



**Ladue Chapel  
Presbyterian  
Church (USA)  
Annual Report 2022**



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## Greetings from the Pastors

Rev. Douglas T. King

**“An aerial photographer once remarked that from the air you can see paths, like the canals on Mars, that crisscross pastures and fields among the farms where neighbors have trudged for generations, just to visit or help one another in times of need. These, too, are the highways among Pater, Filius, and Spiritus Sanctus grooved into human relationships. The word religion comes from the same root as ‘ligaments.’ These are the ties that bind.”**

**The above quote is from Richard Lischer in his book, *Open Secrets: A Spiritual Journey through a Country Church*, when he describes the first congregation he ever served. The metaphor is particularly apt for our congregation.**

**As I continue to journey with you it has been a joy for me to learn of more and more of the ways you are bound to each other; for how deeply you care for each other and share each other’s burdens. These pathways among all of you run quite deep. What an extraordinary family of faith you all are.**

**This has been another year of transition, as they all appear to be these days. As we continue to journey beyond the darkest days of the pandemic it is wonderful to see small signs of growth. We are seeing an uptick in worship attendance. We have experienced some growth in our stewardship efforts.**

**We are enjoying being bodily present with one another in the sanctuary, in the classroom, in the fellowship hall, and in the world engaged in mission.**

**The Holy Spirit continues to knit us together. What a grand gift that is and what a wonderful community of faith this is.**

**Grace and Peace,**

**Doug**



**Rev. Dieter Heinzl**

2022 saw the world inching back toward “normal.” I put “normal” in quotation marks because our Deacons, Stephen Ministers and myself were finally able to meet our members in person again: in the hospital, in their own homes, and in other places of residence. Plus, we were thrilled to “lay eyes on each other”—as a friend of mine in Texas would say—by attending in-person meetings.

While the Deacons pulled out all the stops by organizing a sumptuous Strawberry Festival, the Stephen Ministers began regrouping and restarting their regular programming.

With a steady rise in attendance in worship on Sunday morning, our Adult Education Sunday Morning Series also saw a resurgence in attendees.

So, is everything back to the “normal” of pre-pandemic times? I don’t think so because I don’t think there is such a thing as “normal” when we engage in ministry. There is only God’s call for each of us to meet the challenge of each moment, and each moment looks different. We do not worship a God of the past but of the present and of the future—a God who invites us to be co-creators of life abundant for all people and who asks us to invite others to come alongside and “to come and see.”

I am looking forward to partnering with all of you in ministry in 2023.

Blessings,

Dieter



**Doug and Dieter during Holy Week 2022.**

## **Director of Children and Family Ministries**

**Rev. Courtney Chandler**

2022 brought about some changes which led me to shift some of responsibilities and has made for a fun and exciting time.

After the departure of Rev. Mel Smith, I took over completing the classes with the confirmation class of 2022. I have since begun teaching our newest confirmation class. We began in September with a one day retreat and have met weekly since the beginning of October.

Because of the pandemic we opted to wait until children were able to receive the vaccine and be present in worship before presenting our 2nd grade bibles in February 2022. With things returning to some sense of normalcy, we again presented bibles in worship in October of 2022 for the newest group of 2nd graders.

I participated in The Shape of Prayer, planned the Palm Sunday Brunch, and participated in various special services throughout the year. I mentored youth as they worked towards Youth Sunday and planned Middle School Mission and Mischief where middle school students met at the church for a short bible study, mission opportunities, and a little mischief making. We are looking forward to expanding on this idea this summer.

I was given the opportunity to preach several times for the people of Ladue Chapel and had the honor of being asked to preach at my home church, New Hope Christian Church, in Lawrenceville, GA for their 150th anniversary in September.



**Courtney at "Parents on the  
Playground" day in August!**



**In addition, I recruited volunteers for Word and Wonder, Monday Music and More, Vacation Bible School, and more. Planning weekly lessons and gathering materials for children's weekly programs and gathering and planning all materials for Vacation Bible School.**

**In late August I held a playground meeting after worship for parents and with Rally Day, I put together materials for the activities fair. I provided children's activities for the Kirking Festival, the Advent Festival, and directed the children's Christmas pageant, which became an intergenerational pageant this year and felt even more special.**

**I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for each and every person who has given their time, talents, and prayers to the children and youth of this congregation. I look forward to continuing to work with them all and watch them grow in their faith as we continue to find new and creative ways to minister to them all.**



**The Confirmation Class of 2022**

The highlight of this year was my sabbatical in May and June, which had been deferred from Spring 2020. Projects during my sabbatical included:

- Study of organ music of César Franck with Yannick Merlin in Paris, France
- Introductory cello lessons
- Attending Worship and Music conference sponsored by Presbyterian Association of Musicians in Montreat, NC
- Worshipping with local congregations

I am thankful to the Session, the Staff Resources Committee, and my colleagues in ministry for their support and encouragement of this sabbatical time.

As 2022 began, we were still adjusting to returning to live worship following the pandemic. As things returned to normal in the Chancel Choir, we were gradually able to drop the mask requirement, to discontinue limiting numbers of singers, and to hold entire rehearsals in our choir room.

Our Children's Choir continued to rehearse and beginning in March, sang regularly for worship services, including for Palm Sunday, the Christmas Pageant and on Christmas Eve. The Chapel Ringers also continued to rehearse and to ring regularly in worship services as well as at the Advent Festival.



**David rehearses with the Chamber Choir.**

Music and Me, our preschool music activity time, met for four sessions in the fall, under the leadership of Anne Peacock, Courtney Chandler and myself.

A Youth Ensemble sang for Youth Sunday in April and at the Christmas pageant.



**During Holy Week and Easter our musical offerings included the Chancel Choir, Chamber Choir, Chapel Ringers, harpist Amy Camie and a brass quartet of Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra members.**

**The Arts Committee planned and implemented an extensive art exhibit during Lent, under the leadership of Carol Shepley. In coordination with this exhibit, Anne Peacock produced a multi-media event, The Shape of Prayer, that brought together piano music, choral music, readings and projections of art work. This beautiful program was followed by a joyful wine and cheese reception, this being one of the first events at Ladue Chapel for which masks were not required. In April the Arts Committee sponsored a docent-led tour of the Painting on Stone exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum.**

**In the spring we received a new set of green paraments for Ordinary Time, created by Danish fiber artist Marianne Axboe. These exquisite paraments (table coverings, pulpit fall, Bible markers and 3 pastors' stoles) coordinate with the existing fish and wheat banners and are a gift from the Higginbotham family in memory of Sally and Bruce Higginbotham.**

**I was also involved in these projects during 2022:**

- Coordinating the Independence Day concert by the Clarion Brass**
- Coordinating the very successful rebuilding/refurbishing of our sanctuary Baldwin grand piano**
- Leading music for VBS**
- Organizing a concert of the music of César Franck in a mini-concert following worship October 13**
- Performing a Nutcracker Suite program with Anne Peacock for the Women's Association Christmas luncheon**
- Organizing Blue Christmas event with healing harpist Amy Camie**
- Conducting An American Christmas with the Chancel Choir and our first orchestra since 2019**
- Continuing my volunteer position as editor of the Presbyterian Association of Music anthem series published by MorningStar Music Publishers.**

**In writing this report I am reminded that I work and serve with incredibly gracious, creative, and loving colleagues, musicians, and parishioners, for which I am grateful and humbled. I am looking forward to more joys and surprises in our music life as 2023 unfolds.**

**Respectfully submitted by David Erwin.**

## Director of Spiritual Life

Anne Peacock

The new year began with planning for the Women's Retreat, however our members were not ready to be in close community yet, and with COVID cases on the rise we had to cancel our retreat. One of the projects I had hoped to start on the retreat was prayerful folding of origami cranes. This project evolved to include the entire congregation. I am grateful for our leader Cindy Daniels and to The Rev. Camie Dewey (St. Timothy's Episcopal Church) who led a workshop after worship on February 6. Twenty-four members attended to learn how to fold these symbols of healing and peace. Throughout February, dozens of members and friends participated in folding, stringing, and hanging 2000 paper cranes, becoming a new art installation in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. The cranes held prayers inside - some written, others wordless, so that as we entered our worship space, we might feel surrounded by God's peace, hope, and love.

Carol Wellman and I led a 4-week Epiphany discussion in January, based on Jan Richardson's art and writings, and later in the year we led an Advent discussion using Anselm Grun's book *Your Light Gives Us Hope*. In addition to my role as staff liaison for Fellowship Committee, I served on the Congregational Nominating Committee, continued my involvement with two spiritual companion groups, and regularly met with a planning team for the Women's Retreat. *Lectio divina* continued to meet monthly, labyrinth walks were offered during Holy Week, and I continued to serve as staff liaison for the prayer chain, faithfully led by Susan Peachee. I also helped plan the Kirkin' of the Tartan Festival on October 22; Dieter and I led an outdoor class on Celtic Spirituality.

Having completed the required work through Shalem Institute, I received a Certificate in their Spiritual Guidance program in the Christian Contemplative Tradition. As part of my final project, I created a multi-media event at Ladue Chapel called *The Shape of Prayer*. David Erwin and I collaborated on the music, which included the Ladue Chapel Chamber Choir, piano, organ, violin, and cello. Courtney Chandler and Larry Daniels read poetry and prose, and others participated by reading *The Lord's Prayer* in various languages (including American Sign Language). Art, paired with the music and readings, was projected on a large screen throughout the program, and the candlelit sanctuary was conducive to contemplation and prayer. Following the program, we celebrated opening night of our Lenten art exhibit with a wine and cheese reception. The exhibit included a variety of art from forty of our members.



A Conversation with the Artists was held during fellowship time on April 3, as a chance for the artists to meet people and answer questions about their art on display.

David and I attended Montreat's Worship and Music Conference in June. We participated in classes which gave us new ideas for music with our children and adults. Upon return, we introduced djembes to the children in VBS, and we loved the rhythm and energy created by playing these drums in community.

I preached for the first time on August 28. The flower arrangements, created by Japanese Ikebana master Yoshiko Mitchell, were intentionally designed to reflect the worship theme. To continue the theme of spirituality and prayer, Scripture in Bloom was offered after the service during fellowship time. Fifteen members created unique arrangements using natural elements to depict The Lord's Prayer.

Members helped bake bread for communion throughout the year and various breads from around the world to sample during fellowship time on World Communion Sunday, October 2. In September I led the following bread baking sessions so all ages could participate in World Communion fellowship: Focaccia with Ladue Chapel Nursery School children, pretzels with Monday Music and More children, tortillas with the confirmands, and salsa bread with women who attended the happy hour at church.

We began another origami project in October, this one to create stars for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany. Stars made from recycled bulletins, gold and silver paper, and created by many members, were hung on November 20, in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.



Anne preached for the first time in August.

### **Ways I was involved in Music Ministry in 2022:**

- Accompanied the choirs, sang in Chancel Choir, rang with Chapel Ringers
- Helped David with Music and More (grades K-5), Music and Me (ages 3-4), VBS music
- Helped cover music for David while he was away on Sabbatical, including organ and piano on Sunday mornings and for memorial services
- The Shape of Prayer multi-media program on March 4
- Played a piano/organ duet with David during his César Franck concert on November 13
- Performed a piano/organ concert with David for the Women's Association Christmas program

I am looking forward to the new ways we will create expressions of our faith and how our church will continue to be shaped and transformed. I am grateful to be part of our Ladue Chapel family; a place where we can explore and deepen our faith together and where the Holy Spirit abounds.

Blessings and Peace, Anne



**Anne plays piano at The Shape of Prayer multi-media program in March.**



## **Member Ministries**

### **Adult Education**

The Adult Education Committee of Ladue Chapel met monthly in 2022, organizing classes for the year and beyond. We hosted classes at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday throughout the year. Our plan was to offer one to two classes each month except for December and June- July which is our normal schedule. We achieved that goal. As church attendance improves, we look to grow our numbers and the Adult Education program at Ladue Chapel in 2023.

Faithfully Submitted,

Julie Cobaugh, Chair of the Adult Education Committee

### **Deacons**

2022 was a successful year for the Deacons, due to the dedication and compassion of the members of the Board of Deacons. We welcomed a new class of Deacons, who eagerly and enthusiastically jumped right in to help stay connected to our congregation through cards and phone calls. We connected with our homebound members this year by delivering Easter Cards, Christmas Cards, and delivering and sharing communion in person for World Communion Sunday. We were so happy to hold our meetings in person this year. The Deacons were also proud to assist with Communion each month during service.

A big success this year was the annual Strawberry Festival that was well attended by the congregation in June. We enjoyed fellowship, fried chicken, live music, strawberries, a petting zoo, and a beautifully sunny day together. So many of the Deacons worked to plan and coordinate the event, and we were thrilled with the outcome!

A BIG heart-felted THANK YOU to the members of the Board of Deacons for their commitment and kindness to our congregation throughout 2022!

Faithfully Submitted,

Matt Cipra, Chair of the Deacons



**The Deacons' Christmas Photo, 2022**

### **Fellowship Committee**

**As COVID continued to be on people's minds and the idea of isolating remained, the Fellowship Committee tried to plan events to try and get people back to church while still providing space for people to feel safe.**

- **The committee removed Christmas decorations after Worship on January 2.**
- **Scheduled Women's Retreat on January 29-30 was canceled due to an uptick in COVID.**
- **A church-wide potluck was held following Worship on Youth Sunday, April 24. Members provided a LOT of food and the attendance seemed to indicate that people are eager to get back together.**
- **Bread Breaker groups were encouraged to start/continue meeting and a group of leaders met to share ideas.**
- **Members were vocal about wanting cookies to return for Coffee Hour. A list of volunteers and subs was distributed and cookies have returned.**



- The seed was planted for a women's group as a counterpart to the Men's Grilling group.... In mid-July, Colleen Ruiz hosted a gathering to 'test the water' and see if there was interest in forming this group.... There was. So much so, that it was suggested that the name be Ladies Happy Hour & ½. An event was held on the church patio September 30. It was well attended. The plan is to schedule them on a quarterly basis.
- To help boost interest in the July 3 Brass Band concert sponsored by W&M, FC tagged on and hired a snow-cone truck, provided lemonade, patriotic cookies and pinwheels and a sun shade tent to encourage people to stay and hear patriotic music. It was a warm day, but the music was wonderful and the snow-cones were a hit. Over 100 people attended. We plan to make this an annual event in conjunction with the Band concert.
- As in 2021, an evening at 'Shakespeare in the Park' was arranged. Next year we will start promoting it earlier, as those attending enjoyed it, but the group was small.
- An idea was floated in May to have a Blessing of the Backpacks. The committee made yarn key fobs with a small fish charm attached for the children to attach to their backpacks, Courtney distributed them during Children's time in Worship on August 28.
- FC decided to revive the idea of having a Fellowship Fair in conjunction with Rally Day. The last one we could remember was in 2014 and a lot had changed. We renamed it an Activity Fair, and invited each recognized group at church to participate to 'get the word out' about opportunities for involvement that their group had to offer. The crowd was much larger than expected and everyone seemed to enjoy it.



Andrew Peacock with the hundreds of origami cranes created by the congregation.

- Committee members helped set up and cut bread for World Communion Sunday. We determined that since this is such a popular event, we will need more hands next year.
- The Men's Grilling group had an event on October 13 with 35 attending.
- The Golf Tourney was held October 16 at Sunset Country Club and was co-hosted by Mary & Ed Sumner and Barbara & Ed Reeb. Golfers enjoyed a great day with perfect weather.
- There being some confusion about the names of Men's groups, the Grilling group was moved out from under the umbrella of Bread Breakers and is now a part of Men's Fellowship, replacing the name Men's Association.
- We were approved to purchase a fire pit to be used for Fellowship events.
- Members were invited to join FC, after the service on November 20, to decorate the Gathering Place and other areas of the church outside the Sanctuary. Breakfast sandwiches and fruit were available to the workers. Approximately 50 Advent countdown candles were sold after church services and at the Advent Festival.
- At the Advent Festival on November 27, more Advent candles were sold, the purchased decorated cookies bearing the words, Love, Joy, Peace and Hope, were handed out with glow sticks as attendees went out front to light the outdoor trees and sing carols around the fire pit at its inaugural lighting.
- Over the course of 2022, the following people served (for varying lengths of terms) on the Fellowship Committee: Libby Donnell, Kathie English, Lisa Etzwiler, Julie Hearnese-Sindelar, Liz Higginbotham, Vicki LeResche, Brenda Melson, Matt Patterson, Cyn Pennington, Colleen Ruiz, Wendy Sigurdson and Patricia Theodos (co-chair). Staff Liaison: Anne Peacock

Faithfully submitted,

Jeanne Wilton, Chair of the Fellowship Committee



## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee had another strong year. The 2021 financial audit was completed by Armanino LLC and Ladue Chapel received a clean audit opinion on its financial records. The Finance Committee's intention is to move to a review after two clean audit opinions.

The unaudited net loss for combined church activities, including endowment and operations, was (\$2,257,994). This net loss includes the realized and unrealized losses on the endowment of (\$1.8 million) and depreciation expense of \$520,950. Investment losses were due to drops in the market. Church operations, which consist of contributions and expenses for missions, staff, and daily operations achieved an unaudited net income of \$205,834.

In 2022, Ladue Chapel incurred \$330,000 in costs related to water damage, remediation and construction costs related to Ladue Chapel Nursery School. During construction, costs were funded by a line of credit (LOC) through Commerce Bank. This line of credit was paid off with a denominational loan of \$330,000 in February 2023. This is a 20-year loan at 1.35%. The church has been approved up to \$500,000 on the construction loan should it be deemed necessary.

### **2022 Highlights**

- Ladue Chapel filed for available Employee Retention Credits which Armanino Tax Department has estimated will provide a \$325,000 windfall to the church.
- A \$125,000 bequest was pledged to the endowment. The total amount is to be gifted over five years. The first \$25,000 installment was received in March 2022.
- There was \$66,000 contributed in December 2022 for a future capital campaign.
- The church has secured a denominational loan with PCUSA for 20 years at 1.35% to cover construction costs of the Ladue Chapel Nursery School.
- The church reestablished a \$400,000 line of credit with Commerce Bank.

Faithfully Submitted,  
John Fries, Chair of the Finance Committee

## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is thankful for the generous support our church provides to Mission. By tradition, twenty percent (20%) of the Church's prior year living donor contributions supports mission. The amount of Mission dedicated funds in 2022 was static at \$ 314,338. This was only a \$ 1,498 decrease in funds from 2021. The mix of grants issued by the Mission Committee is a split of 68% (\$ 214,338) to local agencies and 32% (\$ 100,000) to the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy.

Accomplishments in 2022 include events that allowed for "hands on" member participation in mission ministry:

- A Christmas 2022 giving tree for scarfs, hats, mittens and gloves was conducted. Two tables full of items were donated. We are holding this event again in 2023.
- A second annual Day-of-Service was held in April 2022. Fifty church members participated and did hands on service at our agencies, including, All Among Us (landscaping), Casa de Salud (build furniture), Cornerstone (clean store rooms) and Isaiah 58 (feminine hygiene kits).
- A Back-to-School drive, was conducted in conjunction with Rally Day on September 11, 2022. This resulted in the donation of significant school supplies, socks and underwear for pre-school and elementary age children. The Beneficiary of this drive was Uni-Pres Kindercottage in East St. Louis.
- On November 16, 2022 the Ladue Chapel Mission Committee was awarded the Blue Heart Award by Gateway Human Trafficking. In choosing the recipients, several factors were considered, including years of service, leadership, and character. What set the Ladue Chapel Mission Committee apart from other candidates was their willingness to take actions to support Gateway Human Trafficking since 2020. Additionally, another factor, was that the Ladue Chapel has served many at-risk families in the St. Louis Area through advocacy and community services for years.
- The Hunger Team of the Mission Committee migrated from monthly to ongoing weekly food and cleaning supplies drives (the little red wagon) for the benefit of our intercity mission agency partner Isaiah 58.



Unfortunately, the past programs of Mission Internship (five week summer program) and Matthew 25 fellows (a COVID era program) were not provided. This stemmed from a lack of interest from our high school youth and a lack of adult volunteers. These programs last ran in 2018 (pre-pandemic) and 2020 respectively.

The annual Turkey and Ham drive has been replaced by the “Buy-A-Bird” holiday meals program of our mission partner Isaiah 58. There are a few reasons for the change from physical donation of Turkeys and Hams to cash donations. The first reason is that many recipients do not have the facilities to store and cook a turkey or ham. Second, Turkey and Ham is not always the first choice of a festive meal for some families. Donations from the congregation to the Buy-A-Bird campaign have dropped over the years and we are not sure of the reasons. One possible explanation might be that there are many calls for donations during this Holiday time of year. In 2022, our campaign ran after pledging, and we were able to collect \$ 1,924, or 64 meals at \$ 30 per meal. To partially compensate for the poor timing, the mission committee donated an additional \$ 1,720; for a total of \$ 3,644 to the Buy-A-Bird program.

Our relationship with Ukirk, a mission of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery to college age youth at Wash U and St. Louis U, was paused in 2022, as the program Pastor resigned and has yet to be replaced.

We entered into new relationships with two agencies. The first is Propel Kitchen. Propel Kitchens mission is to utilize nutrition, food industry training, and education initiatives as tools to equip and enable St. Louis residents and communities to combat economic and health inequities. The second agency is Light 4 the Darkness. It is a ministry supported by the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. Light 4 the Darkness’ vision is to offer a safe place for those with mental health variances to explore where God is in their midst. This is done through worshipful support groups for lay and clergy.

**Non-committee mission programs through the congregation as a whole, other church groups and individuals include:**

- **Shared Mission of PCUSA:** \$ 11,250 was contributed in 2022 by an unknown individual or LCPC group to the Shared Mission Fund of PCUSA. Donations are split between two sub-funds. The first sub-fund is for Pensions and Emergency Grants to active and retired clergy and church workers. The second sub-fund is for educational grants for future clergy and church workers; particularly those of color.
- **Bridge Bread:** Bridge Bread provides jobs, training and housing – Bread sales at church not held due to COVID and the declining health of founder Louise Lonsbury. No other volunteers have stepped forward to continue the program.
- **St. Patrick's Casserole Program** of the LCPC Women's Association. Casserole donations average 39 casseroles per month.

**List of Agencies  
Supported by the Mission Committee in 2022**

<b>Mission - Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>Mission – Housing &amp; Health</b>
Cornerstone Center for Early Learning	All Among Us, Inc.
Firm Foundation Tutor - Restore St Louis	Care and Counseling, Inc.
Gateway Human Trafficking	Casa de Salud
Presby. Children's Homes and Services	Habitat for Humanity - St Louis
Uni-Pres Kindercottage	Light 4 the Darkness
<b>Mission - Church Worldwide</b>	Rebuilding Together - St Louis
Costa Rica Missionary - Karla Koll	STARS-St. Andrews Resources for Seniors
Interfaith Partnership of Greater St Louis	<b>Mission – Social Justice &amp; Jobs</b>
International Institute of St. Louis	Freedom Community Center
Presbyterian Disaster Fund	Propel Kitchens
Theological Education	Refuge and Restoration
Wycliffe Bible Translators – Michael Nelson	
<b>Mission - Hunger</b>	
Isaiah 58 Ministries	
Meds and Food for Kids - Haiti	
Seed St. Louis (f/k/a Gateway Greening, Inc.)	

**Faithfully Submitted,  
Lester Hill, Chair of the Mission Committee**



**In 2022 we said goodbye to Melanie Smith, who left LCPC to serve as Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church.**



## New Member Committee

2022 provided the opportunity post-pandemic to re-engage more with members and encourage them to bring friends to church. Our priorities were:

- Engage and Retain Current Members
- Encourage Referrals
- Manage Greeters Program
- Host New Member Classes
- Follow-up with Worship Service Visitors
- Social Media Outreach and Analysis
- Develop Outreach Strategies

The committee decided to undertake the following activities:

- **Prospective Member Information/Referral Cards:** A supply of small cards with information and links for referring prospective members to the church was prepared and distributed starting Sunday, April 3 when the Greeters handed them out to members immediately following church service. These cards were made available on an ongoing basis in pews, at Gathering Place and in the church office.
- **Member Registration on Realm.** To encourage members to enter personal information into Realm, volunteers with iPads were in Fellowship Hall immediately after church on Palm Sunday (April 10) to assist members with this task. Small cards with instructions on self-registering on Realm will also be given out.
- **Website Refresh:** We will solicit suggestions from Committee Chairs and helped staff work with web development company Worship Time to refresh the content, navigation and visuals of the church's current website.
- **Potential Member E-Package:** We prepared a digital package of helpful information to introduce prospective members to Ladue Chapel in response to member referrals and inquiries to the church office. Content was based on the prospective member information currently on the church website and invited prospects to attend events as well as worship services.
- **We also publicized the Kirkin' O the Tartan Festival** in the local St. Louis area news media in an effort to attract potential new members to attend this event and get a favorable first impression of Ladue Chapel.

Faithfully Submitted,

Craig Workman, Chair of the New Member Committee

## **Property Committee**

- There was flooding and extensive water damage to Ladue Chapel Nursery due to an unprecedented rainstorm in August. The damage created a potential issue with layers of asbestos tile under the top flooring. The asbestos containing material was removed and a finished concrete floor was installed. LCNS temporarily relocated upstairs and moved back into their space in March 2023.
- Wi-Fi extenders were installed in the Sanctuary, the Gathering Place, Leutwiler and Gulick conference rooms, improving connectivity.
- Beishir Lock and Security installed a camera and intercom at door #4. This allows the receptionist to permit someone entry into the building without walking to the door upon each person's arrival.
- Murphy Mechanical installed two rooftop HVAC units.
- Communications staff worked with Worship Times on a redesign and upgrade to the church's website.
- The parking lot was resealed and striped.
- A down payment was made to replace the exterior doors in the Gathering Place. Installation is expected in early 2023.
- A current land survey and title search were completed in conjunction with the denominational loan process.

**Faithfully Submitted,**

**Carr Trovillion, Chair of the Property Committee**



## **Staff Resources Committee**

**What a wonderful, exciting year as our staff resumed programs and added new special events for our congregation. Gathering together, renewing friendships and welcoming new members has brought joy to our congregation as well as our staff.**

**We said good-bye to Hannah Scheckel, and we welcomed Adam Levin as our new Director of Communications, who hit the ground running adding new social media groups for our congregation. Our Business Administrator, Mark Vago, and John Poelker worked tirelessly after we experienced a flood in our nursery school, securing contractors to promptly remediate the damage. Keith Kult assisted Mark in securing the necessary funding. Danica Koster ensured that the Church office and our many committees run smoothly, and John Poelker, Rian Beaulieu, and Warren Thomason maintained our beautiful spaces.**

**Doug King leads our congregation both on Sunday and throughout the week. In his four-part sermon series, Doug King has introduced us to new ways to experience the word of God. Courtney Chandler has reimagined our youth programs and continues to work with our confirmands as we welcome our youth to our congregation. Dieter Heinzl led our adult education programs and our deacons as they were able to resume in person fellowship with our congregants in need of their care. David Erwin continues to surprise us with new musical compilations. Anne Peacock has revived our spirituality and fellowship programs and delicious breadmaking. We are truly blessed by our amazing staff who lead us with such gracefulness. Many thanks to Doug King, Dieter Heinzl, David Erwin, Anne Peacock, Courtney Chandler, Mark Vago, Keith Kult, Adam Levin, Danica Koster, John Poelker, Rian Beaulieu, and Warren Thomas for their continued faithfulness and support of our congregation.**

**Faithfully Submitted, Andrea Niehoff, Chair of the Staff Resources Committee**



**A hearty thanks to former Director of  
Communications Hannah Scheckel!**



**Hannah's successor,  
Adam Levin**

## **Stephen Ministry**

2022 was a challenging year for the Stephen Ministers at Ladue Chapel. Covid threats kept the group from meeting regularly in person, but we had zoom meetings and several meetings after church, which allowed us to keep up with each other and to have some continuing education. Doug King led one continuing education session, which was a huge indication that he values what the Stephen Ministers do. Dieter was at most of or all of the meetings. Those assigned to care receivers continued to meet by phone or by zoom. There was one pot-luck dinner and planning meeting held at church on November 15th. Future meetings will be held in person at church, with current plans for monthly meetings on Sundays after worship, a more convenient time for many Stephen Ministers.

Faithfully Submitted, John Hensley, Chair of the Stephen Ministry Committee

## **Stewardship Committee**

This past year the Stewardship Committee worked diligently to communicate with our congregation in spite of some worship services still being virtual. The committee called to thank those who had pledged and to remind those who hadn't yet pledged to make their contribution.

Delancey Smith chaired the 2022 campaign, Together we Serve, which kicked off with a series of Stewardship messages during worship services. We also created and sent a brochure about the campaign and called members again to remind them about the importance of Stewardship at Ladue Chapel.

Faithfully Submitted,  
Erika Lewis,  
Chair of the Stewardship Committee



The logo for our 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign.



## **Worship & Music Committee**

The Worship and Music Committee had an active year in 2022. Many of our traditional activities returned and one of our goals was to encourage our congregational members to return to worship in person. In 2022 Worship and Music Committee hosted our traditional services and activities but also strived to introduce new opportunities for the congregation to gather and worship. Several of our planned events were advertised to local communities through media and print with many new people visiting Ladue Chapel for the first time.

The Kirkin' of the Tartan Festival and several wonderful musical events throughout the year were well received and filled the church and sanctuary.

### **Usher Committee: Wes Mellow**

The Ushers have combined eight teams into four helping to assure they always have enough ushers every Sunday. The ushers also volunteered for special services such as Maundy Thursday, the Rally Day picnic, and Christmas Eve. Rally Day had approximately 150 to 160 in attendance.

### **Flower Committee: Susan Reed**

2022 was a year of transition back to "normal." Chancel flower donors provided fresh flowers for 11 Sunday services. Another 7 flower arrangements were given by families who left flowers for Sunday services after Memorial services.

Gifts to the flower fund at Easter and Christmas provided beautiful fresh flowers for Easter and the Advent season. In addition, the Flower Fund underwrote the cost of flowers for another 7 Sundays.

The remaining Sundays features artificial flower arrangements that were provided by Susie Sivewright. We are indebted to Susie for these gifts.



**An acolyte lights a candle during  
the Worship Service.**

Thank you to all who donated fresh flowers. Your generosity brings beautiful fresh flowers into our sanctuary and joy to all. Anyone wishing to donate flowers for a specific Sunday may contact Susan Reed to reserve a date.

**Funeral committee: Susie Sivewright**

The Funeral Committee helped with 16 services in 2022: five funerals (body or ashes present) and eleven memorial services. Responsibilities for the committee include preparing the sanctuary for the services, ushering, supporting the families with any need they may have, care of flowers and helping with receptions. Our committee members are dedicated workers who give loving and respectful care to the families in their time of deepest sorrow.

**Lector Committee: Larry Daniels**

Larry Daniels took over the Lectors from longtime committee head Barry Rudert. There are approximately 10 Lectors in rotation for Sunday service. Larry has held several meetings to review protocol, text preparation, delivery techniques, and using the sound system. Lectors enhance our experience by bringing scripture to life, making it interesting in our worship services.

**Communion committee: Matt Patterson**

Communion is offered first Sunday of each month and on special occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Christmas Eve. Servers are two Deacons and two Session members. Deacons also provide communion services to our homebound members when asked. We also have six rotating communion assistants who help prepare the elements and set the communion table.

**Acolytes: Renee Van Stavern**

We are pleased that we were able to revive our acolyte program in the autumn of 2022, and that Renee Van Stavern is serving as coordinator. Currently we have 9 children and youth who are serving as acolytes to light the candles, carry in the Bible, collect offering plates and assist the pastors with baptisms. We would like to increase the number of acolytes, so please contact the church office if your child would like to participate.



Flowers in the sanctuary.

Faithfully submitted, Matthew Patterson, Chair of the Worship and Music Committee



## Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry at Ladue Chapel seeks to live into the baptismal vow we as a congregation have made to our children: "to love, encourage and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.

### Children

- **Word and Wonder:** Each Sunday children meet in their room following the Children's Message. During this time they follow an order of worship, sing songs, and hear the stories of their faith. Since returning after the pandemic we have now expanded into two classes. One for 3 years-2nd grade and the other for 3rd-5th grades.
- **Monday Music and More:** During the program year children grades K-5 meet for snacks, children's choir and for "More..." This could be working on the Christmas pageant, hearing stories of our faith, going on a scavenger hunt, or participating in an outreach program like making cards for our homebound members.
- **Music and Me:** The newest of our programs offers a 30 minute music/storytelling program to pre-k children. This program happens twice a year for 4 weeks and is on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-4:30.



Anne, Courtney, and David with some of the LCPC kids.

## Youth

- In 2022 we confirmed 10 young people.
- Our Youth met to plan and work on Youth Sunday, leading us in worship April 24th.
- We had several youth participate in Mission and Mischief doing work for Eye Thrive, the Animal Protection Agency, and Delivering Words of Affirmation to people at nearby businesses. It was such a success we hope to expand on that this coming summer.
- In September we began a new confirmation class.
- Youth also were invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant this year and made for a very special time as they shared their leadership with our children.

Faithfully Submitted,  
Courtney Chandler, Chair of the Youth Ministry



Thank you for being a vital part of our congregation!