



# THE FALLS CHURCH ANGLICAN



*"As the Father sent me, just so, I have sent you."*

John 20:21

November 2023

To the Family of The Falls Church Anglican,

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we reflect upon God's graciousness to us. We are so richly blessed in Christ: sins wiped out, death defeated, God's arms wide open.

There is also Christ's body, the church. We have each other. Encouragement, counsel, sympathy, even laughter, these we share as "members one of another" (Romans 12:5). The Triune God designed Christianity to be the end not only of hopelessness but also loneliness.

It is good for us to give back to God in response to His blessings. One practical way of expressing our gratitude is by participating in Commitment Sunday on November 12. A long tradition at The Falls Church Anglican, on this Sunday we declare "we are His" and that in Him "we belong to one another" by supporting the mission and ministry of our church.

What are some of the many blessings for which we are especially grateful?

As your pastor, I am regularly taken aback by our church's commitment. It rings through our history, the past decade especially. You feel it on Sunday mornings as friends greet, pews fill, praises rise, and Bibles open. Falls Church Anglican, we are "alive

together in Christ" (Ephesians 2:5), committed to follow the Lord wherever He leads. What a joy and honor to be part of such a faithful people!

We are also blessed with a very capable and dedicated staff—people you know and work with frequently. It's exciting to work with people who are all in for Christ and for our church. We continue to build on that, most recently, with talented new team members the Lord has called here to lead our youth ministry and fellows program.

The past year has also seen our ministry of discipleship grow, as talented church members worked alongside John Frederick in offering classes and seminars aimed at "equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

There is so much more we could say. And there is more we feel called to do.

Our young people face unique challenges. They have different relationships with technology, different pressures and influences, than generations before. This seems to be creating struggles in areas of mental health and faith. We must think creatively about how we not only teach good doctrine but develop and form the next generation. This will require equipping families with vision and plans for cutting-edge discipleship in the home—rooted, of course, in the ancient wisdom of our faith.

Another challenge we face is *de-Churching*. In America, forty million people left churches in the past twenty-five years. Church history models engagement with pre-Christian culture, but not so much post-Christian. Remnants of cultural Christianity inoculate the West against the real thing. I see our greatest opportunity—and challenge—to be developing an evangelistic encounter with our world today. Not less than service. Not less than neighborly love. But more: seeing our neighbors born again, united to Jesus. "Unless one is born again," our Lord teaches, "he or she cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:3, 5).

Discipling the next generation. Reaching a post-Christian culture. Being salt and light in our communities. Such a mission is ours, Falls Church Anglican. In Christ, let us press into it!

On November 12, we will hold our traditional Commitment Sunday of worship. On that day, we will ask that you present your pledge to the Lord of your financial support for the ministry of this church in the coming year.

Your gifts fund our operating budget, which helps to ensure the church's ministries work effectively to advance our mission. The budget for the coming year is \$7.9 million, a modest increase over last year's.

You might also choose to direct an additional gift for debt reduction on our church property. Parishioners generously funded the recent completion of our worship space, but we still have a \$23,000,000 debt on the property overall. The opportunity to reduce that debt has the effect of reducing future interest payments; savings from that ultimately can go to our ministries.

Please prayerfully consider what is best for you and your family. You may choose to return the enclosed card or go online to [www.tfcanglican.org](http://www.tfcanglican.org) to make your pledge. Or please plan to present your pledge as part of our November 12 Commitment Sunday service.

The Lord has richly blessed this special church, and we are deeply thankful for all that you do to try to live as Christ and to share Christ's love with others.

So Very Gratefully,



Sam Ferguson



THE  
FALLS CHURCH  
— ANGLICAN —  
EST. 1732

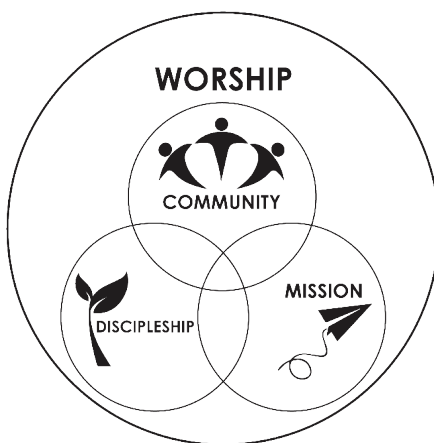
We pray and work so that our Church is marked by four pillars. These are features and qualities that, when happening together, help us live into the calling to be a biblical and God-honoring local church.

**Worship: we glorify God.** "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name" (Psalm 96:8). The final end of all we do, in word or deed, is to bring honor and praise to God.

**Community: we gather in the name of Christ.** "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:5). The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone, but in joyful and committed fellowship with other believers.

**Discipleship: we grow more like Christ.** "Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). The Christian life is not stagnant, but a process of transformation, as the Spirit and the community of believers help us become more like Jesus.

**Mission: we go for Christ.** "As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you" (John 20:21). Christ sends us into the world to continue God's mission, centering upon making Jesus known as the life of the world, the bread of life, the living water, to a world longing for true satisfaction.



## Our Vision

A vision for The Falls Church Anglican is coalescing, rooted in God's ancient call on His Church, centered around three things:

**DISCIPLESHIP, COMMUNITY, & MISSION**

# Ministry Reports

*"Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." - PSALM 100:3*

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY

*"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." I TIMOTHY 1:5*

One of our goals is to "grow in Christ." What a privilege it is to observe children growing up: we see children grow in confidence in coming to their classes, grow to trust their classroom leaders, and grow in relationship with their classmates. We particularly cherish children's spiritual growth as they grow up in Christ. We recognize the ways their hearts grow in love for Him and in the knowledge of His Word. Of course, we see them grow up physically before our very eyes!

Children and Family Ministry serves more than 200 children through 5th grade on a given Sunday morning (led by over 50 committed volunteers). We align with the vision for community, discipleship, mission and worship, all of which we hope characterize this congregation and children's participation within it.

A few highlights over the last year that have fostered these values include our Children's Christmas Pageant with over 70 child participants, as well as our pathway for children's Sacramental Preparation, shepherding elementary students through discipleship classes under John Fredrick's skilled biblical teaching. This class equips children

for baptism by faith and participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion. This year, our Children's Choir has contributed to our corporate worship, and cultivates a love of music and heart of worship, connecting children to one another and the Lord. Anglicans for Life continues to teach elementary students annually about the sanctity of life from a biblical and biological perspective. Lastly, a highlight of the year was a mission project to bless neighboring elementary students with backpacks and school supplies. Through collaboration with VBS leaders, children were able to help assemble and deliver over 120 backpacks to Sleepy Hollow Elementary.

Jesus says in Mark 4:30 that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth! Yet, when it is sown, it grows up to become larger than any other plant, extending its branches for the birds. Likewise, we trust that the small, perhaps invisible seeds of faith are taking shape in children's hearts. We take the long view, an eternal view, trusting that childlike belief may grow into abiding, life-long faith that can move mountains.

## COMMUNITY/SMALL GROUPS

*"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." - EPHESIANS 4:2-3*

We are filled with gratitude for the progress and growth experienced within our small groups. A key initiative this year has been the introduction of monthly receptions for newcomers, which has significantly enhanced community bonds, especially among those who have recently become part of our church family.

In our Small Group ministry, we were excited to begin providing weekly sermon notes tailored for both group discussions and personal study. Recognizing the value these notes bring to our community, they have now become a consistent feature and are available on our website every week.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." - ACTS 20:28*

Over the past year, our Congregational Care ministry has meticulously examined its breadth of duties, which spans from hospital visits to prayer calls, and from funeral services to weddings, covering all aspects of pastoral care. This has led to the establishment of new volunteer roles, especially in the realm of funeral services. As a result, we've fostered a more organized and empathetic approach, ensuring those in need receive support during their most vulnerable times and assistance in commemorating life's significant milestones.

## VBS SPOTLIGHT

*"Until recently, faith in God had always been so easy for me. Then about a year ago, I started to question His purpose and His tactics, and I quite frankly got into a lonely place in my walk with God. I was still going through the motions of my faith, but I didn't feel Him. I didn't see Him ... Then a few months later, I was asked if I wanted to volunteer at VBS. I honestly felt like I just needed to say yes because I didn't have a reason not to! Then during the first day of VBS, Laurie told us to look for 'God sightings'... I internally rolled my eyes at that. 'Ugh - no way. I haven't seen God in months.'*

*As a group leader, I needed to explain God sightings to the third graders, which felt like the blind leading the blind, but then a funny thing happened. When I forced myself to come up with a 'God sighting' example for the kids, I started to see God at VBS and at home. What made everything make more sense and bring me back to my faith was the science station. The teachers asked the kids, 'During the day when we don't see the stars, are they still there in the universe?' and the answer was, YES! Even though you may not see them all the time, they are there. While I know that message and metaphor is for kids, it was a reminder I needed for my faith in that moment. It truly moved me. I realized He is here. He hasn't left. God showing up in my life that way was pivotal for me and what I am facing in life right now. I am so grateful that I was encouraged to be a part of VBS."*



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

*"I love having the weekly accountability and sharing time in small group. I love the discipline of parsing each scripture and verse - as if under a microscope. I have grown much deeper in my faith this year. I have reached a new level in taking God at His word and begun to walk with more boldness. Fear is much quieter in my ears now. As a result, I feel Christ walking even more closely beside me. I have also developed a broader group of sisters in Christ to do life with. Women's ministry is truly sweet as honey."*

We are heartened by the sustained growth and flourishing in both the Senior's ministry and the Griefshare ministry, crucial pillars of our communal care system. The notable increase in volunteers for the Griefshare team underscores our collective dedication to assisting those grappling with grief. Mutual care stands as a foundational principle of our church, and the rising enthusiasm and involvement of our volunteers bear witness to this shared vision. On another uplifting note, the Seniors Ministry Retreat convened for the first time in several years. While we have reinstated many programs, we recognize the value of accessibility and have opted for a hybrid model, allowing our distant seniors to remain actively connected.

### DISCIPLESHIP AND OUTREACH

*"...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*

- EPHESIANS 4:12

**Discipleship** – Discipleship at The Falls Church Anglican is a broad ministry that aims to develop and provide age-appropriate Anglican itineraries for faithfully following Jesus as a church and as individual believers. Walking

alongside one another as we journey toward Christ, the center and source of our faith, we've seen everyone—from little children to mature adult Christians—grow in the knowledge, disciplines, and practice of the Christian faith.

We've been building a Wednesday night "train track." The first adult discipleship classes offered last year included Jesus and the Gospels and Paul's Letters: Ten Truths that Change Everything, covering a majority of New Testament writings before our first year was even over. Sacramental Preparation underwent a major revision at the church, which resulted in an entirely new pathway and discipleship program for instructing our youth in preparation for the sacraments of baptism and/or Holy Communion. This curriculum is now complete and will be our new baseline for ensuring theological depth and practical approachability to catechesis at our church for years to come.

Evangelism has emerged as something that is right at the heart, not only of discipleship, but of the life, worship, and mission of the church. And we've been running hard after growth in

this area. Our first Evangelism Bootcamp, a day conference, was well-attended and kindled the flame of courage and ministry skill in sharing the gospel. Now in our second year, we're making the Fall and Spring Bootcamp a permanent part of our discipleship program, offering new seminars and themes each time we offer it.

To provide opportunities for the growing number of people looking to explore Membership and Confirmation at TFCA, we added a fall and summer class to the current spring class offering. Between the Fall 2022, Spring 2023 and Summer 2023 classes, 165 adults joined as new members of TFCA. From those classes, 91 were confirmed in June by Bishop Chris Warner, one of our church's largest Confirmation classes in recent history.

As we relaunched our baptism preparation class offerings for children and adults, we baptized 55 children and adults during our Sunday morning services. We offer a Baptism Preparation Class for parents of infants through age 5, as well as separate Sacramental Preparation Classes for Elementary Schoolers (K-5th grades) and Middle Schoolers (6th - 8th grades). Adults seeking baptism at TFCA are invited to attend the Membership and Confirmation class.

**Women's Ministry** – In addition to our weekly Bible studies (with over 300 women participating) and seasonal programming, the Women's Ministry hosted an in-house "Transformed" Conference attended by over 400 women and featured guest speaker Courtney Doctor and performing artist Sara Groves. At the conference, women enjoyed worship, breakout seminars on a variety

of topics, and opportunities to connect with one another. But above all, the name of Jesus was magnified, women received healing, and friendships were forged and strengthened. During the summer, over 200 women participated in the Summer Book Club Series and Summer Six Pack.

**Men's Ministry** – This year, our Men's Ministry experienced transformative growth, with new leaders rising and seasoned leaders mentoring them. This year we have grown from the intimate Men's Fireside Chats and the impactful Men's Retreat at White Sulphur Springs. A highlight of the year includes the growth of seven groups convening over the summer and involving over 80 participants. Additionally, our book studies have been a magnet for engagement, with more than 200 men participating with enthusiasm. Glory to God for how our bond as brothers in Christ has been strengthened this year.

**Young Adults** – In 2023, the 20s & 30s community focused on TFCA's priorities of Discipleship, Community, and Mission. Discipleship occurred in small groups, attended by approximately 100 young adults, as they studied the bible together, and also through helping disciple students in the youth ministry. Community was fostered by a connect team, 4th Friday gatherings, and monthly Sunday lunches. Mission focused on serving in five main areas; Youth Family, ESOL, FCHS, Comunidad, and Afghan Refugee Ministry.



## OUTREACH

*"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* - JOHN 20:21

This year, the Outreach Committee spent a lot of time building up our internal processes and policies in order to ensure that we are effectively and transparently supporting and resourcing ministries and initiatives that are in line with the vision the Lord has for our church. We established clear and Biblical criteria for our evaluation of ministry partners, created a process that supports our diocese's priority of church planting, and fully established the committee directly under the authority and oversight of the vestry.

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

*"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands."*  
- PSALM 90:17

The Operations Department had another year of remarkable success in providing a stable and secure environment for ministry here at TFCA.

Amongst our highlights were the development of comprehensive use guidelines for our facilities, implementation of a new updated firewall to protect the church's digital assets, another successful ministry fair to mobilize volunteerism within our ministries, the research and implementation of a new and improved health care plan for our staff, and continued meticulous attention paid to the stewardship and tracking of our financial resources. As our church grows and our ministries expand, we strive to ensure that they are built on a solid administrative and operational foundation. By managing well the generous financial gifts of parishioners, supporting the beautiful facilities we've been entrusted with, coordinating thoughtful and seamless logistics, and equipping our church staff with state-of-the-art technologies, we continue to provide support and services in an effective and efficient manner that glorifies God and helps undergird and support the work of ministry in the church.

## PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Prayer ministry not only benefits the person being prayed for, but also the person praying. As one of our intercessors has shared, *"Since being a part of this intercessory prayer ministry, I have become so much more compassionate for others in my immediate circle of friends and at work; knowing that whenever they share a need, I can hold that up in prayer right then. I have ended up sharing how God has answered my prayers, which often leads into conversations about my faith in ways I would never have had the boldness to have before. It has really given me such personal joy! I will always be grateful for how our church teaches and excites us about prayer."*

## PRAYER

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* - **ROMANS 12:12**

The Healing and Intercessory Prayer Ministries seek to serve via many avenues, through ministering to persons who request prayer, supporting the other ministries and operations of TFCA through prayer, and offering teaching to leaders and participants through the Christian Healing Institute, an integrated auxiliary of TFCA. Each Sunday after worship services, prayer ministers are available to pray personally and confidentially with anyone who desires it.

A linchpin of the healing ministry is the Wednesday night class, Wholeness in Christ. In the 2022-23 academic year, 362 people from a wide range of Christian traditions registered for these classes, which provide training in healing and intercessory prayer. The intercessory prayer groups that were initiated last year have continued to grow, with the addition of a weekly 3rd Floor Prayer time when a small group of intercessors pray specifically for TFCA staff and ministries on-site, and new plans within the 20's and 30's to pray for one another and as an outreach endeavor. One particular highlight of

the ministry this year was the 2nd annual parish week of prayer in January 2023. Hundreds of parishioners gathered over seven nights to pray for God to do the "impossible" in our own lives as well as in the life of our church and our nation.

Intercessors continue to pray regularly for our church, our nation, our parishioners' marriages, and families, in addition to the thousands of individual requests received through the confidential prayer request line. We have joined with other churches in prayer walking our local high schools and in front of the "women's clinic" in Falls Church, praying for respect for life. We are grateful to God that our church is founded on and continues to grow in prayer.

## WORSHIP

*"Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness."* - **PSALM 96:8**

We are so grateful for the Lord's work through our faithful volunteers in music, production, and lay liturgical support. We had the privilege over this past year to welcome new staff team members and new volunteers as we helped minister through weekly services as well as several special events.

## WORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

*Leading worship for Bishop Chris's Consecration service was a highlight at TFCA with hundreds of clergies in addition to families, friends, and congregants worshipping together. Many faithful volunteers helped make the service possible. There was a strong sense of the Lord's presence throughout the service, especially during communion and the subsequent worship. One bishop was in tears and shared that he hadn't worshipped and felt the Lord's presence like that for a long time. To God alone be the glory!*

During the Advent season, we were able to host a community-wide Messiah sing-a-long, deepen our church's understanding of the rich Christmas hymns through two Lessons & Carols services, as well as assist with our three Christmas Eve services. In February, we had the joy of serving in Bishop Chris' Consecration service, where we were able to combine both traditional and contemporary worship. We then took these same ideas and brought them into our Lenten season and Easter services. Towards the end of April, our contemporary worship ministry hosted a Worship Night titled The Gospel. Those who attended were able to hear the gospel spoken through dramatic Scripture readings and heard through corporate worship.

This past summer, our production team has been helping to record and soon release a 5-song album of worship songs performed by TFCA musicians, with the hopes of many more projects ahead. The three children's choirs have also grown and are now regularly helping lead worship on Sundays and many more children signed up to join this term. Our instrumentalists and in particular the string ensemble have also helped lead our Sunday worship with beautifully chosen and prepared music.

Finally, we are excited to announce that TFCA Music and Worship will be represented on a committee invited by Archbishop Duncan to work on a new ACNA hymnal. It was a fantastic year, and we are looking forward to continuing to minister the gospel here in Falls Church!

## **YOUTH**

*"...rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."* - **COLOSSIANS 2:7**

Our continued prayer and desire for the 6th-12th grade students of The Falls Church Anglican is to be rooted in God's Word, built up in Him, and bear fruit as His disciples. During Sunday evening Youth Groups, our middle school and high school students experienced corporate worship, were encouraged and challenged by messages from the Gospel of Mark and the book of Colossians, and dove deep into their respective small groups to foster authentic community. These small groups were led by the Youth Family, which consisted of about 55 volunteer leaders.

Additionally, our ministry was blessed to disciple students through retreats, large events, Bible Breakfasts, CORE, and service projects. We held a Christmas party called The Gift where students participated in a service project and other Christmas-themed activities. Students, leaders, and staff went back to Rockbridge for the annual Breakaway and Work Crew Retreats. High school seniors traveled to Florida to prepare for life outside of high school. A mission trip team of high school students served the community of Pittsburgh this summer, and middle school students had a blast at the annual Fusion Camp. Throughout the year, students dove deep into the Word during Bible Breakfasts and served the church community through various service projects. The CORE Leadership students not only served the ministry but learned what it looks like to be a Christian leader rooted in God and the Word.

# Looking Back

Our church has been blessed again by the generous financial support of the congregation. Through your faithful and sacrificial giving, \$8.2 million was donated to the church's Operating Fund in the last fiscal year. These gifts exceeded the church's operating expenses and enabled the vestry to again provide additional funds for outreach efforts such as support for church plants, important hiring and staff initiatives, pay down church debt, and increase capital reserves.

Our rector's vision (Community, Discipleship, and Mission) for the church is becoming a reality. With your sacrificial gifts, we were able to hire Bracey Fuenzalida as our Fellows Director and Marty O'Rourke as our Youth Director.

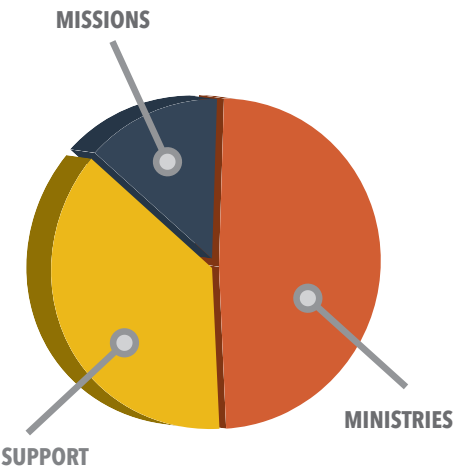
Gifts to the Building Fund were used to pay down debt and reduce the mortgage on the office building. The current outstanding debt is \$23 million. Reducing our mortgage balance is a continuing need. Thankfully, due to generous gifts to the Forward and Onward Funds, the Sanctuary building and garage are debt free. We want to honor God by paying our debts even as we minister to the congregation, raise disciples, and serve the community and beyond. We look to the day, when our building has no debt, freeing our priorities to impact the church and the world even more significantly! Thanks be to God!

The vestry has approved the design plans and budget for the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Construction on this project is underway and should be completed by December 2023. Information about the Columbarium is available on the church website.

Your gifts enable Biblical based preaching and teaching, the building up of our local community of well-formed disciples, and the support of missions and outreach locally and internationally. The Vestry is so grateful for your generosity, and takes seriously the responsibility of stewarding your gifts in ways that honor God.

As the local body of Christ called to The Falls Church Anglican, please know you are appreciated, and your support is making a difference!

## OUR OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 (\$7.90 MILLION • 6% GREATER THAN 2023)



### MINISTRIES = \$3,849,904 (50%)

Worship	\$1,477,002	(19%)
Discipleship	\$548,633	(7%)
Youth	\$606,031	(8%)
Children	\$456,401	(6%)
Congregational Care	\$552,825	(7%)
Prayer & Healing	\$209,012	(3%)

### SUPPORT = \$3,042,038 (37%)

Facilities	\$1,610,447	(20%)
Operations, Finance & Technology	\$1,296,024	(16%)
Communications	\$135,567	(2%)

### MISSIONS = \$1,008,090 (13%)

Outreach Funding	\$684,250	(9%)
Diocese, Mid-Atlantic	\$323,840	(4%)

[www.tfcanglican.org](http://www.tfcanglican.org)