



The Episcopal Church  
of the Transfiguration  
[www.EpiscopalVail.com](http://www.EpiscopalVail.com)

52nd Annual  
**PARISH BOOKLET**  
- 2026 -

**LISTEN**

To know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and make Him known.

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# 2026 LISTEN

Dear Transfiguration Parish Family,

*Anno Iubilaei* gives way to *Annus Audire* dearest Transfiguration and our many members, friends, guests and benefactors! We greet a New Year and a new half-century in 2026, ECOT's 52nd year of knowing Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and making Him known to a turbulent, chaotic and anxious world. We bid farewell to a miraculous 2025 Jubilee year we chronicle in summary here. It was a year so difficult for so many of us, and yet so blessed for our beloved parish family as a congregation serving our members, this community and those far beyond. Our 2026 Ministry Theme, *Listen*, derives from the sole commandment our Heavenly Father speaks vocally and directly to us in the entirety of the New Testament, in the moment of the Transfiguration! "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" And so we shall in this inaugural year of ECOT's second half century, beginning with this critical accountability document. Please read, review and consider it carefully as we loved recounting the many miracles God has worked right here.

Read on dear reader!

Warmly and gratefully in our Lord,

*Brooks +*



# LEADERSHIP

## VESTRY

Suzanne Gilbert  
***Senior Warden***

*Anne Cuny - Vail Junior Warden*  
*August Smirl - Edwards Junior Warden*

Lolly Becker  
Jordi Blakslee  
Lee Ann Freeman  
Sarah Givens  
Bob Norris  
Matthew Parrish  
John Richert

## SERVING THE RECTOR AND VESTRY

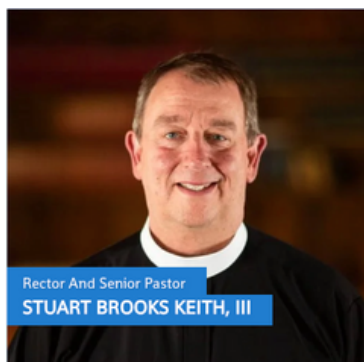
David Mertens, Treasurer  
Terry Smith, Assistant Treasurer  
Susan Mitchell, Vestry Clerk  
William Bailey, Parish Chancellor





# STAFF

## CLERGY



(970) 376-1647  
[brooks@episcopalvail.com](mailto:brooks@episcopalvail.com)

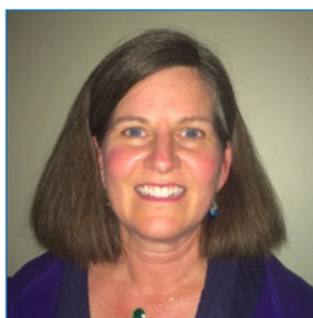


(970) 390-3094  
[mike@episcopalvail.com](mailto:mike@episcopalvail.com)

## LAY STAFF



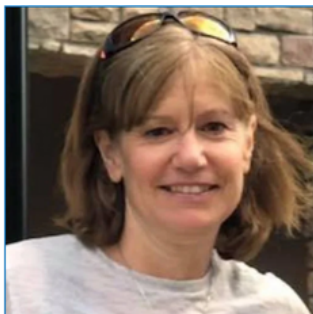
**Margie Ciaccio**  
***Parish Administrator***  
(970) 763-5945  
[office@episcopalvail.com](mailto:office@episcopalvail.com)



**Mary Cotton**  
***Children's Minister***  
(970) 376-0658  
[mary@episcopalvail.com](mailto:mary@episcopalvail.com)



**Dave Mertens**  
***Parish Treasurer***  
(720) 480-4275  
[dave\\_mertens@outlook.com](mailto:dave_mertens@outlook.com)



**Kimberly Brewster**  
***Parish Bookkeeper***  
(970) 763-5945  
[bookkeeper@episcopalvail.com](mailto:bookkeeper@episcopalvail.com)



**Donna Jacobs**  
***Communications***  
(970) 480-7722  
[donna@webdevlite.com](mailto:donna@webdevlite.com)



**Jan Govreau**  
***Vail Musician***  
(970) 524-0770  
[jgovreau@centurytel.net](mailto:jgovreau@centurytel.net)

**Terry Smith**  
***Assistant Parish Treasurer***  
(970) 949-9938  
[terry-dan@comcast.net](mailto:terry-dan@comcast.net)

**Kathy Fagan**  
***Wedding Minister***  
(970) 476-3347  
[admin@vailchapel.com](mailto:admin@vailchapel.com)

**Patrick Zimmerman**  
***Videographer***  
(970) 471-1275  
[patrickzimmerman@comcast.net](mailto:patrickzimmerman@comcast.net)

## 2026 VESTRY CANDIDATE

### DAVID HARBOURNE



Having spent my formative years growing up in a small village in rural Herefordshire, England during which time I became head chorister and support bell ringer at our local church of St James the Great, I moved to the USA in 1979. As my career progressed, I became the CEO of an international producer of industrial process and measuring equipment. Pamela and I married in 1983 and lived in Potomac MD until moving to Eagle in 2020. Living in Colorado had long been one of Pamela's dreams, having spent much time in the Edwards holiday home of her parents.

We both volunteer for local nonprofits in the Valley. Pamela likes to walk; my passion is cycling.

Giving back to the church that has given me so much has long been a personal goal. The opportunity to serve on the ECOT Vestry would enable me to fulfill that goal while sharing my business experience-based guidance.



# ECOT'S MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

## STEP 1:

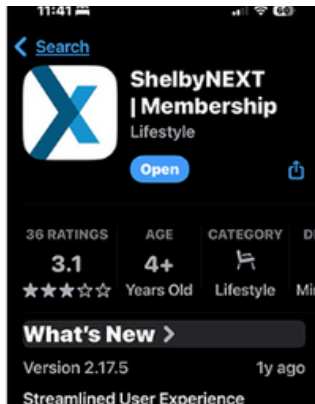
Opt-in to the Membership Directory from  
[www.episcopalvail.com](http://www.episcopalvail.com) (home page banner rotation)

- or -

Send an email to [office@episcopalvail.com](mailto:office@episcopalvail.com) with the subject:  
"Membership Directory Opt-in", include your first and last name  
and the email address and/or phone number you wish to enroll.

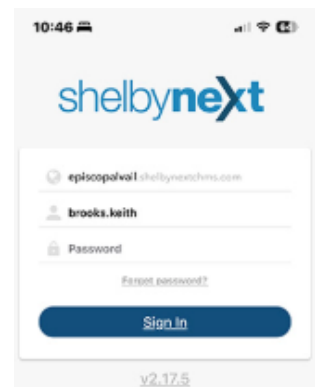
## STEP 2:

Download the  
ShelbyNext |  
Membership App  
(IOS / ANDROID)



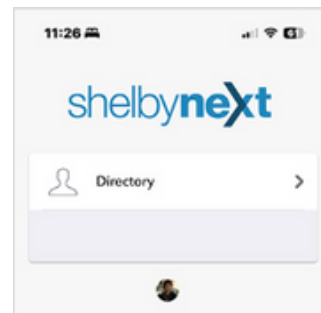
## STEP 3:

Login to the App  
Using the  
credentials you will  
receive in your  
email



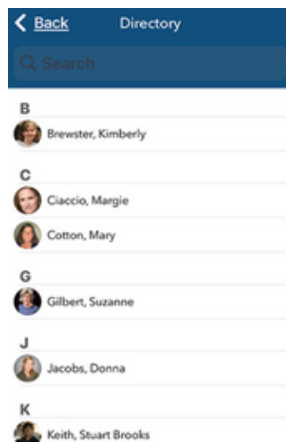
## STEP 4:

Click on the  
Directory Link



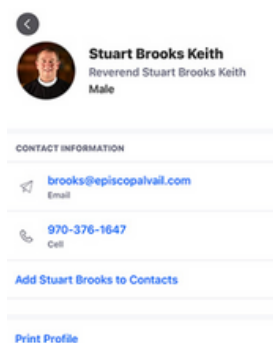
## STEP 5:

Click on the  
name of the  
person you  
would like to  
contact



## STEP 6:

Click the  
email to send  
an email or  
click the  
phone  
number to  
call



## 2025 ECOT & COMMUNITY EVENTS





# 2026 EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Episcopal Church in Colorado continues to follow the Jesus Movement in the Way of Love, counting 95 worshipping communities and 7 diocesan institutions spread across the state of Colorado. Bishop Kym Lucas enjoyed a busy travel year, including 3 visits to Eagle County, before launching into her first episcopal sabbatical leave in November. She returns in March of this year. Her Canon for Missions and Operations Jon Anderson took medical leave in mid-September and is out at this writing. The 138th Convention of the Episcopal Church convened in Pueblo this October, attended by ECOT delegation Suzanne and Dick Gilbert, Rob Kelly-Goss, Deacon Mike and me. We passed a Motion regarding canonical changes to facilitate affiliate membership by laity in more than one congregation, which I was privileged to help craft, and a 2026 diocesan budget projecting \$3,563,749 in income and \$3,740,594 in expenses resulting in a \$176,845 deficit.

Respectfully submitted,

**Father Brooks Keith**

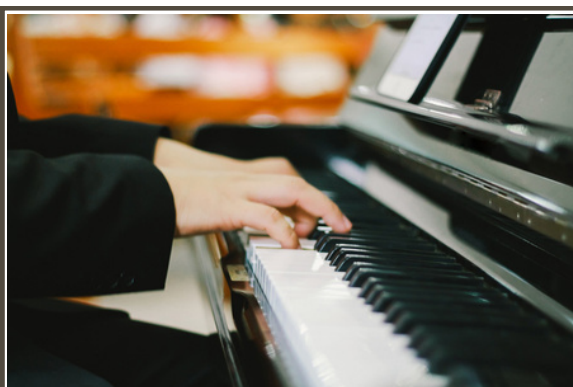
Rector, The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Vail Valley

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



### YOUTH MINISTER

We are seeking a professional youth minister, a salaried part-time staff position. We search for a local candidate who displays significant spiritual maturity in the Christian faith, a passion to serve our students 6th grade to 12th grade and their families, leadership skills in organization and program development, and a willingness to collaborate with a veteran and talented church staff. Our youth minister will organize and lead ECOT's total ministry to local students and their families. Salary negotiable upon experience.



### EDWARDS MUSICIAN

We are seeking a salaried, part-time pianist for the Edwards Worship Service, held weekly at 10:00 AM on Sundays at the Edwards Interfaith Chapel. This position provides musical accompaniment that enhances congregational worship, supporting hymns and other musical elements of the service in coordination with clergy and worship leaders.

- Provide piano accompaniment for the weekly Sunday worship service at 10:00 AM
- Play hymns and other service music as selected by the clergy or music leadership
- Collaborate professionally with clergy, singers, and other musicians
- Maintain a consistent, punctual presence each Sunday

**LEARN MORE**

[www.episcopalvail.com/about-us/employment-opportunities/](http://www.episcopalvail.com/about-us/employment-opportunities/)



## 2026 INTERFAITH REPORT

2025 was a motional year in our interfaith community and for our unique interfaith facilities, with ECOT being in the center of the action! We are a committed and invested partner with our interfaith colleagues.



Vail Interfaith Chapel  
19 Vail Road, Vail, CO 81657  
(970) 476-3347 | [www.vailchapel.com](http://www.vailchapel.com)

### ***The Vail Interfaith Foundation.***

The Vail Religious Foundation has been hard at work overseeing our newly refurbished Vail Chapel campus, newly abuzz with numerous events testing our new look. Various groups, wedding families, Bravo, the Vail Symposium, Alcoholics Anonymous....all love our new digs. The completion of our distinctive outdoor creekside Labyrinth has increased foot traffic behind the buildings. If you haven't yet walked it contemplatively, please do! On-site caretaker Dave Larkin is wowing us with his careful attention to facility upkeep, and Chapel Administrator Kathy Fagan faithfully keeps us afloat with her tireless service. Our tragic moment was the unexpected permanent closure of Covenant Presbyterian Church from the chapels, a loss we are still struggling to adequately absorb. We've been unable to find a local congregation willing to step into that void as of this writing. The Vail Religious Foundation under Board President Pastor Matt Wyatt has weathered Covenant and other existential challenges admirably. We are facing monthly mortgage payments to erase our remaining \$775,000 post-construction mortgage; if that is erased our 2026 chapel budget is almost balanced, so I will be working to lower or eliminate that amount this year. The draft 2026 Chapel budget projects \$260,679.00 in income and \$273,143.97 in expense. ECOT Vail worshippers would like their organ music back so we will explore a targeted fundraising campaign to replace our busted original organ! The East-West redevelopment of our neighboring First Bank building (adding four luxury condos) is on hold until they can successfully sell one or more condos in advance, but they are actively marketing. For the posh website, please see [www.primaresidences.com](http://www.primaresidences.com) and aye, this development will replace the existing First Bank building. I hope Residence IV likes organ music and candlelight! Kathy and our Donna Jacobs have revised the Chapel website while expanding our outreach to wedding couples. Our Diana Mathias and I represent ECOT on the VRF Board.



### ***The Eagle Valley Religious Foundation.***

Whew, has the Edwards Interfaith Chapel and Community Center been busy! It's wonderful to see our chapels trafficked in students, music, studies, support groups, senior lunches and bridge players! Former ECOT member Bob Egan anchored the EVRF Board from Texas this past year as we continued to refine our relationship with Stone Creek Charter School, our largest renter providing 40% of the annual Chapel budget. ECOT members Dan Smith, Karen Haeffner, Louis Rinn and me, along with seasonal member Mo Steiner, well represent ECOT on this Board. Chapel Executive Director Jill Chalfant has done an excellent job caring for the facility as we struggle to find reliable vendors to come when we need them to! One of the best moments of 2025 occurred this fall when we opened the \$1 million completed, state-of-the-art gorgeous playground! It's the BEST playground in the county if not the state, no kidding! Students chanted "CUT THE RIBBON" as our donor did just that, to watch Stone Creek's entire student body (all ages, including some adults) race up the safe stone steps to climb, rappel, jump, swing, bounce, slide, spin and just sit in wonder at such a fun place. Our donor's face spoke volumes as he tearfully watched his own child delight in play. Head up to take a tour to see for yourself, and aye, I am available for Twister in the spring! We once again hosted a successful Nights Down Under annual chapel fundraiser, raising \$107,000 to help underwrite our budget of \$291,442.00 in income versus \$255,648.00 in expense. We replaced the boiler with a current, energy-efficient boiler last fall. We will be replacing the carpet in 2026! An EVRF 2024 audit cover letter is included in this year's appendix for your review.



PHOTOS BY BEN ROOF/SPECIAL TO 11  
Students from Stone Creek Charter School run to explore their new playground on Friday after the ribbon is cut.





### ***The Beaver Creek Religious Foundation.***

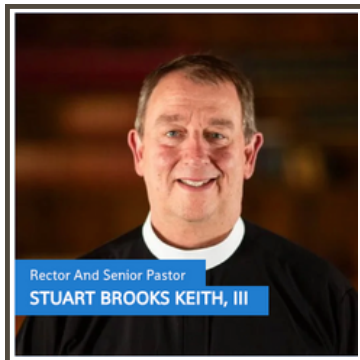
The BCRF is struggling to transform itself with a new generation of leadership. Board President Pastor Kurt Pressler is new to Trinity Church in Edwards and to the BCRF but is rapidly expressing his vision of revived leadership. ECOT members Nancy Smith, Ann Prinzhorn, Jim Fraser and seasonal member Bob Hatcher and I all represent ECOT on this Board. We are searching for new members to join! Pastor Kurt and Foundation Executive Director Eileen Jacobs are revising the Chapel website to (again) expand chapel outreach to wedding couples. The BCRF Board is exploring an expansion of the bucolic, peaceful Memorial Garden adjacent to the Creekside clergy parking lot. We'll review the Christmas Eve and Day schedule but ECOT will remain at 4:30 PM for our Christmas Eve early slot as we continue to enjoy our pastoral wedding, baptism and memorial worship there plus parish life gatherings like Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers and Mary Cotton's ECOT Summer Camp. The draft 2026 Chapel budget projects \$115,400.00 in both income and expense.



Please note the combined chapels' projected income tallies \$667,521, a sum ECOT need not carry on our operating budget because the 3 independent 501(c)3s do. We are leadership partners in the Vail and Edwards Chapels as well as an outsized leader at Beaver Creek given our profile there.

# LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

## *From the RECTOR*



***Miraculum Annus!!*** A Miraculous Year of the Lord! 2025 was indeed a Jubilee, a consummation, a celebration, a crescendo of Transfiguration's first 51 years concluding in a truly remarkable way. As the Mother of our Lord models, I am trying to ponder all these things in my heart. I am broken in gratitude, in excitement, in humility before you. How to adequately summarize *every good and perfected gift from above, coming down from our heavenly Father from whom there is no shadow or variation due to shifting change?!*  
JAMES 1:17

***Miracles of Celebration.*** Warm and fun parish life gatherings throughout the year such as our candlelit 12th Night Epiphany dinner, Couples and stag Valentine's blessings, Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers, a raucous Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch, emotional Senior Sunday and summer potluck, July 4th breakfast before interfaith worship and parade festivities, informal Bravo Music ECOT lawn parties, fall Animal Blessings at Freedom Park and the Christmas tree lightings in Lionshead and the Children's Fountain all come to mind, as do post worship brunches, coffees, dance recitals, games and unscheduled meet-ups anywhere!

***Miracles of Worship.*** What poignant worship we enjoyed together in 2025 starting in January with 12th Night, Ash Wednesday inside and outside, an intensely beautiful Holy Week and Easter Day, Pentecost, July 4th interfaith and summer Sunday hymn sing, All Saints and All Souls, Kirkin'O'the Tartan with our bagpiper Michael Lancaster and Jesse Tree fun in Advent. Easter and Christmas punctuated our annual festival worship, serving 2,600 souls combined for our two Christian festivals in 4 locations. This year's 4:30 PM Beaver Creek Chapel Christmas Eve worship tallied our highest single attended worship of 2025 at 530 souls followed by our 425 tally for sunrise Easter morning atop Eagle's Nest on Vail Mountain. We topped a key worship vitality metric by tallying 201 souls average Sunday attendance, rising from 2024's 189 ASA tally. This includes Easter and Christmas as both feature strong member attendance no matter on which day Christmas falls. By way of comparison, the Episcopal Church's 2024's median ASA is 46 souls nationally, placing ECOT in less than 9% of Episcopal congregations nationally.

***Miracles of Service.*** Transfiguration is never more beautiful than when she serves others, like you did in deploying our Salvation Army Mobile Canteen kitchen to feed first responders in harm's way, dropping food to our local fire stations after parish life gatherings, ECOT's 2025 Team Trash spring cleaning the Edwards Rest Stop and Eagle River watershed, organizing summer's Empty Bowls food fundraiser, distributing 1,600 holiday food baskets during Thanksgiving and Christmas, distributing thousands of toys likewise for Christmas, adopting families through the Salvation Army, sponsoring and underwriting the return of Pat Hamilton's Holiday concert benefitting our local Swift Eagle Foundation's rental assistance efforts, hosting our Bishop and Colorado's Episcopal clergy collegium for our annual Chrismal Mass at the Beaver Creek Chapel in May, supporting our 8 Mission partners through your generous contributions, and numerous ECOT members serving our local veterans, hospital and mental health needs, Vail Mountain Rescue, Vail Valley Cares, Salvation Army and other vital caring organizations. We partner with this community every day to serve!

***Miracles of Support.*** Transfiguration's ministry of personal presence, pastoral support and crisis intervention is palpable and powerful. We cannot publicly acknowledge moments or names, but I am immensely proud of how we support our own people and many others. 12 weddings, 6 baptisms, 6 memorial services, over 60 pastoral visitations to shut ins, home communions, clergy appointments, interventions for health and mental health, support during transitions away from the valley, our flagship ministry to children year-round led by Mary Cotton and our summer Youth Ministry Intern Kelley Keith's wonderful ministry to our youth come immediately to mind. We mourn the loss of so many we love, whether or not we conducted their memorial celebration, and remember them with love.

***Miracles of Generosity.*** Once again you have proven you do not know how to fail. As the financial reports in this Annual Parish Booklet attest, your generosity is broad and timely! Thank you, again and always, for keeping ECOT founded on a robust foundation. As you can see, 2025 marks the highest operational income we've received in 51 years (absent the 2022 Vicarage capital purchase), establishing Transfiguration as a \$1 million parish the past three years running. You also demolished our irksome operational deficit between December 23rd and January 1st, 2026. Thanks be to God!! Thank you!!

We marked a grand year-long Jubilee in 2025, a year late for our 50th congregational anniversary but right on time for our church family! Almost 350 souls gathered at 4Eagle Ranch and virtually to celebrate this milestone achievement, including our Bishop Kym Lucas and her husband Mark. We enjoyed a miracle baptism, panoramic view of our alpine splendor, delicious BBQ lunch and even line danced afterwards! A grand time was had by all! Miracles abounded as all 4 of your church paid staff faced life-threatening or life-changing medical procedures, Parish Curate Father Mike Thomas took a new position in New York state, and I began my 31st year as your Rector and Senior Pastor, a unique tenure as time goes in today's Episcopal Church.

In all we served 15,100 folks in 382 distinct ministry events last year. We count 25 states, 4 countries and 4 generational cohorts in our extended parish footprint. We remain the sole multi-campus, interfaith congregation visible in today's Episcopal Church. We are the only Protestant congregation in Eagle County to own and operate two residences for staff. Wow. Please join me in giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for this abundance of gratitude, a harvest of miracles in 2025 even as we look forward to a Year of Listening for His divine voice speaking to us in the cacophony of our daily storms, a voice we hear above every other voice. This parish church is one of God's miracles, provisioned by His Grace, His Love and His divine protection in Jesus. The Vestry voted unanimously in mid-December to raise my annual stipend to bring me up to date in compensation, and in return asked me to remain until my retirement four years hence. I gratefully agreed! I think it right to chronicle here in more detail than usual all the miracles we have seen, bringing them to our minds for appreciation and perspective. ECOT is the apple of God's eye, dear sisters and brothers. May He continue to hide us under the shadow of His wings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brackets", with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Rector and Senior Pastor*



# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE CELEBRATION

AUGUST 3, 2025 | 4 EAGLE RANCH, WOLCOTT, CO





## *From the DEACON*



Our mission this year has focused on ministry activities serving individuals and groups furthering our outreach profile. Among the groups within our focus found us working closely with other community organizations such as Swift Eagle Foundation, Salvation Army Vail Valley, Habitat for Humanity, Young Life, 4Eagle Foundation, Speak Up Reach Out, local mental health programs and Retired Veterans' Assistance. We also supported Episcopal caring organizations like Virginia Theological Seminary, our state Cathedral Ridge Camp and Conference Center and the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Each of these has an identifiable goal of helping those who, for whatever reason, are unable to help themselves.

Additionally we financially assisted 3 of our young adults as they performed missionary service in third world communities. Their service included teaching, hospital assistance and food preparation, and community building.

Envisioned for the coming year, in addition to continuing our current involvement include a Build Project with Habitat for Humanity, the return of our Thursday Night Community Suppers and working with our local law enforcement partners to assist families identified as needing food and/or medical help. Our work with Swift Eagle Foundation is a solid part of this activity as they continue to search for immediate need housing.

We, of course, will continue to support the creation and distribution of community food programs for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. This year we helped assemble and distribute over 1600 packages for support of families in our own community. And thank you for contributing almost \$38,000 to care for so many others in 2025!



## ***From the CHILDREN'S MINISTER***

Mary Cotton



Beginning with Little Lambs and continuing through 5th grade, our children build a foundation of Biblical knowledge and experience liturgy and prayer. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is the inspiration for our children's programs and brings them close to Jesus in a profound way. Through CGS, we offer the Bible, prayer, and liturgy through exploratory learning which elicits a response of innate joy in our youngest children and intrigues our older children as they learn about God's loving plan for our salvation and our place in His kingdom.

Little Lambs, ECOT's Christian Montessori program for 1- and 2-year-old toddlers, continues to celebrate achieving the highest quality rating from the State of Colorado. Little Lambs is one of 140 out of 4040 early childhood programs in Colorado with this honor.

Why is Little Lambs an important ministry for ECOT? Little Lambs introduces families with young children to our loving ECOT parish. As families seek baptisms and religious education, they tangibly feel the support that ECOT provides. Little Lambs graduates attend our summer camps and participate in our Christmas pageant, so families continue to feel supported by our church family.

We reached over 100 children through Sunday school and nursery, Little Lambs, summer Bible camp, and our joyous Christmas Pageant! Our Bible camp at the Beaver Creek Chapel enrolled 27 campers with 14 middle school and high school camp counselors. We look forward to inhabiting this year's theme – *Listen* – with our children as we ponder the message of Jesus' great love for us.

As we help our children *"To know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and to make Him known"*, please consider volunteering on Sunday mornings or for one of our other programs- I will help you find a meaningful role that you will enjoy! Your time and talents are a blessing to our children.

Thank you for accompanying our newest generation of Christians on their journey of faith.





## ***From the SENIOR WARDEN***

Suzanne Gilbert



*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

*~1 Peter 4:10*

As I complete my third year as your Senior Warden, I reflect on the 2025 Vestry accomplishments and give thanks to God for a fruitful year.

Your Vestry, through much prayer, discernment, due diligence, and conversation has approved a significant two step increase in Father Brooks' Cash Stipend. During the Bishop's address in October at the 138th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, we were stunned to realize ECOT had fallen behind by a considerable amount.

This increase of 30% by 2025-year end and an additional 20% for 2026, lines up with the Episcopal Church in Colorado's published cash stipend for a Senior Rector.

During these negotiations Father Brooks provided his leadership thoughts for the next few years until his anticipated 2029 retirement. It is extremely rare in the Episcopal church to have a Rector serve one congregation for 30+ years through retirement. Transfiguration has been blessed beyond measure.

Concurrently, your Treasurer and finance team have worked diligently to realign the compensation packages for each staff member. This work is reflected in 2026 Budget and was approved by the Vestry during our January Meeting.

Your Vestry approved a new Lay Sabbatical Policy for non-clergy staff members. This new policy will go into effect in 2026. The Sabbatical leave is for the purpose of refining and updating professional skills, refreshing spiritual life and vocation, as well as providing personal time for rest, family and /or travel. Your Vestry approved the 2026 Health Insurance benefit for our clergy and staff. They are all extremely grateful!

In May, I was once again honored to represent you at the Chrism Mass in Beaver Creek. During this service all clergy serving in the Episcopal Church in Colorado were present to share in the Renewal of their Baptismal Vows. I led in the examination of Bishop Kym followed by the Priests and then the Deacons. This is a beautiful and meaningful time of prayer and worship.

In October, I represented you at the 138th Annual Colorado Diocesan Convention in Pueblo. Former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached during the Opening Eucharist "**WE HAVE A WITNESS YET TO MAKE**". As the Episcopal Church in Colorado, this theme invites us to carry forward the vision, courage, and faith of previous years and boldly proclaim the Gospel in ways that meet this moment – because the world still longs to see, hear, and feel the witness we are uniquely called to bring.

I will represent you for another 3-year term, as a member of the Northwest Region Executive Committee. ECOT is one of 15 churches in the Northwest Region. The region provides financial support to Churches and programs in our region through grant requests. In 2025 we supported the meal program at St. George Episcopal Church in Leadville, the Grand Valley Mission Partnership, and Cathedral Ridge.

I would like to thank our retiring Vestry Members: Bob Norris for serving the Vestry since 2020, 6 years! And 3 years previously from 2000 to 2003. Jordi Blakslee, for serving first as a seasonal member and then as a voting member since 2019. I would also like to thank Sue Mitchell, for serving as our Vestry Clerk for the past several years! Well done good and faithful servants!

I am proud to guide your Vestry into 2026 with this prayer: *Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon Father Brooks and Transfiguration the healthful spirit of your grace that we may truly please you. Pour upon us the continual dew of your blessing. Guide us, strengthen us, and use us to be your hands and heart in the world, making your love known. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Amen.*

I am excited to continue my partnership with Father Brooks in the governance of our church as she celebrates her 52nd year - *LISTEN!*

## ***From the ADMINISTRATOR***

Margie Ciaccio



Each year, I find great value in attending The Church Network (TCN) conference, which in 2025 was held in Omaha, Nebraska. This gathering offers a meaningful opportunity to come together with church professionals from many denominations, to learn from one another, and to deepen our understanding of faithful service in areas such as finance, administration, technology, human resources, and tax stewardship. Through worship, workshops, guest speakers, and time spent with vendors, the conference is a blessing made possible by the dedicated leadership of The Church Network.

The latter part of 2025 brought unexpected challenges to our family when my husband, Guy, was involved in a serious accident in North Dakota. He sustained multiple pelvic fractures and was transported by medical flight to hospitals in Bismarck and Fargo, where skilled and compassionate medical teams provided excellent care. I am deeply grateful that I was with him at the time, and thankful for the prayers, support, kindness, and expressions of care we received from neighbors, family, and our ECOT church family. Through the Colorado FAMILI program, I was able to serve as Guy's caregiver for approximately three months following his hospital discharge. We continue to give thanks for his recovery and for the provision and faithfulness shown to us during a difficult time.

I am glad to be back in Colorado and reunited with my ECOT family. May of 2026 marks my eighteenth year with this community, and I am thankful for the opportunity to continue serving you in the years to come.

## ***From COMMUNICATIONS***

Donna Jacobs



*"The most important thing in communication is to **listen**."* - Dale Carnegie

For me personally, 2025 was a year of great learning experiences and growth. A highlight of my year, as always, is having the opportunity to work for ECOT as your Communications Director. I continue to assist in all the ways that I am able to, by updating the website with events, livestream services, 'Next Big Things', keeping you informed with weekly newsletters, helping with community & mission outreach, and of course ensuring Father Brooks doesn't pop a vein when his computer isn't working the way he expects it to. 😊

In 2025, we had 50 members sign up and join our electronic directory, we distributed approximately 100 newsletters to more than 600 people, and we are consistently growing our remote viewing audience for our livestream services every Sunday. This year, I would love to see more people using our online forms for RSVPs and sign up sheets for volunteering when needed!

Please help us in getting the word out about this wonderful and very special congregation by following us on social media (@EpiscopalVail), sharing our events with your friends, signing up for the newsletter to stay in the know ([www.episcopalvail.com](http://www.episcopalvail.com)), and attending all special events that are always filled with fun, fellowship, and great *listening*!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026!

# PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Greetings from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. 2025 was another year to knit, crochet and distribute prayer shawls, prayer squares and baptismal blankets. I want to share a few words from thank you notes we received from those who received shawls. These words tell the story of our ministry.

*"It was such a comforting moment to come home from rehab and find the prayer shawl waiting for me."*

*"I've long known of the incredible group of locals who knit to spread love & support but have never seen one of the shawls or the powerful message that accompanies them. I feel embraced and appreciated."*

*"It will give me strength and courage."*

*"I feel wrapped in friendship, love and God's blessings."*

*"It was a comfort and blessing to realize that someone thought of me and prayed for me."*

Please join us on Mondays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Edwards Chapel library to help continue this ministry.

**Judy Fonda**

970-390-9469

[judyfonda@mac.com](mailto:judyfonda@mac.com)



# FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

October 11, 2025 - October 25, 2025



Last October I was the coordinator for a two-week pilgrimage following the Western Footsteps of Paul with a group of 11 ECOT pilgrims. We traveled through 3 countries and 3 islands starting in Athens and Corinth, Malta where Paul was shipwrecked at St Paul's Bay, then up to Sicily, Naples and finishing in Rome.

Unfortunately, for health reasons close to departure our leader, Father Brooks, had to cancel, a great loss. However, we had video time on some of the evenings to enable him to hear our stories on what we had seen, and in return we heard some of his. He was also on our WhatsApp group chat and could see all photos and chatter. We felt his supportive presence throughout our travels.

In Athens we visited the Acropolis, Parthenon and the Areopagus (Mars Hill) where at the bottom of that hill there is a plaque marking the place that Paul preached to the Athenians. Next, we drove to Corinth which Paul visited several times, one time staying for 18 months. The ruins of the ancient city of Corinth remain and one can stand in the central meeting area where he would have preached to the Corinthians and imagine him there.

Early next morning we flew to the island of Malta, a small but strategically located island that has more than once withstood sieges (last being in WWII). We had 4 days here, starting with Marsaxlokk fishing village and a cruise around Valetta Grand Harbor to get a sense of the city. Next day was spent in Valetta itself walking through the narrow streets seeing the Grand Masters Palace, visiting Casa Rocca Piccola (a current Knight of Malta's residence) and St John's Cathedral (the "Golden" Cathedral with lavish gold-covered walls and intricate marble floors) which contains two Caravaggio paintings. The next day was spent on the island of Gozo (not visited by Paul) as Ggantija is located there, the site is older than Stonehenge, (over 5,500 years old), an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The following day we drove up to St Paul's Bay where Paul was shipwrecked while a prisoner of the Romans, and on to Rabat where Paul's grotto (cave) is where it is believed that he spent that winter. Nearby are the catacombs and bomb shelters from WWII. And then walked to Mdina through the gate, admiring the amazing Cathedral and narrow streets with views around the island.





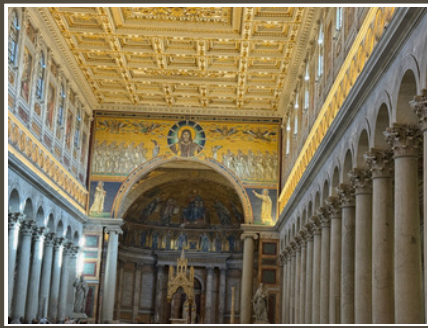
Next day a quick flight up to Sicily where we spent 3 nights, 2 days in Syracuse. One morning was spent at the Archeological Park where we saw both a Greek Theater and Roman amphitheater so we could understand the differences and a cave named Dionysus's Ear with special acoustic effects. This was followed by a trip to a vineyard and a delicious home cooked lunch. Next day we spent in the old town area on Ortygia Island, the cathedral, Temple of Apollo and Jewish quarter.

Next morning we drove across the island to the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the largest archeological complex in Europe. We don't know if Paul visited here but the Greek temples are like the ones he preached at nearby.

After a night in Palermo, a quick plane ride from Palermo to Naples, then up to Rome. Next morning we were scheduled to visit the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel and St Peters Basilica. Unfortunately for us unknowingly we chose to arrive on the same date that King Charles made a visit to the Vatican which included praying together with the Pope in the Sistine Chapel for the first time since the 16th Century when The Church of England separated from the church in Rome. Very historic moment we were there for, but it meant the Sistine Chapel was closed all day – we visited the Museum and after a break for lunch we were able to get into St Peters. The largest Christian structure ever built. At one point after walking around the main part of the basilica we walked through the Holy Doors (open only every 25 yrs during Jubilee Year), entering near La Pieta by Michelangelo. We saw numerous groups of pilgrims in Rome during our time there.



Our last morning was spent in the Roman Forum, Colosseum and the Mamertine Prison where St Paul and St Peter were held before their deaths, it is said they were there together. It is a very moving and sobering experience to go down into the actual area where they were held and see the conditions. We finished by driving out to St Paul's Basilica outside the walls. Very different to St Peters – again much was roped off as King Charles had been there the previous day, including the remains of Paul's possessions you can normally view and had to miss, but nonetheless the Basilica was stunning. It has a portrait of every pope around the top of the walls- ironic those are not in St Peters.



It was an incredible trip, several of us had visited some of these places over the years but we all agreed, this was looking at them from a very different perspective. I was one of them and learned so many facts that I did not know before, it really deepened my understanding of the New Testament, particularly the parts written by Paul, and I will never read it the same way again.

# FAST FACTS

**15,559**  
total  
served



**382** total  
ministry  
events



**204** Average  
Sunday  
Attendance  
(up from 189  
last year!)



Smallest  
service:  
**1** for Holy  
Saturday

**32%** of total  
attendance  
is virtual



Largest  
service:  
**530** at 4:30 PM  
Beaver Creek  
Christmas Eve



**1,160** souls  
for Christmas  
cycle

**550** ECOT  
souls all  
sources  
from **323**  
households



Contributions  
received from  
**25** states and **2**  
countries



**866** souls  
for Easter  
cycle



Over **100**  
children and  
youth served  
this year



**\$1,140,353.01**  
total income  
all sources,  
*a new high*  
ECOT  
annual tally



Contributions  
received from  
**192**  
households,  
foundations  
or granting  
agencies



**12** Mission  
and Outreach  
ministry  
partners  
supported  
over **\$30,000**

**6** Memorials

**11** Weddings



**6** Baptisms





# 52ND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA

February 08, 2026

In person starting at the conclusion of worship and lunch at the Edwards Interfaith Chapel

- or -

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85006896452>

Meeting ID: 850 0689 6452

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,85006896452# US

+16694449171,,85006896452# US

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| I. Opening Prayer   | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| II. Call to Order & Appointment of Meeting Officers<br>Appointment of Meeting Clerk, Virtual Convenor & Parliamentarian | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| III. Ratification of 2025 Meeting Minutes   | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| IV. Senior Warden Ballot & Remarks  | <i>Suzanne Gilbert</i>      |
| V. Vestry Candidate Introduction & Balloting  | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| VI. Membership Directory  | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| VII. 2026 Pledge Update   | <i>Bob Norris</i>           |
| VIII. Finance Report<br>2024 Financial Review<br>2025 Financial Summary<br>2026 Parish Budget                           | <i>Dave Mertens</i>         |
| IX. Ministry Recognition  | <i>Rev. Brooks Keith</i>    |
| X. Closing Prayer   | <i>Deacon Mike Williams</i> |

# 2025 MEETING MINUTES

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION 51st ANNUAL CELEBRATION LUNCH AND ANNUAL MEETING Edwards Interfaith Chapel and Community Center, Edwards, CO February 09, 2025, 10:40 a.m.**

Father Brooks opened the Annual Meeting with prayer, at 10:40 a.m. Donna Jacobs was appointed as Virtual & Power Point Meeting host and Margie Ciaccio was appointed Meeting Clerk. Father Brooks served as the Rump Parliamentarian. After Father Brooks determined a quorum of eligible members is present to conduct business, Camille Thurston motioned to accept last year's 50th Annual Meeting Minutes as presented. David Borns seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Father Brooks motioned to renominate Suzanne Gilbert as Senior Warden for her third year of service. The motion was seconded by Netia Gerken and was approved unanimously. Suzanne Gilbert recognized retiring Vestry members David Borns and Jennifer Woolley.

Father Brooks thanked our Vestry members and opened the floor for Vestry nominations. Suzanne Gilbert nominated Lolly Becker, Lee Ann Freeman and Matthew Parrish as our 2025 Vestry nominees. Sara Fisher moved to close the floor for nominations. John Knauf seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Beverly Barnes motioned to vote by slate. Wes Horner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Deborah Worley motioned to approve the slate as presented. Garrett Fonda seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Pledge Chair Report**

Pledge Chair JP Power and Bob Norris gave an overview of the 2024 Pledge Report thus far. Father Brooks thanked JP for his years of faithful service as ECOT's Pledge Chair and welcomed Bob Norris as our incoming Pledge Chair.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Parish Treasurer Shawna Knauf reviewed the 2025 financial report as shown on pp.38-41 of the Annual Parish booklet. Shawna thanked our financial team and generous parishioners for your warm support and generosity.

### **Recognition**

Father Brooks awarded JP Power and Shawna Knauf with the Rector's Crosses as they retired from their ministries. He awarded a Prayer Book/Bible to David Borns and Jennifer Woolley as they retired from the Vestry. Father Brooks and Suzanne commissioned the in-coming Vestry Class of 2025.

Jim Haeffner motioned to adjourn our Annual Parish Meeting. Netia Gerken seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Deacon Mike prayed us into lunch as the 51st as the 51st Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

## 2026 PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

Total Pledging Member Households Currently:	62
Total Member Households Currently:	116
Percentage Pledging Member Households Currently:	53.45%
Total Pledging Seasonal Member Households Currently:	24
Total Seasonal Member Households Currently:	47
Percentage Seasonal Member Households Currently:	53.06%
Grand Total Amount Pledged Currently:	\$597,904.34
Total of Time and Talent Pledges Currently:	4

*Please note that our Pledge Drive remains open throughout the year, and also note our full Seasonal Membership annual pledge tally will increase in both numbers of households and amount pledged and received in the summer when our seasonal members return to our altar. These current figures represent the highest amounts in percentages and in dollars pledged since 2019, the last pre-pandemic year.*



# 2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW



69 Edwards Access Road, Suite 8  
P.O. Box 2098  
Edwards, CO 81632  
Cell 970.390.0510  
[www.lathropepa.com](http://www.lathropepa.com)  
Assurance & Tax

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## Independent Accountants' Report

David Mertens  
Treasurer, Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration  
Vail, CO

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Treasurer and vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration ("ECOT"), on the accounting records of ECOT as of December 31, 2024 and for the year then ended for the purpose of helping the membership complete its bylaw requirements.

Management of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of reviewing accounting records and helping the membership complete its bylaw requirements for the year ended December 31, 2024. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

1. We reviewed the balance sheet as of December 31, 2024, and the budgeted financial statements, which include actual results for the year ended December 31, 2024. We did not note any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be reasonably stated and consistently stated with the prior year's statements.
2. We applied limited sampling to note if documentation of transactions and adjusting journal entries appear to be in accordance with standard accounting procedures and free of material misstatements. We did not note any variances from standard operating procedures. We did not note any accounts that appear to have material misstatements.
3. We tested year-end bank reconciliations by tracing to bank statements and testing the resolution of reconciling items, without exception. The bank accounts had all been reconciled on what appeared to be a timely basis.

*Member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants*

# 2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration  
Page 2

Below are the bank and investment account balances as of December 30, 2024, per the balance sheet:

Description	Amount
Operating Checking	\$ 139,936
Vicarage Reserve	39,333
Morgan Stanley - Operating Overflow	427,033
Priest Discretionary	5,090
ECOT Reserves	279,792
Asset Reserves	94,568
Mission Checking	19,570
Morgan Stanley - Reserve	177,054
Designated Checking	21,760
Total	<u>\$ 1,204,136</u>

4. We determined that the financial statements accompanying the minutes are consistent with the record, including the journal history, and ledger detail report.
5. We reviewed the budgeted items vs. actual amount variances and believe that they are reasonable based on prior year's results. We did not note any significant variances for the year that were not accurately reported in the minutes.

We were engaged by the Treasurer and vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration to perform the agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA. We were not engaged to, and did not perform an audit or examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on the financial statements of ECOT, or specified elements, accounts, or items thereof. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Also, we express no opinion on the effectiveness of ECOT's internal control structure or any part thereof. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the use of the specified users listed above and should not be used by anyone other than the specific parties.

*Lathrop & Associates, CPAs*

**Lathrop & Associates, CPAs**  
Edwards, Colorado  
July 23, 2025

# 2025 PARISH TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear ECOT Family,

2025 marks my first year as your Parish Treasurer. Many thanks go to the financial team that has helped me climb the learning curve to serve you, particularly Shawna Knauf, Terry Smith, and Kimberly Brewster. Importantly, they continue to assist me and the Parish. Their patience, knowledge, and attention to detail are invaluable.

## **CPA Review for 2024**

Our CPA Review for 2024 was completed with no deficiencies or misstatements.

## **Financial Performance for 2025**

Our 2025 financials ended in the positive and income was up more than 12% relative to 2024. As in 2024, we ran a deficit for eleven months and ended in the black at the end of the year through your strong response to a final push for donations in December.

A sizable portion of our operating fund, most of our designated funds and all our reserve funds remain in the care of Morgan Stanley. We have ensured that we are protected under the FDIC limits as well as being able to invest the monies productively, receiving investment income that supplements your giving. We will continue to conservatively invest these funds in the future.

## **Reserves and Balance Sheet**

The expenses for the Vicarage fall under the Associate Rector's section of the budget. Following the departure of Father Mike, the Vicarage was rented for a period of six months, supporting the expense of maintaining this asset. Repairs were made following Father Mike's departure and additional repairs will be made in 2026.

The ECOT Operating Reserve account was properly funded in 2025 based on our policy of a minimum of four months of operating expenses. We will look at the calculations for 2026 and make any appropriate adjustments.

## **Mission and Outreach**

We were able to make our customary year-end Mission and Outreach disbursements to local mission partners.

## **Other Parish Expenditures**

Enhancements were put in place to continue to support and retain our people. Compensation increases were approved for our Rector and full-time lay staff. ECOT continues to provide Health Care benefits, which increased 7% for 2026, and Retirement Savings. A sabbatical policy was approved for full-time lay employees.

Rental expenses for both the Vail Chapel and the Vail offices have increased for 2026 as we incur a share of the expenses previously covered by Covenant Presbyterian.

Our approved budget for 2026 includes compensation and oversight expenses for a Curate to be hired in the second half of the year. Should this hire not be made, we intend to continue renting the Vicarage to support the maintenance of that property.

Mary's children's ministry continued to grow in 2025, and she continues to receive grant funds from the County to help offset her costs.

ECOT benefitted from the service of Kelly Keith during the summer of 2025, and we continue to search for a youth minister. That position remains in the 2026 budget.

Thank you for your generous support of time, talent, and treasure. All financial statements are available at the church office should you have interest in more details.

*Dave Mertens*

Dave Mertens  
Parish Treasurer



## 2025 BALANCE SHEET

<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>	Actual 12/31/2025
Checking and Savings*	\$647,447
ECOT Reserves	279,792
Asset Reserves	94,568
Accounts Receivable	50,000
Morgan Stanley Reserves Earnings	46,159
Vicarage Reserves	39,333
Prepaid Insurance	16,289
Due from Designated Account	4,889
Prepaid Rent	1,773
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,180,250</b>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>	
Vicarage and Improvements	762,309
Rectory and Improvements	396,751
Automobiles	32,080
Furniture and Equipment	701
Vicarage and Improvements Deprecia	(55,790)
Rectory and Improvements Deprecia	(300,601)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>835,450</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,015,700</b>
<b><u>Liabilities and Equity</u></b>	
Accounts Payable	72,414
Prepaid Pledges	50,046
Accrued Payroll	10,302
Children's Ministry Grants	5,500
Due to/from Designated Account	5,446
Credit Card Payable	3,277
Payroll Liabilities	544
Rector Education	\$0
Due to Vicarage	(46)
Due to/from Rector Disc Account	(10,000)
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>137,483</b>
Operating Fund-Current Year Total	897,960
Priest Discretionary Fund-Current Year Total	16,368
Capital Fund	174,555
Opening Balance Vicarage	789,333
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$2,015,699</b>
*Total includes Prepays being recognized as income.	

# 2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY & 2026 PARISH BUDGET

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Plate	\$185,000	\$229,057	\$185,000	
Pledge	384,211	555,319	400,000	
Restricted Pledge	114,764	191,998	300,000	
Total Donations	683,975	976,374	885,000	
Interest Income	36,000	39,315	31,000	
Ministry Donations	101,365	124,663	92,053	See note below.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$821,340</b>	<b>\$1,140,352</b>	<b>\$1,008,053</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Total Rector's Expenses	\$447,866	\$525,196	\$560,117	
Total Assistant Rector's Expenses	194,736	180,497	130,523	See note below.
Total Deacon's Expenses	1,500	480	500	
Total Children's Ministry Expenses	142,277	133,821	166,094	
Total Youth Ministries Expenses	27,952	4,701	28,804	
Total Director of Communications Expenses	38,880	45,248	44,399	
Total Administrative Expenses	180,546	172,830	191,320	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,033,757</b>	<b>\$1,062,773</b>	<b>\$1,121,757</b>	
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	<b>(\$212,417)</b>	<b>\$77,579</b>	<b>(\$113,704)</b>	

*\*Note: Assumes the addition of a Curate in 2H 2026. Includes income for the Curate and Youth Minister from the designated funds as expense occurs.*

# TRANSFIGURATION FORWARD

## Thoughts Towards ECOT's Next Four Years

**The Reverend Brooks Keith, Rector and Senior Pastor**

**November 2025**

Since 9/11, the Great Recession and the Pandemic, “strategic planning” in churches has literally constituted a three to six month window of survival, reactivity and recovery. I think it essential these leadership soundings accompany my stipend increase proposal. What follows is my envisioning a strategic direction between now and November 1st, 2029 for Transfiguration as a parish, for our distinctive interfaith chapels and for our community at large. Let’s cruise at 20,000 feet first....

Stephen Covey chides us to always begin with the end in mind. Our mission since I became Rector is to know Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and to make Him known. Our Vestry Manual ENDS statement translates that mission more concretely as:

Transfiguration is a church where lives are transformed over time through:

- The love of God through Jesus Christ
- Warm, caring and supportive Christian community
- Faithful Christian leadership from ordained and lay leaders
- Sacramental worship in the Episcopal Prayer Book tradition
- True Christian forgiveness
- Authentic, respectful interfaith community

God provides the necessary resources of time, talent and treasure so Transfiguration’s leaders can exercise prudent and effective stewardship in governing the church.

I believe every word of both our Mission and ENDS statement with all my heart. I don’t know how to lead us from any other foundation. Policy Governance requires an organization to articulate why it exists....who is being served, how are they being served or transformed, and at what cost. The ENDS statement guides the Board to determine whether or not, and how, our church is fulfilling her mission and purpose. I find both Mission (for everybody) and ENDS (for the Vestry specifically) to be our northern stars. If you support our proposal you are re-covenanting ECOT to these leadership creeds.

The end in mind.....four years hence, Transfiguration is celebrating her 55th anniversary as an Episcopal church in Colorado. I am retiring as your 4th rector, completing 34 years of service. I think these two moments related and interconnected, and best planned for beginning next year. There were many unrealized hopes I had for our Jubilee celebration that we could work towards accomplishing for a 55th anniversary. I would lead my final Parish Pilgrimage and Parish Mission Trip in 2029. In my vision, we have already called, seated and oriented my successor as Rector so you and he or she are saying goodbye to me together, and they know the valley, the community and our parish family well. We have already celebrated the ordination and placement of Deacon Mike’s diaconal successor, and perhaps raised up another candidate for priestly ordination. In 2029 all three interfaith chapels are appropriately governed, staffed and fiscally reserved. By 2029 ECOT herself is enjoying a more sophisticated financial architecture regarding invested reserves and a broader pledge and donor base, all in close coordination with staff and accountable to the Rector and Vestry. By 2029 we are celebrating the retirement of our next Senior Warden and the accession of a new Warden ready to take on the task of transitioning ECOT from her 4th to 5th Rector. By 2029 we have replaced both original driveway and roof of the Rectory to last another 30 something years. Bishop Kym will be less than one year away from her next and final sabbatical as our diocesan bishop.



# TRANSFIGURATION FORWARD

That's 20,000 feet. Let's lose some altitude to break it down year by year as best I can see them unfold....

## 2026

My "freshman" year on this schedule, and an openly rebuilding year for ECOT.

- Pastor Mark, Chaplain Denise, Fathers Michael Richardson and Peter Munson make return visits to help lead Sunday worship, preach and provide relief throughout the year but particularly when I am away
- Winter and spring will be times to cultivate and receive leadership contributions to re-stock the Associate Priest's designated funds in advance of calling any new Curate or Associate. That call will not come from a national search but a targeted effort I have already begun.
- Retire the remaining \$770,000-ish debt on the Vail Chapel refurbishment project
- Help complete a Board refreshing of members for the Eagle Valley Religious Foundation
- Re-build our parish Prayer Chain, Mission and Outreach ministries and youth ministries
- Welcome the newer worshippers with robust Incorporations and Confirmations
- Conduct a fall pilgrimage, perhaps a return to Israel and the Holy Land
- Seat a new Curate assuming the right candidate emerges
- I travel in late January and late February for pastoral visiting and church members. I travel in April after Easter, mid-May and late November for family college commencements, Georgia Thanksgiving and for a first-ever CREDO Church Pension personal retreat. I try to reserve one vacation week for 2027's fall Sabbatical.

## 2027

My sophomore year on this schedule, and most likely my final Sabbatical leave in the fall

- Our Parish Curate morphs into the Assistant Rector if we call the right candidate
- We begin robust planning of our 2029 55th Anniversary, this time a true homecoming of former members and those served by ECOT
- I begin work on a coffee table picture book Transfiguration retrospective
- We take a mid to late August domestic parish pilgrimage to sites in Denver, southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. I've had the itinerary for ten years already mapped out for this exciting more local trip!!
- I begin my fall sabbatical on Labor Day weekend just after that pilgrimage concludes, returning just before or just after Thanksgiving
- One of our two Parish Rectory refurbishment projects happens, repaving or roof, in collaboration with our duplex neighbors, while I am away

## 2028

My Junior Year on this schedule, and my final full year of service to Transfiguration

- I spend more time in preparation of our coffee book project now
- Our Assistant or Associate Rector either looks to leave at some point this year, or perhaps if the correct candidate, becomes Co-Rector with co-equal responsibilities and clear expectation of succession if Bishop Kym is open to this possibility. If she or he departs us, we prepare a full national search to identify my successor if Bishop Kym approves.
- I raise a lot of money for ECOT and for our 55th Anniversary and to compensate two priests simultaneously
- We enjoy a fall pilgrimage to the Celtic Christian sites in Ireland, Scotland and northern England
- I identify the next Senior Warden for Transfiguration, in conjunction with a Co-Rector if one exists then

# TRANSFIGURATION FORWARD

**2029**

My Senior Year and Retirement Year, on November 1st.

- Not as clear here except for moving out of the Rectory at some point after Easter and into the Parish Vicarage or rental housing to make room for a new Rector or the Co-Rector and family after a thorough cleaning and re-painting. Perhaps an old fashioned parish party to make that move if the Co-Rector is here so everyone can invest in this transition in real time!
- The summer and early fall are spent on introducing the new Rector or orienting the Co-Rector to our extensive seasonal member cohort
- The year leads up to an early August 55th Anniversary blowout celebration, hopefully including a great coffee table book hahahaha! I propose that event includes my stepping down as 4th Rector and the Installation of ECOT's 5th Rector. There is a logic in having a visible baton pass like that.
- The September Parish Pilgrimage is a final Israel Holy Land pilgrimage, and in all honesty perhaps my final pastoral act. I would preliminarily plan to take vacation in October to vacate the Vicarage or other housing and move to wherever I'm going in retirement. I am eligible for full retirement on November 1st from the Church Pension Fund. Perhaps I remain until the 2030 12th Night Epiphany celebration, my 38th anniversary of priestly ordination. Whew.....

All very provisional of course, but this is at least an attempt to give you clarity about my vision for these next few years. What do you think?

