

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18TH MARCH 2023

ACOLYTES

Due to the pandemic, we haven't had youth acolytes as part of our service for a long time. However, this past December we were fortunate to have two acolytes for the late Christmas service who had been recently trained.

We continue to be in need of acolytes. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the service and training is always available. Requesting that our parents with young adults discuss this important opportunity with them, and if anyone is interested in serving the Lord in this way, please let us know.

Valeria Eiseman & Bettina Gies

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild has seven members: Zoe Cross, Kay Hollis, Diana Mrongrowius, Jeanne Nelson, Esther Onwubuariri, Grace Osagioduwa Eribo and Valerie Roecker.

If possible, the Altar Guild members are scheduled to work in pairs on a weekly basis. Under the priest's direction, we are responsible for making the preparations for all the church services. Our tasks include the care of the linens, vestments, sacred vessels and candles. We are also responsible for ordering the hosts, wine, candles, linens, vestments, the advent wreath and the palm crosses.

The Altar Guild has no reserve funds so we have to rely on memorial contributions or donations to meet any needs. There is a list of items which could be given by members of the congregation as a suitable memorial or thanksgiving. These items range in price and if you would like information, please contact Valerie Roecker. Finally, I would like to thank all the Altar Guild members for their devoted work „behind the scene“, for always being prepared to step in and support each other, and for helping to enhance the services at St. Augustine's.

Valerie Röcker

BOOK SALE

Our team still consists of Barbara Müller-Grant, Christine Spethmann, Elke Schmidt, Elke Vogel, Helen Centner, Karin Payne-Stern and Miriam Weissbach. We continually sort the books and those that have been with us too long are passed on to the Bücherbasar in Mainz-Kastell or to the Spouses' Thrift Shop. Karin organised an attractive flyer which you can see in the rack at the back of the church. For our Christmas Bazaar we had less books displayed in church because we encouraged customers to visit us in the undercroft which worked out very well, i.e. more revenue! Please continue with your donations of **English language** paperbacks, both fiction and non-fiction and preferably not older than 5 years.

Christine Spethmann & Karin Payne-Stern

CHALICE BEARERS

Now that things are starting to settle down with respect to the pandemic we have more of the core team who are available and able to serve, but we are still covering the Sunday services with one Chalice Bearer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team for their dedicated work. We have had a challenging time! Please remember, if you feel called to this ministry there is always room for you. Speak to Rev. Chris or myself if you are interested.

Robert Ramsay

CHOIR

The choir served quite a hectic year in singing at almost every service. Following the well trodden path of the liturgical calendar, chosen hymns and anthems of great joy and sometimes sadness, were traditionally sung. Each piece of music required thought and discussion, some more than others, to decide how it best be used to its maximum purpose in the service.

Earlier in the year the choir welcomed a new alto voice, a soprano voice and more recently a male alto. Our choir has gradually grown a little in numbers since the lifting of certain covid spacing restrictions within the choir loft. Currently when in full attendance we have twelve singers.

The choir gathered for some funeral services and several memorial services. A worldwide happening that touched us all, was the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, of which a beautiful Memorial service was formulated by Fr. Chris and held in St. Augustine's celebrating her life. The choir sang all weekly services, including the high services for Easter, The Nine lessons and Carols service, followed by Christmas. Also five Choral Evensongs throughout the year. As a long going project, choral settings were learnt and added to the repertoire, mostly used in Evensong by Dyson. An anthem by Mendelssohn and some alternative settings of Psalms also used. The choir also sang a performance of Händel's Messiah. with great results. This was supported by a few guest choristers from other choirs. It was enthusiastically welcomed by audiences and singers to revisit this work, after having a two-year break.

A first ever choir concert for the benefit of St. Augustine's was arranged and performed in January 2023. This was a great success from all involved! As a result of the choir needing to function on less voices than normal due to covid, a positive outcome has developed. During rehearsals a greater sense of vocal self-awareness, feeling more confident to stand on 'one's own two feet' or if you are the only voice singing that line, has improved.

I am very pleased and fully appreciate the commitment and attendance from all members throughout the year. Well done! Our weekly choir rehearsals are held on Monday evenings in the church commencing at 7.00pm to 9.00pm. A short tea break in the middle is enjoyed by all. Anybody interested in joining St. Augustines choir, with the intention of singing for weekly services, are most welcome.

Please make enquiries by contacting the church office on 0611 306674 or speaking to me personally in the church. Final thanks and appreciation must be acknowledged for our Organist Tim Hawken, who has shown great dedication to Sunday Worship and weekly rehearsals when possible.

Ivan Williams

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Communications team is made up of Madeline Bohr (PR, print, press), Linda Bredvik (website) and Fr. Chris (weekly email announcements, Facebook, bulletin). Some years ago, we defined a communications and PR plan, which is still the basis for our work:

Objectives

1. To communicate to members of congregation and "friends of St. Augustine's in a timely and comprehensive way.
2. To advertise upcoming events to the general public.
3. To spread the Good News of God in Christ (Evangelism)
4. To facilitate and enhance ecumenical and inter-faith cooperation by mutual information
5. To keep and maintain an open channel of communication with The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Target Groups

- a. Congregation
- b. Friends (former members)
- c. "Seekers" – people looking for a church, for particular "services "weddings, funerals), for answers
- d. General public (concerts, fundraising, venue for events)

- e. Ecumenical and inter-faith partners

Messages

- Our Mission Statement: “Our mission is to fulfil our promises to Jesus Christ through word and deed by proclaiming his love to all. Our ministry is to all people, regardless of their cultural, national, ethnic, or religious background, who seek fellowship in the baptism of Jesus Christ.”
- We are a worshipping community, family-friendly, a place where you can find spiritual guidance and explore questions of faith, an opportunity to help with your talent, and/or a way to support others.

Media

- Email announcements: weekly news and updates per email
- Bulletin: weekly service bulletin with announcements and week ahead
- Newsletter: Quarterly overview with focus on past events: This is on hold for now while we review and re-evaluate the concept to suit the needs of the local congregation and the online community.
- Website: ongoing; mid-term information
- Facebook: ongoing; immediate information
- Print Media: Press releases, Articles in newspapers, magazines
- Notice Board: general information, upcoming events
- Other (e.g. AFN Radio, flyers, posters, pamphlets, etc.)
- Through our Outreach activities: Teestube, Hildastift, Refugees work, etc.
- Ecumenical presence, especially Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland (ACK)
- Maintain Public Relations with public community: e.g. Presse Club Wiesbaden, Tourist Office, Twin-city organisations (City of Wiesbaden, Tunbridge Wells), Frauenförderverein (Women’s Clubs), other Churches / Choir organisations

Evaluating Success

- Feedback from congregation, visitors, etc.
- Number of visitors to events
- Financial profits from events
- Evaluation and follow-up on Newcomers’ form: “How did you hear about us/find us?”
- Evaluation and follow-up on registered “interested” parties

Madeline Bohr

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS 2022

In 2022 a lot of church life in Wiesbaden went back to something close to normal – and so did our ecumenical activities.

Just a little info for those not so familiar with our ecumenical ties in the city: In the ACK, the „Arbeitsgemeinschaft christlicher Kirchen“ (Council of Christian Churches) in Wiesbaden, we hold meetings with delegates from 17 churches in order to get to know and learn from each other, but also to be heard as Christians who come from very different traditions but are united in the desire to follow Christ and to help shape society as believers.

The annual ecumenical service as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January was still online but at the beginning of March, we were able to hold the World day of Prayer service in person. As the 2022 liturgy was created by women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, our church was the obvious choice of location, and under the experienced leadership of Christine Rudershausen we planned a service which was very well attended, and everybody was happy to worship together – and at the end to get handed a scone, kindly made by John Richards and his friend Harry for the occasion!

On the Saturday after Pentecost the ACK “Geist-reich pilgern” event took place in Klarental this year – where after a short service we took off on a walk around one of the less privileged neighbourhoods in Wiesbaden. A guide showed us how people have made Klarental their own by creative efforts, we learnt about the history of the area, and we talked about what this has to do with us as churches and the Gospel. An unusual but exciting way to see the Holy Spirit at work!

The Night of the Churches has been a jour fixe in St. Augustine’s calendar for a long time now. The 2022 edition was a sumptuous affair with an art exhibition about Mary and Isis and lots of Egyptian culture and food, which was organized by our friends from the Coptic-Orthodox church and John Adam. As always, our choir played an important role in this event by lending their voices to Evensong and the ever-popular “Best of” concert – thank you, Ivan and all!

A couple of weeks later the Wiesbaden ACK offered a study forum – the second after 2021. Led by the renowned theologian Gotthard Fuchs we read excerpts from the diary of Jewish author Etty Hillesum who was killed in Auschwitz in 1943. It was a very moving experience to talk about the amazing faith of this young woman and about what connects us all spiritually with God and each other.

As always, I have tried to give you a little glimpse of how refreshing, enriching and exciting it can be to get together with brothers and sisters of other denominations. And how important it is to be part of the wider Christian community in this city. So, if you haven’t yet, do consider joining in with our ecumenical activities – and please pray for us. Thank you!

Dorothee Dziewas

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

- For those of you new to St Augustine’s: What is the Endowment Fund?
- It was originally set up in 1999 and amended in 2005. The main purpose of the EF is:
- *„...to provide a vehicle for receiving and managing assets received from individuals or organizations for acquisition, construction, preservation and maintenance of the church building“*
- Put simply, it is a dedicated savings account to finance the preservation and maintenance costs of the building. Without it we would not have been able to start our renovation project, as the first € 50K were provided by the EF after a vote was taken at the 2015 AGM to use some of the funds accordingly.
- **Anyone can make a donation, pledge or bequest to the EF at any time.**
- If you’re re-drafting your Will any time soon – remember the EF!
- Our long-term goal – given a different investment climate - is to increase our savings to such an extent that the interest accrued is enough to finance a large part of the church’s outgoing expenses. However, given the current interest rates this remains an unrealistic goal.
- EF assets on 31.12.2022 (overview):

| | Endowment Fund | |
|------------|----------------|--|
| 01.01.2022 | 49.014,97 € | Balance Account (Dt. Bank 62 € 19.014,97+ Investment€ 30.000) |
| | 6.220,00 € | Donations/Designated Pledge/Bequests |
| | 2.400,00 € | Contribution from Operating Account (long term saving) |
| | 0,24 € | Investment Income |
| | - 30,00 € | Bank Charges |
| 31.12.2022 | 57.605,21 € | Balance Account (Dt. Bank 62 € 27.635,21 and Investment €29.970) |

- € 30.000,00 has been deposited in investment funds (currently performing at a loss of c. 14%, but will hopefully improve over the long-term)

- The balance (€27.635,21) is in a separate Deutsche Bank EF-designated account.
- Important: checks and controls. The EF is safeguarded by the vestry, the EF committee and ultimately the parish voting members.
- The vestry has a say in how the interest on the savings is spent, saved, or re-invested.
- It requires a 2/3 majority vote at the AGM to spend any money held in the EF. This safeguards the money from any quick, rash decisions being taken.
- So, together with donations from the congregation, contributions from the Operating Account, and legacies the EF is slowly growing.

The Endowment Fund Committee members as of the AGM 2023 include:

- Rev. Christopher Easthill
- Tim Hawken – Treasurer (non-voting member)
- Peter Hellbach
- DuWayne Bredvik
- Susan Pinnells

At each monthly Vestry meeting Peter Hellbach has updated us on the progress of our long-term investment. In addition, the monthly financial statements presented to Vestry show ongoing deposits/donations into the Endowment Fund account. We will continue to review investment performance on a monthly basis.

Bank Account (Deutsche Bank BIC: DEUTDEDB510)

Endowment Fund: DE21 5107 0024 0033 8020 01

Susan Pinnells, 25.02.2023

FINE ARTS

Considering the majority of the year remained under some level of covid restrictions, the Fine Arts team did remarkably well! On 20th April a performance was given by the Wiesbaden Knabenchor. It was a smaller ensemble presenting the older age group.

18th May launched the first of five concerts in the Lunchtime Recital series given by Erika Le Roux & Friends.

20th May was a benefit concert, a programme of Jazz supported by the German, American & International Women's Club of Wiesbaden which featured Deborah Cole.

Early June, we welcomed a visiting choir from London known as Evoke, directed by Victoria Ely.

15th June was Erika's second Solo Concert. Also, 20th July.

On 17th August her concert featured Thomas Hofmann Viola, and Heiner Rekeszus Clarinet. Her final concert, on 21st September presented a beautiful programme featuring guest Baritone, Hans Christoph Begemann. Sincere appreciation to Erika for another year of fine music given through offering these Lunchtime Series.

2nd October was the premier of an Exhibition (From Isis to Maria). This was displayed until the 28th.

During that month a concert was also performed by the Mainzer Medizinerorchester directed by Rhodri Britton. This featured piano Soloist Joonghyun Kim.

16th October was a revisit from the Wiesbaden Knabenchor, this time with full choir numbers. They sang during our Sunday morning Worship performing a mass setting, and provided a 30 minute programme after our coffee break.

On 21st October we welcomed once again the German, American & International Women's Club of Wiesbaden. This benefit concert featured young musicians from the Wiesbaden Music Academy.

Sunday, 27th November was a performance of Advents Music from the Wiesbaden City Choir directed by the (now late) Christof Stiller.

3rd December was our own Messiah performance. The choir and orchestra were reduced in numbers but were hugely successful.

January 2023, a benefit concert given by St. Augustine's choir titled 'Joyful Noise'.

11th February saw another return of the Mainz Medizinerorchester directed by Rhodri Britton featuring a Cello Soloist. Earlier this month a choir from Mainz titled Inne Halten performed a lovely programme directed by Daniel Rumpf.

Very special mention must be acknowledged to Madeline Bohr, for organising all the volunteers who offered their time and services over many capacities during all of our concerts. Without these amazing volunteers none of this could have happened. Many thanks,

Ivan Williams

FLOWER GUILD

It is with great satisfaction and gratitude that I report:

Our guild has gone strongly through the Corona Crisis, largely unperturbed. This is thanks to our faithful group, as I write consisting of mesdames Jill Cross, Barbara Müller-Grant, Colleen Grigel, Jeanne Nelson, and Audrey Shankles, who carried out their duties of adorning the church with flower arrangements, Lenten greens, and Christmas decorations. Thank you also to Bettina Gies who assisted with her gardening knowledge and contribution of plants and flowers for the parish grounds and altar.

Last year, in 2022, two of our long-term members Renate Selkirk-Donáth and Jillian Süssner asked kindly to be taken off the roster due to health and/or retirement reasons. Both ladies had been serving our church in this capacity for decades and we regret to see them go whilst thanking them for their loyalty and dedication.

The tragic accident and subsequent death of Juliana Fiedler was a big loss, not only to our group but to the parish as a whole. She will be commemorated with a flower dedication by friends on April 16, 2023. I also wish to take the opportunity to remember Wendy Rathgeber, long-serving member and previous coordinator of the flower guild who passed away in 2022. Also in 2022, we received a newcomer into our fold: Audrey Shankles, a cherished member of the parish for some years now, who has been a welcome addition to the flower guild.

Unfortunately, the last two years have witnessed an extraordinary rise of funeral and memorial services owing to the passing away of parish members as well as of those associated to us. Thus, the flower guild has broadened their service to include the provision of funeral flower arrangements and wreaths. The ribbons attached to the wreaths are offered as keepsakes to family or friends of the deceased and are often heartily welcomed by them. This increase of flower arrangements and its impact on the flower guild budget is a point that should be addressed in the next vestry meeting and co-ordinated with the Treasurer.

Last but by no means least, we commemorated the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II with a memorial service at our church on 17 September 2022. The book of condolences, the inscribed wreath ribbon, and a service bulletin have been submitted to the Stadtarchiv Wiesbaden, stored under the 'Akzessionsnummer 2023/10, Bestand V93' by Archivoberrat Dr. Peter Quadflieg, Stadtarchiv Wiesbaden.

We look forward to a new year of committed dedication, possibly winning one or two new members, and increasing awareness for the importance of beauty and solace that altar flowers, wreaths and floral embellishments can bring.

Nina Scheicher

NEARLY NEW

It's been a year of little change for us Nearly Newers. Pia rejoined our team giving ease to our work pressure, so that we are now Diana, Renate, Lilian, Pia, and Anna. During the middle of the year we transformed our regular cleaning up on Wednesdays into being open to customers, with the result that our cash intake rose significantly, even getting an official praise for this from the side of the church. We now have very regular customers that approve

of our charity work: men, women, children, old, handicapped. All are happy with our customers service and praise our church.

Anna Altvater & Diana Mrongowius

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee consists of John Adam, Deborah Cole, Dorothee Dziewas, Fleur Donecker, Wolf-Dieter Donecker, Leslie Kaloostian, Justice Onuoha and Rev. Chris Easthill.

The Committee meets every two to three months, mostly online, and aims at helping as many organisations and people as our budget - €2,500.00 per year at the moment - will allow. We also receive specific donations from members of St Augustine's during the year which increase our budget.

Many of the organisations we support are included in Fr Chris' weekly newsletter. At the moment these include mission projects in Romania as well as transport for the Christmas boxes we send; help for a palliative care centre in Malawi NdiMoyo; legal and language support for refugees; refugee support via EuroRelief; breakfasts, Harvest Festival produce and Christmas Eve brunch at the Teestube. Dedicated collections go to: Jerusalem and the Middle East (Good Friday), the United Thank Offering, and UK Veteran support (the Poppy Collection).

Recently, the Committee has considered supporting the Wiesbaden project "Dachübermkopf," helping to house homeless people in mini-houses to help them transition from living on the streets to independent life in a flat, all looked after by social workers. For more information about where our budget goes and any questions please ask Fr Chris or either of the committee chairs (Deborah and Fleur).

Fleur Donecker, Co-Chair

STAMPS FOR BETHEL

Thank you to all of you who bother to collect stamps for Bethel. It is a home & workshop for the handicapped. They are building a new hospital for children with unusual illnesses & handicaps, who need special help. The new centre will cost 80 million euros. The stamps are sent on when I have a sufficiently large number.

Jill Cross

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2023

Well things have been a bit slow in picking up with our in-person lessons downstairs in the undercroft after Covid, presently we are averaging around 5 children but we are hopeful that with a little more advertising the numbers will increase again. A big thank you and welcome to our three new teachers Audrey Shankles, Hilde Rowe and Candice Carter. We are very grateful to have their help. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to our dear Bhawna Paul due to pressure of work, we thank her sincerely for all her time and dedication especially online during Covid. Our thanks and appreciation also go to Susan Pinnells, Priscilla Adenuga, Barbara Müller-Grant and Kendall Kaloostian for their continued service.

Our lessons are always fun and lively and are lectionary based. We begin with a praise song and follow on with a story based on the scriptures that are being read upstairs in the main service. The materials we are using at the moment are a combination of the episcopal program "lessons that work" and also "sermons4kids" however we are also looking at new materials for next year.

Roxane Richards

CRÉCHE

The attendance to the crèche has resumed after the suspense of the crèche service in the previous year due to the CoVid pandemic. Attendance is still comparatively low hoping for increased attendance / numbers for the new year.

Sunyo Seo

USHER REPORT

The St. Augustine Usher Team has provided reliable support of the Church services in 2022, welcoming congregation members, guests, and newcomers warmly as well as running the usher routine.

Farewells: None

Resignations: Lisa Pickersgill decided to leave the Usher Team. We thank her for her dedicated service and wish her all the best for her future.

Deceased: We sadly miss Monika Ehrentraut who had always been a dedicated Usher. May she rest in peace in God's kingdom.

New members: We welcome Helen Centner, Bettina Gies, Stella Uwakwem, Mike Kaloostian, Joe Kroll and Stephen Niedermeier for volunteering as new Ushers. Thank you for joining the team!

Status:

The current Usher Team presents itself as follows:

1. Priscilla Adenuga
2. Helen Centner
3. Eric Dillenberger
4. Bettina Gies
5. Peter Hellbach
6. Mike Kaloostian
7. Joe Kroll
8. Barbara Mueller-Grant
9. Stephen Niedermeier
10. Marian Oshyra
11. Victoria Scheicher
12. Sabine Schubert
13. Stella Uwakwem
14. Jim White

Staffing of the Usher Team is adequate for supporting the regular Services. However, volunteers are always welcome to join, especially in order to cover the more service intensive Christmas and Easter periods. No financials to report.

Sincere thanks to the Usher Team for their dedicated service in 2022.

Peter Hellbach

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO) SPRING INGATHERING

The UTO Spring Ingathering for funding of mission projects takes place during June, when we bring our Blue Boxes to church to be collected. Each time we thank God for the blessings of this life, little ones and big ones, we drop a coin into our family's Blue Box. We send the collected amount to the UTO office in New York City where it becomes part of a fund within the Episcopal Church which supports mission projects all over the world.

The UTO Blue Boxes (and envelopes) are available on the tract rack at the back of the church.

We had a very successful campaign in June 2022, as our church membership donated a total of \$ 561,32

Kay Hollis, UTO Coordinator

WEBSITE

The Website is more important than ever for reaching out to our members and the wider community. We have recently carried out a code audit, updating plugins and bringing the site up to date technically. This is an important activity, but (hopefully!) invisible to the end user. The site is also regularly updated, so if you haven't checked it recently, please do so at

www.staugustines.de.
Robert Ramsay

YOUTH GROUPS

“O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and grey, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.” Psalm 71:17-18

Dear parents, youth and the whole congregation, I have tried (not very successfully) to get you all interested in joining in and/or helping the Youth Groups of our church. Today, I'm borrowing some information from Greg Stier to hopefully awaken your interest as to....

Why is Youth Group Important?

1. Youth need models and mentors.
2. Youth need community.
3. Youth need mission.
4. Youth need theology.
5. Youth need a safe place to confess and confide.

Please click on this link below and read what Greg Stier writes about these 5 points.
<https://churchleaders.com/youth/youth-leaders-articles/336435-why-is-youth-group-important.html>

Last year we had:

- Gardening and games
- Candle making
- Youth Picnic
- Youth Across Europe and Juniors Across Europe in Santa Maria a Ferrano, Italy
- Youth Group coffee hour
- Rhine Cleanup
- Overnight
- Movie Night
- Book and bible Study (The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis)

Convocation events coming up:

- Youth Across Europe: The Next 100 Years 24-26 March 2023, Paris, ages 14-18
- Juniors Across Europe: Walking the Journey 18-21 May 2023, Rome, ages 10-13
- Episcopal Youth Event 4-8 July 2023, Washington, D.C. USA, ages 15-19

For more information, please see: <http://www.tec-europe.org/childrenandyouth/>

Please join us as youth group member, teacher, mentor, chaperone, brainstormer. We need you! If interested, please contact myself, Father Chris or our new committee members Steve Niedermeier and Greg Rampinelli with your ideas and wishes.

Deborah Cole