

San Juan Mission Report

By. Rev. Michael Sells

Last year, volunteers from ECN replaced the parish hall roof at St. Lukes with a helpful grant advocated by Rev. Carol Tookey. St Luke's parish hall kitchen was cabinets refurnished with new appliances. It looks amazing. Thank you, St. Julian of Norwich from Austin, Texas. We continue to brainstorm with locals about using church assets to healthy develop the community of Huerfano. This year GJ was honored by the chapter house for providing canned goods and toys for the community. Rev. Jack Chase has been using the donated Ford Truck to get coal for people without a truck who yet have a coal stove. The canon to the ordinary continues to offer AA for the community.

All Saints Church and St. Michaels had their first visit with the Mar Thoma Native American Mission group for VBS. We ended the event with a cultural exchange between the East Indians and Navajo people. We hope to expand an ecumenical VBS with the surrounding churches and communities. Our grandparents continue to bring their grandchildren to church, and on Pentecost we baptized two more grandchildren with the grace of God. Our badly deteriorating Hospitality House roof was finally replaced thankful to a grant advocated by our former bishop. After years of neglect, we finally had our only septic tank on the mission emptied. Our rental properties on San Juan Mission had an expensive sewer leak that is now fixed. With GJ's community outreach for volunteers, she has developed a relationship with the local LDS church. So, they reached out to San Juan Mission and offered to clean the cemetery. That was very much appreciated. All Saints continue to raise money to replace our inefficient and outdated furnace with an efficient HVAC system. Hopefully, estimates costs will arrive any day soon. All Saints continues to provide gathering space for local veterans to plan their annual veterans walk.

Church services at St. Michaels were in full swing until the wall furnaces were condemned due to carbon monoxide leaks, so join All Saints during the winter for Holy Eucharist. St. Michaels sewing group has been meeting wherever they can find a warm space. With their very generous hearts, they donated a quilt to our retiring bishop and his wife.

We continued with our Thanksgiving and Christmas food distributions, also preceding and ending with a coat and toy giveaway. Our old ECN bookkeeper finally determined it was time to resign. We began 2023 with new leadership at all three churches. Despite the Navajo Nation strict COVID policies, we continue to do our best to visit or keep in contact with former church members or friends. In addition to property emergencies and help from outside organizations, we continue to keep our heads about water, and value the insight of new leadership to plan for the future with such things as fundraisers and their honest input.