

# 2019 Annual Report

# Church of **Our** **Saviour** *Episcopal*



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# 2020 Annual Parish Meeting

Church of Our Saviour • January 26, 2020

## I. Opening Prayer and Call to Order

*Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

## II. Rector's Address – The Rev. Joe Gibbes

## III. Sr. Warden's Report – Theresa Meyers

## IV. Position Selections – Theresa Meyers

- a. Vestry
- b. 2020 Diocesan Convention
- c. Church of Our Saviour Foundation

## V. Jr. Warden's Report – Joe Nuetzi

## VI. Our Saviour Foundation – Mark LaBorde

## VII. Treasurer's Report – Bob White

- a. Summary Report for 2019
- b. 2020 Budget

## VIII. Final Remarks, Closing Prayer & Dismissal

*Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it. Inspire our witness to your Son Jesus Christ, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



# Rector's Report

The Rev. Joe Gibbes

When I think back on 2019, the word that comes to mind for Church of Our Saviour is **“steady.”** That is certainly not to say that 2019 was “uneventful!” It was busy, with some wonderful highs, and some real bumps along the way. But all in all, 2019 was a year of the Body of Christ doing the regular work of being the church.

## Here are just some of the significant markers of 2019 –

- We upgraded the Sunday Evening service, adding musicians, playing modernized hymns, and dubbing the service **“Evening Grace.”** The service doubled; we’d like to see it double again this year. If you haven’t yet, give it a try!
- We had a **glorious Easter**, welcoming 750 worshipers – the most we’ve had in years.
- Over 30 youth and adults were confirmed by Bishop Howard in May. The Bishop exclaimed that this was one of the best **Confirmation** services he’s ever been a part of!
- The **Our Saviour, Our Home** fundraising campaign was a great success. You gave over \$115,000 collectively, allowing us to make some necessary improvements to our campus. How about that driveway?!?!
- **Created For a Purpose** and **Vacation Bible School** continued their run of excellence. Both were packed with children and volunteers! They ran smoothly, and taught children about Jesus’ love and grace.
- **Built For a Purpose** was a huge success in its first year. 17 boys and nearly 30 adult volunteers had 3 great days fishing, building, playing, and enjoying the Lord’s blessing.
- We held four **Food Truck** events, all with live music. These have become fun ways for parishioners to bring friends and neighbors and share the beauty that God has given us.
- **We grew!** We welcomed many new families to Church of Our Saviour. Sunday attendance grew by a healthy 5.5% and total weekly engagement increased by 10%.
- **Finances were solid.** Your generosity to the parish indicates your excitement about what God is doing at Church of Our Saviour. Thank you!
- **Missions** – Work days at St. Mary’s, VBS in Interlachen, Youth Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast, loads of supplies for Bahamians affected by Hurricane Dorian, and much more!
- **Girls Night Out.** It’s just a great time every year!
- **The Live Nativity** was a great success once again. Crowds were down due to rain, but the cast and crew still did an incredible job sharing the Gospel with ~800 people.

In 2020, the staff and vestry will be discerning the findings of the **2019 Parish Survey**, and working with you to make this the church God dreams of. This will involve an earnest and prayerful examination of the ministries to which God is calling us, and the resulting necessary changes to our campus, finances, organization, technology, and communication. There is much to anticipate and it’s going to take the whole congregation pulling together! Yet, no matter what changes occur, we will always be about the work of **helping people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, to live into a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Faithfully,

Fr. Joe+

# Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Trent Moore

I remain grateful to Fr. Joe and the Vestry for the continued opportunity to serve as your Associate Rector. What an honor to administer the ministry of Word and Sacrament at Church of Our Saviour. Ashley, Jackson, Gabriel and I love our church: the history and the tradition; and the mission of spreading the Gospel in the heart of Mandarin, across the city of Jacksonville, and around the world. It is a great joy and privilege to come to work every day, to hear the stories of God working in your lives and to experience this exciting and vibrant time in the life of this parish.

**MISSION:** My mission is to support the ministry of the rector, vestry, and parish, particularly focusing on the areas of pastoral care, teaching and preaching, family ministry, service, liturgy and sacrament.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019:

- The completion of the work of the Design Team with the Ministry Architects
- The launch of the new Youth and Children's Councils
- The Thursday morning Eucharist
- The development of our grief and pastoral visitor programs with Sarah Stanley
- The opportunities to create curricula for the Parenting Class and the Rector's Forum
- Leading various times of worship and devotion with the Daughters of the King
- Being a part of the launch of Built for a Purpose

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020:

My chief aims are to continue to:

- Continue to design and tweak our pastoral ministries, systems and personnel
- Develop new opportunities for discipleship in the areas of study and service

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Trent+

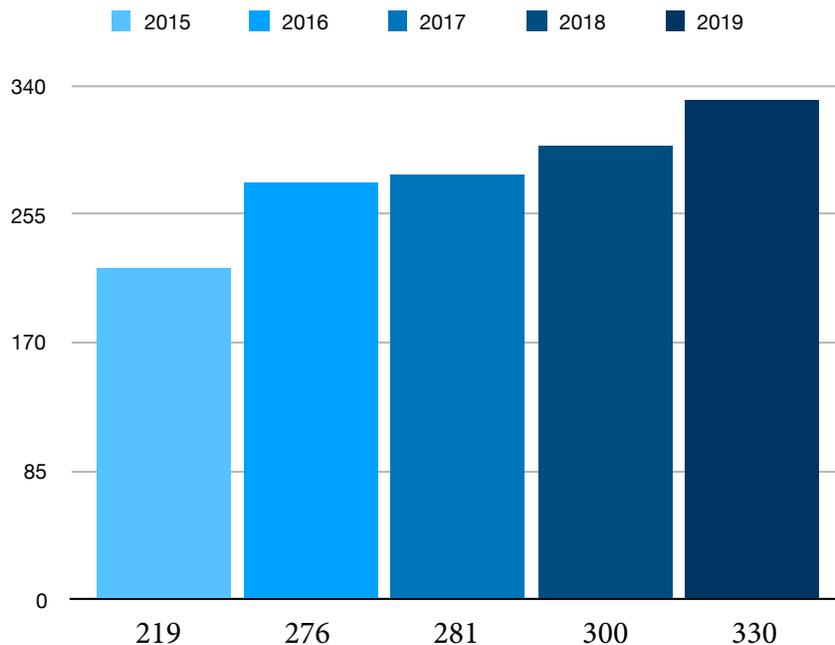


# Look At How We've Grown

A Reflection of God's Work Through Us In 2019

2017	2019	2018
Active Members: 783	Active Members: 855	Active Members: 813
Adults: 594 Children: 120	Adults: 670 Children: 175	Adults: 586 Children: 134

Annual Average Weekly Attendance Trends



Baptisms: 15  
 Confirmation/Reception: 33 (18 Adults / 15 Youth)  
 Weddings: 3

**News On the Riverbank (eNews):** Subscribers - 614 / Non Subscribers - 56

**Realm:** Active Members - 316 / Non-Active Members - 354

To learn how to make Realm work for you or to subscribe to the News On the Riverbank,  
 email Elaine Allen: [eallen@oursaviourjax.org](mailto:eallen@oursaviourjax.org)

# Community Outreach

A Reflection of God’s Work Through Us In 2019

Created for A Purpose Attendees

63

Built for A Purpose Attendees

17

VBS Attendees

130

Created for A Purpose Volunteers

56

Built for A Purpose Volunteers

27

VBS Volunteers

60

Youth Mission Trip to Panama City

10 Youth  
2 Adult

Live Nativity Attendees

800

Blessing of the Animals

55 Dogs  
2 Cats  
3 Hermit Crabs  
1 Turtle  
(2 Stuffed Animals)

St. Mary’s Work Days  
3 days with

10 Adult Volunteers  
2 Youth Volunteers

St. Andrew’s - Interlachen  
Served Appx. 35 Children  
(VBS, Christmas, Easter)

Live Nativity Volunteers

100

Food Trucks  
(Jazz, Bluegrass, Rockabilly,  
Rock Around the Food Trucks)

1000

# Treasurer's Report

Bob White

## 2019 Performance

2019 was a successful year financially. We did miss our “bottom line” budget but just barely – budgeted deficit of \$(10,984) vs. an actual result of \$(12,607). With annual revenue and expense budgets just over one million dollars, we were very close.

Our income is divided into two broad categories – **Contribution Income** and **Additional Operational** Income.

**Contribution Income** is giving from our Parishioners for purposes of operating the Church.

Budgeted Income:	\$852,458	Budgeted Pledges:	\$779,758
Actual Income:	\$848,523	Actual Pledges:	\$774,708
	<u>-\$3,935 (.46%)</u>		<u>-\$5,050 (.65%)</u>

Thankfully, our parishioners came through on their pledges!

**Additional Operational Income** includes Trust income & contributions to designated accounts. This represents a change in practice from previous years as we now treat designated fund contributions as income and, correspondingly, expenditures from these gifts are treated as expense. This change was made to ensure that all cash contributions and expenditures are captured on the Church Income Statement. This gives us a clearer picture of the parish’s overall financial activity and position. However, as you might imagine, planning for Designated Giving is more difficult than Contribution Income. In 2019 our Additional Operating Income was \$288,967 vs. a budget of \$150,336, a favorable variance of \$138,361.

Total Budgeted Revenue:	\$1,002,794	Actual Total Revenue:	\$1,137,491	+13.43%
Total Budgeted Expense:	\$1,013,778	Actual Total Expense:	\$1,150,097	- 13.45%
Budgeted Variance:	<u>-\$10,984</u>	Actual Variance:	<u>-\$12,607</u>	

Operations, Employee and Ministry expenses were all at or close to plan. The Clergy, staff, Ministry Leaders and the Vestry take expense control very seriously and this is reflected in our financial performance. We were essentially right on our 2019 financial plan.

## 2019 Liquidity

Our liquidity at the end of 2019 (a.k.a. cash) was \$646,474. This compares very favorably to our cash position at the end of 2018 which was \$430,607. One of our “unwritten” goals is to maintain at least three months of reserves for expenses, net of restricted and designated funds, and at the end of 2019, we had 3.27 months of reserves using this methodology.



# Senior Warden's Report

Theresa Meyers

Serving on Vestry has given me the opportunity to share in the internal workings of the church. As Senior Warden I was able to meet with many of our ministries and Bible Study groups to better represent our voice as a parish family concerning areas that are working well and areas we would like to see improve and grow. As you can imagine, much was discussed.

## A few highlights included:

- The Live Nativity – hugely popular and a fabulous success
- The Food Trucks & Music – fun filled entertainment for all ages
- Created For A Purpose – growing strong young women
- Built For A Purpose – launched this year and will be back again in 2020
- Vacation Bible School – meaningful for children and those who volunteered

## Areas for opportunity included:

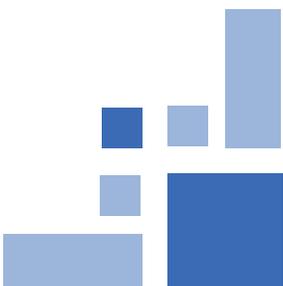
- Communication – **Katherine Bunnell** joined us in April as the Communications Coordinator and we are better informed now than ever before.
- Our History – we answered the need to maintain our history and traditions. The Great Hall proudly displays our heritage as well as our focus on service and study.
- Ministry Fair – We were all excited and eagerly participated in this year's Ministry Fair. Many connected to ministries for the first time.

## We identified the need to maintain and care for our aging property and facilities and formed the "Our Saviour, Our Home" Campaign:

- Together we successfully raised over \$120,000 in a short period of time (9 weeks), during a busy time of the year (May 5th to July 7th).
- With the funds raised we have drilled a new well, replaced the air conditioner in Classroom 2 repaved the driveway and replaced the nursery room floor. The improved drainage for the main property and additional lighting to the Family Life Center will soon be started.
- I would personally like to say a very special thank you to Joanne Booher, Rob Iseman, Joe Nuetzi, Caroline Ritchie and Matt Maggiore for all your work on this committee. What a GREAT team!!!

Moving forward in 2020 we are restructuring the Vestry to be better stewards of our time and talents. We will primarily focus on property & facilities, finances & stewardship and providing overall counsel.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on our Vestry. It has been my honor and privilege to serve for the past three years!



# Junior Warden's Report

Joe Nuetzi

Over the past several years we have experienced an abundance of activity associated with our facilities and this year was no exception.

- The fencing in front of the Family Life Center has been completed.
- The parking lot has never looked better.
- The waste receptacle was moved away from the playground area to the far side of the parking lot. It now sits on a concrete slab with new fencing around it.
- The railroad ties used for defining our available parking lanes have been replaced and/or resurfaced. Special thanks to **Richard Ashley** and **Michael Snider** for taking on this project.

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Our Saviour Our Home Campaign. With these funds we were able to accomplish major improvements:**

- The new well was drilled and connected.
- A new air conditioner was installed in Classroom 2.
- Our driveway was repaved
- The nursery has brand new floors.
- Plans are also underway for additional lighting at the Family Life Center and to provide better drainage on the church side of the property.

A special thanks to the campaign leaders: **Joanne Booher** and **Rob Iseman** as well as **Theresa Meyers**, **Caroline Ritchie**, **Matt Maggiore**, and **Joe Nuetzi** for all their hard work on that campaign.

Along with the big ticket items above, there are many day to day activities that are looked after by dedicated individuals.

- Our Facilities Manager, **Mike Baldwin** has now transitioned into a permanent position and is doing a fantastic job!
- Thanks to **Jim Meyers** and **Ted Zgola** for their many hours of volunteer work and assistance in maintaining the grounds during that transition period.
- Also, many thanks to **Norm Gregory** and his dedicated crew who spruce up the grounds on the first Saturday of each month.

With the dedication from all these individuals and so many others our facilities will stay in great shape for years to come!



# Music Report

Bob Moore

2019 was another excellent year in Music Ministry. Our Choir welcomed new members and benefitted from an excellent class of Choral Scholars. This resulted in many exceptional musical moments both in and out of our weekly worship.

A high point for the Choir and for me personally was the premiere of my cantata, "I Am", a collaboration with poet Richard Leach. This took place during the Easter Season, and we were happy to team up with the choir from San Jose Episcopal Church for this performance.

Speaking of Choral Scholars, we will be sad to say goodbye to most of our roster, but we are ever hopeful that we will be able to attract talented young singers to our parish. I am told over and over that these students love being a part of our community, and truly value the opportunity to make music here. Thank you for making this program possible.

"Dinner and a Show" was a blast, as we examined the history of Yacht Rock. Don't worry, it's still a mystery to most, but a good time was had. Preliminary plans are currently underway for summer, 2020. The tentative theme? Dinner and a Show Goes to Vegas: What Happens at COOS, Stays at COOS.

Our musical ensemble for Evening Grace has been a great success. If you haven't been able to come out for this service, do yourself a favor and end your weekend on a high note.

Plans for 2020 include an encore of "O for a Thousand Tongues" on Good Friday, handbells in the spring, and (hopefully) further progress towards offering opportunities for younger members of our congregation to participate in music ministry.

Thank you for your support, and most of all for your beautiful singing on Sundays!



# Small Groups Report

Lola Washington

In 2018, a new program for Small Group Bible Study was added at Church of Our Saviour. The purpose of small group Bible study is to support each other while growing in Christ through studying God's Word. These groups are led by a lay person and each study is decided on by the group. Your study, your way, at the group's agreed upon time. What could be better? We currently have four groups and are looking to add more in 2020.

The question often asked is: Bible study or Small Group Bible study...aren't they the same thing? The simple answer is, yes and no. A Bible study is an "open" group dedicated to a specific study and may be any size, small to large. Members support each other through encouragement and prayer as well as other needs as may arise. A small group is very similar but is a "closed" group and works best with 10 or less participants.

A Small Group Bible Study would be a wonderful Lenten discipline this year and a great way to try it out. If you're interested in learning more about our Small Groups, please contact me or Fr. Joe or Fr. Trent.

I will be happy to help you put together a group and help your group find a study.

# Pastoral Care Report

Sarah Stanley

Our mission is dedicated to providing compassionate support to our church family, through a variety of services to help meet their physical, spiritual and relational needs.

**Shepherds** – We have 8 shepherds that continue to reach out to members of their flock on a regular basis to check in and see if any pastoral needs exist. Then they coordinate and place into action the appropriate services in concert with our lay pastoral leaders and clergy.

**Meal Ministry** – **Fred Kaiser** leads this team and coordinates the logistics and details of this ministry. They deliver meals to parishioners in need during difficult or trying times in their lives. They delivered approximately 30 meals to parishioners in need in 2019.

**Eucharistic Visitors** – **Diane Gates** coordinates the team of Eucharistic Visitors and visits to parishioners that are unable to attend church. She sends members of her team out on a weekly basis to serve as extensions of the church to include all our people in the body of Christ. Approximately 90 visits were made in 2019.

**Flower Delivery Ministry** – **Carole and Duane Brock** coordinate a team that delivers flowers that adorn the altar each week to parishioners. Four arrangements are delivered each week except during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. The reasons for delivery range from illness to loss to new baby.

**Visitors Team** – **Sarah Stanley** coordinates a team of visitors that reach out to parishioners that may need an extra spiritual touch and/or companionship.

**Grief Program** – **Sarah Stanley and Fr. Trent** will be conducting a third eight-week grief series beginning on February 6th. It will be held on Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm for our parishioners that need help while going through a difficult journey during seasons of loss.

**Birthday Cards** – We have a volunteer that sends birthday cards each month to our parishioners.

# Children's and Family's Report

Beth Lunsford

Thanks be to God for another outstanding year in children's and family ministries! We are growing and thriving thanks to God's provision and your continued generosity.

Building relationships with families continues to be a primary focus of our ministry. Events like the St. Nicholas party, Parents Night Out, and the Children's Instructed Eucharist provided fellowship, learning, and fun for families. Through these types of events, we hope to engage, encourage, and empower families of children to grow in Christian faith. One parent said of the Instructed Eucharist, "I never thought my child would take such an interest in learning about the worship service. I learned as much as she did!"

Serving others is another growing focus in children's and family ministries. In 2019 we added regular monthly Service Projects After Church. Last year kids had hands-on opportunities to learn about stewardship, sharing God's love, gratitude, and giving to those less fortunate. We even baked dog treats for Blessing of the Animals! What fun!

## Our summer programs were bigger and better than ever in 2019:

- Built for a Purpose – a 3 day camp for boys
- Created for a Purpose – a 5 day camp for girls
- Vacation Bible School
- Combined we ministered to over 220 kids and their families!

This congregation loves children and you have shown it through generosity in giving of your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to the entire children's ministry team who work tirelessly to plant the seeds of the Gospel in the hearts of children. With every song they sing and lesson they teach comes another opportunity for a child's heart to be opened to God.

I know that, with God's help, 2020 will be another year of vibrant growth in our Children's and Family Ministries programs. Thank you for your continued prayers, love, and support.



# Youth Report

Bethany Dixon

## Our teens have been incredibly active here at Our Saviour:

- Our growing Sunday school program and Wednesday youth group meetings have helped teach our teens about God's love for them and how their faith fits into their everyday lives.
- Our Confirmation class last year saw 15 teens participate in the sacrament of Confirmation. We were so blessed to be able to witness their affirmation of their faith and baptismal vows.

## On a diocesan level:

- Many of our youth participated in Happening and New Beginnings at Camp Weed.
- Two seniors led weekends for their peers. We've also had teens on the Happening steering committee, and others who volunteer with and participate in the Diocesan Convention.

We also had many fun activities that helped build our community and strengthen our youths' relationships with the church body. These included the Ski Trip in January, our various Summer Fun trips, our trip to the Jaguar's Game, and our Christmas Party.

Our teens' dedication to serving is inspiring. I'm sure you've all seen a teenager serving in church at some point this year, whether as an acolyte, as an usher, as a leader in our Children's Ministry summer programs, or in the Live Nativity program. They have also served as part of the "Pew Crew" teams by updating the inserts in the pew racks once a month. And an amazing group of teens went to Panama City last summer to help with the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Michael.

In the coming year we are excited to continue growing our programs and helping our teens connect into the church body as a whole. We will celebrate our large class of seniors as they head off to college, to continue serving on the church and diocesan level and to go on our mission trip to serve with The Philadelphia Project this summer.

A huge thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers, meal preparers, design team leaders, council members, and teachers. Thank you for all your support and prayers as we continue to build this ministry and pour love into our teens. Without you, the youth programs here would not be possible.



# Foundation Report

The Church of Our Saviour Foundation is open for business!

The Mission of the Foundation is to provide ongoing financial strength and support to the ministry of Church of Our Saviour through strategic planning, investment, and parish education.

To this end, Foundation Board members have begun to meet with parishioners, either individually or in small groups, to let them know more about how gifts to the Foundation will perpetuate the ministry of Church of Our Saviour. If you would like to meet with a Foundation board member to learn more, please call the parish office, or any of the board members directly.

The Board is happy to report that earnings were up significantly at the end of 2019 due to strong market conditions.

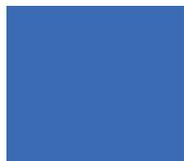
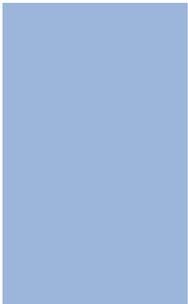
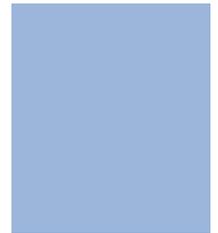
12/31/2018	\$142,108
12/31/2019	\$165,804

Given the healthy financial condition of the parish, a disbursement to the parish is not anticipated for 2020.

This is currently a very small endowment fund; yet the Board is pursuing and anticipating growth, primarily through legacy giving, that will allow us to live into the mission of providing financial strength to Episcopal Church of Our Saviour.

Board Members: **Mark LaBorde** - President  
**Cynde Covington** - Vice President  
**Anna Dooley** - Secretary  
**Brain Chappell**





## **The Church's One Foundation** (Samuel John Stone)

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word;  
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.



Church of Our Saviour exists to help people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey,  
to live into a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

