens and Vestry nominate:

Faith Scovel, Allen Speight, and Becky Wittenburg
REPORT FROM THE WARDENS

Last year, our Warden Kathe German focused her report on three new initiatives. This year, the most striking new element is the leadership team! Our Senior Minister Joy once again has a new set of close colleagues. Michael Bergeron continues to serve as Chair of Parish Council, but both of us are new as Wardens and Cliff Allen is new as Treasurer. Cheryl Sullivan, Director of Administration and Finance, and Sam Holland, Assistant Minister, are new to King’s Chapel altogether! We give thanks however for the continuing service of Laura Zeugner, our worship coordinator and administrative assistant, whose many valuable contributions are for the most part behind the scenes.

The members of the Vestry and Parish Council are critical leaders too. We began by celebrating that shared leadership in person, with a joint meeting of the Council and the Vestry on June 22. The Vestry normally meets by Zoom once a month. Its members, in addition to the officers, have been Patricia Bass, Amanda Cegielski, Kathe German, Timothy Nelson-Hoy, Felicia Kisselburg, Alison LaRosa, Mary Katherine Morn, Sylvia Soderberg, and Allen Speight, with the Ministers, the Chair of Parish Council, and the Trustees as ex officio members. Tim joined the Vestry in January, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Natoli, who is now living in central Massachusetts.

We will miss Pat, Mary Katherine, and Alison as they complete their terms this June. Each has made distinctive and valuable contributions to Vestry discussions.

Continuing Efforts. We decided to continue the theme Faith in Action, and we gave much of our attention to implementing the three initiatives that Kathe highlighted last year, described below.

Supporting The Memorial Project. On June 4, 2023, at the Annual Meeting of the Society, the congregation voted “to embark on a Memorial to the 219 individuals enslaved by its past ministers and members” with both physical and social action elements. The Memorial Project Committee makes its own report, but we must applaud their vision and dedication. The Committee has led us into new ground, working with the artist Harmonia Rosales and MASSDesign and seeking the funding from a variety of foundations as well as from the congregation and community.

The Memorial Project Committee and many of our members see the Memorial Project as a crucial and exciting step for King’s Chapel and for the larger community; that with our history and location we are uniquely called to help tell a fuller story of American history. Some do not share that vision, and some disagree.
with specific elements, especially the ceiling mural, as we knew from meetings leading up to the vote to go forward. In the fall, the Vestry was asked to review some comments from concerned parishioners, submitted anonymously. Many churches refuse to consider anonymous submissions reasoning that you can’t have good communication, if any, with “anonymous”. so we asked each Vestry member to make his or her own decision whether to read the comments. The Vestry was also asked to take a formal vote on the memorial project. Recognizing the two congregational votes for the memorial, the Vestry voted to affirm the congregational vote to go forward with the memorial project, with one dissenting vote.

This May, the Vestry gave further support to the memorial project, voting to authorize the withdrawal of up to $100,000 from the Society’s General Reserve Fund, if needed, as a grant, to facilitate moving forward with the statue. The Fund held $681,041 at the end of April.

**Reconsidering our Committee Structure.** Under Kathe and Michael’s leadership, the Parish Council developed a proposal to restructure, primarily by distinguishing between committees, which have elected leadership, and ad hoc committees or special interest groups, whose leaders are appointed or emerge organically. The Vestry approved the plan as an experiment and it will continue. The Parish Council report gives details for the year just ending and for the year to come.

**Improving the Budget Process.** Last year, Kathe as Warden and Treasurer Dorie Seavey developed an outline for the budget process and a statement of budget principles, in consultation with the with the Parish Council and Vestry. The new team is grateful for that guidance and this Vestry also reviewed and affirmed budget principles, slightly updated.

Cliff and Cheryl have offered their own improvements. They presented the budget in two forms. One contains all the detail presented in the past. The new format, the “basic budget”, reports income and expenses in larger categories and focuses on impact to the bottom line. The congregation voted to affirm on February 4.

Their second innovation is in monthly reports. In the past profit and loss statements, which compare actual expense and income to budget, we have defined budget as one-twelfth of the yearly budget. But our cash flow is highly variable from month to month. For example, some months see substantial Income from stewardship and specific trusts, while others have little or none. Cheryl has now prepared estimates for each month and uses that estimate to compare actual to budget, giving the Vestry a more accurate sense how we are proceeding.
**Finances.** The appeal this spring was extraordinary--we launched two fundraising campaigns at the same time with good success! Stewardship succeeded in persuading more donors to make their gifts or pledges this spring instead of at the end of the year, while the Memorial Project Committee raised a substantial amount for that project.

Nonetheless, we are a small congregation with unusual additional commitments, such as our outstanding professional music programs and old buildings that are expensive to maintain. The trust funds are key components of our finances. We are blessed by the expert management of our trustees and the Fiduciary Trust Company, and by market factors that have helped the funds grow dramatically in the last few years. So this is an opportune moment for the trustees and the church leaders to review and reconsider the guidelines for distributing funds to the Society. That conversation is under way. There’s been some delay because most of us on the leadership team are new to our roles. It’s a steep learning curve as we strive for a better understanding of the complexities and restrictions that the trustees face in distributing those funds.

**Church in Several Forms.** We are still learning how to be church, how to be community, in this society in which meeting online is usually more practical and often preferred to meeting in person. Most of us miss being together in the old ways and we miss those easy opportunities for informal conversation, yet efforts to gather in person often disappoint. Many of us would prefer to spend less time on Zoom—but a lot of church and community is happening on Zoom, and many people could not or would not participate without it.

Small group discussions thrive online, and for many have become a key connection to King’s Chapel and each other. These include the weekly offerings of Coffee with the Clergy and Wednesday Bible Study and many evening discussions. The clergy and committees--Adult Religious Education, Environmental, and Community Action have offered programs ranging from Lenten readings to Rilke’s poetry to ecotheology and conversations about death.

The internet offers worship, too. The hybrid format of Morning Light, in the Little Chapel and by Zoom at 9 am, fosters both worship and community in ways we hadn’t seen before. Most of its participants attend almost every Sunday. Morning Prayer at the Chapel at 11 also has its regulars, but those of us who attend Morning Prayer in person wish that more of you would come more often. Some suggest that we would get more people in person if there were no option to attend online. We have considered that course of action but think it unlikely to improve attendance, and we are reluctant to forfeit this opportunity for others to experience our beautiful service, excellent preaching, and outstanding music.
Although we have both served in other leadership roles at King’s Chapel, we find that being wardens gives us the widest—and deepest—view yet. We’ve been impressed by the variety of matters that come our way, sometimes challenged, occasionally bemused. It is not boring! and it’s a privilege to get a close look at the gifts and dedication of so many outstanding people.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Peterson and Stephen Courtney, Wardens
REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Thank you for the privilege of serving God and this congregation at King’s Chapel. Over the years, many of you have shared with me important parts of your lives, you’ve taught me, and together we’ve sought to know better who or what God is, who we are, and the difference that these two understandings make in our lives. I’m still growing and being transformed by Love, God’s other name. Thank you for being on the journey with me.

In my eleventh year as your Senior Minister, I’d like to divide this annual report into two parts: administration of the church and the future of the church. Both were primary foci for me this year.

Administration of the Church

2023 was a year of significant administrative challenges and changes, as we had major transitions of staff, lay leadership, and status of our buildings.

In June 2023, the officers of the church changed, after a period of stability. I give hearty thanks to Kathe German, out-going Sr. Warden, and Dorie Seavey, out-going Treasurer. Their contributions to our church were great, in terms of hours, wisdom and leadership. In June 2023, the church and its staff welcomed in as new officers Betsy Peterson (Senior Warden), Stephen Courtney (Junior Warden), and Cliff Allen (Treasurer). Michael Bergeron, Chair of Parish Council, continued in that role and as Head Usher, while adding Sunday verger duties. The church is blessed by its active and generous members. As each new group of officers discovers, there are many complexities to all the church handles in one year. For me, it’s a blessing to be part of such strong teams.

As for the staff and buildings, in February 2023, a fire broke out early on a Sunday morning in the parsonage kitchen. An aging electric baseboard heater was the likely culprit, and we were blessed that the damage was only to the kitchen and the apartment directly below the kitchen. No one was hurt. Five engines of the Fire Department promptly arrived, hoses were dispatched and a ladder truck reached to the top floors. Black smoke billowed through all of 63 Beacon, dramatically pouring from our 4th floor windows, and leaving its tell-tale damage throughout the parsonage. As a consequence of the fire, two rooms at 63 Beacon St. had to be totally gutted and rebuilt. I am grateful to John Bowman, Steve Courtney and the rest of our building committee and our staff for the great care they took in overseeing this project. They spent endless hours helping my family. The final result is a lovely new parsonage kitchen and a new bedroom below, both of which are insulated for the first time.
Soon after that, we faced a rolling turnover of key members of our staff: two sextons, one history director, our parish administrator (after 7 years) and our assistant minister (after 4 years). The Rev. Sam Holland and Cheryl Sullivan joined the staff by summer’s end and ably come up to speed, stepping in where we’d been served by David Waters and Gretchen Horton. To assist with these transitions over the summer of 2023, I delayed my sabbatical by one year.

Cheryl Sullivan is a quick study and a wonderful support. As one example, she helped us hire a very capable history program director in April 2024, Gianna Russi. Gianna hired staff, trained them, and reopened our history program for Memorial Day in time for summer visitors. Gianna’s professionalism and organization are impressive. Our history program will remain open through the height of the tourist season, probably closing in November. During the 2024-2025 year, with the help of a planning grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., we hope to create a new interpretive plan for our visitor program, to serve us for the longer term. Lilly is interested in our religious and cultural history and how these relate to our new findings about slavery.

In the last week, a new sexton, was hired, for whom we are very grateful. We had experienced five months without this position being filled, which was challenging. Thank you to John Bowman, Cheryl Sullivan, Steve Courtney and Laura Zeugner.

The congregation also voted in its 2024 budget to contract with a communications assistant for 10 hours a week, in recognition of the critical role for effectively communicating with both current members and those who may want to know more about our church worship, spiritual programs, history and music. Our website needs to move to a new platform and a consultant is working with Kathe German, Gregg Sorenson, Christopher LaRoche, Cheryl Sullivan and Laura Zeugner to revise our overly dense and outdated website. This is a vital tool for outreach to those interested in finding a new church, worshipping with us, or attending one of our programs.

As we’ve gone through these transitions, I am grateful for the steady, excellent work of Heinrich Christensen as Music Director and Laura Zeugner as Worship Coordinator, providing continuity in the midst of significant change. Thank you to all the lay people who have helped with these personnel searches and helped train our new staff. Thank you also to laity who have stepped in to perform the duties of a verger, whom we no longer employ due to budget cuts.
The staff at King’s Chapel have unusual, more challenging responsibilities than at most churches with our size congregation, when the totality of responsibilities and the size of staff is considered.

While some churches may have an historic building, they do not have three, one of which is on the Freedom Trail and two of which require special neighborhood approval before changes and upkeep can be undertaken. All three buildings require constant care and pose significant security challenges due to their downtown locations. With the failure of a consistent internet service, staff work and worship are slowed, and with the front door security system in the parish house broken and the door always locked, it is difficult for people to access our parish house and time consuming for the staff.

Programmatically, few churches provide two worship services on Sunday, in two different locations, both hybrid. We have welcomed many to a consistent community at Morning Light (9 AM in the Little Chapel at 64 Beacon), where each congregant has an opportunity to share joys and concerns, and we pray for each other. A caring community has been built. Often the numbers of those attending in person and on zoom is not much different than at Morning Prayer. Due to the intention and grandeur of our Morning Prayer service (11 AM at the main sanctuary) it the service most likely to draw out-of-town visitors to our worship. It is also a comfort to those of our worshipers who attend. Heinrich’s skills as an organist and his leadership of our professional choir continues to nourish our members and astonish visitors.

Few small congregations offer our range of weekly programming virtually, attracting not only members but other interested individuals from the area, and even nationwide. These are a pleasure to lead or assist, as are the more social occasions when we gather by zoom. Finally, very few churches our size oversee two programs beyond traditional church functions: the choir concert series and weekly recital, and our history program.

For most of these activities, we hire, maintain payrolls, compute taxes, attend to personnel matters, set up meetings or rehearsals, produce programs and orders of service, order music, choose hymns, select worship music, choose scriptures, and recruit lectors and lay readers. Staff send out mailings, work with renters, set up rooms, and attend to renters’ needs. I am deeply grateful for our staff and their ability to multitask through many responsibilities, allowing us such a plethora of activities.
Future of the Church

I’ve been thinking, praying and reading a lot about church life, especially since the pandemic in 2020 and our re-emergence to hybrid services, both in-person and virtual. Even prior to the pandemic, church participation in the US, especially in main line churches, had been declining significantly. With the pandemic, the decline rapidly increased. Every minister and denomination is aware of this and considering what we are called to do, at this time.

First, I personally think another revision of our prayer book is due, as my predecessor, Interim Minister Diane Arakawa also told you for many years in her annual report. Without inclusive language, the prayer book as a way to share about God and ourselves is a very limited tool. The reader or speaker is “he” or “my son” and God is “Father Almighty” and “he.” For decades now, Christians have known that with more expansive language for God, we can leave behind narrow limiting definitions of the ineffable. Our own spiritual lives can grow. We no longer privilege male language. As Mary Daly observed 40 years ago, “When God is male, male is God.” Of course, editing the prayerbook is a congregational decision.

Every Sunday in worship, we read and preach from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, join in hymns and music, and pray for forgiveness and courage. As both individuals and a church, we pray that we live our faith, “not only with our lips but in our lives.” As the hymn says, “They will know we are Christians by our love.”

Our role as a church is stated well in our covenant: “In the love of truth, and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of all.” Worship and service are both touchstones. We need them both. We want to follow where Christ leads, championing the underserved or forgotten with whom he stood, treating all with dignity and compassion, as he did, and always knowing we need the power from the God of Love to do this work. Humbly, we try to discern what a small church like King’s Chapel can be and do in this world that God loves.

I am convinced that right now, as people of faith, we are being invited to address two compelling issues: racial injustice in Boston and the onslaught of climate change. Members of our congregation already have taken leadership in these areas. As people of God, what we do or do not do in these areas will be observable by others. A failure to act will limit our future growth.

We own three old buildings, from the 18th and 19th centuries – the sanctuary, the parsonage and the parish house. Each is historically significant, and each is burdened by little insulation and antiquated heating systems that are now breaking
down. Will we invest in new climate-friendly heating systems (heat pumps fueled by electricity), or will we spend substantial funds to patch together our old systems that continue to use fossil fuels? We have begun to do the needed research and cost analysis. If we won’t act to cut our reliance on fossil fuels, why should anyone?

Likewise, on racial justice, the facts are now well known: the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston established that racial injustice caused significant disparities in the lives of black and white residents in Boston. The average wealth of whites in Boston is $270,000 and the average wealth of blacks is $8. These disparities are not due to the cruel tropes of laziness or poor decisions. Rather, systematic, chosen policies prevented the accumulation of wealth by blacks: slavery, the dismantling of reconstruction, lynching to enforce Jim Crow, voting and job discrimination, deliberate educational discrimination in Boston’s public schools, and redlining that made mortgages unavailable in our communities of color. The consequences of all these actions have made it nearly impossible for many of Boston’s black families to accumulate significant wealth. Without being able to invest in a home, these families lacked the wealth accumulation used by many whites to fund college tuitions, invest in a start-up business, or pass on a financial inheritance to their offspring. There is a powerful, ongoing legacy of past actions.

Our history as a church establishes that but for the slave trade and the wealth accrued through it, our sanctuary would not have been financed and built. Our history also establishes that men who were significant leaders both in the city and in our church, were proponents of the 1850 fugitive slave law, and favored a slow evolution away from slavery at the pace the South set. Of course, there are many parts of our history of which we continue rightfully to be proud, including being the first Unitarian Church in the nation, and nurturing many civic, cultural and industrial leaders, some of whom were abolitionists. Without many of the leaders who worshipped with us, our city and nation would be the poorer. That’s why our history program also leads special programs about the literary authors of King’s Chapel, our architecture, our unique religious presence in Boston, and the American Revolution, among others.

Last year this church courageously voted to tell a much fuller story of our history, about the complexity of us humans who have worshipped and led King’s Chapel. Not one of us, looking back, would affirm and re-engage is some of our past conduct that later shames us. We call to a God of Forgiveness.

And while we are not able to undo the horrors of the past, we can be honest about them. King’s Chapel gathers “in the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus Christ” so we will tell the fuller story about slavery in Boston. You voted to support both a
memorial to those enslaved by ministers and members of King’s Chapel and to create a “living memorial” to begin to repair past racial injustices.

As we moved forward in the last year to implement these decisions, I’ve learned three new things I’d like to share with you.

(a) All over our City and Nation, many organizations, including churches, are learning about their past history intertwined with slavery, and already are taking concrete actions to make amends. We are not alone. Harm was done. With others moving forward on this front, how would we explain not doing so?

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts has voted for reparations, Harvard has set up a fund, and the recently released Living Memorial report highlights more actions and options.

(b) Memorials are important; it is significant that we’ll honor persons of color in a white, historic settings. To those who argue that memorials are unimportant, I urge the study of Prof. Sarah Elizabeth Lewis at Harvard, and a review of the national monuments audit led by the Mellon Foundation. Monuments tell what we as a nation value. There are very few monuments in Boston of blacks, native Americans, or women.

Unsurprisingly, not everyone has the same understanding of what churches are called to be today, and for whom a sanctuary exists. Some believe that by far our most important function is to be available to members or visitors to worship, with the beauty and dignity for which King’s Chapel is justifiably well known. Those who worship are spiritually fed. Changes to the interior sanctuary that may mar that experience should not be considered, they feel.

But isn’t it better to see the purpose of our sanctuary as not limited to its current members but to serve God, and the wider community. Why? Its location and its remarkable history, and its ability to tell the full truth and complexity of Boston’s history. If we were a small church on a suburban town center, the argument that the building is primarily for its own members might be more plausible, although even then it would seem to elide Christ’s teachings. But for King’s Chapel, a 337-year-old majestic building that has proven to attract people from all over the nation and world, our building has a wonderful potential, to serve not only as a place of worship or concerts, or even a history program. It also can teach about how Christians can work in our world – honoring all, freeing all, opening us to the light. Art helps tell that story.
(c) Third, as we’ve sought funding for our project, I have been reminded of the many who support this action. We’ve received comments from well-respected funders about the new art we commissioned. One art foundation considers the work by Harmonia Rosales, “inspirational.” We receive comments by some long-time leaders in the community of color, that people may be attracted nationally and internationally to see the breath-taking art of Harmonia Rosales. I am always honored to receive these recurring accolades about your church from those beyond our congregation. I wish they were delivered directly to you.

My friends, we know that people have myriad alternative ways to spend their time than attend a Sunday service. For those looking for a way to lead a life of purpose and meaning, strengthened by God “in whom we live and move and have our being,” can we model how that is done, especially on critical issues of the day? If we indeed worship God and, based on our love, serve all including those beyond our walls, these will be the most important things we can do to grow.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Fallon
I arrived at King’s Chapel at the beginning of this program year. I have learned so much in a brief amount of time! I wanted to offer you all a report this year as Joy will be taking a much-deserved sabbatical beginning July 15th of this summer. Because I will be ‘at the helm,’ I figured you all should hear from me. I will work to keep Joy’s time away as seamless as possible for everyone.

Of course, some of my responsibilities will shift a bit as I will need to focus even more time on worship preparation and pastoral care, but I will do all I can to tend to my usual jobs as well. Should I encounter moments that are tough to weather, I will look to laity and staff for support. It might comfort you to know that over 5 years ago I covered for another colleague’s sabbatical and that I was serving as a solo pastor prior to my time at KC. I will do my best to serve alongside each and all of you.

As Joy exits for her sabbatical, I want to encourage us all to pray for her; let’s pray for her rest, renewal, and restoration. I know she will be praying for us.

Regarding my general ministry at KC (those matters which are not specific to this year), I want to encourage us to rethink our approach to many aspects of how we ‘do church;’ perhaps we could lean into Walter Brueggemann’s prophetic imagination? In the coming years it would be my deep hope that we update the book of common prayer, reconsider our bylaws and the polity of how the trustees and the vestry interact, and ask hard questions about how those not engaged in our ministry view us. I believe these questions will greatly impact how Christian worship is carried out in the next 50 years and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Sa. M. Holland
On December 31, 2023, the market value of the King’s Chapel General Pooled Fund stood at $35,629,304 as compared with $31,698,677 at the end of 2022. Equities accounted for 96.5% of the portfolio at year-end with the remaining balance of $1,257,352 being cash held in an interest-bearing account. The value of the portfolio appreciated by some 14.9% over the preceding twelve months. This performance compares against a 16.2% increase recorded by the Dow Jones Industrial Average and a whopping 26.3% increase in the Standard & Poor’s Index of 500 Stocks. The latter’s very strong recovery performance was largely attributable to that index’s overweight in seven stocks. By equally weighting its 500 companies, the Standard & Poor’s performance becomes marginally lower than the Dow’s and closely aligns with how the General Pooled Fund performed this past year.

The General Pooled Fund generated $629,242 in dividends and interest net of expenses for custody, investment management and taxes over the twelve months, an increase of some $44,918 from a year ago. Distributions to the Society (and payments incurred on its behalf) totaled $577,309. This sum included a premium payment of $69,960 paid to the Great American Insurance Group for property and liability insurance coverage. For the second time in several decades, the disbursements to and for the Church’s operations fell within the endowment income generated. This allowed for a net transfer to Principal of $40,143. As a result, the unrestricted portion of the General Pooled Fund has edged up slightly to stand at just over 41%.

Along with the General Pooled Fund, the Trustees oversee the Society’s General Reserve Fund. This portfolio had a market value on December 31, 2023 of $683,898 versus $640,554 one year earlier.

The Trustees meet periodically with the Wardens and Treasurers to discuss the General Pooled Fund and its ongoing support of building maintenance and Society activities. They also maintain the longstanding relationship with Fiduciary Trust Company as investment advisor/custodian of the General Pooled and the Society’s General Reserve Funds. The Trustees receive no compensation for their services.

In closing, the Trustees would encourage the Society in its Annual Appeal fundraising effort so that those contributions will better cover the Society’s ongoing program expenses. If this objective can be achieved, the General Pooled Fund Income may again be directed primarily towards the maintenance of the Church building as called for under the Indenture of 1907 and that of the two
Beacon Street properties without the necessity of diminishing unrestricted Principal to cover periodic and large property maintenance expenses. Starting in the early 1990s, the percentage of the General Pooled Fund’s unrestricted Principal has decreased from 72% to its present 41% because of Society requests for the distribution of Principal.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene H. Clapp  
Trustee

William W. Park  
Trustee

Samuel D. Perry  
Trustee
TREASURER’S REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
AND
FIRST QUARTER 2024

2023. The year 2023 had a successful financial conclusion for the Society. Although we operated with monthly deficit balances throughout the year, by the end of the year, we had income exceeding expenses by some $4,800.

2023 Income. Income for King’s Chapel in 2023 totaled $1,207,680. Our Stewardship Campaign was a key component of the Society’s income. We had budgeted $300,000 for the campaign and the final total at year’s end was $277,165 (92% of our goal). The Campaign finished on a strong note as contributions during the month of December alone totaled $98,761. Thank you to all who fulfilled their pledges and to all others who contributed to the Campaign. Nor would we have rebounded the way we did without the very careful management by our hard-working staff.

The Trustees continued their practice of annually distributing $300,000 in income from unrestricted trust funds. The Society also received some $89,000 in restricted trust funds managed by the Trustees as well as a total of $163,900 from the Price Fund (a fund that is owned jointly by King’s Chapel and Trinity Church), the Nichols Trust (King’s Chapel is one of three beneficiaries), and the Christensen Fund (which assists in supporting the Director of our Music Program). The total of trust income received by the Society in 2023 was $553,100.

The Society’s income from our collection plate, events and rentals, and our Visitor Program lagged behind the amount budgeted.

During 2023, we took into income the second half of the second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of $67,775. The PPP loans have provided support for us over the past four years, which has now come to an end. According to data from the Small Business Administration, more than 123,000 churches and religious organizations were approved for PPP loans, which translates to one-third of U.S. churches receiving funding of $7 billion in forgiven loans.

2023 Expenses. Expenses for 2023 totaled $1,202,880. Of the Society’s larger annual expenses, salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits account for nearly 72% of those expenses. Approximately 15% were attributable to building repairs, utilities, and maintenance. This expenditure does not include the 63 Beacon Street fire
expenses, which are being covered by insurance. General and administrative expenses accounted for an additional 6%.

**Year-End Balance Sheet and Trust Information.** As of December 31, 2023, the bank accounts of King’s Chapel had a collective balance of $431,297 of which $296,632 was unrestricted. These checking accounts contain funds temporarily restricted as follows:

- Minister’s Discretionary Fund (xx2610) $43,504
- Concert Series (xx1201) $91,161

**Trust and Reserve Funds.** The King’s Chapel Society General Reserves, owned by the Society and managed by Fiduciary Trust, had a market value of $683,898 as of December 31, 2023 (an increase of $43,344 over the sum reported on December 31, 2022). The Christensen Endowment Fund (a fund that provides financial support to the position of King’s Chapel Music Director and is also managed by Fiduciary Trust) had a value of $301,890 as of December 31, 2023 (an increase of $31,035 over the sum reported on December 31, 2022).

The Society is the sole beneficiary of the King’s Chapel General Pooled Fund held by Fiduciary Trust. The current trustees of this trust are Eugene H. Clapp, William W. Park, and Samuel D. Perry. The market value of the General Pooled Fund was $35,629,304 as of December 31, 2023 (an increase of $3,930,627 over the sum reported on December 31, 2022). The market values of the Lyman Fund and Organ Fund were $190,762 and $115,655, respectively, as of December 31, 2023 (increases of $67,050 and $14,018, respectively, over the sums reported on December 31, 2022). The Trustees customarily report separately to the Annual Meeting.

**First Quarter 2024 Financial Update**

**2024 Budget Summary.** As we are several months into 2024, a short financial update covering the first quarter of 2024 is provided. The 2024 Budget of the Society approved at our Annual Budget Meeting on February 4, 2024, called for a balanced budget consisting of approximately $1,238,420 in income and expenses.

**Operating Results.** At the end of the first quarter of 2024, the Society showed a deficit of $76,444. A deficit is not uncommon for the Society at this time of year. The Society received no donor restricted income from the Trustees in January or March. Donor restricted income is not scheduled to be received until May, and thereafter, in August and November. There are notable variances from what was budgeted, including utility payments that were higher than expected due primarily
to the timing of the payments and custodial expenses that were higher than expected in light of the fact that we are temporarily without a sexton and are relying on outside custodial support. At the end of the year, we receive a surge of annual appeal contributions and a large contribution from the Price Fund, which normally leads to a balanced year-end conclusion or small surplus.

On positive notes, Stewardship contributions have been greater than expected at this point in the year and a new History Program Coordinator has been hired so that our Visitor Program will be restarted.

**Bank Accounts.** At the end of the period, the bank accounts under the control of King’s Chapel had a collective balance of $359,839 as shown in the attached balance sheet, of which $112,605 was unrestricted. These checking accounts contain funds temporarily restricted as follows:

- Minister’s Discretionary Fund (xx2610) $37,504
- Concert Series (xx1201) $29,249
- Memorial Project Account (xx8562) $180,481

**Trust and Reserve Funds.** The King’s Chapel Society General Reserves, owned by the Society and managed by Fiduciary Trust, had a market value of $715,801 as of March 31, 2024 (an increase of $31,903 over the sum reported on December 31, 2023). The Christensen Endowment Fund (a fund that provides financial support to the position of King’s Chapel Music Director and is also managed by Fiduciary Trust) had a value of $318,972 as of March 31, 2024 (an increase of $17,082 over the sum reported on December 31, 2023).

In addition, the Society of King’s Chapel is the beneficial owner of certain funds held by the Trustees and managed by Fiduciary Trust for the benefit of the Society: the King’s Chapel General Pooled Fund, the Lyman Fund, and the Organ Fund. As of March 31, 2024, these three funds had market values respectively of $37,841,012 (an increase of $2,211,708 over the sum reported on December 31, 2023); $213,108 (an increase of $22,346 over the sum reported on December 31, 2023; and $119,428 (an increase of $3,773 over the sum reported on December 31, 2023).

Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Allen, Treasurer
REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The past year has been one marked by transition. Parish Council continued to provide services, activities and initiatives designed to meet the needs of King’s Chapel, its Ministers and Leadership, the Vestry and the Congregation. The year began with congregational approval and subsequent implementation of a restructured governance framework. We gave thanks but bid farewell to the Chancel, Denominational and Ecumenical Affairs, Fiscal, and Personnel Committees. Ad Hoc and Special Interest groups were welcomed as regular Parish Council participants. An illustrative copy of the new structure listing committees and chairs, groups and respective leaders is attached for reference. The document provides relative details of the changes incorporated. This new structure was undertaken on a trial basis which would be evaluated over the course of the year with further refinement as indicated.

The initial challenges of adjusting during a time of change were manifested in the budget development process. The PC Chair in collaboration with the new parish Director of Administration and Finance - Cheryl Sullivan, Treasurer – Cliff Allen and other members of the Leadership Team; Rev. Joy Fallon – Senior Minister, Betsy Peterson – Senior Warden, Stephen Courtney – Junior Warden constructed a budget largely representative of the committee’s and group’s requested needs. The willingness for cross committee/group cooperation and efforts facilitated this outcome in the face of limited financial resources.

This report will not elaborate on the specific work and accomplishments of the committees and groups as each will provide this in their respective written and verbal annual reports. It is however certainly important to note the efforts of all who comprise the Parish Council as exemplary of who we are as a loving, giving and forward-looking spiritual community. As we continue to offer and develop programs and services spanning the needs and aspirations of King’s Chapel with the mission and vision of ‘Putting Faith Into Action’ recognition, commendation and gratefulness are extended to Parish Council for their extraordinary tireless selfless work on behalf of the King’s Chapel community and beyond.

The primary areas of focus for further improvement at this time are as follows. Communication, engagement, membership growth and leadership development are closely related priorities. Website redevelopment is underway with goals of increasing user friendliness and ease of navigation, making it more topical and informative, readily conveying who and what King’s Chapel is and what it stands for. Another refinement will be to reintroduce the Member At Large role as a means to expanding outreach both internally and externally while promoting
engagement and cultivating new members via greater exposure and understanding. Marketing will also be utilized as a means to greater engagement. Finally, we plan to enhance the frequency and clarity of messaging details of the missions, work, composition, needs and future plans of the various Committees and Groups.

On behalf of KC’s Leadership, Vestry and members I extend gratitude and appreciation to all Parish Council Committee Chairs and Group leaders, listed on the next page. Thanks also to all the members of these committees and groups for their service to the Parish Council and King’s Chapel. (See committee reports for lists). Our community is grateful for your invaluable contribution of energy, time and talent!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bergeron
PARISH COUNCIL 2023-2024
as restructured

Overarching Needs and Activities of King’s Chapel – Restructure Basis

Organizational
Spiritual/Worship

Parish Council Committees
&
Ad Hoc/Special Interest Groups

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<td>Memorial Project</td>
<td>Partner Church</td>
<td>Prayer Circle</td>
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Details:
- Chancel functions absorbed by staff in collaboration with the ushers.
- Denominational and Ecumenical Affairs merged with Membership.
- Fiscal Affairs responsibilities shift to the Parish Council Chair in concert with Treasurer and Director of Administration & Finance (Cheryl Sullivan).
- Personnel becomes an administrative function with the appointment of search committees for key positions.
- Hospitality focuses on coffee hour and special events with primary service volunteers from congregants.
- Special worship service preparation and decorating, aka Deck the Halls.

Council Members

Tim Nelson-Hoy (Adult Religious Education); Karen Taylor (Archives); John Bowman (Buildings & Grounds); Sarah Graber (Church School); Elizabeth Foster (Community Action); Kent Wittenberg (Environment); Anne Sexton (Deck the Halls); Gregg Sorenson (Hospitality); Sylvia Soderberg (Membership); Amy Meyer (Music); Cathy Price (Nominating); Alison LaRosa (Stewardship); Kathy German (Communications); Dean Denniston (Memorial Project); Denton Crews (Partner Church); and, Cynthia Perkins (Prayer Circle).
PARISH COUNCIL 2024-2025

The plan to restructure the Parish Council last year included the flexibility to respond to current circumstances, and the bylaws provide for the Chair of Parish Council, the Minister, and the Wardens to determine annually which groups shall be represented on the Council. Accordingly, we note two changes to the 2023 chart. Archives will operate as an interest group, and we now recognize Morning Coffee and the celebratory luncheons as separate efforts.

Chair, Michael Bergeron
Committee Chairs
  Adult Religious Education-Tim Nelson-Hoy
  Buildings and Grounds-John Bowman
  Community Action -Steven Fisher, Carol Genovese, Amanda Pickett
  Environment-Kent Wittenburg
  Membership-Sylvia Soderberg, Cathy Price
  Music-Amy Meyer
  Nominating Committee selects its own chair
  Stewardship, open
  Youth Religious Education- Sarah Graber, Lucy Boynton Melvin.

Ad hoc and special interest groups
  Archives- Karen Taylor
  Communications Task Force- Kathe German
  Deck the Hall (Christmas and Easter Decorating)- Anne Sexton and Kathe German
  Special Feasts (Homecoming and Milk Punch) -Anne Sexton, Cathy Price, Gregg Sorensen
  Memorial Project- Dean Denniston
  Morning Prayer Coffee- Amanda Cegielski and Chris Allen manage scheduling (for Morning Light Coffee, members of that congregation take turns)
  Partner Church- Denton Crews
  Prayer Circle- Cynthia Perkins

Ex Officio, non-voting
  the Ministers- Joy Fallon and Sam Holland
  the Wardens- Betsy Peterson and Stephen Courtney
  the Treasurer- Cliff Allen
  Director of Finance and Administration- Cheryl Sullivan

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions to our community!
REPORT FROM THE ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In the 2023-2024 working year, the Adult Religious Education Committee remained dedicated in its mission to deepen our religious and spiritual development, to cultivate discourse on meaningful topics to our members, and to support and pass on the traditions of the Society of King’s Chapel.

Committee members this year were Tim Nelson-Hoy, who chairs the committee, Jennifer Kronstain, Kent Wittenburg, Emma Healy, Carol and Emanuel Genovese (to whom we bid a fond farewell as they step down after their last year!), and Betsy Peterson. Staff liaison is Joy Fallon.

We started this working year with a mosaic-making workshop led by Emanuel Genovese. This was followed in September with a thought-provoking discussion series on “Gender, Theology and Pronouns” led by Amanda Pickett and Tim Nelson-Hoy.

As has become tradition, Joy held a book group on an Advent devotional this winter, this time from Quinn Caldwell’s book “All I Really Want.” We then rang in the new year with another dazzling show organized by Kent, from poet-performer Regie Gibson, before turning to the more somber season of Lent with a five-week discussion session about Forgiveness, with Carol, Joy, Sam, Jennifer, and Tim each leading a session.

This spring has brought two more thought-provoking discussion groups, with Joy facilitating a “Talking about Death” discussion group in May, and as well as the “Reparations” discussion group which starts June 10th!

Ongoing activities remained mostly the same as the previous year, with Bible Study and Contemplation & Connection (formerly Theology on Tap) remaining well-attended and highly valued. Assistant Minister Sam Holland has held a number of absorbing discussions in Contemplation & Connection, with in-person and hybrid events on such topics as poverty and loneliness.

ARE wishes to thank all our members, presenters, collaborators, and attendees from the past year. We look forward to your suggestions, feedback, and participation in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Nelson-Hoy, Chair
REPORT FROM THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The archives are in good shape. First it was due to Miguel’s making shelves for the oversized hutch that occupies one entire wall of the room in which the archives are stored. This enabled me to shelve many extra copies of the prayer book and other books that really should not be in the archives, but as yet there doesn’t seem to be any other good place to put them. Getting the books of various types into the hutch freed up floor space.

Then we hired a graduate student, Alexander Hewes, for forty hours of work. Alex actually knows something about archives and history. He has been organizing material and establishing principles that should help us going forward. The room itself is in much better shape.

I recommend that we create a line item in our budget every year for help like Alex is giving us. It has been difficult to persuade parishioners to take on this task. Marie Wells was unique in having talent and skills for this, but most people, no matter how smart or willing, would have to learn how to do it and would probably not want to devote the time it would take to manage it well. Forty hours is a good start for hired help, but adding a few more hours would be ideal.

I have resigned from the management of the archives, but will be available to help Alex or a subsequent archives specialist should he or she need me.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Cord Taylor
REPORT FROM THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The role of the building and grounds committee is to oversee the facilities operation and maintenance of three properties: the Church at 58 Tremont Street, the Parsonage at 63 Beacon Street, and the Parish House at 64 Beacon Street.

The membership for the past year has been Stephen Courtney, Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, Sally Brewster, Sam Perry, and John Bowman, chair. B&G works closely with staff including the Director of Finance and Administration Cheryl Sullivan, and previously with the former Sexton, Chelsea Millsap, whom the committee is working to replace. The Committee also communicates with the Trustees, the title holders of the buildings, through Sam Perry, a Trustee and member of the committee. Over the past year the Buildings and Grounds Committee has assisted the Physical Memorial Committee in reviewing building issues related to the installation of the courtyard statue and the ceiling mural.

The primary activity of the committee during 2023 was the restoration of the portions of the Parsonage at 63 Beacon Street damaged by a fire in the kitchen in February of 2023. The restoration was completed at a cost to the Society of $510,697. The final insurance settlement proceeds of $467,095 left the Society with a deficit of $43,602.

About 42% of the B&G budget is devoted to utilities, another 25% to maintenance and repairs, 6% each to services and custodial, and 16% to a reserve for deferred maintenance. The committee anticipates significant capital expenses over the next year for the repair or replacement of the heating systems at both the Church and the Parsonage. B&G has entered an initial $8,000 contract with David Ward, PE for an energy audit and recommendations for energy conservation and conversion for the three properties.

Scheduled work at the Parish House includes replacement of the window sash in the fifth floor Assistant Minister apartment, gutter repair and slate replacement.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bowman, Chair
REPORT FROM COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Special Interest Group is focused on the redesign of the King’s Chapel website and the expansion of our social media presence in an effort to increase our accessibility among city churches. To begin, SIG members Gregg and Chris initiated assessments of our marketing program and the user experience of our current website which served not only to accelerate our marketing efforts to increase both member and visitor engagement this spring, but also boost our virtual presence. Thereafter we began working with web designer Chris Walton to accelerate refinements to our marketing presence while also aligning the features and improving the navigability of our website to meet the needs of members, friends and visitors. As this work proceeds, we also intend to enhance our capacity to more effectively use social media to keep our publics informed and engaged in the work of our parish.

The collaborative process we are implementing includes the following seven steps:

- Site review to understand our needs, identify stakeholders, evaluate/inventory the site;
- Content Strategy to understand our story, assess content needs, and design vocabulary;
- Visual Identity to design brand assets and develop typography and color palette;
- Information Architecture and Content Plan to organize menus and directory structure, identify content revisions and new content work with staff and member assistance;
- Content Development to revise or draft content and collect, evaluate and revise images;
- Site Design to identify solutions for functional requirements and develop working draft;
- Site Build to refine design and functions, finalize templates and populate site with content.

The site will be built in Squarespace, a contemporary platform, with completion anticipated as we move toward 2025 depending on how quickly we can effectively complete each of the steps outlined above.

To begin we presented the proposed process to the Vestry and Parish Council for their consideration garnering their views on the utility of the current site followed by their sense of what the new site needs to do well, who needs it, what we want to accomplish, and how the site might support parish governance. With that information, Chris subsequently facilitated discussions of our Needs and Goals with the Leadership Team, the Senior Minister and the staff.
Together this information begins to address the first step in the process, allowing us to move forward over the next six months. As we progress, we will be coming to you, the congregation, to share our progress and seek your insights, experience and assistance, so please stay tuned!

The Communications SIG team includes Gregg Sorensen, Chris LaRoche, and Kathe German working with Cheryl Sullivan as our Staff Liaison; the funding for this initiative is in the current budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Sorensen, Chris LaRoche, and Kathe German
REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

Role Statement
The mission of the Community Action Committee (CAC) is to support and collaborate with community organizations collectively selected by the congregation. The committee asks staff of the partner organizations how best to serve their organization’s communities. CAC strives to enrich the KC congregation spiritually via raising awareness of and dedication to meeting community needs and by being in proximity to those who are systemically under-resourced.

June 2023 - May 2024 Highlights
On June 10, 2023, the CAC hosted an opportunity for KC members and friends to show support for Boston Pride for the People, 11am-12pm at the Parish House. Those gathered stood in front of the Parish House and moved to the end of the parade route cheering and displaying our “KC supports Pride” banner as the parade passed en route to the Pride festival on the Boston Common at noon. The CAC will provide a similar opportunity again this year for members of King’s Chapel to show support for Boston Pride for the People 2024.

In fall 2023, the CAC collaborated with the Adult Religious Education committee to deliver a two-part workshop on Gender, Theology and Pronouns. Attendees contemplated questions such as “How can we make sure we, as a community, are welcoming to trans and gender-nonconforming people? How do our ideas of gender affect our faith?” Amanda Pickett and Tim Nelson-Hoy shared information and held space for discussion about the use of pronouns, and how ideas of gender affect our relationship with each other, and with God.

With common cathedral, the CAC organized members of King’s Chapel to make and serve 120-150 bag lunches and worship with our unhoused neighbors on average every other month. Each time, the committee organizes KC volunteers to order food and supplies, shop for the ingredients, and make sandwiches. The sandwich making and lunch packing takes place in the Parish House 10:00am-10:50am on the Sunday morning for which we have signed up. A KC volunteer then packs their car with and delivers the brown bag lunches to the common cathedral service beside Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common. At 12:30, KC parishioners and common cathedral staff distribute lunches to common cathedral parishioners. All have lunch together and then partake in the worship service at 1:00pm. The CAC welcomes and invites any KC parishioners and friends to participate in future volunteer sandwich-making and/or the common cathedral worship service.
Regarding the Louis D Brown Peace Institute, the CAC hosted “A Conversation with Rachel Rodrigues” on Sunday, April 14th at the Parish House. This event was an opportunity to hear from Rachel, the co-executive director of the Peace Institute, about how for thirty years, the Peace Institute has served as a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss. Rachel spoke to those gathered about the continued work of bringing peace, the expanding vision of the Peace Institute and plans for a new center in Dorchester. 17 people attended.

Roughly 15 parishioners and friends walked in the annual Mother's Day Walk 4 Peace on May 12th and as of May 16th our team raised $7,760 to benefit this organization’s efforts to transform society’s response to homicide. The donation page is still open until Father's Day for members and friends to contribute to the King’s Chapel Team.

Carol Genovese represents King’s Chapel on the monthly meetings of the Interfaith Committee of the Peace Institute.

The CAC hosted a benefit concert to raise funds for the Peace Institute from 2pm-3pm on Sunday May 12th featuring Music Director Heinrich Christensen and choir members. There was a free will offering to benefit the Peace Institute.

The CAC organized King’s Chapel’s participation in the 2024 Winter Walk on February 11. The Winter Walk is an organization that works to end homelessness and raises awareness and funds towards that goal. Six participants represented King’s Chapel and raised approximately $500. The goal of 500k for the event was eventually reached which gave a good boost to Common Cathedral and the other dozen agencies serving the unhoused associated with the event.

King’s Chapel continues to serve as a delegate church to the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury whose mission is to “work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, social, and economic justice.” Amanda Pickett serves as a delegate to the UUUM from King’s Chapel.

**Looking Forward**

Considerations continue to be underway for determining any collaborations between the developing work of the Living Memorial Project and the work of the CAC.

The committee looks forward to continuing to build relationships with our partners, to increasing community engagement, and to collaborating with other church
committees. Going forward, the CAC aims to continue to build upon direct service and relationship-building toward cultivating a greater impact in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Foster, Chair
Carol Genovese, Emanuel Genovese, Stephen Fischer, Amanda Pickett, John Devine, committee members
Tim Nelson-Hoy, friend of the committee
REPORT FROM DECK THE HALLS

During our inaugural year as a Special Interest Group we managed, once again, to ensure that the sanctuary was fully decorated for our major church holidays, thanks in large measure to our intrepid staff and the legions of parishioners and friends of all ages who joined us in the effort fueled by ample donuts and coffee! The greening of the sanctuary for Christmas services filled the space with the most wonderful scents of balsam offset by gorgeous poinsettias, while the décor for Easter provided a gorgeous array of spring flowers which added to the joy of the season.

It is always such a pleasure to ensure that our collective efforts not only fuel our celebrations, but that we all have the opportunity to take a bit of the season home with us to extend our sense of gratitude. We would like to thank all those who participated in the process, those who make special bequests, and those who continually provide flowers for the altar each Sunday.

We look forward to the opportunity to work together with you all again next year to sustain the beauty of these seasonal celebrations. When we work together we can make magic!

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Sexton, Cathy Price, and Kathe German
REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee was officially established in spring 2023 after three prior years of activity as a special interest group known as the Environmental Action Initiative. The mission of the committee is to provide spiritual sustenance, information sharing, and opportunities for action in the face of the environmental crisis. We host discussions, social events, and movie showings at which we share concerns and information. We provide opportunities to take actions to address environmental injustices and meet the challenges of an earth in peril. And we help organize services at the church, in particular, Earth Day services, to meet spiritual needs in a time of environmental crisis. Not the least of our concerns is to keep the environmental crisis at the front of our community’s consciousness since we consider it the signature moral and spiritual imperative of our time.

These are the active members of the Environment Committee during the past year:

- Julie Hyde
- Sylvia Soderberg
- Cynthia Perkins
- Kent Wittenburg (chair)

The committee meets once a month to organize and plan its program for the congregation. It maintains the web page [http://kings-chapel.org/environmentalaction.html](http://kings-chapel.org/environmentalaction.html) on the church website, in which we publish information about activities and recordings of meetings, particularly invited talks. We also have an active mailing list environment@kings-chapel.org, through which our community shares information. And we occasionally publish pieces in the church community blog such as a recent look back at our 2024 Earthday Sunday celebration.

The committee kicked off the year with a retreat and planning session that included senior members of our parish. That led to an inter-denominational discussion series in the fall titled “Spirituality and the Environmental Crisis.” We read and discussed excerpts from Buddhist and Christian teachers, including Thich Nhat Hanh and Sallie McFague. There is one additional May meeting to continue discussion of the important work of Sallie McFague, who proposes a new Christian eco-theology to address our times. In January we hosted a movie showing at the Parish House of David Attenborough’s A Life on our Planet, a truly sobering yet inspiring look at the current state of natural systems on our planet. In April, in preparation for Earth Day, we put together a list titled Small Actions Count: A Checklist, which is a guide for things we can all do in our personal lives to address the climate crisis. We also helped to put together an Earthday Sunday service, in
which we rang the church bells to raise the alarm for the environmental crisis and read an environmental confession responsively.

In addition to these participatory events for the congregation, the Environment Committee has begun to engage with the buildings and grounds committee in order to bring the aging heating and cooling systems in our church buildings into compliance with the City of Boston’s initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. Greening of the church buildings and practices is projected to be one of our priorities for 2024-2025. We also hope to engage with other churches and community organizations in greater Boston to take action in the service of environmental justice in our neighborhoods. And we expect to offer additional movie showings of relevance to the environmental crisis as well as continuing opportunities to read and discuss materials related to spirituality and the environmental crisis.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent Wittenburg
on behalf of the Environment Committee

REPORT FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hospitality had a very good year during the 2023-2024 church year. Coffee Hour was held after Morning Prayer throughout the year. Mike Bergeron and others kindly made the coffee, and numerous members generously provided both savory and sweet treats. Two festive luncheons took place: Homecoming in September and Milk Punch in December. Cathy Price, Anne Sexton and Gregg Sorensen wish to thank the many volunteers and friends who participated.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Sorensen
REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Role Statement:

Membership is a standing committee of the Society of King’s Chapel by Article VII of the by-laws, to administer activities connected with Society membership and to foster community among the members and friends of the Society.

Enrolling New Members

The Membership Committee, collaborating with the ministers, identifies and fosters the attracting, welcoming and enrolling of new members. This is done by greeting visitors who attend our services, by following up on introductions by existing members and by inviting friends and acquaintances to attend and become familiar with The Church. Some of the many events and activities here at King’s Chapel (e.g., Environment, ARE) attract visitors from the greater community, and they could be more widely publicized by personal invitation from the members of the committees, and perhaps by the Communications Committee. In a sense, all members of King’s Chapel are, or could be members of the Membership Committee, simply by talking about what’s going on.

Building Connections Within the Parish

In company with members of the Hospitality Committee and ARE, the Membership Committee helps to build connections and community among the members by

* Reaching out to “Disappeared Ones” to inquire after their health, and to remind them that they are missed and perhaps inviting them to have coffee, lunch, etc.

* Consulting with other chair people concerning names of people who have attended some of their committees’ activities, and who might be interested in greater involvement in the church. Following up on this information.

* Attending the events of each other’s committees. Generally being present and making Membership visible.

At the Service of Morning Prayer on June 9, which is King’s Chapel’s 38th birthday, we expect to welcome at least six new members who have been attending services regularly this year. Following the service, we will celebrate our birthday and our new members with cake and cheer.
This year’s committee members were the Senior Minister, Gregg Sorensen, John Appleton, and Cathy Price and Sylvia Soderberg, Chairwomen.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Soderberg
REPORT FROM THE MEMORIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

The past year has been a busy one for the members of the King’s Chapel Memorial Project. Having received a strong congregational vote of support at last year’s annual meeting to continue its efforts to create a memorial to acknowledge and honor those enslaved individuals connected to our church and its history, the committee has spent the past year focused on three areas: working with our partner, MASS Design, and the memorial’s creator and artist, Harmonia Rosales, to finalize the design and placement of the outside statue; developing the principles and guidelines for the implementation of the memorial’s living component; and developing a fund raising plan to raise the funds to underwrite all these efforts.

Earlier this year we negotiated and signed a contract with the artist to begin work on the outside statue in June, pending a number of design and financial considerations. Additionally, we are working with MASS Design to help facilitate the installation and placement of the statue with a space for contemplation and reflection. It is our expectation that the statue will be completed in 2025.

While much of our focus was concentrated on the physical memorial, the living memorial sub-committee under the leadership of Cliff Allen undertook the task of developing a strategic plan for reaching out and connecting with potential community partners to determine how we might work together to initiate, sponsor, and support a variety of programs and activities. Their report, which offers multiple options and opportunities for congregant involvement and participation with community stakeholders, has been sent to the congregation for review and comment. It is our hope that the report will act as a springboard for discussion, encouraging us to reach out to each other as well as to our neighbors and begin the work of reconciliation and repair.

Our final area of focus this past year has been fund raising. The cost for creating and installing the memorial’s statue and underwriting the activities of the living memorial is estimated to be between 1.5 and 2 million dollars. To address such a daunting challenge the committee has engaged a professional fund raiser to coordinate this portion of our work, resulting in the development and initial implementation of a fundraising plan. As a result we have already applied for and received several grants to support the creation of the memorial. Of equal importance, a number of congregants and long-time friends have stepped up and made significant contributions to the memorial. And most recently we initiated a congregational appeal in tandem with the stewardship program to make it possible to move forward with the development of the proposed statue. A continuing fundraising plan to realize the installation of the statue and the initiatives of the living memorial is currently being crafted and will be implemented in the very near future.
Looking back, the past year has had its share of highs and lows. The journey has not been without its surprises, disappointments, and extreme excitement and joy. Often it seems as if the finish line is in constant motion moving toward and away from us at the same time. Yet we remain firm in our commitment to complete this amazing journey, and with God’s help and your support we will all cross that finish line together.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Denniston, Chair
Joy Fallon, Kathe German, Sam Holland, Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, Mary Katherine Morn.
The Wardens, Betsy Peterson and Stephen Courtney, ex officio.

With gratitude to all of the members, friends, and foundations who have contributed to the King’s Chapel Memorial Project as of May 31, 2024:

Clifford Allen        Jeannette Kahlenberg
John Appleton         Adelaide Ketchum
Joseph and Nancy Bassett Alison LaRosa
Michael Bergeron      Lilly Endowment Inc.
John Bowman           Natsumi Malloy
John and Gwen Buehrens Karen McArthur
Amelia Burke          Corinna Merriman-Morris
Amanda Cegielski and Christopher Allen Mary Katherine Morn
Beth and Walter Chapin Martha Niebanck
Catherine Collishaw   Paula O’Keeffe
Peter and Vicky Coccolotto Betsy Peterson
Stephen Courtney      Charles Pillsbury
Carol Deane           Cathy Price
Dean Denniston, Jr.   Andrew Prokopis
Charles Dietrick      Thomas and Victoria Rollins
Horace Dawson Foundation Jessica Schmidt
Ben Edwards Spyglass Books, LLC Allen and Hallie Speight
Joy and Robert Fallon  Elizabeth Surface
Stephen Fisher        Dan and Karen Taylor
Fund for Unitarian Universalism John and Beverly Wand
Melissa Gallin        Ned Wight
Carol Genovese        Kent and Becky Wittenberg
Kathe German and Denton Crews Phyllis Yale
Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez   Anonymous
REPORT FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee supports Music Director, Heinrich Christensen, and the King’s Chapel Concert Series by fundraising and promoting the series; and selling tickets and ushering at the concerts. Current Music Committee members are: Bob Gulick, Carol Kemp, Amy Meyer, chair, Mary Sears, Sylvia Soderberg, and Gregg Sorensen. We are devoted fans of King’s Chapel’s splendid music program, and committed to working… often behind the scenes… to make every concert a resounding success.

The 66th season of the Concert Series (2023-24) comprised five concerts, starting with “When Britten Met Poulenc” in the fall. Next we heard two concerts devoted entirely to works by a distinguished roster of female composers, such as Florence Price and Amy Beach. In February we heard the music of “Chevalier and His Circle,” preceded by a screening at the Parish House of the 2022 film, “Chevalier,” which looked at Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de St. Georges, a Mozart contemporary in Paris, and the first widely recognized Black composer in Europe.

The season concluded with a performance of Bach’s b-minor Mass in March, featuring choir, soloists and orchestra, generously sponsored by Suzie Schochet and family, in memory of Jay R. Schochet. We were delighted to welcome sizable audiences at each of the five concerts, with more than 120 in attendance for the season finale.

We are grateful for the generous support of our donors (whom we call “Guarantors”) who sustain these beautiful concerts. The Concert Series is not part of the church’s general budget, so we rely on contributions (approximately $42,000 from more than 40 donors this year), along with ticket sales and overhead assistance from the church, to sustain the concert program.

We will again reach out to our donors, audiences, and friends… both KC members and not… in August, with information about the coming season and a request for continued support.

Your chair greatly appreciates Maestro Heinrich’s fabulous programs, the good work of our Music Committee members, and all contributions and comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Meyer, Chair
REPORT FROM PARTNER CHURCH GROUP

On Being Lifted Up In Transylvania

Some years ago on Father’s Day, when our grown daughter and son presented a framed picture of me reading to them as children, it recalled the promising book title, *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* Now, half a century later, I can speak from experience about the power of intentional travel to uplift our minds and spirits. Such was the King’s Chapel trip to Transylvania last summer – a spiritual pilgrimage to celebrate the centenary of our partner church relationship with the First Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár, truly centuries in the making.

Flying overnight from Boston, seven parishioners* arrived in Transylvania on a sunny Thursday morning to be greeted by the two ministers of our partner church in Cluj, Romania, and transported to a boutique hotel in the middle of the city. After a few hours of rest, it was ten days of enchantment: meeting new friends and old, sharing rich and checkered cultures, seeing places of historic and contemporary distinction, walking through bustling downtown to the Unitarian Church and seeing the new statue of Ferenc Dávid, founder of the Unitarian Church in Transylvania, driving in a comfortable van with the ministers to visit villages and staying in comfortable church dormitories, learning every moment of each day, observing worship and rediscovering wonder in our religious faith, feeling happiness and sadness, and experiencing deep appreciation and love. Upon returning home ten days later, we received this message from one of the church’s lay leaders, “The day after your departure, it seemed that something was missing in Kolozsvár.” These were also our sentiments and remain with us now.

This submission for the annual meeting of the King’s Chapel Society on June 9, 2024, is a petite preface to the story we hope to share with the whole parish in the church year ahead. A travelogue of the trip is in the works, and a photographic exhibit is in production. Personal statements about the Transylvanian experience are being written, and a series of short monographs with historical and religious content is contemplated. We’ll be distributing a report on four projects we hope to undertake as partner churches in the days ahead. The report will also describe the commemorative gifts we exchanged and plans that are emerging for a new generation of international Unitarian and interfaith initiatives. We will also publish an update about financial contributions we’ve made for Ukrainian refugee relief through the Providence Charity Organization, Gondviselés Segészervezet. And we’re expecting to celebrate Partner Church Sunday on January 12, 2025, in commemoration of the Freedom of Religion Day observed annually on January 13th.
by the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Transylvania, being the 457th anniversary of the Edict of Torda.

In closing, I believe that our one-hundred-year partner church relationship matters to King’s Chapel. The great painting of Ferenc Dávid before the court of Prince John Sigismund in 1568 proclaiming freedom of conscience and freedom of worship rouses the belief that faith is a gift of God. The ancient church bells ringing in Transylvania call us to worship and to share our deepest reflections with one another in modern times. Our Christian friends in the Unitarian faith inspire us with spiritual, cultural, and social vitality. And we are gifted as sister churches with a bond that takes us beyond ourselves and lifts us up.

Respectfully submitted,
Denton Crews

* Stephen Courtney, Denton Crews and Kathe German, Bob and Joy Fallon, Emma Healy, and Felicia Kisselburg
REPORT FROM THE PRAYER CIRCLE

The Prayer Circle is a group of 15 people dedicated to responding to prayer requests that come through the minister, through the website or Between Sundays, or from members of the group. Unlike the Bede List, from which names are read aloud in Morning Prayer, the names of those for whom prayers have been requested include a description of the person’s condition, relationships, and situation. The average number of names on our list is 25. During the year, we may pray for 40-50 different people. These prayer requests are held in strictest confidence by this group, and we often stay with a person for months or years.

The list of requests is updated monthly, new requests are sent to the entire group as soon as the request is made, and some of us meet on-line to pray together once a month. We find that in praying for the needs of one person, we can’t help but to include the constellation of family, caregivers, doctors, and all who may be connected to the beloved for whom we pray.

Each member has a way of ‘holding’ the person in heart and mind. We seek to remember them, to honor them, and to deepen our own faith that God, by whatever name we know this Source of Life, knows their needs beyond our own understanding. We offer our prayers like “…rising incense before thee, O Lord,” and give thanks for “the lovingkindness that descends upon us.” (From a Collect in Evensong).

It is with deep gratitude that I acknowledge those in this group who continue as our Prayer Circle, many of whom have multiple K.C. roles and responsibilities. They are Stephen Courtney, Charles Dietrick, the Rev. Joy Fallon, Carol and Emanuel Genovese, Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, the Rev. Sam Holland, Gretchen Horton, Judy Luca, Betsy Peterson, Cathy Price, Sylvia Soderberg, Dorothy Waldron, and Levina Wong.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Perkins
The King’s Chapel Stewardship Committee (Alison LaRosa, Chair, Michael Bergeron, and Gregg Sorensen, supported by Parish Administrator Cheryl Sullivan) has the important mission of raising funds for King’s Chapel’s annual operating needs. Your robust participation in Stewardship enlivens our church in a variety of ways: by supporting educational programming for congregants of all ages, fellowship gatherings such as Homecoming and Milk Punch, technology to bring our services and discussion groups to participants near and far, community partnerships and activism, Sunday service music, competitive salaries and benefits for our hard-working staff and ministers, and more. In short, your support of Stewardship makes King’s Chapel, King’s Chapel!

I am pleased to report that our generous members and friends collectively contributed $277,165 to Stewardship in 2023; a listing of those supporters is attached. While joining the church mid-fiscal year, our new Parish Administrator Cheryl Sullivan quickly acclimated to the important work of recording all these gifts, and I thank her for her thorough attentiveness.

Our committee continued to innovate this past year. Fall 2023 saw the introduction of “Stewardship Season”, three consecutive Sundays of testimonials presented during services and via video. I am grateful to members Amanda Pickett, Carol Genovese, and Kathe German for their powerful remarks on the themes of community action, worship, and welcome, respectively. In April, we collaborated with the Memorial Committee to send a joint appeal letter soliciting gifts to both Stewardship and the church’s Memorial to Enslaved Persons. Special thanks are in order to Kathe German and consultant Melissa Gallin for crafting this appeal and accompanying materials. In addition, for the first time in recent memory we have recommended a dedicated Stewardship fundraising subgoal for which leaders of our church are responsible, with an emphasis on pledging earlier in the fiscal year. This group includes Vestry members, officers, Parish Council, ministers, and trustees who generously serve the church with their time, talent, and treasure. I’m delighted to report that the church’s leaders have responded positively to this request, surpassing their collective subgoal in mid-May.
It is on that note that I share my decision to step down from the Stewardship Committee by July 1 for personal reasons. Serving on this committee since 2021 has been a wonderful experience, made even more so by the creative and wise company of Michael Bergeron, Gregg Sorensen, and our church’s leadership. Comparing the periods 2016-2019 to 2020-2023, despite many challenges in our world, your total giving to Stewardship increased by a remarkable 35%. I am confident that we’ll continue to trend in this positive direction under the committee’s new leadership.

If you have not pledged to the 2024 campaign yet, I encourage you to do so at kings-chapel.org/giving. Early pledges ensure that the mission of King’s Chapel can continue apace! As of the submission of this report (May 27), we are 55% of the way toward our $260,000 goal for 2024. Thank you to all who have contributed or pledged thus far. Every contribution is a show of our love for King’s Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison LaRosa, Chair

Thank you to all the members and friends who participated in King's Chapel's 2023 Stewardship campaign with gifts made between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023:

Anonymous (1)                      Walter and Charlotte Buchanan
Patricia Ahern                       John Buehrens
Clifford Allen                      Lucyanna Burke
Wendy Almquist                      Charlotte Carlson
John Appleton                       Amanda Cegielski and Christopher Allen
Thomas Appleton                     Leicle and Janet Chesser
Christopher Barnett                 Eugene and Meredith* Clapp
Lynn Baskett                        Sharon Clark
Patricia Bass                        Peter and Vicky Coccolutto
Joseph and Nancy Bassett            Alan Cody
Michael Bergeron                    Catherine Collishaw
Blue Haven Initiative               Bonnie Ayers D'Orlando
Gregg Borgeson                      Nina Danforth
John and Leslie Bowman              Hollis Day
Lucinda Boynton Melvin              Carol Deane
Sally Brewster                      Nanette deMaine
Susan Bryant                        Dean Denniston, Jr.
Sylvia Soderberg
Gregg Sorensen
C. Allen and Hallie Speight
Christine Steele
Nadia Stevens
Daniel and Karen Taylor
Michael and Nancy Tooke
Anita Turner
Lee Veal
Dorothy W. Waldron
Daniel Waltz
John and Beverly Wand

Stephen Washburn
Marie Wells
David Wheeler
Amy Whelen
Felicia Whitmore
Ned Wight
Bill Wilson
Jonathan and Sydney Winthrop
Thomas Wintle
Kent and Becky Wittenburg
Levina Wong

*deceased

If you would like your name to appear differently on a future Stewardship list, please contact Cheryl Sullivan, Parish Administrator, at cheryl@kings-chapel.org.
REPORT FROM THE YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This year, we are delighted to announce the continuation of our Youth Religious Education programs; part of this includes our Church School program which convenes monthly. Led by Assistant Minister Sam, along with Michelle Gaudet and Lucy Boynton, the Church School provides nurturing Christian guidance to our young attendees. Typically, we welcome around five children to each session.

Throughout the past year, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have steadfastly maintained our commitment to in-person gatherings. Many beloved seasonal events proceeded as usual, fostering a sense of continuity and community. The children enthusiastically engaged in a variety of activities, including Advent crafts, the Christmas service, a pancake breakfast, and Palm Sunday festivities.

The Advent crafts event, a cherished tradition, took place at the parish house. Children eagerly crafted Advent wreaths alongside other delightful projects, such as stained-glass ornaments and heartfelt cards. Following the Morning Light service, our parish house buzzed with activity as families gathered for a scrumptious pancake breakfast. The event was a resounding success, featuring a spread of pancakes, sausage, bacon, and an assortment of beverages.

On Palm Sunday, the children took an active role in the service, distributing palm leaves to congregants during the Morning Prayer gathering. Their participation added a vibrant touch to the processional, enhancing the spiritual atmosphere for all in attendance.

As my four-year tenure on the church council draws to a close, I reflect fondly on my time as Chair of the Youth Religious Education Committee. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, I have found immense fulfillment in serving our community. Looking ahead, I am confident that under the leadership of Lucy Boynton Melvin, who will assume the role at the end of December, the programs will continue to thrive. King’s Chapel holds a unique place in our hearts, and I am optimistic about its bright future.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Graber, Chair
REPORT FROM THE HISTORY PROGRAM

The King’s Chapel History Program welcomed over 30,000 visitors in 2023, a dramatic increase over the 20,000 who visited the prior year. Our tours were well received by visitors from all over the world. The program was successful in many ways, but it struggled to be profitable and when the Director of the History Program, Marissa Cheifetz, announced in late fall that she was leaving King’s Chapel for a position with the National Park Service, we made the difficult decision to close the program for the winter.

As we analyzed the program, we realized that a strong visitor experience required a director whose sole focus was on program management. We needed a leader who had strong management skills, who could hire and train tour staff, schedule tours and oversee the sale of merchandise, and so, we hired Gianna Russi in Spring 2024. Gianna hired four part-time educators and opened the History Program for tours at the end of May. We intend to hire at least two more educators.

We also realized that we would need the help of an experienced museum professional to plan the future of the History Program. We applied for and received a $40,000 grant from Lilly Foundation Inc specifically for the purpose of planning an enriched history program in connection with the Memorial Project. Our intention is to use these funds to hire a consultant to create a plan, and to seek an additional grant for implementation of that plan.

The King’s Chapel History Program currently offers three tour options for visitors:

Bell and Bones Tour: A 40 minute experience where visitors explore the ground level, crypt, and galleries of our well-preserved 1754 structure, gaining a fuller understanding of King’s Chapel’s historical significance within Boston’s landscape.

Gallery Tour: A 20 minute experience which covers the ground floor and North Gallery of King’s Chapel. Visitors are able to explore the rich history of the chapel and step into the perspective of those who once worshiped here, including the 219 enslaved.
Crypt Tour: A 20 minute experience that explores the ground level and crypt. Visitors hear the stories of those who worshiped here and those interred in our crypt. One can expect to learn more about King’s Chapel’s place in Boston politics, religion, and burial practices.

We had a successful opening weekend and served over 100 paid visitors on the Saturday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend. We look forward to welcoming more visitors as we progress into a bustling season for tourism and continue to improve the program! 

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Sullivan
Gianna Russi