



Aspen Chapel
a spiritual home for everyone



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

aspenchapel.org

A letter from our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

2022 was a steady, continuously improving year for our Chapel activities. Thanks to the generous support of our community, we had a strong year financially. With increased fundraising capacity and stronger communication systems, donation support held strong, despite a harsh economic environment.

We have continued to re-invigorate programming as we migrate to stand-alone, financial models coupled with targeted fundraising. The trend is good! Connect! is the star (as are its co-leaders, Elaine Bonds and Mimi Hauenstein). They are now a separate entity in partnership with Aspen Elementary School and serving twice the number of kids and growing. The Art Gallery and Sunday School are raising new monies to support their programming, and we are in the midst of reviving both Aspen Noise and Susan Nicholson's music events.

In '22, our streaming star, Matt Windholz, repackaged Nicholas' messages into podcasts and rebuilt the entire AV streaming rig which was first used on January 1, 2023.

The zoomification of society has hit the in-person attendance of all faith organizations. But, Chapel attendance continued to rebound in '22 with maximum attendance for our Lessons and Carols and Christmas services – welcoming hundreds of people to the Chapel. The Chapel's digital reach continues to grow, and our upcoming Wisdom from the Top of the World Speaker Series will demonstrate our expanded tandem program with both online and in-person opportunities.

Our community runs substantially on volunteers – time, talent, and treasure. So, big thanks to all who generously gave one or more of those ingredients in '22. We can always use more! If you would like to help fulfill our vision and mission, please be in touch.

With Gratitude,



Bruce Merrifield
Administrative Board Chair

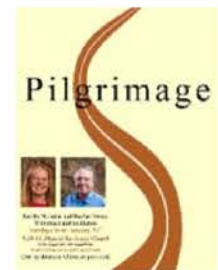
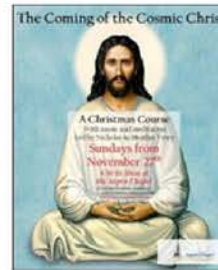
A letter from our Spiritual Leader

Dear Friends,

2022 has been about building back our congregation after the ravages of covid and everything that went with it. Our main strategy has been to create new and interesting offerings that draw people in and develop their spirituality.

To that end we have been re-imagined our Sunday services as a series of 'courses' and launched a new initiative on Thursdays, in conjunction with our partners 'Lead with Love', called 'Thursday Satsang' (sacred gathering).

Heather Vesey has resumed joining me for Sunday services, and the courses included the series on 'The 10 Ox herding Pictures' and 'The Coming of the Cosmic Christ'.



We had a highly successful Christmas with about 500 people attending on Christmas Eve. At the beginning of the year, we were getting about 20 people on a Sunday and this moved up to 50 by the end of the year. Streaming has remained constant at around 200.

The Thursday Satsang began in September and around 25 people turned up each week. Lead with Love has re-committed to this semester, and we began again on February 9th. In 2023 we will continue with our courses, the next one being on 'Pilgrimage', which began on January 29th.

We are also launching a new brand 'Wisdom from the Top of the World' and using that to instigate a Speaker program to appeal to a wide audience.

James Finley is well known, and has been here before. Christian Dillo is a Zen Master and will appeal to the non-Christian part of our community. Bill Redfield works with Heather and is a successful podcaster. And Cyprian Consiglio is Prior of a community in Big Sur, and well known in Christian Contemplative circles.

In 2023 we are looking forward to building on what we achieved in 2022 and developing a reputation for 'authentic spirituality' that even more people will want to be a part of.

Sincerely, *Nicholas*

2022 Highlights



Monks

The Drepung Loseling Monks joined us in July 2022 for a week of chanting and meditation while constructing the fantastic mandala. During their time with us, hundreds observed in person and online as the Monks built their mandala in the Chapel sanctuary, one grain of sand at a time.



Blessing of the Animals

In October, we held a special Sunday Service for all two and four legged friends, fur babies, and beloved pets. Critters of all types gathered in the Chapel Garden to be blessed by Nicholas Vesey and Gregg Anderson. An annual ritual at the Chapel, this year's Pet Church was free, open to the public and drew a wonderful crowd!

Monday Meditation

Heather Vesey returned to hosting weekly meditation with both in person and virtual options. Chapel members join at the start of each week to do their own contemplative practice and sit in silence, in community.

Thursday Satsang

Last fall, The Aspen Chapel and Lead with Love partnered to bring an exciting new weekly program called Thursday Satsang. Defined as a "sacred gathering," this weekly event welcomes those interested in spirituality, but not necessarily religion. We are excited to announce that there is a second Satsang series in 2023. We hope to see you there.



Lessons and Carols

We were honored to welcome Susan Nicholson back to the sanctuary for Lessons and Carols in December. Community members came together to sing carols and enjoy holiday masterpieces by the 30 voice choir! We were thrilled to bring back this beloved holiday tradition.



Garden Parties

Hundreds gathered while the Chapel Gardens were in full bloom to have tea, enjoy live music, and support the biggest fundraiser of the year.

Aspen Chapel Art Gallery

The Aspen Chapel Art Gallery has been showing local artists and Building community for 37 years. And, we are the longest continuing operating gallery in Aspen. We hope to see you at one of our shows in 2023!

Thanks to your support, this past year has been a huge success:

- 8 curated shows
- \$12,164 raised for 7 nonprofits in the valley
- \$2,872 raised for 5 valley high school art departments
- Since August 2018, \$45,403 raised to support our nonprofit partners!

A special thank you to the Art Gallery co-directors and curators:



Tom Ward
Co-Director



Michael Bonds
Co-Director

Curators:

Amy Beidleman, David Floria, Doug Graybeal, Kathy Honea, Jennifer Johnston-Jones, Sam Louras, Greg Watts

Aspen Noise: Ordinary People Making An Extraordinary Noise

Aspen Noise is an all-inclusive singing group whose mission is to Bring More Joy Into The World. The group sings periodically at Aspen Chapel and other events in the valley.

Founded in 2016, this multi-generational group builds community in an atmosphere that is free from judgement. Members include professional singers, shy singers, differently-abled singers, young singers, bold singers, old singers ... all are welcome.

Thanks to generous donations, Aspen Noise has been reignited after a few muted years. The Aspen Chapel is honored to partner with and support Aspen Noise, and we are grateful to resound!



Accepting the 2016 Excellence in Inclusion Award from the Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council in Denver



“ I love to sing. I always sang in a choir when I was in school. But after school was over I had no opportunities to sing with a group. Then I learned about Aspen Noise. I was excited to hear that not only would I get a chance to sing, but also perform concerts to audiences. I love music and practicing the songs with this group. They make me feel like one of the group and, mixed with music, it makes my heart sing. **”**

Max Grange, Aspen Noise Participant

Plan your next event or wedding at the Aspen Chapel!

As a historic landmark at the gateway of Aspen, the Chapel offers a mystical touch to any event. With stain glass windows, cathedral ceilings, and an intimate setting, the sanctuary can be arranged as you wish for weddings, concerts, workshops, or any type of event. The beautiful Chapel Gardens are also the perfect space for an outdoor wedding or reception. Contact us at info@aspenchapel.org to learn more.



Save the Date: Garden Parties

Mark your calendars for **August 15th and 16th** 2023 for our annual Garden Parties. You won't want to miss this beautiful and fun event! Interested in sponsoring? Reach out to us at info@aspenchapel.org!



Remembering Alexander

It is with great sadness that we share our friend and colleague Alexander Hunter passed away recently. Alexander was the building manager and caretaker at the Aspen Chapel for many years.

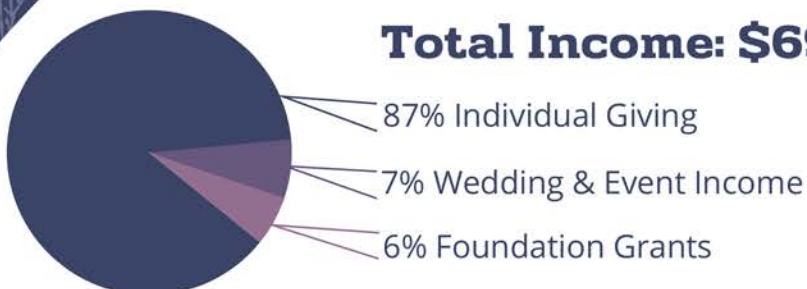
More than that, Alexander was a beloved community member and well connected with other organizations including Aspen Historical Society and the Aspen Jewish Congregation. He was a race car enthusiast, purveyor of odd facts, and regularly amused local youth by his storytelling.

A memorial was held on Jan. 8th at the Chapel and his brother and nephew from California were able to join. He will be greatly missed.



2022 Financials

Total Income: \$694,936



Total Expenses: \$624,209



2022 By the Numbers



Join a Circle of Giving



Like "Sustaining Membership" programs at other organizations, the Chapel's Circle of Giving is a commitment to give an annual gift in any amount and is considered renewable unless you specify otherwise. To learn more, email Development@AspenChapel.org



The Modern Mystics are Coming This Spring to the Aspen Chapel

The English author Evelyn Underhill says "Mysticism is the art of union with reality. The mystic is a person who has attained that union in a greater or lesser degree; or who aims at and believes in such attainment."

Mystics have emerged from every spiritual tradition as they seek past the normal rituals and liturgy that they may have been born into. Modern mystics have the advantage of blending traditional, faith wisdom with modern psychology and neurotheology. For example both James Finley and Bill Redfield are also therapists. **Four modern-day wisemen will grace the sanctuary at the Aspen Chapel.** In chronological order, they are:

James Finley, March 4-5 (a Thomas Merton – of the Trappist Monks – disciple)

Christian Dillo, March 18-19 (a Zen master - plus)

Bill Redfield, April 22-23 (an Episcopal priest who shifted into spiritual psychology)

Cyprian Consiglio, May 13-14 (a Christian monk, musician, composer, writer and teacher)

All four will conduct Saturday programs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm that include: meditations, lectures, and interactive sessions. More information and details are at AspenChapel.org. Stay tuned for a Women's Mystic Speaker Program in the fall. To invest in the further enlightenment of our community, generous could-be sponsors should contact nicholas@aspenchapel.org.

SPRING SPEAKER SERIES



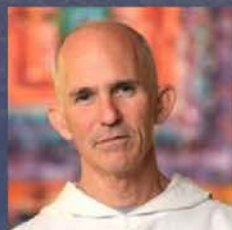
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**Cyprian
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**Book Online
Now!**

