

ST.  
BRIGIT  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

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Balfour Patterson, Missioner  
Front Range Region  
The Episcopal Church in Colorado

RE: Report on Front Range Regional Grant

Dear Mr. Patterson and the Front Range Region of the Diocese of Colorado,

We, at St. Brigit Episcopal Church in Frederick, are extremely grateful and fortunate for your financial support in providing us the resources we needed to overcome some of our major 2023 obstacles as well as strengthening areas of ministry that were already growing. Because of your support, we have seen exceptional progress and have also significantly increased our income stream through additional pledges and contributions, and are no longer in the financial “crunch” we were at the beginning of this year. We cannot thank the Front Range enough for supporting us at a critical time of positive growth to ensure we continue moving in this positive direction.

**Regional grant funding of \$14,200 is supporting St. Brigit in the following areas:**

- I. **Technology:** \$2,000 - For the use of updating outdated technology
- II. **Children & Youth:** \$900 - Towards curriculum and necessary materials for Sunday School and Youth Education
- III. **Salary support:** \$11,300 - Towards making sure we could retain a full-time priest to maintain our positive growth and direction

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## Technology

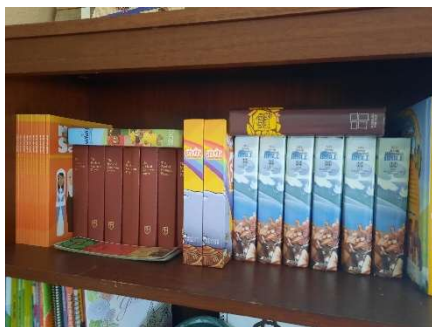
We've had outdated equipment on its last leg for some time. Our primary areas of focus towards technology for this grant became our printer as well as strengthening our live-stream offering, since we typically have 5-10 who zoom each Sunday.

The previous printer was getting so bad that when printing Sunday bulletins, there would be random lines and faded pages that made it very difficult to read or even illegible, often taking an extra 1-2 hours each week to toss the bad pages and replace with 'so-so' pages for each Sunday bulletin. In fact, our old printer died the day before Palm Sunday while printing the bulletins. Horrible timing, but clear what we needed. Now, because of our new printer, everything is clear and crisp, no more wireless errors that would often happen with the old one causing printing delays, and it takes much less time to print bulletins so our admin assistant can focus on other things instead of replacing poor quality pages.



## Children and Youth Curriculum and Materials

We are grateful to have dedicated volunteer leaders in each area as well as an abundance of youth and children. Earlier in August, though this isn't common, we had 12 junior and senior high on the same Sunday, and we have had close to the same for children on a Sunday as well. For our recent Blessing of the Backpacks, students and teachers, we had between 15-20 children, youth, and college students come forward. We don't want to pretend that these numbers happen every Sunday, but because children and youth are coming, we realized we needed to strengthen our curriculum and resources to meet their needs, particularly when children and youth can be upwards of 20-25% on a Sunday.



Thanks to this grant, we purchased a subscription to Sparkhouse Digital Children, additional Sparkhouse resources, as well as new Bibles and other resources for our children and youth. Since a lot of the new curriculum was digital, we realized we needed new equipment as well to match our recently acquired curriculum.

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## Salary Support

In the fall of 2021, St. Brigit took a leap of faith to hire a full-time priest with the belief that a dedicated, full-time priest could continue to support and grow this congregation with our members more effectively than a priest who was only part-time. A full-time priest would be able to serve on the board of our two non-profits, Brigit's Bounty and Brigit's Village, spend intentional time with newcomers outside of the church to strengthen relationship towards membership, and be more involved in the life of the church to continue building on those relationships. St. Brigit has certainly had financial struggles, but we were committed to overcome by considering finances as just another obstacle. We have approved deficit budgets for 2022 and 2023.



Since Fr. Tim arrived, each year, because of the strength of the parish and leadership, the deficit became less than expected by the end of each year.

Due to this grant focused on supporting salary, even with a \$20k+ deficit budget for 2023 (grant included), we were able to continue with Fr. Tim as a full-time priest. It was doubtful we could have done so without this regional grant. 2023 has been a very positive year for St. Brigit. Since the fall of last year, we have been averaging an increase of about 20-25% in both Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) and pledges, which shows the life of this congregation. We have also received significant contributions and supplemented our income with fundraisers throughout 2023, to the point we are on track to not only overcome all of our deficit for 2023, but even have a surplus moving in to 2024.

Again, we want to thank the Front Range Region for their generosity towards St. Brigit. It is because of the Front Range region's grant, at such a critical time in the life of the church, that we continue to thrive towards an even stronger, and brighter future.

Faithfully,

St. Brigit Episcopal Church

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