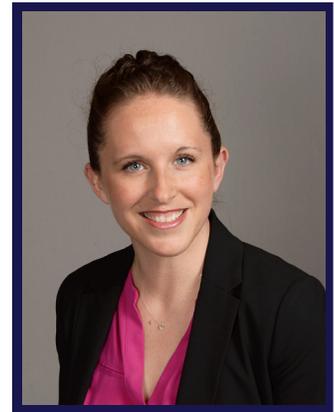


Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2019

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTORS



Dear Ladue Chapel Family,

Ladue Chapel is a unique and gifted community of faith – moving forward with the guidance of the Spirit.

2019 was a year of change and challenge and celebration. After 14 years of ministry, Mark Thomas retired, and the congregation celebrated his ministry. Anastassia Sharpe resigned as Associate Pastor, Robin Crawford retired as Director of Christian Education, and Courtney Chandler was called as Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministry. On September 1st Susan Andrews began as Interim Pastor.

Despite changing faces on the Staff, the leaders and members of Ladue Chapel carried on with energy, creativity, and faithful commitment. Marvelous music, re-energized worship, engaged adult education classes, weekly and monthly outreach to our neighbors in need, the joy and laughter of children growing in our midst – the halls of Ladue Chapel are filled with people and programs that proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One of the emotionally difficult parts of 2019 was the death of 33 of our faithful members. Each of them was celebrated with the warmth and excellence of our staff and members, as we bore Witness to the Resurrection. Financially, the church was gifted with several generous bequests, but annual giving in 2019 declined because of the many givers who have entered the Church Triumphant. On a positive note, our 2020 Stewardship Campaign saw an increase in number of pledges, new pledges, average weekly giving, and overall giving. After 75 years of life and ministry, Ladue Chapel is entering a new chapter with growing financial needs. A vibrant future will depend on the generosity and gratitude of all the members.

In July 2019, the Pastor Nominating Committee began their search for a new Pastor/Head of Staff. With intensity and purpose, they designed a discernment process that involved a congregation-wide survey and 21 Community Conversations. The many voices and opinions led to a Mission Study summary that includes history, congregational strengths, growing edges pointing toward change, a five-year vision with mission priorities, and a description of the professional, spiritual, and leadership qualities needed in the next Pastor/Head of Staff. As you read this Annual Report, the PNC has started receiving names and considering candidates for the future spiritual leadership of Ladue Chapel.

It is a joy and a privilege for all three of us to serve as your pastors. We look forward to the surprises and blessings that the Spirit will bring all of us in the year ahead.

Susan Andrews

Dieter Heinzl

Mel Smith

Welcome

In the pages ahead, please celebrate the faces and the events that make up the Body of Christ called Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. Through image and brief commentary, this report lifts up the worship, faith formation, spiritual experiences and outreach ministries that weave our life together as a community of faith. Undergirding it all are the plentiful resources that make our life together possible – a magnificent building, generous financial assets, committed members and leaders, and a gifted staff.

For more detailed information about any area of ministry, please explore our website (laduechapel.org), and glance through the Archives of the weekly Chapel Bell.



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The Worship and Music Committee has worked to provide meaningful services during 2019. The Lenten sermon series on the Lord's Prayer and the wonderful Easter services were reminders of God's faithfulness. In June, Dr. Mark Thomas was sent into retirement with a festive celebration. In September we welcomed Dr. Susan Andrews as our Interim Pastor, Head of Staff. The fall season continued several cherished Ladue Chapel traditions such as Rally Day, the Worship on Wednesdays (WOW) series, World Communion Sunday, and Kirkin' o' the Tartans. As we look to 2020, we will be trying a schedule change as approved by Session on a trial basis to see how this can enhance our ministry.



Chorister Choir sings in October



Mark Thomas Celebration of Ministry and Retirement Service, June 30.



Children's Choirs musical, "100% Chance of Rain" in May.



The first professionally-produced recording of our Schoenstein & Co. pipe organ was released in November. *On Christmas Night: Organ Music from Ladue Chapel* features David Erwin along with cellist Bjorn Ranheim and harpist Megan Stout. Over 200 copies have now been sold.

Our dedicated and inspiring Chancel Choir had a typically busy year. Here are some numbers.

58 anthems learned and sung in worship

49 worship services

47 choir members

2 oratorios learned

2 hymn festivals (one with First Presbyterian, Kirkwood)

1 Evensong (with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur)

1 Palm Sunday concert

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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.”

2019 was a great year for the children of our church. Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Courtney Chandler was very excited to begin as the Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministry in August. Route 345 enjoyed a trip to Eckert’s in the fall and our children shared the Christmas story with us as they performed “Journey to Bethlehem” during Advent. It was a great year!

Youth Ministry at Ladue Chapel continues to thrive! Through youth group, special events, mission trips/community engagement, volunteering during VBS, being a lector and so much more—our students are invited to explore their faith and ask questions about what it means to follow Christ in everyday life.

Highlights from 2019

- Flying Spider
- 2018-2019 Confirmation class
- Youth Sunday
- Urban Plunge: Memphis!



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Hundreds of members and guests enjoyed fellowship and feasting at annual all-church picnics, Watcher's Eve, and in Bread Breakers dinner groups, including a new brunch group on second Sundays. Although the show was rained-out, spirits were not dampened as we shared a potluck dinner under the tent at Shakespeare in the Park. We invited members into a thorough kitchen clean-up and cook-out in August, in preparation for many fellowship events in the new program year. A Happy Hikers group began in October, with different hikes planned each month. We celebrated the 10th year of bread fellowship on World Communion Sunday with our largest contribution and display of bread and artifacts from around the world. Trunk or Treat provided energetic fellowship for 200+ children and families; face painting and balloon sculptures were a hit! Fellowship Committee hosted a Franck und Stein beer tasting reception, following an organ concert of music by Cesar Franck. It was very well attended and received. The Men's Retreat in January had record sign-ups but was cancelled due to a snowstorm. The Women's Retreat was a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual nourishment.



MEMBER MINISTRIES



Deacons

Much of the work of our Board of Deacons goes on behind the scenes but is so critical in keeping our members connected to our congregation. They delivered flowers to the homebound (azaleas at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas), made phone calls, sent cards and brought casseroles to those returning home from the hospital. And, perhaps most importantly, they served communion to our homebound around World Communion Sunday in October. However, they do not only care for our souls but also for our bodies as they continue to bring us together at the first Sunday in June for our Annual Strawberry Festival.



Adult Education

Our Adult Education programming is as diverse, deep, and current as it has ever been. At Ladue Chapel, we are continually committed to Finding Faith, Forming Faith, and Living Faith for all age levels.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry commissioned a new class of eight Stephen Ministers on June 9, 2019, following 50 hours of training for the class members by Stephen Leaders and staff. With these additions to the active Stephen Ministers, Stephen Ministry continues to provide one-on-one support for individuals facing a difficult time in their lives, as well as meeting with members who are hospitalized and with members who are in nursing homes.

MISSION MINISTRIES

Agencies We Support

- ◆ **Mission Children and Youth**
 - Restore St. Louis-Firm Foundation Tutor
 - Mission Interns
 - Uni-Pres Kindercottage
 - Presby. Children Homes and Services (PCHAS)
 - Cornerstone Center
 - LEAD Tutoring
- ◆ **Church Worldwide**
 - **Clean Up Buckets for PDA**
 - **Wycliffe Bible Translator**
 - Mission worker – Karla Koll (Costa Rica)
 - Interfaith Partnership
 - Theological Education Fund
 - Princeton Seminary
 - Austin Seminary
 - U-Kirk-St. Louis (at Trinity PC)
- ◆ **Missions-Hunger**
 - Gateway Greening
 - Chapel for the Exceptional
 - Isaiah 58 Ministries
 - Meds & Food for Kids (Haiti)
- ◆ **Missions-Housing & Health**
 - Rebuilding Together
 - All Among Us
 - Jubilee Services
 - Care & Counseling, Inc.
 - STARS-St. Andrews Resources Seniors
 - Concordance Academy (Project COPE)
 - Habitat for Humanity STL
 - Casa de Salud
 - COPE Individual Assistance

Mission Committee

Ladue Chapel continues to be strongly committed to partnering with agencies here in St. Louis and around the world in order to make a difference on behalf of Christ. In 2019 our Session adopted the “Matthew 25” initiative outlined by our denomination, PC(USA). Under Matthew 25 Ladue Chapel is committed to working toward:

- building congregational vitality,
- dismantling structural racism
- and eradicating systemic poverty

This initiative will have an influence on our work and ministry in 2020 and beyond!



RESOURCE MINISTRIES

Stewardship

Number of Pledges:

2017: 320

2018: 321

2019: 270

2020: 258

Total Pledged:

2017: \$1,273,341

2018: \$1,333,233

2019: \$1,231,126

2020: \$1,250,941

Endowment & Planned Giving

Our pledge commitment remains strong. We had 93 households increase their pledge amount for the 2020 campaign as compared to 2019. In addition we received pledges from 45 new pledging entities. The average amount of dollars pledged rose to \$4,848 versus \$4,560, an increase of 6%.

The challenge we face is the continued loss of senior members of our congregation. Our senior members (+65 years of age) contribute approximately 66% of our revenue.

2018 Balance

as of December 31, 2018

\$6,343,000

2019 Balance

as of December 31, 2019

\$8,265,000

The Ladue Chapel endowment funds experienced a strong year in terms of new contributions and the growth of market value. The portfolio began the year at \$6,343,000 and finished at \$8,265,000 for an increase of \$1,922,000. The endowment received \$692,000 in gifts from parishioners, earned \$1,378,000 and distributed \$147,000 to various projects and operations.

2019 Accomplishments

- Continued providing assistance to the operating budget
- Placed a renewed emphasis on developing a Planned Giving program placing emphasis on the spirituality of giving and perpetuating annual giving. We renamed the former “Legacy Society” to the “Forever Faithful Community”.
- Held Annual Legacy Luncheon for members who have indicated their enduring support for the ministry of Ladue Chapel.

Property

The Property Committee is charged by Session as stewards of the church facilities, grounds and mechanical operating systems. Funding is obtained on three platforms:

- ◆ Capital Campaigns - Specific major expansions or renovations;
- ◆ Endowment Funds - Non-recurring projects over and above annual ongoing maintenance;
- ◆ General Operating Funds - Annual maintenance, preventative maintenance, general cleaning, minor repairs, landscaping.

Plans for 2020:

- ◆ New Slate Roof and Copper Guttering - \$1.4 million funded by Guide One Insurance
- ◆ Install Elevator connecting all three building levels
- ◆ Renovate Children's Library
- ◆ Add ADA compliant automated doors at Gathering Place Restrooms
- ◆ New furnishings in Fireside Room

2019 Accomplishments:

- ◆ Installed Safety Railings where needed
- ◆ Replaced Fireside Room Windows
- ◆ Replaced HVAC Unit #4
- ◆ Painted Interior
- ◆ Renovated Woods Chapel
- ◆ Installed Copper downspouts on West Side of Church

Giving Thanks Campaign

Total Pledges Made	5,387,140
Total Pledges Outstanding	38,281
Sources of Funds	
Total Pledges Collected	5,348,859
Non Pledge Gifts	441,422
Line of Credit	274,220
Total Funds Available	5,864,501
Uses of Funds	
Capital Dollars Spent	4,752,316
Expenses Paid	540,000
10% Contribution to Mission Restricted Fund	555,122
Total Funds Used	5,847,458
Cash On Hand	
Commerce Giving Thanks Bank Account 12/31/2019	17,043

The Giving Thanks campaign concluded effective 12-31-2019. A few pledges remain outstanding for new members who made pledges after the initial campaign began and are granted a five year pledge period. We continue to collect on those pledges.

During 2019 there were no additional capital projects or expenses included other than interest of \$8,000.

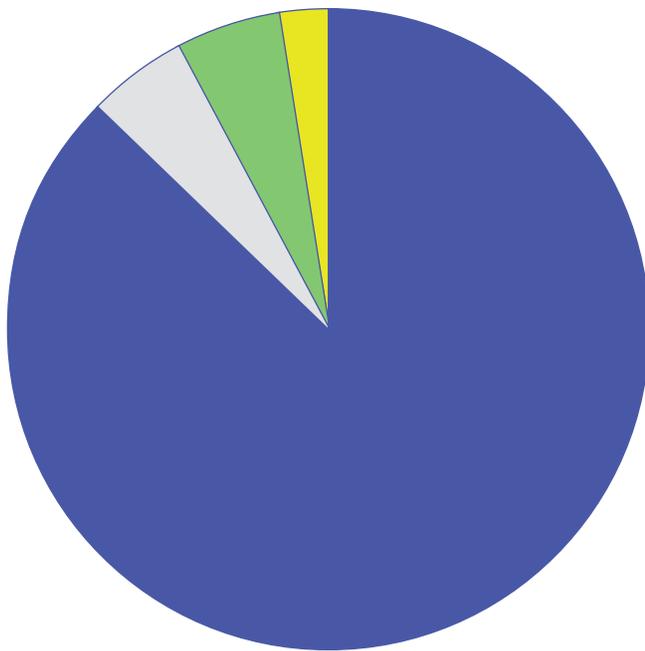
Financials

During Fiscal 2019, covering January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, our operating results showed a deficit of \$215,000. This shortfall was created by an unexpected drop in revenue versus spending issue. Spending budgets were managed well.

In fiscal 2019, the number of deaths within our congregation was almost twice that of a normal year. This pattern is a reflection of an aging population. Four of the members we lost collectively provided over \$250,000 in contributions. This is not something we can replace easily. The finance, stewardship and endowment committees are committed to finding long term solutions to building sustainable sources of revenue.

Thankfully, through the generosity of our members and good stewardship practices followed by our financial committees, Ladue Chapel has an Endowment Fund that can provide financial support to our operating budget.

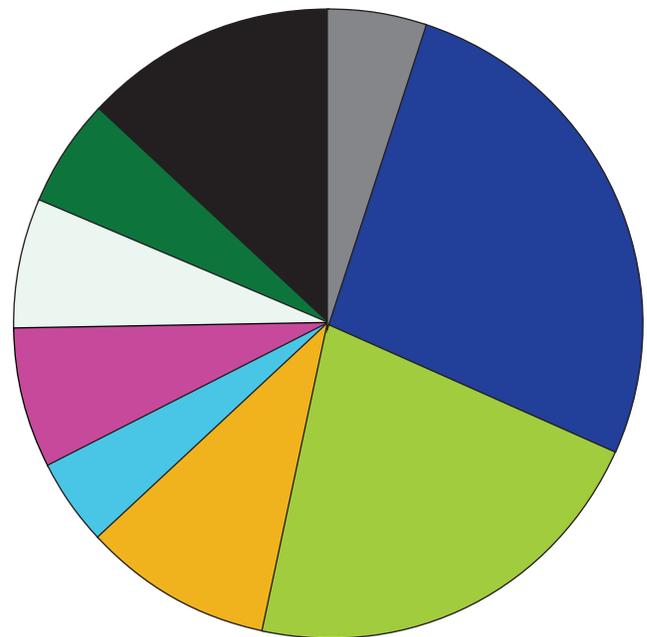
Sources of Revenue



Total Revenue is \$2,087,000

- Donor Contributions
- Property Usage Fee
- Other Income
- Play Day Out

Uses of Funds



Total expenditure is \$2,302,000

- Administration
- Property
- Adult Programs
- Staff Resources
- PDO
- Children & Youth Programs
- Mission
- Worship & Music
- Health & Welfare Benefits