Annual Report

Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

2014

Annual Parish Meeting
January 25, 2015
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Tellers

Tom Chan  Becky Myers  Frank Young
From the Rector

Milestones

2014 marked Bethesda's 125th anniversary of mission and ministry. Celebrating this important milestone provided a primary focal point in our life, providing us the honor and privilege of giving thanks for all those faithful people who had nurtured and built this parish over those decades.

Through concerts, services, outreach projects, and educational opportunities, we honored our forebears at Bethesda. This celebration culminated in a joyful evening in December at which we celebrated Evening Prayer in the style of 1889 and then enjoyed champagne and canapes under the stars in the Garth. Both long-time parishioners and newer members shared deep gratitude for Bethesda's history and found a source of strength and inspiration to continue our faithful ministry for decades to come.

We also continued our strategic work of aligning our ministries and programs with a clear mission and core values providing a strong, Christ-centered framework for our life. Paul Coombs has been an invaluable help throughout this process, and for this work, the Bishop presented him with the Bishop's Cross at his visitation in May. We give God thanks for Paul's faithfulness and joy that are infectious to everyone with whom he works.

We bade good-bye this year to our dear friends Mother Kate Kelderman and her family, as she left to fulfill a long-held hope to serve in a position where she could be both a priest and classroom teacher. Mother Kimberly Still is ably filling the vital role of Associate for Ministry Development. The Rev. Timothy B. Cogan retired as one of our assisting priests, and we thanked him with a reception in his honor in December. Our Associate for Music and Liturgy, Hal Pysher, took a long-overdue sabbatical from August through December. Daniel Beckwith took over during those months as our acting Organist and Choirmaster, providing for a seamless transition and uplifting music for our worship.

Indeed, 2014 is a year we will look back on as a milestone year, 125 years after our founding. We continue to be a strong, vibrant parish that carries on a rich tradition of worship, learning, service, and stewardship, even as we embrace all that the world holds for us in these rapidly-changing times.

2015 promises growth in every area of our life, as we elect and welcome a new Bishop for the Diocese, as we continue to expand and focus our outreach efforts on education, feeding, and shelter, and as we share our experience of the clear and strong presence of God in every aspect of our life and ministry.

Peace,

The Rev. James R. Harlan
Rector
From the Senior Warden  
Leadership and Governance Sub-Committee, chair

What an exciting year this has been for Bethesda by the Sea, filled with so much love, positive energy and accomplishments. It has also been a rewarding time for me personally to serve Father James and this parish as Bethesda’s Senior Warden.

First let me thank and recognize Father James for his role in Bethesda’s accomplishments. He has been an incredible leader over a period of growth and change. In the short three years since his arrival, he has helped to balance our budget, grow our membership and move Bethesda towards its fullest potential as an exemplary church. Perhaps most importantly, he has guided us on our personal spiritual journey to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teaching through collective worship, learning and service.

Others who share in Bethesda’s accomplishment over the last 12 months are the incredibly thoughtful and intelligent men and woman who serve on the vestry, the executive committee and the leadership and governance committee. Their commitment and dedication to Bethesda is unsurpassed. We have worked well together this past year, sharing independent thoughts and ideas, open discussions and respectful debates to better represent and serve our family—you, the men, women and children of Bethesda.

A special thanks to four individuals on the Leadership and Governance committee who have accomplished so much this year for Bethesda. Tanner Rose has provided us with a successful and much needed contingency plan. He worked closely with the staff of Bethesda and the Palm Beach fire and police departments to complete a comprehensive emergency plan in case of fire, hurricanes or major medical emergencies.

Bobbie Leak, chair of the nominating committee, did a phenomenal job in the recruiting, vetting and selection process of this year’s new vestry members. Bobbie and her team spent months on this arduous and important task. We look forward to welcoming six highly qualified vestry members in February.

Amy McGowen, special project coordinator, cannot be thanked enough for providing a joyous year celebrating Bethesda’s 125th anniversary. Amy and her plethora of volunteers brought us together to recognize the many Bethesda accomplishments and blessings and to provide a strong focus for Bethesda’s future with courage and vision.

Finally, where does one start in thanking Paul Coombs for his time, treasure and talent given to us as leadership program and strategic plan coordinator for Bethesda. He basically put his professional life on hold and gave us his all for the last 3 years. Paul, with the help of so many of you, developed and implemented Bethesda’s 3-year rolling Strategic plan. This plan has and will continue to make a major positive difference in the future of Bethesda. With the continued implementation of the plan and the leadership of Father James, Bethesda has no boundaries on the type of church it is and can become to serve and love God.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Keenan  
Senior Warden
I am a great believer in the carrot and stick approach to life.

For Bethesda, for the care, maintenance and preservation of its buildings and grounds, the carrot is that we raised money for the Restoration and Preservation funds two years ago, and we have been able to work on restoring the façade of the church. The Preservation Endowment Draw from the Preservation Fund has supplemented monies needed for repairs and maintenance.

In addition, we have used reserves to replace the main chiller ($400,000), repair the roof and paint the outside of the Rectory, plus endless smaller projects that all add up to a lot of money.

So far so good. Now the stick—we need more money in the Restoration Fund to complete restoring the façade beyond the east side of the administration building. We need to increase the amount of capital in the Preservation Endowment Fund to meet future repair and capital costs for the Church, the Rectory, the Vicarage, and for all the grounds.

In 2015 we absolutely need to exterminate the termites in the Church and Administrative offices. Various mechanical units are overdue for replacement, and we must have an electrical set-up to plug in a huge rental emergency generator in case the power goes down during a hurricane. We cannot let the organs in the Church get either hot or sweaty. The cost to fix or replace them is exorbitant.

This all amounts to a huge task for a big, beautiful and much-loved holy place. The major contributors have been tapped and tapped again to help. Now it is time for every single member of the parish—everyone who loves and cherishes this place—to stretch and help to secure Bethesda for us and for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Victor
Junior Warden

Projects completed in 2014
- Teahouse—lighting, patio stones, fans, kitchen refrigerator and plumbing
- Rectory repairs—roof, outside painting, a/c, home office, ducts, lighting
- Audio projector and screen for Parish Hall
- Main chiller

Underway
- Restoration of façade
- Garden Chapel
Services for 2014

Baptisms ................................. 7
Confirmations, Receptions ............ 2
Marriages ................................ 5
Burials ................................. 25
Holy Eucharists ......................... 272
Holy Eucharists (Private) ......... 268
Morning Prayer ......................... 21
Stations of the Cross, Good Friday 1
Evensong ................................. 6

Transitions

Baptism ................................. 21
Confirmation ......................... 21
Transferred In ......................... 9
Transferred Out ................. 22
Lost by Death ......................... 15
Rector, Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

The Rev. James R. Harlan, Rector *

Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

Susan Keenan, Senior Warden * (2017)
Wendy Victor, Junior Warden * (2016)
William (Bill) Atterbury III, Chancellor *#
James (Jim) Myers, Treasurer #
Gail Knisely, Clerk * (2017)

Frederick Broda (2016)
Mark Cook (2015)
William (Bill) Gee (2016)
Deborah Hale-Hagy (2015)
Barbara (Bobbie) Leek (2017)
Matthew (Matt) Lorentzen * (2017)
Donald (Don) McKenna * (2016)
Pamela (Pam) Miller (2015)
David Paulson (2015)
Patricia (Pat) Reichenbacher (2016)
C. Tanner Rose, Jr. (2017)
Zachary (Zach) Shipley (2017)
Gary Sullivan (2015)
Frank Young (2016)

* Member of the Executive Committee
# Not on Vestry

Vestry term expires at the Annual Meeting of the year indicated.
Barbara Willmarth Callahan is a lifelong Episcopalian and has attended Bethesda-by-the-Sea for twenty years. She serves as a Eucharistic Minister, is on the Stewardship Committee, and is a past co-chairman of the Faith in Action Committee. In other churches Barbara has been a member of the Vestry, the Rector Search Committee, and chairman of the Altar Guild. She has a degree in mathematical statistics from George Washington University and an MBA from New York University. Professionally, Barbara was a Vice-President of Citibank where she worked in both financial control and human resources. She has had many volunteer roles, including Trustee of George Washington University and Sustaining Chairman of the New York Junior League. She has been married to her husband Ed for 29 years.

Frances Fisher has enjoyed a volunteer career serving in numerous leadership positions for charitable organizations throughout Palm Beach County for over seventeen years. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Palm Beach Day Academy, The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, H.O.W. (Hearing the Ovarian Cancer Whisper), and the Advisory Board for the LeMieux Center for Public Policy at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Prior to joining the Palm Beach community, Frances served in the West Wing of the White House as Special Assistant to the Counsel for President George H.W. Bush and co-founded and directed the National Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. She is a native of Tuscaloosa, AL and graduate of the University of Alabama. Frances and her husband, Jeff, have been dedicated supporters of Bethesda for many years, and she and her son, Harrison (11), are active members of the Sunday School program as well as the Outreach and Stewardship Committee.

David Paulson (Annapolis, MD, graduated Duke University (BA,1960,M.D.,64). In 1966, after 2 years of basic research (Immunology) and general surgery, David went to the NIH. Following 3 years of basic research (viruses and cancer) and performing radical pelvic surgery, he returned to Duke for further training, joined the faculty, and was appointed Chair of Urologic Surgery at Duke in 1980. David specialized both clinically and in research in the urologic malignancies. He retired to Florida in Sept., 2003, and, despite being the grandson of, and related to, a long line of Missouri Synod Lutheran ministers, joined Bethesda several months later. He is an Emeritus Professor of Urologic Surgery (Duke University) and holds a courtesy appointment as Professor at the U of FL, Gainesville. He currently serves on the Vestry and has a leadership role in the Stewardship campaign.
**Bailey B. Sory III (B.B)** was raised in Palm Beach, FL and he was baptized and confirmed at Bethesda. He is a graduate of the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. B.B. has been an Usher, Stephen Minister, Eucharistic Minister, and Vestryman at Bethesda. He was employed by Honeywell International, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN. In 1964, B.B. returned to Palm Beach and worked for Tropical Shipping Company at the Port of Palm Beach. He retired after thirty years. B.B. serves on the advisory boards of the Boy Scouts of America, Hanley Center, and the board of the Rehabilitation Center for Children and Adults. He and Caroline Birdsall Sory, his wife of 53 years, have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

**Sandra Stern** is CEO of Stern Estate, a home advisory & concierge service for families. Previous careers include Managing Director, Client Home Advisory, Citi Private Bank Global Wealth Management; Director, Executive Education, Darden School, University of Virginia; Director of Programs, The Aspen Institute. She received a Doctorate in Education from the University of Virginia and currently serves as Chair of the Curry School of Education Foundation, University of Virginia. An Episcopalian since 1973, at Bethesda-by-the-Sea she is presently assisting in underwriting the work of scanning to a customized database, all of the documents, photographs, and art of Bethesda-by-the-Sea's 125-year history to preserve for future generations. In her spare time, she enjoys reading biographies and spending time with her husband, Evan, their five children and nine grandchildren.

**Chuck Zettler** is Dean of Enrollment Management for Palm Beach State College. With over 30 years experience in higher education administration, he is responsible for strategic enrollment management for the college including recruitment, admissions, registration and financial aid. In addition to a Masters of Business Administration, Chuck has a Bachelors Degree in Church Music and has served several churches as organist and choirmaster. He has also served on several church governing and foundation boards. Chuck and his partner Robert Hebble joined Bethesda-by-the-Sea in 2011. He was confirmed by Bishop Frade in December 2012. Chuck has served as a Shepherd and leader in the Bethesda Cares ministry, is a lector, completed the first year of Education for Ministry (EfM), and is on the Stewardship Committee.

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**Diocesan Convention Delegates**

Tom O’Brien      Jan Shoobridge      Michael Smyser      Ben Williams (Alternate)

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* Vesture Nominees are selected by the Nominating Committee after an exhaustive review process that at times included the consideration of more than thirty-five church members. The slate of six is presented to the members at the Annual Meeting for consideration to fill the open positions. Vesture members are elected by members in good standing. Persons eligible to vote must be sixteen years of age or older, regular in attendance and contributors of record. One-third of the vestry is elected each year for a period of no more than three years. A person is eligible for re-election after one year has elapsed. A vestry member appointed to fill an unexpired term may be elected at the end of that term to serve a full term.
Call to Order: The Rev. James R. Harlan called the 125th annual meeting of The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted that there was a quorum present.

Opening Prayer & Necrology: The Rev. Kate Kelderman opened with a prayer and The Rev. Dr. Timothy Cogan recited the 2012 necrology.

Interfaith Trip to Israel: Father Harlan introduced Rabbi Michael Resnick who encouraged Bethesda’s parishioners to sign up for the interfaith trip to Israel that he and Father Harlan will be leading this spring.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Connie Purcell and seconded by John Archer to accept the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting as written in the distributed annual report. The motion passed unanimously.

Vestry 2013 & 2014: Father Harlan thanked the six members whose terms were expiring (John Archer, Peter Broberg, Rex Ford, Connie Purcell, Becky Myers, and Zach Shipley), noting Zach Shipley’s eligibility to serve another term since he had been fulfilling the unexpired term of a Vestry member who had resigned previously. He then gave each of the five leaving the Vestry a commemorative gift to thank them for their years of service. Father Harlan also thanked the remaining Vestry members and read the names of those continuing to serve.

Vestry Nominations: John Archer announced that the Nominating Committee had nominated the following 6 people to serve three year terms on the Vestry: Susan Keenan, Gail Knisely, Barbara (Bobbie) Leek, Matthew Lorentzen, Tanner Rose, and Zachary Shipley. No further nominations were made from the floor.

Motion: A motion was made by Peg Ekberg and seconded by Jim Myers to elect the proposed slate of six candidates by acclamation and a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

2014 Budget: Father Harlan presented the budget for 2014, explaining that the increase to $3.08 million is due in large part to the inclusion of The Church Mouse as part of the overall budget rather than as a separate entity as had been done in the past.

Stewardship: Father Harlan presented the results of the 2013 stewardship campaign. A record level of financial support was received with annual giving (budgeted for $1,843,000) totaling $1,929,000. He noted that only 44 households give over $7,500 per year, a number which should be 2-3 times that amount. So while there is good news, there is still much work to do regarding stewardship.

Financial Report: Zach Shipley presented the year-end financial report, noting that we ended the year with a net operating surplus of approximately $106,000.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Myers reported on the state of our investments (managed by Northern Trust), noting that the funds generated a satisfactory return during 2013.
BBTS Charter Resolution: Zach Shipley presented a resolution to make two changes to Bethesda-by-the-Sea’s charter.

1. Change the corporate name from The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea to Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Inc.

2. Allow the Vestry to appoint a Vestry member or officer of the corporation (rather than only the treasurer) to make a report of the corporation’s financial results and condition at an annual meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Sandra Coombs and seconded by Tom O’Brien to approve the resolution as distributed. The motion passed unanimously.

Junior Warden’s Report: Connie Purcell reviewed the many building projects that took place during 2013 and that will continue into the coming year. She presented a video explaining the on-going façade restoration at BBTS.

Rector’s Address: Father James Harlan reviewed the projects, events, and staff changes/additions during 2013, noting the completion of the strategic plan and calling attention to its summary published in the centerfold of the annual report. He unveiled the new logo for Bethesda-by-the-Sea, explaining the significance of its design. He thanked numerous people and entities which have served BBTS during the past year. Father James noted that “we are not the church we used to be...we are becoming mission focused...we are becoming the church God is calling us to be...and we are building on 125 years of courage and vision.”

Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business, a motion was made by Connie Purcell and seconded by John Archer to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Rev. Susan Beebe gave a closing prayer. The Rev. James Harlan adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Myers, Clerk
Finance Report

Finance Sub-Committee: Matthew Lorentzen, chair, and James Myers, Jr., Treasurer
Audit Sub-Committee: Bud Broda, chair

Income Statement

Year-end 2014 results reflect an operating surplus of $163,000 (before capital expenditures) continuing the favorable trend experienced over the past 4 years. This surplus was moved to the unrestricted fund to begin to replenish reserves used to replace the air conditioning system chiller.

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT
Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating Fund
Period Ending December 31
($ thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Gifts</td>
<td>$ 1,649</td>
<td>$ 1,815</td>
<td>$ 2,063</td>
<td>$ 2,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Endowment Draw</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Endowment Draw</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>1,986</td>
<td>2,215</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>2,879</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>1,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Assessment</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>1,003</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>2,017</td>
<td>2,169</td>
<td>2,393</td>
<td>2,716</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)       | -31   | 46    | 106   | 163   |

Annual campaign contributions in 2014 were about the same as 2013 at $1,924,000, as compared with a 14% increase in 2013 over 2012. After five years of increases in annual campaign giving, this pause was unexpected and required the reduction of budgeted expenditures during the year to match revenues.

The Common Endowment was established in 2009 and funded with $3.4 million in 2010. During 2014, $231,000 was drawn from the Common Endowment to fund operations in accordance with the Endowment’s guidelines.

Total expenses declined slightly compared to 2013 primarily due to a reduction in outreach (due to decreased Church Mouse net revenues), savings from deferral of staff hiring and replacement, and reduction in building and grounds maintenance.

The Diocesan Assessment, based on prior years Operating Revenues, increased to $288,000 in 2014, a slight increase over 2013.

In addition to the Unrestricted Gifts to the Operating Fund, contributions designated to the Preservation & Restoration Endowment, Capital Repairs & Improvement Reserve, and additional unrestricted contributions, approximated $2,900,000 during 2014.
In addition to the operating revenues and expenses discussed above, income from designated sources (i.e., Outreach, Columbarium, Memorial Scholarships, etc.), net of operating expenses, approximated $221,800 during 2014. Expenditure of these designated funds approximated $163,000 during 2014.

Capital expenditures, which are also excluded from the Operating Fund, totaled $1,557,000 in 2014 and were primarily comprised of $971,000 paid to Conkling & Lewis for building restoration, repairs and maintenance; $18,000 for restroom improvements; $40,000 for Rectory renovations; $35,000 for Teahouse improvements; $25,000 for A/V improvements in the Parish Hall; $70,000 on the Garden Chapel; and $398,000 for a new chiller for the A/C system. These projects were funded by $1,006,400 from the Capital Reserve and Preservation Endowment, $70,000 from a gift specifically designated for furnishings and $481,000 from unrestricted funds.

Balance Sheet
Assets grew by $3.5 million during 2014 primarily due to unrealized gains on investments during the year and new gifts to Restoration and Preservation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating &amp; Non-Operating Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period Ending December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>($ thousands)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Shoppe Inventory</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Fund</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted/Consolidated Fund</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,428</td>
<td>1,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Endowment</td>
<td>3,982</td>
<td>5,837</td>
<td>6,705</td>
<td>6,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration &amp; Preservation</td>
<td>2,714</td>
<td>3,119</td>
<td>2,724</td>
<td>4,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Designated/Restricted Funds</td>
<td>2,129</td>
<td>2,315</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>2,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges Receivable - R&amp;P</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>3,747</td>
<td>4,075</td>
<td>4,108</td>
<td>5,144</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>14,883</td>
<td>19,229</td>
<td>20,304</td>
<td>23,821</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>227</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>227</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAPITAL</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL</td>
<td>15,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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From the Associate for Administration

Evangelism and Communications Committee—Sandra Stern, chair
Stewardship Working Group—Doug Daft, chair
Personnel Working Group—Don McKenna, chair
Retail Operations Working Group—Pat Reichenbacher, chair

Bethesda spent 2014 remembering and celebrating the past, highlighting our 125th anniversary. As we looked at the past and tied that courage and vision to today’s Bethesda, we looked forward to the mission God has set before us. The work of the Evangelism and Communications Committee helped define what the face of that future looks like when after months of work the Bethesda logo was unveiled last January. We designed a logo that would convey the healing waters down the street and present in our spiritual lives, the rising sun and the growing light of Christ in our lives, fresh simplicity and grounded history. We produced a series of brochures to guide visitors, newcomers, and longtime members through our beautiful grounds and the ministries offered by Bethesda. Just after Easter, the new Bethesda website launched. It is fresh and functional. It is interactive and constantly updated. Visit it frequently: check the calendar, read the blog posts, connect to Facebook, and watch the live stream of the Sunday Services.

The Church Mouse and The Shoppe had a successful 2014. Bringing the retail expertise of the Mouse into management of The Shoppe paid dividends. With sales of $24,000, The Shoppe produced more income this year that can be used to fund scholarships than previously. The Church Mouse had sales of $700,000 coming just short of matching last year’s record setting income. It continues to fund Outreach initiatives for Bethesda and the community. The Mouse also added a video security system to deter shoplifting.

Stewardship in 2014 was marked by both success and challenges. When most people analyze a church’s financial statements, they concentrate on expense distribution. Bethesda has a focused plan for the direction of the church and a staff and vestry with an unwavering focus on maintaining financial responsibility. The limiting factor in developing ministries, however, is revenue. Bethesda does not have an expense problem, it has a revenue challenge. The Bethesda Family grew to include over 1,000 households but many, almost half, do not participate in a recognizable way in funding the annual budget. Additionally, the median gift at Bethesda remains at $1,200 per year. These challenges mean Bethesda has an unhealthy dependence on a handful of generous givers. We need to continue to see an increase in the number of pledges and the size of those pledges. In order to do the ministry the parish wants and God is calling Bethesda to do, we need an additional $600,000 per year. I am not suggesting we raise our goal for the 2015 annual campaign by $600,000 but we need to be working toward that over the next few years. When the revenues allow, we already know what the priorities for new ministries will be.

Yours in Christ,

Fred E. Staley, Jr., Associate for Administration
From the Associate for Music and Liturgy

Worship Committee—Lloyd Terry, chair

Our Worship Committee—under the very capable leadership of Lloyd Terry and Bill Gee—has functioned well. The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Holly Breeden and Gay Gregory, continues to do work that is vital to our worship life. They dedicate many hours to prepare for all our services—not only those on Sundays and at Christmas and Easter, but our regular weekday services, weddings, funerals, and many extra services through the course of the year that most people do not see. The Flower Guild—now some 90-strong—continues to provide beautiful and lovingly-executed arrangements that immeasurably enhance our services. The ushers have a new manual of procedures, and they have few new members who have been trained and are now serving.

Our Vergers Guild continues to assist in all areas of worship and has been a great help in coordinating the various worship ministries so that everything runs more smoothly. They have also been essential in providing leadership at the training sessions we’ve had during the year. As a result, we now have several new Acolytes, Eucharistic Minsters, and Lay Readers. We also have several new sound system and video operators.

The Bethesda Choir and the Bethesda Youth Choir continue to provide music for our services from September through May. Our concerts and choral services during 2014 included our continuing series of First-Sunday Evensongs, each preceded by a half-hour recital. Other highlights included A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, the annual Christmas Concert and Community Carol Sing, and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Eric Plutz, Princeton University Organist, presented a recital in March.

Our ever-popular Boar’s Head Festival is a gift to the community, as well as a way for over 150 members of our parish family to work together on a large-scale project. This is truly a cross-generational effort. The 2014 performances were well-received by large and appreciative audiences.

I was on sabbatical for five months, beginning in August; Daniel Beckwith, a long-time friend and colleague, did a wonderful job as Acting Organist and Choirmaster from August through December.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold E. Pysher, Associate for Music & Liturgy
From the Associate for Ministry Development

Bethesda Cares Committee—Bobbie Leek, chair
Education Committee—Lindy Carlisle, chair
Fellowship & Hospitality Committee—Carol Stewart, chair
Outreach Committee—Pat Reichenbacher, chair

Bethesda Cares: Bethesda Cares is an umbrella of Pastoral Care groups who, at the direction of the clergy, assist in making sure that all of our members are cared for. Ministries of this Committee include the Card Ministry, Eucharistic Visitors, the Intercessory Prayer Group, the Meals Ministry, Shepherds, Stephens Ministers, and the Widows Group. Under the capable leadership of our Deacons, the Eucharistic Visitors (Clay Waddell) and the Intercessory Prayer Group (Cecie Titcomb) remain strong and active. So also, the Card Ministry (Phyllis Goodner) and Widow’s Group (Gayle Petersen) are thriving. Three new Stephens Ministers and I are being trained this year by Susan Innocenzi who heads this ministry. They will join with our five current Stephens Ministers who have already taken this 9 month course to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to hurting people. The Shepherd Ministry is continuing to adapt to the needs of this particular congregation as they intentionally connect with and care for every person in our community.

Fellowship & Hospitality: This Committee works throughout the year to foster Christian fellowship among all members, guests, and visitors. The Anchors (Young Adults), Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Men of Bethesda (MOB), and St. Mary’s Guild are all a part of this effort as well as Bethesda Life and Cursillos. The Christmas and Easter Homebound Luncheons and the International Potluck Dinner are among the annual events hosted by the Committee. This past year the Committee worked closely with the Parish Staff and made great strides to include a strong mix of established and new members in all of our Fellowship and Hospitality events. A new ministry was created: The Fellowship Hour. Parishioners cook, purchase, or donate goodies which are served in the parish hall on Sunday mornings. This has been a fun way to make sure there is an opportunity to socialize with each other between services.

Outreach: This Committee focuses on three specific areas of need: Education, Food, and Shelter with the goal of containing the number of offerings so that Bethesda is known for doing a few things very well instead of doing a lot of things with perfunctory effect. Empty Bowls brought people throughout the community together raising $58,000 for the Palm Beach County Food Bank. In turn, the Food Bank was able to deliver sorely needed food to over 100 pantries in the area. A new Tutor/Mentor/Scholarship program was launched at Lake Worth High School, a Title 1 school where 87% of the students live at or below the poverty line. It is enabling some of the brightest of these young people to stay in school and work toward acceptance into college. Another successful fundraiser for St. George’s Center was chaired by Tony Bohannon. Outreach’s Grant Committee researched and vetted charities in our community and successfully awarded $335,000 in grants and scholarships. These funds were generated through the sale of donated goods at The Church Mouse, the church’s resale shop.

Faithfully,

[Signature]

The Rev. Kimberly L. Still, Associate for Ministry Development
I don’t know if you’ve been to my office lately, but if you have I apologize for the state that it’s in. If it’s any consolation, I generally know what each pile of clutter represents. The one in the far corner are the supplies and resources that we’ve been using with the Confirmation Classes this year. The one on the corner of my desk holds all of the amazing opportunities for youth service projects. The big one at the base of my chair contains all of the materials we need to run our Sunday School programs week in and week out. Clutter is part of my world I’m afraid, a messy area of popsicle sticks and Elmer’s glue, glitter, scissors, paints, inkpads, laughter, sweat, friends, teachers, mentors, and the occasional bible and Book of Common Prayer.

Ironically enough, 2014 will go down as the year where our children and youth education and formation programs found order after a few years of looking for our groove. Our Sunday School for Pre-K through 4th Grade is made up of three classes and three teams of four teachers each along with three new teacher assistants creating a network of support for all our generous volunteers. For our youngest members, storytelling is the key and each age group represents a significant shift in learning comprehension. Our children in the Pre-K/Kindergarten Class learn the biblical stories. Our children in the 1st/2nd Grade Class learn how to interpret the biblical stories. And our 3rd/4th Grade Class learns how we order and draw larger meanings from the biblical stories through our lectionary and liturgical calendar.

Our 5th/6th Grade Class, known as the Bagels and Bible Group, begin the transition from children’s ministry to youth ministry. Each Sunday, this group participates in a youth-friendly bible study with their very own bibles that Bethesda presented them as gifts at the beginning of the year. Over the course of two years they will journey through the Old and New Testaments learning about the connection of common themes and ideas throughout scripture. Following this class, newly minted teenagers have the option to participate in our Pre-Confirmation Class, a group specifically designed to help our 7th Graders get a leg up on theological ideas and concepts that they’ll explore more in-depth in our traditional 8th Grade Confirmation Class where they will have the chance to be confirmed during the bishop’s visitation in May.

Finally, our 9th–12th Graders have taken on the responsibilities of the newly confirmed by seeking their spiritual calling through organizing a pilgrimage. Over the course of the past year, our high school-aged youth have chosen a destination, budgeted, raised funds, and planned a trip to northern Spain to walk the Way of St. James, the El Camino de Santiago. For our freshmen this trip represents the new possibilities that come with formation in our community and for our seniors this trip represents the threshold as they transition to a new phase in their lives.

In addition to all of our regular children and youth education ministries, our Bethesda Youth Group continues to grow, both in number and spiritually, as we look to serve our neighbor volunteering at Pat Reeves Village, an emergency family shelter and Opportunity Early Learning Center. Bethesda continues to offer adult and cross-generational education opportunities as well with our Bethesda Reads the Bible forums on Sunday mornings and our Cross-Gen inter-generational forums on Tuesday nights.

The work of God is to bring order out of chaos and certainly my office shows some signs of the latter, but it is all in service to the former. I am honored to work with great families and am grateful for all of the hard work that our volunteers, children, and youth have put into making our programs run so well over the course of this past year. I look forward to many more exciting adventures to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Clergy and Staff

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The Rev. James R. Harlan
Rector
Harold E. Pysher
Associate for Music & Liturgy
Fred E. Staley, Jr.
Associate for Administration
The Rev. Kimberly L. Still
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HONORARY ASSISTING CLERGY
The Rev. Jeffrey S. Beebe
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Susan R. Beebe
Assisting Priest
The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell
Deacon for Port Ministry
The Rev. Dr. Cecily J. Titcomb
Deacon for Spiritual Direction & Pastoral Care (Nov–May)

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