



ST.  
BRIGIT  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

## **Annual Report – 2022**

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**Report from the Vicar**

Good morning, family of St. Brigit! It is hard to believe that my family and I moved to Colorado from Florida at the end of the summer in 2021, and I began as your vicar on August 1<sup>st</sup>. That was 6 months ago! And I could not be happier to stand before you as your vicar. Our family is so grateful for the love and support you have shown to us. Now that I've been here for 6 months, I've noticed that it is true. Florida and Colorado are quite different! Truth is, it gets a little colder here. But, we are getting used to scraping ice off our cars and learning how to walk on ice. Actually, we are enjoying the change of atmosphere, which oddly does include the colder weather and snow.

I want to give a special thanks to the members of our BCC. To Sean, Jeff, Alicia, Tracy, Vicki, Geri Sue, and Barb who was on at the time I was called and hired to serve as your new vicar. Thank you. If I may say so, ya'll picked the right priest! Honestly though, and to all of you as a congregation, you stepped out of the boat in faith to hire a full-time priest. That is not an easy thing to do. And though we still have work to do, it is clear that together, and I believe you will hear this in some of the following reports, we are moving in the right direction. Thank you for your trust, your support, and for the opportunity to serve as your vicar. And a special thanks to our two wardens, Sean as our Bishop's Warden and Jeff, as our People's Warden. I have leaned on the two of you often the past 6 months and I greatly appreciate you.

In addition to our BCC, I want to give a special thanks to our staff. We have an incredible gift in David and Shelly Arnold as you know as well as I, and Eileen is unparalleled. I highly, highly encourage you to attend the service and reception next week as we honor and wish God-speed to Eileen as she moves to Florida. One of the reasons Eileen has mentioned her move is her desire to be closer with additional members of her family. And while I am sure that is true, at the same time, I also think it is because she will be much, much closer to Hogwarts at Disney World (or is it Universal?) Eileen, you will be incredibly missed. Not just for your role here as parish administrator, or the vast amount of time you have dedicated to this congregation particularly with our two non-profits Brigit's Bounty and Brigit's Village, but simply because of who you are. You are a gift to whatever community you will be a part of in your new adventure to the sunshine state. I also want to thank our pianist, Darin Manica, who's generosity is

matched only by his talent and skill. We are truly, truly blessed to have you. I still remember when I was applying for this position and I saw a picture of you playing the upright base and the accordion and I said to myself, this guy, I cannot wait to meet! You are a true gift, my friend.

And my personal thanks does not stop with just our staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank our BCC support members. Our treasurer, Jim Thoming, and our Clerk of the BCC, Michelle Mrgan. I've got to be honest. I've had some great treasurers and clerks in my time, but we are working with the best of the best here at St. Brigit with Jim and Michelle. And that leaves us with the biggest and best of us all, Deacon Bookie! I say biggest, and it is true. Maybe not quite in stature, but definitely, definitely in heart. I am incredibly thankful that we have the opportunity to have your compassion and service-like heart here at St. Brigit. It is an honor to serve alongside you here in this congregation.

Though I cannot name everyone, I also want to say thanks to Juanita Redfield for her voluntary role as our youth group leader, and to Amy Thoming, our children's education volunteer director. Our children and youth are in great hands with these two as well as all those who volunteer to strengthen the spiritual development and opportunity of our younger generation.

This congregation has a number of exceptional ministries and dedicated lay ministers. I highly encourage all to read the 2022 annual report and pay particular attention to the ways our parish expresses the love of Christ through various acts of service within this parish community and Christ's mission outside of the church.

At the same time, I do want to offer a few highlights. I am incredibly thankful that we are bringing Celtic Fest back this year. Thanks to David and Shelly Arnold for spearheading this major event and all those who are already stepping up to help. Because this is such a large, community event, there are always ways you can be involved and the need is there. Please contact David and Shelly to see how you can best support this event

and especially if you have a connection with an organization or business that would be interested in sponsoring this event.

Brigit's Bounty, this past year, had over 750 volunteers with more than 4,000 hours of service. The garden produced almost 2,300 pounds of food this past year which was donated and given back to the community. We were sorry to see our previous Brigit's Bounty coordinator, Rachel Pound take her leave, but could not be more excited to have our new coordinator, Dominique McKee, take the helm. We are truly blessed to have her on board. In 2021, Brigit's Village's application for funding was not accepted but we have re-submitted for 2022 and should know in May of this year. This is a massive undertaking to fill a tremendous need in the area, and that is for affordable housing that would be right here on our property.

Though you are not hearing this from me for the first time, I want to acknowledge that we are still enduring a pandemic that has been going on for two years. Thank you for continuing to be respectful and wearing masks. None of us would prefer them, and I know several who cannot stand to wear them. Yet even then, that shows how much care you have for one another when you wear them and place the needs of the community above individual desire. Thank you. So many churches have struggled throughout the pandemic, like a whole slew of non-profits, businesses, as well as individuals and families. This has been hard for all of us, certainly much more so for some than others. But, here we stand. We are not defeated, and we are not losing ground. We are moving in the right direction and you can feel the momentum continuing to build here at St. Brigit.

Like everyone else, even though we had to shut down there have been many things going on at the life of this congregation in just the past 6 months. Our choir has returned, we held Meet the Vicar gatherings, multiple painting bowl parties, we have developed a Welcoming Committee, held a Ministry Fair, Blessing of the Animals, to name a few. We have been having more and more services with 50+ people in-person, and certainly not discounting all those who join us via-livestream. At the Bishop's visitation, even though we had planned for a larger crowd, we had to bring in an additional 20 or so chairs into

the church. We may have bended the distance rules just a bit to squeeze everyone in, but the past is the past! That day was an amazing celebration and a gift to welcoming Bishop Kym into our midst, who walked away saying, “there’s something special here at St. Brigit’s,” and she is spot on. There is something special, and it is you, the people.

I would be dishonest if I did not conclude before saying that even though momentum and excitement continues to build, there are still obstacles along our path as we spread the Gospel of Jesus throughout the community. But, obstacles are meant to be overcome. And that is what we are doing, and we are doing this together. We do this as a spiritual community here at St. Brigit, we overcome these obstacles as the Body of Christ. Our patron Saint would be proud. We continue to throw Brigit’s mantle like the fishing nets that Jesus spoke about which brought in all kinds of different fish from the sea. We are continuing to build a church that opens its doors to all people. And that is the church at it’s best. St. Brigit episcopal Church is a church community I am honored to serve. Thank you.

*Faithfully submitted, Fr. Tim+, Vicar*

## **Report from the Bishop's Warden**

### Show the Way

#### 1. Cead Mile Failte

Good Morning! Thank you St. Brigit and Cead Mile Failte – 100 thousand welcomes. The spirit of hospitality of St. Brigit and the Holy dwelling surely dwell in this place today.

#### 2. Thank you

I am grateful to share the bishop's report annual meeting to share the story of our last year – and to look forward to this year. I'd like to give thanks to our clergy, the diocese of Colorado and to the Bishop Kim who acknowledged “we have something very special here” at her visit in November. I also give Thanks for our clergy – Father Tim Backus and his family who answered the call to be our Vicar in August last year. I also give thanks to our Deacon Bookie and Joan, who has been a Stallworth in our Outreach activities for many years.

I'd like to personally thank all our Lay leadership on our BCC including Jeff Nieuwsma, Alicia Florin, Barb Miller, Vicky Emerson, Geri Sue Coe, and Tracy Platz – who had double duty of BCC and search committee to Bring Father Tim to our church. I'd also like to thank our supporting staff: Michelle Mrsan our clerk who took over from Sharon Fasano early in the year, Jim Thoming our treasurer (believe it or not, This is Jim's first year as a treasurer) , Eileen Bisgard – our parish administrator, Shelly and David Arnold our sextons. Finally, I would like to thank everyone here that has heard and responded to the call to participate in the story of St. Brigit in Frederick Colorado by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. The generosity of the Members of this church is truly amazing!

#### 3. Tell The Story

I'd like to share a story – It was about this church and last year. This little church is on a mission. The global pandemic had created an environment so that we were not meeting in person. This time last year we had an interim vicar with six months left on his contract; a Bishops committee with over 50 percent new members; an uncertain future – and a budget with a \$10 thousand dollar gap “Find us Faithfull budget”. And despite all those

obstacles we: updated and our technology, had an international online spiritual symposium, met in person again by Easter; Called a new Vicar to the church and provided the funds to move across the country in the summer, met in person our sanctuary safely by fall – had a stewardship discussion of Look Back – Dream forward to reimagine what our church family would look like. Based upon the strong foundation of the love of Christ over 12 years of Faithful members. WE provided authentic outreach in a world that was cloistering in fear. We provided a place for children, of safety in troubled times. In short – we lived into the core values of who we are called to become. And we were able to overcome the financial gap we budgeted with at the beginning of the year.

#### 4. Show the Way

But this was just the beginning. As we have heard from Jim Thoming – our current budget has a “More Faithful” opportunity. The numbers that Jim reported seem daunting – even overwhelming. When I heard the numbers over the last month, I found them very sobering. As a numbers guy, I’m uncomfortable with such a budget. And as I prayed on discerning leadership, I was reminded of a song By David Wilcox called Show the Way: A few of the words I wanted to share:

If someone wrote a play – just to glorify what was stronger than hate  
Would He not arrange the stage to look as if the hero came too late?  
He’s almost in defeat; it is looking like the evil side will win  
So, at the edge of every seat – from the moment that the whole thing begins

It is Love who Mix the mortar; It is love that stacks these stones  
And it’s Love who made the stage here – although it looks like were alone  
In this scene set in shadows like the night is here to stay  
There is evil cast around us, but it’s Love that wrote the play  
**FOR IN THIS DARKNESS LOVE WILL SHOW THE WAY!**

The stage is set for this year. As it says in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy: For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind. I'm confident that following the Love of Christ under Brigit's Mantle that the spirit of God will Show the way. And I'm grateful for a community that will continue to live into the Dream of what God calls us to become.

Cead Mile Failte!

*Faithfully submitted, Sean McGaughey, Bishop's Warden*

## **Report from the Deacon**

The first months of 2021 were a continuation of life via Zoom. We had Sunday services by Zoom while the only people not in pajamas seemed to be Fr Rick and I. For most everyone else it was still **pajama church**. We continued to have Zoom Evening Prayer every week and did Compline once a month. **Ash Wednesday** came in mid-February so Fr Rick and I stood outside in a snowstorm giving out envelopes of ashes to each driver who came through the driveway. Several folks took enough envelopes of ashes to deliver to others who couldn't get to the church. "**Self-ashing**" was a new experience for everyone. After a month of conversations and 3 dry runs, we celebrated **Easter outside** on the west lawn. It was a joyous time to see everyone together again even with maintaining distance. Our first group of St Brigit folks completed the **Sacred Ground** course which was facilitated by Abby Mooney, a parishioner from Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and me. I was also busy as a Mentor, meeting with **Deacon Interns** in the last year of their Theological Formation.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> we held our first **COVID Vaccine Clinic** offering our parking lot and entrance to the pharmacists from Safeway, and the Rotary clubs from Frederick/Firestone, Platteville, and Mead. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we began **regular Sunday services outdoors** and put up with noisy traffic. In June we **said goodbye to Fr Rick** and **moved back into the sanctuary** keeping our masks on, maintaining COVID strict protocols, and grateful to be back in our worship space again. We also held our **second Vaccine Clinic** and heard several people ask about a revival of the Celtic Fest. We were supported by wonderful supply clergy, Rev Sandy Grundy and Rev Lada Hartwick who split Sundays in July. Personally, in July my 2<sup>nd</sup> great niece was born, I began a 50 mile Camino with others from the diocese, and I met **Fr Tim** for the first time.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> we officially welcomed our new Vicar. The timing was perfect as I needed to have time for my work as the Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee for the Diocese. Most of August I spend walking, meeting with Fr Tim, meeting with the Elections Committee, and handling logistics for **Confirmation** with the Bishop at St Aiden's Episcopal Church in Boulder. Having a full time Vicar was an incredible blessing for me personally. Joan and I even attended our first ever **Women's Night Out** and had a great time! During September while everyone was getting back into a school frame of mind, I was zooming attendance at all 5 **Regional Convocations** explaining the methods that delegates would use to vote on issues during the Diocesan **Annual Convention**. Vicar Gatherings happened and I was privileged to attend them all and to hear from many what St Brigit meant to you.

After Convention in October, Abby and I started a new Sacred Ground group that is still in process. I had the opportunity to do several faith formation retreats (actually on Zoom) and in late November, suddenly found myself, as the Deacon at St Brigit's, leading a group committed to resettling Afghan refugees in Broomfield. I have been providing transportation to medical appointments several times a week, figuring out bills and Medicaid, dealing with the school setting and other things that need to be done. Meanwhile, this congregation was more than willing to commit to furnishing 2 bedrooms with furniture, mattresses, sheets, lamps, blankets and so much more. We are part of a group of volunteers and 6 Episcopal churches from Windsor, Boulder (2), Frederick, Broomfield, and even Littleton who furnished apartments for 4 families! Everything I do outside of the church is my diaconal ministry as the Deacon at St Brigit and I am humbled by the opportunities to serve this wonderful congregation.

*Faithfully submitted, Deacon Bookie*

## **Report from the People's Warden (Property Warden)**

The biggest part of the people's warden job is being responsible for the maintenance, repairs, and upkeep of the buildings and property. We do as much work as we can, and rarely contract anything out. Below is a list of jobs. Please let me know if you have any of these skills and would be willing to do any periodic or occasional task and I will be happy to add you to the list of people who keep the physical side of things working. Many thanks for all the gifts and blessing you share.

### **Periodic Jobs**

period season owner task

?? w snow removal: plow driveway and sidewalks with tractor

?? w snow removal: shovel & de-ice between house and sanctuary

?? w snow removal: plow the parking lot

week sp,su,f cut the lawn

week sp,su landscaping & weeding

month all Kildare room furnace filter change

month su,f mow the field

year f tractor preventative maintenance (PM): oil change, etc

year f John Deere mowing deck maintenance

year su John Deere snow blade maintenance

year f Kildare room furnace maintenance

year f Sanctuary boiler maintenance

year f House boiler maintenance

year f clean gutters

year su house swamp cooler bringup

year su sanctuary swamp cooler brining  
year f house swamp cooler shutdown  
year f sanctuary swamp cooler shutdown  
year w prune tree limbs  
year f rake leaves  
year sp sprinkler system bring up  
year f sprinkler system shutdown

Occasional jobs and tasks:

Repairs around the sanctuary

- drywall
- trim work
- windows and doors
- humidifier
- furnace
- minor plumbing
- fixing leaks from the swamp cooler...

Repairs around the house

- same basic list

Repairs around the grounds

- underground plumbing and electrical
- parking lot repairs and maintenance
- gravel road repairs and maintenance

*Faithfully submitted, Jeff Nieuwsma*

## **Report from the Treasurer**

In general, as a church community we are headed in the right direction financially to return to a similar “self-support” percentage as previous years. We continue to keep costs low and pledges for 2022 are higher than 2021, both in total pledge and number of pledging units, but we still have a way to go.

The BCC, in good faith, has passed a deficit budget close to \$20,000 for our 2022 year. In 2021, the BCC had passed a \$10,000 deficit budget and as the year came to an end, not only did we make up that \$10,000 deficit, but we ended the 2021 year with a surplus. We do not have the PPP loan to lean on in 2022 which was a \$19,000 boost to our income in 2020 and 2021, so we are leaning on additional fundraisers including the Celtic Fest.

### **Support Comparison**

#### **2021**

Self-support – 68% (\$105,514)

Outside support – 32% (30,913)

- Friends of St. Brigit

PPP Loan - \$19,000

Total 2021 Income: \$155,427

(note: deficit budget passed)

**2022**

Self-support – 77% (\$127,379)

Outside support – 23% (\$37,000)

- Friends of St. Brigit

Total 2022 income budgeted: (\$164,379)

Total 2022 expense anticipated: (\$185, 338)

(note: deficit budget passed)

**2022 Budget - Expenses**

- Faith Formation ..... \$ 224
- Contract Services ..... \$ 1,630
- Outreach ..... \$ 16,179
- Ait Caol ..... \$ 0
- Contingency..... \$ 300
- Facilities & Equipment..... \$ 5,833
- Fellowship..... \$ 100
- Operations ..... \$ 9,315
- Insurance ..... \$ 6,596
- Ministry Expense..... \$ 4,200
- Payroll Expenses ..... \$ 127,746
- Utilities. .... \$ 8,514
- Travel, Meetings, misc..... \$ 4,700
- **TOTAL..... \$ 185,338**

*Faithfully submitted, Jim Thoming*

## **Various ministries of the church**

**Altar Guild** - The Altar Guild continues to setup the altar for our weekly for services and decorating the church for Advent, Christmas, and Easter. We have increased our membership this past year, and we are always looking for more folks who like to contribute to our worship from behind the scenes.

### **Celtic Fest Brigit 2022**

As many of you know this will be our 4th CFB event and our first 2 day event. The people we've reached so far to be part of our event are very excited about that as are we. This could be a big fundraising event for the church to help fund outreach to the community.

Two days is not as scary as it sounds since we'll set up the grounds on Friday for those who need extra time, eg. the RenScots; Rest, work the event Saturday; Rest; work the event Sunday (which includes Mass on the Grass at 9:30 at the site) then early tear down at 4pm (Not In The Dark!!) and REST!!! You are DONE!!

Extra bonus! The more volunteers we have, the merrier! It means the people working our event booths and tents will be able get out and enjoy the Fest as well!

Come Join Us!!!

Shelly and David

**Choir**-- choir is the ministry of people joining together to worship and lead others in worship through the gift of music. Two things join this group, the love of choral music and our love for God and His people. Everyone is welcome to join us in singing God's praise.

**Lectors** - Lectors at St. Brigit are scheduled on a rotating basis to read a Lesson or lead a Psalm reading and help to lead the Prayers of the People during worship. They are scheduled to read about once every 6 to 8 weeks. The expectation is that the Lectors will prepare ahead of time so that they are comfortable with phrasing and pronunciation and that they will read in a calm, clear and distinct manner so that they themselves are not a distraction from the text.

**Lightsiderz** - In addition to studying the books of Philippians and James, we chose words for the year, studied Ibram Kendi's book *Stamped from the Beginning* and discussed racism, found Jesus in our favorite books (including *Harry Potter*, *Narnia*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*), and celebrated Hanukkah and Passover together over Zoom. We had a lock-in and a pool party and started studying the Enneagram with guest speakers as well.

### **Outreach Ministry Report**

We may have spent half the year zooming but you would never know that from all the Outreach this church did in 2021. The Outreach Committee included Laura Lewis, Margo Casey, Eileen Bisgard, and Deacon Bookie. Margo remained an active member of Outreach, including our decision to help resettle the Afghan families, until her death earlier this month.

As Eileen will be leaving for Florida, we will need to recruit folks to help Laura and I make decisions about what to do with our funds to support the needy in our community, our state, and our world. The real reason that "church" exists is to serve God by serving others. That is the "mission" of this Mission Church of St Brigit. If you are interested in helping us do that, please contact Deacon Bookie.

Here is what we accomplished in 2020 and 2021. Then a draft of ideas for 2022:

#### **2020 Outreach (9.5 months virtual)**

Supported 3 virtual Ai't Caol services with over 200 in attendance each time.

Transported meals for student families when school went virtual and during breaks.  
2 Food drives for Help Center  
Paid utility bills through the Help Center during the year  
Christmas gifts for 13 families through Help Center and the Dreamers Programs  
Support for Brigit's Bounty virtual summer camps

**2021 Outreach (5 months virtual)**

2 Food drives; clothing drive; shoe drive  
Filled 48 Backpacks  
Diaper drive  
Support to Haiti and Episcopal Relief & Development  
Held two vaccine clinics for the community  
Provided funds for 6 months to get St Brigit's onto the Diocesan Realm program  
Offered 2 Sacred Ground groups to the diocesan community with Holy Comforter Episcopal  
Provided 32 Christmas gifts to the Help Center for members of the community  
Joined the Lutheran Family Service program to support 2 Afghan families for a minimum of one year. Presently provided > 400 miles and 85 hrs of volunteer time to date.  
Support for Brigit's Bounty summer camps

**2022 Outreach draft**

Furnish 2 bedrooms for incoming Afghan family (Completed)  
Continue and increase transportation and volunteer time  
(some already scheduled for Jan - April)  
Support for BB and Realm as needed  
Backpack drive  
Pet food drive (Postponed)  
Support Celtic Fest for the community  
Food (HELP Center) and clothing drives  
Vaccine clinic if needed  
Sacred Ground and/or new Faith Formation curriculum with Deacon and Abby Mooney

**Sound crew**-- The people on the sound crew help bring clarity and appropriate volume for both speakers and musicians during live services. We work with the zoom team to also bring the service to those attending remotely. Training is available to anyone wanting a "behind the scenes" ministry.

**Welcome Committee** - Welcome to St. Brigit! Our committee has updated the ushers' instructions and the hand-out for visitors to reflect changes over the last two years. We

have been pleased to welcome several new members and visitors with our newly rediscovered fabulous St. Brigit bread recipe! We are also conducting phone conversations and check-ins with members who have had a hard time getting to physical church during this pandemic time. Coming soon--We are currently developing a "Get-to-know-Us" page for newcomers to the web page, and an introductory business card that members can hand to folks we meet.

**Ushers** – We are working to have a youth serve for the first week of each month. Can always use more volunteers, but am thankful for a few new folks. :-)

## **NON-PROFITS**

**BRIGIT'S BOUNTY:** Brigit's Bounty re-started live summer camps in 2021 although the numbers were only half of what they were in pre-pandemic years. 47 children attended garden camps and 641 were active in the garden in some capacity.

774 volunteers gave 4263 hours of service to the garden in 2021. An exciting addition was weekly groups of youth volunteers from churches around the country who came to help with the garden through the Week of Hope program. 2,282 pounds of produce were given away.

Brigit's Bounty has a new Garden and Education Coordinator – Dominique McKee. New Board officers are: Deanna LaBuda-Hodek, President, Libby McQuarie, vice president, David Whelan Treasurer, and Barb Durland, Secretary.

**BRIGIT'S VILLAGE:** Brigit's Village application for funding was turned down in the 2021 competition. The application was re-submitted Feb. 1, 2022 and the results will be known in May. Board members worked hard to get letters of support and agreements for services from various agencies in the area such as St. Brigit Church, the Library, the Recreation Center/Senior Center, the I Have a Dream Foundation, and United Way. The Town of Frederick applied for \$450,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for Brigit's Village in addition to waiving \$535,000 of the fees for the project.