

Funding St. Anna's Missions

Our little church is well-known for its devotion to mission work. More than half of our annual budget is devoted to outreach missions, including the food pantry, homeless outreach, Anna's Place, and the new asylum seekers ministry. That's truly remarkable considering the size of our congregation and our limited financial capacity. None of this would be possible without our secret weapon – the engagement of our church family. The vast majority of those who come to St. Anna's to worship participates in one or more missions. I challenge you to find another church where the level of parishioner participation is as overwhelming.

But money plays a vital role as well, particularly with our largest mission, Anna's Place. As you know, we recently completed the renovation of Dodwell House as the new home of Anna's Place and as a local community resource center, at a cost of some \$5 million. Having a dedicated, purpose-built space allowed Anna's Place to expand the number of its students by more than 50% in 2023, with the ability to expand much further. In addition to enrolling more students, Anna's Place has raised the level of instruction and engagement with those students by hiring more professional educators, along with dedicated volunteers, to enhance the learning environment.

So how did our little church do all that? A large part of it is the contributions of time, talent and money from our parishioners. In addition to individual giving through the year, fundraising events like the Dodwell Extravaganza and Give NOLA Day regularly provide some \$100,000 each year for Anna's Place.

We are also blessed with a number of major financial supporters both inside and outside our congregation. Over the past four years, those supporters have contributed approximately \$4,000,000 to Anna's Place and the renovation of Dodwell House. The staff of Anna's Place has been successful in attracting grants from foundations and institutions amounting to some \$100,000 per year, with a potential for considerably more. And, through the sponsorship of Congressman Troy Carter, we were awarded a Congressional appropriation of \$750,000 for the
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Announcements and Updates

Music Ministry


Our little church choir is recruiting new members to become a part of the music ministry. If you have a passion for singing, a desire to learn more about music, need vocal training or just like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, then come out and join us. In addition to our regular Sunday duties, we are planning a few Evensong Services and other musical presentations for the community during 2024. Join us for rehearsal on Wednesdays from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and see what all the noise is about!

Sunday School

We have begun our post-Christmas Sunday School activities and are looking for more participants. Sunday School takes place from 9:00am - 10:00am prior to church each week. We have age-appropriate lessons for the whole family so please come join us by yourself or with a friend.

Down In Tremé

The Down In Tremé Performance Series will enter its 4th season in 2024. Similar to most, we are waiting for the Mardi Gras festivities to end before we begin our season of presentations. New this year will be a documentary series featuring a well-known New Orleans musical legend interviewing some of the other musical legends who put New Orleans on the map. Stand by for dates and times. In the meantime, we ended 2023 with three memorable performances Wanda Rouzan opened the fall performance series with the inaugural event at the renovated Dodwell House Community Resource Center. The event was well attended and Wanda did her "thang" as usual. Anna's Place founder Darryl Durham, presented a classical concert of music by African American composers for clarinet and voice. To everyone's delight, Darryl performed as a vocalist and clarinetist. The highlight of the program was the performance of the spiritual "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" arranged by H.T. Burleigh. We hope to hear more of this in 2024. The final performance of the season was a presentation by New Orleans-based R&B recording artists Blair Dottin-Haley which featured members of the Anna's Place NOLA African Dance and Drumming Ensemble as well as the Children's Choir. What a show!! It was so good that Blair decided to include the kids in his Lundi Gras performance on February 12th at Xavier University. We'll keep you posted on the details.



Community Support for Dodwell House



Your photo

The Dodwell House Community Resource Center recently was one of several recipients of grants from Friends of Tremé Culture. Dr. Cavin Davis, Executive Director of Dodwell House and Anna's Place NOLA, is pictured above, 4th from left, at a ceremonial presentation of grant awards at the sacred Tomb of the Unknown Slaves. FOTC, a fiscal agent for 30+ awardees, distributed \$72,000 in grants from the NOLA Tourism and Culture Fund.

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renovation of Dodwell House. Finally, because renovation of the historic 1846 Dodwell House was done in a manner respecting its historical integrity, we qualified for historic renovation tax credits which will provide some \$900,000 to help pay for the renovation and insure the stability of Anna's Place.

But we still have a lot of work to do. Despite receiving a number of large contributions and other sources of funding, there remains a \$2 million mortgage loan to be paid off. In 2022, it cost some \$470,000 per year to run Anna's Place. The cost of funding an expanded and improved Anna's Place is almost double that amount, and substantially exceeds current revenues.

We must develop significant new funding sources to assure that the financial situation of Anna's Place is sustainable and that Anna's Place can realize its potential in reaching the largest number of youth in the most effective and impactful manner possible. That is a major challenge St. Anna's will face in 2024, and that is the charge the Mission Fundraising Committee will tackle this year. Our goal is to broaden the visibility of Anna's Place in our local community and beyond and to explore all avenues for funding from individuals, corporations, foundations, non-profits, and government.

In the next months, you will hear more about what we are doing to put Anna's Place and Dodwell House on a sound financial footing. One of the most valuable ways you can help is to tell us of any individuals or organizations you know who might want to support Anna's Place. We also welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and of course your prayers.

We know we can do this. We have the most engaged church family anywhere. And God has always been generous with our little church. -- by Joe Cocchiara, Chair

MEMBERS OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Joe Cocchiara

Lauren Anderson

Deacon Buck Close

Jim McMillan

Karen Judge

Dr. Cavin Davis

Carl Davis

Darryl Durham

Bill Glew

Search Committee Update

by Bill Glew, Chair

The Search Committee has begun conducting initial zoom interviews of rector candidates who satisfy fundamental requirements for the position. Those requirements were identified through the parish survey and focus groups that the Search Committee conducted during April 2023, and are embodied in the Parish Profile.

The deadline for rector applications was Friday, January 19, 2024. As a reminder, Episcopal Church and Diocesan policy provides that no individual information about rector candidates may be shared. This is to protect the privacy of candidates and the feelings of their current parishioners. The Search Committee is working diligently to vet the candidates to ensure we identify the best one to recommend to the Vestry, which has sole authority for the Parish to elect a new rector. We ask your prayers for wisdom and discernment.



From the Episcopal News Service: Second annual observance of Religious Life Sunday observed Jan. 21, 2024

Our vowed religious—living as monks, nuns, sisters, brothers, and friars—have deep experience of traditions and practices that assist in developing spiritual growth and discernment. Vowed religious teach about prayer practices, lead retreats, give spiritual direction, assist in writing and living a rule of life, give presentations about the spiritual journey, and provide spiritual friendship.

For more information see www.religiouslifesunday.org

RISA NOLA Welcomes Megan



We have welcomed our first LGBTQ+ asylum seeker! Megan is from El Salvador and is very happy to be here. Her first week included sharing a delicious potluck meal with about half of the RISA group. (Another event will introduce her to the rest.) Thanks to all for encouragement, support, and prayers.

St. Paul's Lakeview Donates Mats, Supplies for Homeless Ministry; 6,700 Plastic Bags Makes a Mattress for a Homeless Person





Members of St. Anna's Partner in Homeless Ministry, St. Paul's Lakeview, make mats for homeless persons from disposable plastic bags. They also assemble bags of supplies, in addition to donating large quantities of non-perishable food for distribution through our Food Pantry. See message to recipients (left) and stacked mats and supply bags (right). Thanks to the people of St. Paul's!



St. Anna's Parish Calendar
SUNDAY JANUARY 21 -- SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Virtual Morning Prayer and Compline offered M-F at 8am and 9pm on Facebook Live

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 21 - 3 Epiphany Sunday School - 9am Inquirers Class - 9am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA 12-1 pm	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Jan. 24 Choir - 6pm	Jan 25 Book Club 6-7:30pm	Jan. 26	Jan. 27
Jan. 28 - 4 Epiphany Bishop's visitation & confirmations Sunday School 9 am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am No RISA NOLA mtg.	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan.31 Choir - 6pm	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3
Feb. 4 - 5 Epiphany No Sunday School Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA - 12-1pm	Feb. 5	Feb. 6	Feb. 7 Choir - 6pm	Feb. 8 Book Club 6-7:30pm	Feb. 9	Feb. 10
Feb. 11 - 6 Epiphany Sunday School - 9am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA - 12-1pm	Feb. 12	Feb. 13 MARDI GRAS 	Feb. 14 Ash Weds. Mass & ashes 12 & 6:30 	Feb. 15	Feb. 16 Food Pantry -- packing 4:30 pm	Feb. 17 Food Pantry - delivery 9:30 am
Feb. 18 - 1 Lent Sunday School - 9am Rosary - 10am Choir - 10am Mass - 10:30am RISA NOLA - 12-1pm						