



Annual Report 2018-2019

The Episcopal Church
Of
Saints Andrew and Matthew

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RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

June 16, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew

Wilmington, Delaware

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.

A year ago I missed the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew because I was on sabbatical. In this annual report I wish to share some reflections with you about last year's sabbatical, update the parish on a plan that the vestry has begun to develop and implement and conclude with some ideas about Invite-Welcome-Connect, a new initiative of Bishop Brown.

I love these words from the prophet Isaiah in the thirtieth chapter the fifteenth verse: ***“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*** These words lived within me this time last year as I was away from the parish for four and a half months. I wish again to thank the vestry, staff and entire parish for the gift of this time away. During the four months away I had a chance to rest, reflect and pray about my time as the Rector of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. As a result I came back in mid-August refreshed and excited about this new season of ministry for the parish.

A few years ago at the annual vestry retreat a vestry member wondered where the city of Wilmington would be without SsAM. I have always thought that comment to be insightful and I think that it is still worth pondering today. I visited many parishes while I was away last summer and I left many of them thinking about all that happens on eighth and Shipley in the city of Wilmington. Sunday morning breakfast, Sunday morning chapel, Sunday morning worship, Delaware ChoralArts, Wilmington Children's Chorus, Network Delaware, Environmental Justice, Code Purple, Organ concerts, availability of a community bathroom, our Annual Community Fun Fest and above all else, a welcoming and loving heart for all who come. There is so much more but the above list gives a sense of why this parish is important in the city of Wilmington.

With all this activity, each of us needs to take time to rest because if we don't take care of ourselves we will feel overwhelmed and burdened with all that has to be done. This is a major reason why we began to offer morning and evening prayer during Lent and will continue to do so beginning again in early August. During Lent I also offered a two week course on how to pray the daily office at home as a way for folks to begin a practice of daily prayer even if they cannot get to SsAM in the morning or the evening. ***“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”*** One of my passions as a priest is to teach and coach folks how to pray because I believe it is a powerful symbol for the community if, in the midst of all our busyness, we also take time to pray either at church or at home. This prayer time supports us being able to do the work that God has blessed us to do.

While I was away, the vestry with the support of the staff carried out and cared for the needs of the parish. When I returned home for a brief stay in mid-July I was pleased to see the letter and worksheet from Steven Jones focusing on the Four Pillars of SsAM. You will hear more from the vestry about this at this year's annual meeting. The vestry's hard work while I was away allowed me to develop a plan moving forward that the vestry endorsed late in 2018 and which they have been working on to achieve and implement since the beginning of 2019. I am inviting members of the parish to be part of this work as we move forward.

A parish vestry of any Episcopal Church is responsible for finances and property management of the parish and works in collaboration with the Rector to grow the Kingdom of God. My plan presented to the vestry was to create three working groups focused around three different areas: Finance, Stewardship and Moving Forward. Each group was tasked with developing a timeline as to when specific tasks will be completed and to invite members of the congregation to join one of these three groups. As a result, the finance working group has developed a timeline for the budget process to begin this summer as the 2020 budget is prepared for vestry approval. The stewardship working group has created a theme and timeline for this year which will be soon unveiled and the Moving Forward working group is focused on building up the endowment as well as member development and incorporation into SsAM. As these ideas begin to take shape, a member of the vestry or I will communicate with you as to upcoming events or meetings.

The final area which I wish to touch on is Bishop Brown's vision for every parish in the diocese to implement and act on *Invite-Welcome-Connect* or I-W-C for short. In October of last year Christ Church, Christiana Hundred hosted the churches of Delaware in an all day summit to learn about the ministry of *Invite-Welcome-Connect*. Twenty members of SsAM attended this event and the vestry continued the work begun in October at their November retreat. I led three sessions in Advent to continue to brainstorm and prioritize the many ideas that were generated by the summit, the vestry and the small group that met during Advent. My major take away from the summit and what I have read about this ministry is *to see all that we do through the lens of three areas*. I will share what I mean by this in my annual address to the parish during the annual meeting. My ask is that you give it a try and find a place where your gifts align with any of the three areas or all three.

I also wish to give a special note of my appreciation and gratitude for our Sunday school teachers and nursery care providers. This year is the final year of many years of faithful service in teaching our youth for Geoff and Alice Sawyer, Carol Scott, Sherry Bell, and Cynde Dombrowski. Thank you for Dan Young who began to teach in 2018. Also thanks to Michelle Smith and Gigi Hernandez for caring for our younger ones. I will be meeting with the teachers in late June to develop a plan moving forward.

This concludes my annual report but this report is not complete without thanking the vestry especially the outgoing vestry class of 2019: Steven Jones, Carol Scott, Sharon Leyhow and Laura Eisenman. Thank you to each one of you for your faithfulness and care for this faith community. I have said many times that SsAM is blessed to have one of the hardest working staffs of any parish in Delaware. This has been especially true this year with the recent retirement of Dana Robertson as Parish Administrator. As I have mentioned in recent E Blasts we are in active search to find a new administrator and I am working closely with our parish

personnel committee to screen and interview the right person. Dana did so much for us the eight years he was here and he is sorely missed. Thanks also to D-L Casson, Janice Teemer and David Christopher for their commitment to SsAM and for working with me to plan Sunday morning worship, weekly E Blasts, correspondence, stewardship mailings, etc. There is so much more that I would have to write a second report.

As far as I am concerned there is no place like SsAM. We have much to do but I am confident that as we move forward in prayer and action and good spirit we will proclaim the love of Christ in all that we do and say. I hope you will join us for the next part of the journey. Let us rest along the way and listen to what the Spirit is saying to us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.
Rector

2018-2019 Parish Statistics (to May 31, 2019)

Average Sunday Attendance 2018: 173
Average Sunday Attendance: 184 (as of May 19, 2019):
 Weddings: 1
 Burials: 5
 Baptisms: 3
 Confirmations: 0
 Receptions: 0

REPORT OF THE WARDENS

It has been an honor to serve as Wardens for the Vestry and congregation of SsAM this past year. We appreciate the cooperation and support of the Vestry, staff, and congregation.

We embrace the four pillars of our mission established four years ago at the Vestry retreat:

1. To strengthen and grow Youth and Young Families (YYF);
2. To create a sustainable financial picture;
3. To provide engaging worship that is rich and meaningful—where people come back; and
4. To continue the tradition of being intentionally an inclusive and diverse faith community that celebrates its relationships with each other and the larger community.

To be an inclusive Christian community which worships God, follows Christ in all aspects of our lives, and serves the Greater Wilmington area through actions and ministries which promote peace, justice, reconciliation, and empowerment for all people

These four pillars reflect our mission and thus using them frames our budget and expenditures into a relevant context. The following is a brief overview of our ministries as they connect to those four pillars.

In 2018, YYF had a budget of \$7,470 yet spent \$2,665 while supporting our new Facebook, live-stream, ministry. In 2019, YYF's budget was reduced to \$3,520.

Sustainability can be defined for us as how much we withdraw from our endowment. Last year, a \$20,000 withdrawal as budgeted, but we actually withdrew an additional \$20,000. This year an \$87,400 draw on endowment was budgeted. This significant increase reflects what were income "one-offs" received last year: a \$20,000 bequest from the estate of Dr. Eugene McGowan and a \$40,000 contribution from a parishioner. Recognizing our rising deficit spending, our former Parish Administrator felt that the proposed draw was realistically needed in 2019 to pay bills.

The ministry of "providing engaging worship that is rich and meaningful" can be captured in two expense line-items: Music and Liturgy. Last year Music's budget was \$41,416 while Liturgy's was \$6,500. Actual expenses for the two activities were \$41,699 and \$7,780 for a combined total of \$49,480 which was slightly over their original budget by 3.36 percent. This year, Music's budget is \$41,016 and Liturgy's \$6,175. As of May, Music is 48 percent over budget while Liturgy is nearly 12 percent under budget. The Vestry will monitor Music's expenses which are expected to moderate in the coming months and offset its current status.

The fourth pillar is our ministry to the community. Last year, our support of: Friendship House, Faith Center, Delaware Futures, St. Michael's, etc. including the Sunday Breakfast totaled \$17,828. The budget for 2018 was \$17,650; this year it is \$17,660.

Included to our budgeted draw on endowment is an additional \$115,000 for a new roof. Large capital expenses, such as this, are what our endowment was meant to cover. The details of this investment in, 719 North Shipley Street, can be found in the Property Committee's report. Total 2019 Expenses for our parish were budgeted at \$789,758. This excludes the cost of the new roof.

We are a generous congregation reflected in our Pledge Income, and support of last year's 7.10 campaign, which is projected to account for over 55 percent of our total budgeted expenses this year. Our income from investments consistently accounts for nearly 24-25 percent of our total income. This year is no exception. In addition, the budgeted draw of \$87,400 represents an additional 11 percent. Offerings and Community Member Fees account for 5.5 and 2.6 percent, respectively. As of May, pledge

income was only off slightly, about 0.4 percent, while offerings were up 5 percent. Our total budgeted income for 2019, \$789,788. I want to thank you all. Please keep your pledges coming they are important to the smooth running of operations.

Everything we do operationally relies on income. The new roof, which will be completed by the fall, is a major expense. However, it is not the only one we must prepare for; upgrades to our HVAC systems are pending. I am sharing all this to inform you of what lies ahead. The bottom-line is that we need additional revenue. While property maintenance costs have increased, in the church and Rectory, we sources of income have diminished. The loss of Choir School rental income is reflected in the decline of Community Member Fees. Should the stock market weaken for a period of time, look for our investment income to also decline. Such an outcome would put even more pressure on us to increase our pledges, withdraw from endowment and cut costs. The time has come for us to take action. These are the decisions Vestry and the parish face. It is my hope that the charts which appeared in the Weekly Vision made understanding our sources of income and expenses clearer. Like withdrawing money from your savings account to regularly pay utility bills, our reliance on endowment withdrawals to cover general operating expenses is not sustainable. We will have to look to cut expenses if we cannot find stable new sources of income.

As your outgoing Senior Warden, I plan to continue until that position is filled. I hope that my presence will also support our Vestry and a smooth transition. Even though we at SsAM are at a critical point in our history, needing a sustainable financial position to continue our mission and ministries, we must remember that we are “the Body of Christ, sharing one bread, one cup.” We can meet this challenge, we just need to be faithful, bold and creative. Our thanks go to the outgoing Vestry members for their contributions and we welcome our four new members.

“Life is short, and there is not much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, So... be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Who made us, Who loves us, and Who travels with us, be with you now and forever.”¹

Thank you again for your support, contributions, and love,

Steven Jones, Senior Warden
Nana Soto, Junior Warden

¹ The Very Rev. Alexander D. MacPhail, based on the words of Henri Frederic Amiel

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ASSOCIATE FOR LITURGY

One of the most exciting, yet challenging aspects of being the Organist and Director of Music at SsAM is the ever-evolving nature of the ministry. In the midst of its 24th year as a parish, the church has changed greatly since I began in April of 2001. In the area of music and liturgy, we have tried many different programs and experimented with a variety of approaches to liturgy. In the past couple of years, the growth and development of the downtown area has brought new faces and new energy to the parish and it doesn't look like that growth is going to change in the near future. It is my hope that we can continue to use the SsAM music ministry as a means of deepening our worship experience, attracting new members to our congregation, engaging the surrounding community, and helping to train the next generation of church leaders through our children's choir program. This report will attempt to touch on some of the key areas within the music ministry.

The **SsAM Adult Choir** is absolutely essential to the liturgical life of the parish and of critical importance in maintaining consistency of musical integrity over a wide range of musical styles. To find a parish choir that can sing everything from Renaissance motets to Gospel music is extremely rare. This is why the idea of a choir made up of talented volunteers supported by paid staff singers was established long before I arrived on the scene. The traditional way for Episcopal churches to incorporate music is to pick a few hymns and a communion setting out of the hymnal, and have the choir sing an anthem at the offertory. Our approach is far from that, and I encourage you to get a copy of "Liturgical and Musical Design at SsAM" (available at the entrances to the sanctuary) which explains our philosophy and strategy for incorporating a diverse spectrum of music in worship. Not only does this approach to liturgy require the support of a first class choral ensemble, but needs a strong, enthusiastic, singing congregation. Luckily, that is exactly what we have! We are blessed with many beautiful singing voices in the congregation and along with the SsAM Choirs, it would be difficult to find another church in the area where the music is as diverse and inspiring.

I am particularly proud of our the **SsAM Treble Choristers** who made great progress this past year and took a much stronger role in leading worship in conjunction with the SsAM Adult Choir. They rehearse separately each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and then together with the Adult Choir from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., singing approximately twice per month in worship. Their musical and vocal confidence has grown and their beautiful vocal quality is notable on the Sundays they participate. Some of the choristers were also featured as soloist this past season. Without an assistant, it has been challenging to develop a more extensive program for children, but a broader program as well as musical assistance is exactly what we need to do this. The parish needs a program that provides less formal opportunities for children of the parish to enjoy and learn to sing and take a leadership role in church. We also need to find ways to use the chorister program as a means of recruiting other children from the community. Happily, this was the subject of discussion at a recent open meeting of the music committee and an excellent strategy was formed for next year.

The Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ has continued to offer programs this past year. With the stepping down of some of our original leadership, the operations of FOKEO is now operating under the auspices of the SsAM Music Committee. Events this past season included 1) A Family Halloween Event, 2) A Messiah Sing Along, 3) A recital by students of the organ

department of the Curtis Institute, 4) A concert of music for violin and organ featuring Barbara Govatos and David Christopher, and 5) A concert of Bach's Eighteen Leipzig Chorales by organist Aaron Patterson with the SsAM Adult Choir singing the chorales. FOKEO events are paid for with money that is raised from patrons and is separate from the church budget. This allows friends and members of the community to contribute to events featuring the organ. Other important aspects of the Music Ministry at SsAM include:

- 1) **The SsAM Drumming circle** lead by Jonathan Whitney. This group is inter-generational and has participation from members of the community as well as the parish. It meets at SsAM during the Winter/Spring and at the Rock Lot on 8th Street in the Summer and early Fall. Jonathan Whitney has shared the following: *The drum circle's membership is a mix of generations, backgrounds, parishioners and community members, musicians and non-musicians. Each week we come together for an hour and play, but we also support each other, laugh together, blow off steam together, and learn from each other. This time spent together each week is what I believe is most important about the drum circle. The knowledge that is shared and the community that has grown out of the drum circle is the biggest benefit it brings to the church.*
- 2) **Delaware ChoralArts**, our community chorus in residence at SsAM, continues to operate out of our facility and present concerts at SsAM. DCA frequently collaborates with the parish and the SsAM Choir to present programs such as our annual Spirituals Concert. Members of DCA also sing with the SsAM Choir from time to time, particularly for Christmas, Music for Good Friday, and the recent FOKEO concert of Bach's Leipzig chorales.
- 3) **Jazz Vespers** led by Jonathan Whitney continue to draw new people to SsAM and help to diversify our musical offerings. Unfortunately, we only had two Jazz Vespers this past season due to scheduling issues. It is my hope that we can build this program in the coming year, especially since it has a faithful following and is one of the best attended types of programs that we offer.

As it says in the document "Music and Liturgical Design at SsAM," one of the main purposes of striving for great music and liturgy at SsAM is to inspire and empower the members of the SsAM parish and to extend a "radical welcome" to visitors in the pews. So often, it is too easy to just let our music program coast along and forget that, aside from the congregation itself, it is one of the strongest assets that this parish has. It is my hope that moving forward, more folks will get involved to support our Music Ministry and to use it as the tool for inspiration and evangelism that it has the potential to be. There are many ways that members of the parish can do this, but a few of them are: 1) If singing is your thing, consider singing in the Choir, 2) volunteer to help with our Chorister Training Program, 3) volunteer to be part of the Music Committee (we need a LOT of help), 4) give us your feedback on things like musical selections and special events so that we know how to develop our program moving forward, and 5) make a financial donation to help with our chorister training program as well as special events such as Organ Programs, Jazz Vespers and the SsAM Drumming Circle.

I have to admit, before coming to SsAM, I never dreamed I would be the Director of Music for such an amazing parish for over 18 years. Even after all this time, however, it remains a great privilege to serve this parish and a wonderful opportunity for my own personal and musical

development. Thank you to Fr. David, the Vestry and the entire congregation for the opportunity.

David Christopher (aka Director Dave)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Please refer to the special packet financial packet which includes audited financial information, budget reports and the Treasurer's Report.

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

Thank you to all the faithful acolytes who serve at the Episcopal Church of Saint Andrew and Matthew.

At the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service the acolytes are Christina Brennan Lee, Anne Kauffman, Ron Jackson, and Wanda Smith. At the 10:30 service, acolytes include Al Brock, Calec Perez Cruz, Tracey Dixon, Gracie Gaskell, Silas Harrison, Barbara Henry, George Jones, Gigi Hernandez, Walt Meredith, Lore Noyes, Jude Ouma, Rayon Pinnock, and Keziah Soto.

This year Calec and George graduated from high school. Calec will continue in the ministry since he is attending college locally. We wish George all the best as he begins his college career at Virginia Tech.

The ministry of acolytes is a very old tradition in the Church. Acolytes have served as helpers at God's altars for over seventeen centuries. The position of acolyte covers not only servers, torch bearers and lighters of candles, but also crucifers, thurifers and banner-bearers. The acolyte's role is to serve - to help in the presentation of the worship service. A vital part of worship, acolytes blend into the background helping the liturgies flow smoothly. Acolytes work in close coordination with members of the larger worship team - clergy, altar guild, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, liturgical assistants, musicians, and ushers - for each service.

Whether you are a young person or an adult, it is a privilege to serve at God's altar, and we would welcome you to join us in this ministry. Why join? Being an acolyte brings a new dimension to your worship experience; you participate in Holy Acts of Worship; and you give service to the Church.

Please prayerfully consider joining us. Speak to one of the current acolytes for more information.

Barbara Henry

ADULT EDUCATION AND FORMATION

On-going programs:

Canon Casson offers **Meditation and Centering Prayer** on Tuesday evenings, drawing on a wide range of practices including centering prayer, silence, mindfulness training, and conversation. A notebook of the readings, poems, and discussion topics can be found on the information table near the elevator (2nd floor).

Merton Musings on Saturdays: Thomas Merton wrote books and articles on spirituality, ecumenical understanding, peace and social justice still timely in our own day, that in discussion give us better understanding of ourselves and each other in faith. A group gathers on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – noon (at a parishioner's home) to read and discuss Merton using a series of booklets with chapters of 4 small pages. This is a safe haven to speak of faith,

doubt, confusion, and understanding that may be different from one another. We engage in dialogue, not debate! No advance preparation is needed and no need to attend every time.

Bible Study: facilitated by Bob Young and Pat Hampton, this multi-media approach to small-group study used daily readings and weekly discussions accompanied by subject-specific videotapes.

New programs: *Be Still and Know I Am God: A Year of Listening Deeply to God, ourselves and One Another*

Season of Creation and Advent: The Four Pillars of SsAM Adult Formation Program was held on Thursday Evenings from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. We began the evening with a shared meal and Evening Prayer. We then reviewed the four pillars and focused on the pillar: Continue the Tradition of being an intentionally inclusive faith community that celebrates relationships with each other and the larger community. We then had an engaging conversation and participants were able to share with one another their feelings about this important pillar of this faith community. Other discussions focused on: Having Engaging Worship that is rich and meaningful, Strengthening and Growing our Youth and Young Family Ministry and Creating a Sustainable Financial Picture.

Unpacking the Liturgy One Part at a Time: Sundays during the Winter

On these Sundays, Fr. David explored the Liturgy of Holy Communion from *the Book of Common Prayer*. On the feast of the Epiphany, he reviewed the entrance rite or the beginning part of the Sunday morning worship service. The following week, he spent time with what is known as the Liturgy of the Word and during the final session he presented on the Liturgy of Holy Communion. This three week series allowed us to feel connected in a deeper way to what we do on Sunday morning.

Sharing our stories about our relationship with God: Thursday Evenings during the Winter

In our busy and hectic lives we often do not take time to pray and listen to God as well as we tend not to listen to one another. In this three week course, we had the opportunity to interview and share with one another a part of how your life connects with your relationship with God. Fr. David also shared spiritual practices that will empower you to go deeper into your relationship with God as well as to get to know others from SsAM in a new way. These sessions began with dinner and prayer.

Sunday Book Club in May and June: A conversation with Fr. David about Richard Rohr's new book *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe*.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the linens and items for the Eucharist for all services throughout the year including the Baptisms, Chapel/Healing Service, Funerals and Weddings and decorates the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter. Several members take responsibility for making sure the linens are clean and ready for every service.

We are delighted that we were able to add another team plus the four liturgical assistants to the rotation. We hope several more members of SsAM (men as well as women) will join us in this essential “behind-the-scenes” ministry.

Dot Dorsey – Chair Pat Saunders Co-Chair Anita Young – Co-Chair

Altar Guild Members (* indicates liturgical assistants)

Tom Angell	Barbara Henry *
Shirley Bynoe	Kelly Holt
Lisa Caperton	Ernest (Ron) Jackson
Diane – Louise Casson *	Anne McMahan
David Clouser	Scott Serota
Leslie Clouser	Wanda Smith
Tracey Dixon*	Nana Soto
Tracy Lea Dorsey	Lu Soukup (linens)
Shawn Dorsey	Eunice Trotz
Eudel Drain *	Ana Washington
Shannon Faulk (linens)	Paulyne Webster
Anne Gibson	
Patricia Hampton (linens)	

BREAKFAST & CHAPEL OUTREACH

BREAKFAST OUTREACH Purpose: To prepare and serve Sunday breakfast to the hungry in the Wilmington community five or six times during the year. Attendance for the breakfast ranges from 80 to 160. Activities: Two teams, with a total of 22 volunteers, prepared the breakfast five times during the past 12 months. In addition, thanks to the SsAM congregation and YYF Group, over 160 wrapped gifts were given to the breakfast attendees at Christmas time.

CHAPEL OUTREACH Purpose: Every Sunday, offer a faith-nurturing service for those who attend the breakfast...to feed the soul after the breakfast has fed the body. Average attendance ranges from 10 to 20. Special thanks to Susan and Phil Murphree and Linda and Ron Jackson who each share this wonderful responsibility one Sunday a month and for Pam Peters filling-in when needed. Thanks to others who fill in as well as those “upstairs” parishioners who join us in worship occasionally. Everyone is welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff and Alice Sawyer, Chairpersons

COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Chair: Linda Smith; Members: Brenda Demby, Sharon Bryant, Audrey Collins, and Marita Lewis

This ministry was established to encourage a social time after the 10:30 service and to welcome new members and visitors.

Weeks are divided by Alphabet Teams to bring refreshments for coffee hour:

first Sunday of the month	Team A-D
second Sunday of the month	Team E-K
third Sunday of the month	Team L-R
fourth Sunday of the month	Team S-Z
fifth Sunday of the month	the Vestry

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Community Advocacy and Service Committee is to provide a central organizing body and clearinghouse for all of SsAM's efforts in advocacy, service, and outreach, as well as to help the congregation be informed and involved in the opportunities for Christian service in the community. As part of the parish's strategic plan, the committee's goal is to sharpen members' awareness of current and emerging community issues and to develop ministries that address those issues.

Outreach at Christmas. Thanks to all who participated in providing Christmas gifts for our Friendship House Sunday breakfast guests, as well as for the Angel Tree program. The eleven children and their eight mothers, who are currently residents of the transitional housing at Friendship House, were the recipients of your generosity for Angel Tree. The children each received five gifts and a book, and their mothers received gift cards.

We received the following note from Marcy Perkins on behalf of the families, "I want to thank you for the wonderful gifts they received, due to your generosity. The gifts were obviously picked with true caring. They were amazing and so are you. As you know, our women – and their children – have experienced loss and trauma. They have often felt unwanted and unloved. Gifts such as yours help to remind them that they are valued and cared for. Thank you for caring about them and for lightening our holidays."

Geoff and Alice Sawyer also coordinated the collection of over 160 gifts, donated by members at SsAM for our Sunday breakfast guests. These were distributed just before Christmas to all of our breakfast friends. Special recognition goes to the the YYF who provided 100 wonderfully decorated gift bags filled with thoughtful items.

AIM Fund. Twice monthly a special collection is taken on Sunday mornings to go toward this fund, which allows our church to make contributions toward special projects in the community and for needs within our church family. The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank the members of SsAM for your generous contributions. In 2018, the AIM fund received about \$14,000 from donations, which helped to fund special outreach projects (American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Urban Promise), summer camp scholarships, eight college scholarships, and in support of Episcopal Relief and Development . In addition, we

provided grants to the following agencies: the Food Bank of Delaware, Limen House, and the Seamen's Center. The first AIM collection in January was designated for Code Purple. Thanks to your generosity, \$550 was given to Friendship House to assist in the expenses of providing hot beverages and soup and sandwiches during Code Purple. The Episcopal Church Women and Art Slam also contribute to the programs of Friendship House.

Scholarship Program. In 2018, the scholarship program entered its 18th year with eight \$800 scholarships awarded to members of our parish. The "Reverend Canon Lloyd S. Casson" Scholarship Program is funded through the AIM Fund and individual contributions. This year, the committee designated the AIM offering in June to bolster the fund. In addition, an anonymous donor gave each student an additional \$200 to make the scholarship value \$1,000.

The following students were awarded scholarships for the fall semester: Imani Blake (Delaware State University), Cameron Dixon [University of Delaware], Cameron Easton [Western New England University], Richard Hernandez [Albright College], Veronica Oates [Tennessee State University], Iyana Tull [Delaware State University], Alana Walker [Wilmington University], and Gloria Williams [Walden University].

Code Purple Assistance. As we have done for several years, SsAM offers its auditorium space to accommodate the homeless community on nights the city declares a Code Purple Alert. Code Purple is declared anytime the actual or wind-chill temperature is 20° or below. We open our space up at 4 p.m. and close at 9 p.m. at which time the Salvation Army opens and provides sleeping accommodations for the remainder of the night. SsAM also provides one of several volunteer teams to serve soup and sandwiches to the people coming in on Code Purple nights. Volunteering consists of helping prepare and serve the soup and sandwiches to feed the hungry and cold on very short notice. The MLK weekend was particularly rough, and coordinator Bill Perkins commented, "*The pervading spirit is gratefulness -- not only from a homeless guests but also from the many volunteers who felt privileged to get to know them by name and share a few hours of their lives.*" Special thanks to Phil and Susan Murphree and Alice and Geoff Sawyer who coordinated the volunteers.

Souper Bowl Sunday. This fellowship/outreach activity in February has become an annual event. Parish soup makers donated different soups that were purchased by members of the parish. Proceeds of \$231 from this activity went to purchase supplies for Code Purple.

Undee Sunday. Phil and Susan Murphree reported that UNDEE SUNDAY was another success this year. Twenty-three complete sets were donated along with a number of teeshirts and pairs of socks. With your generous cash contributions we were able to purchase an additional 81 pair of thermal underwear sets for our needy friends! The total of 104 sets were donated to the Friendship House Clothing Bank to be distributed to those in need.

Sunday Breakfast Ministry. On Sunday mornings from 5:30 to 8:00 a.m., the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew & Matthew makes available its auditorium for Friendship House to serve the homeless a hot breakfast. On a rotating basis, seventeen different faith communities prepare and serve this meal to an average of 130 individuals and families per week. After each Sunday breakfast, guests and volunteers are invited to participate in an ecumenical chapel service hosted by parishioners of SsAM.

Individual Member Initiatives. The Community Advocacy Committee is only a coordinating body for outreach at SsAM. Individual church members are encouraged to come up with avenues of outreach, which several did this year.

- 1) In June, Sharon Bryant, D-L Casson, and others led a SsAM team at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community which benefitted Friendship House.
- 2) Our youth held several activities, including collecting socks for the homeless.
- 3) Members of the parish donated clothing to Friendship House's Clothing Bank.
- 4) Mary Anne Edwards serves as the treasurer of Network Delaware.

Support of Other Organizations.

FAITH Center. FAITH Center's primary purpose is to involve the greater Wilmington religious community in efforts to serve fellow human beings in crisis by way of counseling, referrals, and financial assistance for various human needs. For over 18 years, FAITH Center has served the working poor who are facing a one-time financial difficulty. The center is prepared to provide modest crisis alleviation grants for basic needs such as help with housing costs to avoid eviction and homelessness; help with utility costs to avoid disconnection of services; help with unexpected and/or uninsured medical costs; help with expenses to obtain or keep employment; and help finding assistance for special needs. The Community Advocacy Committee's budget of \$4,000 also reflects our parish's continued financial support for the FAITH Center. Parish member Rob Gurnee now serves as the executive director of Lutheran Community Services who administers Faith Center, and Emily Gibson serves on the board.

Friendship House Ministries. SsAM supports the efforts of Friendship House in many ways: volunteer support; Sunday breakfast ministry; Sunday chapel service; and Code Purple. In addition, Friendship House runs two programs out of the basement of SsAM: the Wilmington Empowerment Center Day Program and the Men's Transitional Housing Program [Andrew's Place]. Individual church members also make contributions of personal items, paper goods, food items, and Christmas gifts for those who utilize Friendship House's services. Friendship House has provided outreach to the community for more than 30 years. We would like to recognize D-L Casson as our representative to the Board.

Financial Support of Traditional Agencies. The Community Advocacy Committee continues to administer funding to agencies that have a historical tie to our parish. Due to reductions in the church budget, the amount we are giving to the four traditional agencies supported by our parish in the past has been reduced. The distribution included:

- St. Michael's School and Nursery \$3,000 (scholarships for children – the school gives out \$30,000 per month in scholarship aid)
- Friendship House \$8,000 (for support of the many programs for the homeless administered by Kim Eppheimer and her staff)
- Delaware Futures \$3,000 (this educational program, which was started in 1993, is helping to prepare disadvantaged students for college)
- Sojourners' Place \$3,000 (transitional program to help those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse).

Art Program at Women's Prison. Pacem in Terris has created an art program at Baylor's Women's Prison. The AIM Fund donated \$500 for this two week program. The workshop is a process through which art leads to inner peace, self-respect, and self-regulation. The program got rave reviews from participants and staff. Art Slam hosted some of the artwork which was on display for three weeks in May. SsAM hopes to support this program again in the future.

Providing Space for Meetings of Other Advocacy Organizations. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has a separate meeting room in the lower level of our building, which is used seven days a week. Other organizations that periodically use our facility for meals and meetings include Delaware Choral Arts, the Wilmington Children's Chorus, Faith Victory Christian Center, Friendship House. Pacem in Terris, STIR and the Shipley Development Corporation. Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Reform has its meetings and uses storage space for materials and Network Delaware (headed by our own Drew Serres) has office space. Many of these organizations make use of the James Thomas Memorial Kitchen – it is indeed living out its mission of being a kitchen for the community. For example, Faith Victory Christian Center in Claymont holds monthly soup/sandwich and clothing give away events during the winter months. Other groups using our building for religious services include Ingelsia Pleno Renacer (Sundays in the AA room) and Walking the Word Ministry (Sundays – Chapel).

Regal Heights Ministry. The fourth Sunday of each month, SsAM parishioners and ministers share their faith and love by assisting residents of this skilled nursing center at a Holy Communion service.

World Wide Efforts. Our parish supports the worldwide outreach efforts of the Episcopal Church through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. In addition, in 2018 the Good Friday offering of \$300 went to support the Middle East and the Diocese of Jerusalem through the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

Many of these outreach efforts are highlighted on SsAM's website, www.ssam.org. In addition to listing opportunities to volunteer, the site gives links to provide more information on many of the agencies that our parish supports.

The committee welcomes input from all members of the parish. Please contact any committee member if you would be would like to be a part of community advocacy at SsAM.

Sylvia Banks
Joyce Bembry
Shirley Bynoe
Leslie Clouser
Eudel Drain
Mary Anne Edwards
Laura Eisenman
Bernard Fisher
Retha Fisher
John Goodill

Marshali Hansen
Sandy Holt
Dariel Janerette
Karen Johnson
Nancy Miller
Phil Murphree
Susan Murphree
Lore Noyes
Linda O'Connor
Alice Sawyer

Alice Smith, Chair
Orlen Washington

Newest committee
members: Athena and
Gary Jolly

DOWNTOWN ARTS – ARTSLAM @ SsAM

ArtSLAM @ SsAM – provides an open venue for artists and performers of all artistic expression to share their gifts and talents quarterly; typically in March, June, Sept and December on the last Friday of those months. It is free and most attendees are visitors to SsAM. Highlights from the past year were:

- **June 2018** - On Friday June 29, 2018 we had several featured artists: Presentation by Florence Collins Hardy on "East Side Wilmington" Culture – Community-Contributions. "East Side Wilmington" was a glimpse into and perspective on the history of the city's past as well as its present. The focus was on the African-American community identified with the East Side--its churches, schools, businesses, social life, and families. Also, SsAM's very own Susan Thomas-Holder shared her paintings from her "Not Just A Pretty Face" collection. And poetry by Christian Wills. And well known artist Terrance Vann shared his unique artwork with the audience.
- **October 2018** (typically in Sept-but moved to Oct because of SsAM Community Fun Fest) On Friday October 26, 2018 we hosted a *Motown Art Slam* in partnership with Dr. Jay Macklin, It was an amazing OLD SCHOOL History of R&B & Motown Artists trivia: including, who's that artist... What's that song... How tall do you have to be to be a Temptation.. and lots more. It was truly a fun night of dancing, singing, and community involvement. Also had many unique vendors in the house as well. In addition to a DJ, we had a local musician, John Carr who is known for being a Marvin Gaye singer! Just under 60 people attended this wonderful community event.
- **December 2018:** we did not do a Kwanzaa event this year because we did not want to be in community competition with the fairly new young adults who now make up the Africkan Connection/Kwanzaa Committee. The community is still happy to see a younger group of adults take the leadership role and do things a bit differently for the Kwanzaa season.
- **March 2019** - we celebrated Women's History month by having a different "spin" on things. Yes, SsAM's own Cheryl Thomas, accompanied by expert Ballroom Dance Instructor Brian was "spinning" very elegantly around what became the dance floor in the auditorium of SsAM. Also, from Baltimore Maryland, Shirley Duncan is the founder of The New Hand Dance Association and Charm City Dancers. She is also a National winner on the Hand Dance circuit as well as being an instructor of Hand Dancing, Ballroom Dancing and Line Dancing. In addition, Shay Thomas, of Simply Stepping In Sync brought in her line dance leaders. Attendees had the opportunity to learn Salsa, Ballroom and Line Dancing all in one great evening.
- **April 2019** - A special Art Slam where we were able to host the Art Work of the women of Baylor Prison. Alice Smith shared some interesting and heartfelt information in their amazing pieces. This special ArtSLAM included Aida Wasserstein (a meditation attendee), who talked

about her children's book and how the current plight of these children at the border and are separated from their families really touched her as it related to some history in Cuba that she experienced. Our beloved Charlene Simmons shared her whimsical poetry, Paul Sampson (son of Edith Bryant) presented inspirational poetry and rounding out the evening we were treated to music by Morgan Bell.

The Arts Ministry and the participants, audience, parishioners, and general public allowed us to send Friendship House for 2018-2019 a donation of \$277.00 over this time period.

Goals:

- We will continue with quarterly Art Slams and will integrate special Art Slam events as we see a need for SsAM and the community at large.
- June 2019, we will partner with Eunice LaFate, and have a Caribbean American Heritage month celebration.
- Plan other partnership events within the church as well as the community at large.
- Increase committee membership; Work with area educational and civic institutions and the new Creative District to make SsAM an integral part of downtown Wilmington
- Increase coordination of activities with vestry and other parish ministries
- Increase publicity to general media, community and the diocese

I would like to note that Gloria Hampton is now a member of our small group and has brought great new energy and participation to the Downtown Arts Committee. We are indeed so glad that she is here at SsAM and also an intricate part of the Downtowns

Committee Members: Audrey Collins, Brenda Demby, Gloria Hampton, Linda Smith, Diane Clarke Street, Leroy Burks and Sharon Bryant (Chair)

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE @ SsAM

The Environmental Justice ministry at SsAM is part of Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (DCR4EJ). DCR4EJ is chaired by Octavia (Penny) Dryden. Paulyne Webster and Linda Whitehead serve as liaisons between DCR4EJ and SsAM. Below are some highlights of the 2018 – 2019 year's work:

- DCR4EJ continues to be a combined effort between the Sierra Club and Community Housing and Empowerment Connections Inc. (CHEC) and DCR4EJ. This combined group gives increased clout to EJ efforts in the state. The group's mission statement is to inform and empower communities to take action to protect the fundamental rights to clean air, water, land and food. This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at SsAM.
- Major activities this year included:
 - June 2018: DCR4EJ applied for a grant from the Delaware Nature Society and received it in June 2018.

- September, 2018: Hosted a table at SsAM’s Fun Fest for children to learn more about how water contributes to plant growth. Each child who stopped by the table was encouraged to plant some herb seeds to take home and care for. They were given directions on watering their seeds and got to water their seeds before leaving.
- February 2019: Met with Bishop Brown to explain the work of DCR4EJ.
- March 27, 2019: A delegation from DCR4EJ travelled to Washington, DC to testify to the EPA about the toxicity of ethylene oxide. After the EPA testimony, group members also visited the staff of Tom Carper, Chris Coons and Lisa Blunt-Rochester and gave each team information about Ethylene Oxide.
- On Tuesday, April 30th, DCR4EJ once again travelled to Bethesda, MD and testified before NEJAC (National Environmental Justice Advisory Council). NEJAC advises the EPA and is co-chaired by Richard Moore, long time friend and supporter of DCR4EJ.
- As a result of the testimony by members of DCR44EJ described above, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council urged the EPA to change course and sent two letters. The first asked the EPA to abandon efforts to roll back recently adopted measures to prevent chemical disasters and the second was to act aggressively to address ethylene oxide emissions.
- Members were part of a variety of other actions throughout out the last year. A sample of some of these efforts included:
 - Supporting House Bill 130 on reducing the use of plastic bags
 - Helping communities in the Route 9 corridor to take action to reduce pollution in their communities.
 - Contributed to sign-on letters on a variety of issues
 - Responded to DNREC’s actions (or inactions) in Delaware to an ethylene oxide “spill” at the Croda plant in November of 2018

You are welcome to join us at our next meeting. Meetings happen every third Wednesday evening at 6:30 at SsAM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paulyne Webster and Linda Whitehead

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN MINISTRY (ECW)

The ECW Ministry at the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew welcomes all women of the Church to become active members in this Ministry. All women of SsAM are Episcopal Church Women. We have always appreciated the help the women of SsAM has given us in supporting our charitable activities. We would gladly embrace new active members as we strive to do God’s work through this ministry.

This past year we elected new officers, who are invested in making this Ministry a blessing to this Church and its surrounding communities. For example, we have elected to support a charity for 3 months; so we chose from January through March, the Friendship House Women who need toiletries and we presented these gifts to them in April 2019. The administrators there were very happy to receive these items. We are now collecting among ourselves donations for the State ECW Project, which is “the home of the Brave.” We started this collection in April and will be collecting until September, 2019. We will be asking the Church to participate in giving to this project beginning in August of this year. The needed items will be presented in August.

This past Mother’s Day, we held a “Mother’s Day Bake Raffle” which was very successful and we always thank the SsAM Congregation of its support.

Other projects we will be supporting are:

- The Episcopal Church and the United National Commission on the Status of Women – we have met with Michele Roberts, the National Co-Coordinator for Environmental Justice and Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, who enlightened us about environmental issues here in Delaware. We are in the process of coordinating a “Forum for Women” this October, 2019. More to come.
- United Thank Offering (UTO) – SsAM’s ECW will be commanding this project for October, 2019. As this is a project for the Episcopal Church Women, we feel it is our responsibility to oversee this campaign.
- We have completed a “Procedural Manual” that we will made available to any Ministry at SsAM to use when they need help in sponsoring any particular project that we have done; i.e. the Pancake Supper.
- We are trying to be inclusive with other Ministries at SsAM so we have sought information on the different Ministries to determine who and where we can be of service to them.
- Each year, the National Church has an “Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday” in the many diocese which support ERD charities all over the globe. This usually happens during the Lenten Season. We missed this year because we were not aware of the effort until we received the information from the state ECW, but we will take on this project during 2020.
- We will be active in helping with the “25th Anniversary of SsAM” planning in the near future.

As these are our long term goals for the ECW Ministry, we are hoping to gain more active women from SsAM (by active, we mean coming to our monthly meetings to help in the planning of projects).

We need your support.

Peace & Blessings,

Ernestine Brock-Walker, President

Gloria Connor-Bungy

Dot Dorsey

Anne Gibson
Pat Griffin
Pat Hampton
June Knight
Susan Lake

Mary Morgan
Cynthia Oates
Peggy Shane
Paulyne Webster

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Eucharistic Ministry at Saints Andrew and Mathew is a very dedicated group which embodies what Christ has intended for His disciples. All are committed to this ministry to assist the Celebrant in administering communion on Sundays and at other services. This year we added Junior Eucharistic Minister , Gigi Hernandez, who administers the chalice for communicants at the Gluten Free station. All of our Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the Diocese every three years upon the recommendation of the Rector.

Our senior Eucharistic Ministers also perform the role of Liturgical Assistants. As LA, the person provides coordination for the liturgy and is the 'eyes and ears' for the Celebrant ensuring that acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, and ushers are in place or they find a last minute substitute. Our Liturgical Assistants are Tracey Dixon, Eudel Drain, Barbara Henry and D-L Casson (Co-ordinator). We have 16 Eucharistic Ministers administering communion at the two services. We continue to have updated training sessions to cover changes in our liturgy. As we continue in this ministry, we are open to consider how you might add your spiritual gifts to this ministry.

Peace and Blessings,

Ernestine Brock-Walker

LECTORS

SsAM lectors are key (and visible) ministry members not only at 8:00 and 10:30 Sunday services, but also for Lessons and Carols, Evensong and other special services. Lectors are trained in how to properly pace the reading of the scripture and the pronunciation of the people and places of the bible. They also practice how to "pray" and not just read the Prayers of the People.

Over forty adult parishioners served in this role during the year as well Jude Ouma of the Youth and Young Families (YF) ministry. We want to especially thank everyone who took time for extra preparation required for the readings for Christmas and Holy Week. We also thank the lectors who can be called upon (with almost no notice) to be substitutes at our services.

While we have a wonderful roster of lectors, we invite and welcome others to our ministry. Any new volunteers are welcome to attend our next training/refresher which will be held in the Fall.

Joyce Bemby and Tom Angell, Co-leaders

PARKING LOT COMMITTEE (SsAM's Property)

The guiding purpose of the Parking Lot Committee is to maintain a safe and sound parking lot.

We continue to look into an effective means to mitigate our tax expenses. As noted in prior annual report, we continue to keep the tax structure "as-is" (i.e. as structured in prior years). The decision to keep the tax structure "as-is" is to ensure we do not make any changes that may compromise the integrity of SsAM, not to mention, the non-for profit status of SsAM as well. However, as was the case with Shipley Lofts and its relationship with SSAM, we hope to New Castle County and the City of Wilmington will regard our case in a like manner, and therefore also afford SSAM Property, Inc. the same favorable tax status.

We continue to develop our relationship with Colonial Parking. Our lease to Colonial Parking is due to renew this December 2019, and we do not anticipate any obstructions in renewing our lease at this time. However, if for some reason, the lease to Colonial is not renewed, we will need to look into alternative means to manage the parking lot.

We had a few changes to our board. Jim Ballard has resigned, but has agreed to serve in an advisory capacity. Jim played an instrumental role in our efforts to renegotiate the lease with Colonial. In addition, his expertise was priceless during the redesign of the parking lot; not to mention, his commitment and dedication to ensuring the parking lot was always well-maintained and safe for use goes beyond words. We thank Jim for his service. While Jim will be hard to fill, Cyndi Dombrowski has volunteered to help fill the void. As result, Leroy Trotz is now vice president; Bill Kaufman will remain as Treasurer; and Cyndi will be Secretary of the committee. In the coming months, we intend to welcome additional members onto the committee as well.

Going forward, the focus of the Parking Lot Committee will be:

1. To update the By-Laws so that they appropriately conform with the current state of affairs of the committee
2. Address the upcoming lease renewal with Colonial Parking
3. To continue our efforts of finding a viable means to address our tax expenses
4. To develop contingency plans (e.g. how to self-manage the parking lot)
5. Gather ideas around the direction of the future-state of the SsAM Property, Inc. so that we may better prepared for the times ahead and to better serve the mission of SsAM

In the meantime, we will continue to maintain a safe parking facility for the downtown Wilmington community, and particularly for the parishioners and others attending services and events at SsAM...God willing.

Our financial status as of May 30, 2019 is as follows:

- Original Loan balance from SsAM (*at 8% interest per annum*): \$ 157,500
- Checking account balance: \$ 8,042.25
- Money Market account balance: \$ 2,580.60

The Parking Lot Committee consists of the following parishioners from SsAM:

- Mark T. Williams (Board, president)
- Leroy Trotz (Board, vice president)
- Bill Kaufman (Board, treasurer)
- Cyndi Dombrowski (Board, secretary)
- Jim Ballard (advisor)
- Jim Linderman (advisor)
- Jerry Lucas (advisor)

Sincerely,

Mark T. Williams
President, SsAM Property, Inc.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is an ancient model of spiritual and emotional support. The work of pastoral care givers is mostly a listening one: we abide with one another by walking with each other and treating one another as whole, creative, and dignified human beings. For the caregivers, this takes prayer, study, and a commitment to holding another's concerns in our hearts and in strictest confidence. For the congregation, a thriving pastoral care program requires trust and a willingness to be vulnerable, in order to ask for help from God and from one another. It requires that each of us tells someone else when we are in need of prayer.

In addition to sending hundreds of cards, making several dozen hospital visits and too many phone calls to count, we have continued our Centering Space ministry. Offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, a member of the Pastoral Care team is on hand during Communion to hear individual prayers and thanksgivings to God together.

We continue to be blessed with all who participate in this ministry as Eucharistic Visitors. These ministry members are licensed by the Diocese to take communion to those who are unable to attend church.

We thank all of our ministry members. If you feel called to share in this ministry, please contact D-L Casson.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee of Saints Andrew and Matthew has the responsibility of maintaining and upgrading the building of SsAM, the rectory and the grounds around these buildings. We must be good stewards of the money that belongs to SsAM, constructing and maintaining a budget, which is approved by the Vestry.

On two cleanup days, approximately 20 parishioners came to help our Facilities Manager, Marlon Rochester, and part time Sextons, Charles Lewis and Mary Cooper, keep the property neat and clean, inside and out. We are indebted to Cyndi Dombrowski, Sandy Hines and Anne Gibson for their constant overseeing of the grounds around SsAM. We are asking for help for these faithful stewards. They can no longer do this job alone.

The Property Committee recommended, and the Vestry has approved P. Cooper Roofing Company to replace the roof. Throughout the years, there have been numerous leaks in the various roofs of SsAM, which have always been repaired, but the time has come to replace the entire roof, at the contracted price of \$114, 752. Work should begin soon and should be completed in about three weeks from the start date, weather permitting.. The money for the roof replacement will come from the endowment. The Vestry is working on ways to replenish these funds.

While this is a large sum taken from the endowment, the alternatives are more costly. Postponing this inevitable work will mean more patches and interior damage from leaking water. Borrowing money from the bank will mean paying interest, as low as 6%. The Property Committee thinks either of these two alternatives would be wasting money given by SsAM parishioners and others. The HVAC systems will have to be replaced at some time in the near future, but they are stable at the writing of this report. We will give updates to the congregation if these units must be replaced before the next report.

Below is a list of improvements and upgrades done in the past year.

Rectory

- The downstairs air conditioner was replaced. This means that both air conditioners have been replaced in the last two years.
- The interior wall in the living room was repaired and repainted after pointing on the outside was complete.
- Routine work is done including a yard service for grass cutting and other yard work and gutters cleaned.

SsAM

- The red door has been weather stripped and reinforced to keep excess air from entering the building.
- A Hearing Loop was installed in the sanctuary to help those with hearing problems better hear when attending services or events. If one has a cochlear implant or a hearing aid with a T cell, nothing is needed to aid hearing. There are headphones available to help others.
- An electronic opener door opener was installed in the restroom across from the kitchen. Funds for this improvement were obtained from a grant from the Barnabas Fund provided by the diocese.

- A security system has been begun to secure the office door and we are awaiting parts to have this work complete completed.
- Help was given with the first Fund Fest.

Projected work for this year

- Downspout to be replaced on the 8th and Shipley corner of the building at SsAM.
- Roof replacement
- Painting the exterior of SsAM.
- 25th anniversary planning
- Help with annual Fund Fest

Active members on the Property Committee

Ernest Barnes
 David Clouser, Co-Chair
 Cyndi Dombrowski
 Cynthia Martin

Dana Robertson, now retired
 Pat Saunders, Co-Chair
 Peggy Shane
 Orlen Washington

Organization and Design Sub-Committee

Accomplishments

- Moved art and artifacts from basement Archives space to 2nd floor Archives space.
- Created Event Material Storage Room in prior Archives space in basement. Items stored include Christmas decorations, Selfie wall props, Sharing our Blessings material.
- De-cluttered and organized space behind auditorium stage.
- Obtained University of Delaware Master Gardeners design and maintenance plan for Grave yard and Garden of Praise.
- Created 3 - year capital projects plan to retain, restore, re-use SsAM art, artifacts and space in preparation for a celebration of 25th anniversary of SsAM.

2019 Goals

- Continue to organize St. Andrews and St. Matthews books, records art and artifacts for easy access and research.
- Propose Gift Acceptance Guidelines to clarify how gifts are assessed for acceptance.

Submitted by

Cynthia Primo Martin, Leslie Clouser, Cyndi Dombrowski, Peggy Shane

REGAL HEIGHTS CARE CENTER MINISTRY

Charles Bungy, Gloria Conner-Bungy, Paulette Francis, Sandra Johnson, Alice Sawyer and Geoff Sawyer. Fr. David Andrews and Canon Lloyd Casson, Officiants.

The faithful volunteers arrive at Regal Heights at 2:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of the month to bring the residents into the Community Room for the service which begins at 2:30 p.m. A brief service of song, the Word, and Holy Eucharist is shared with all present. Music and singing is provided by the Regal Heights Resident Choir. Members interested in this ministry should contact Gloria Conner-Bungy, 302-654-7630.

SHIPLEY LOFTS & THE CHRIS WHITE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

After many years of false starts, through the leadership of Canon Lloyd Casson and Chris White, SsAM Senior Warden and Board Chair of the Shipley Village Community Development Corporation [SVDC], 23 artists' lofts [most of which are being rented at subsidized rental rates] were opened almost 10 years ago.

Over the last 12 months, the lofts have been rented at a 100% occupancy rate for the most part to artists. As planned, our operating budget continues to break even.

Last summer we entered into partnership with the Delaware Art Museum to help fund a gallery manager/docent for the Chris White Gallery. Roxanne Campbell, an artist in her own right, runs the gallery, developing, coordinating and evaluating exhibits and activities; at the Delaware Art Museum, she provides art training for various schools as well as working with the art museum staff in the operation of the museum. She receives a stipend from the museum; we provide a gallery/apartment.

Vestry member Sharon Leyhow and Nana Soto are on the board as well as myself.

Geoff Sawyer, Chair of the Board

STEWARDSHIP

This year's stewardship theme was the Four Pillars of SsAM. During my sabbatical last spring and summer the vestry took the initiative and wrote to the parish inviting members to increase their pledge to assist with reducing the operating budget deficit. In the fall I facilitated three sessions that focused on the Four Pillars which are: Continue to be an intentionally diverse community, offer engaging Sunday morning worship, develop a plan for a sustainable financial future and grow and support our Youth and Young Family ministry.

The results of the stewardship campaign were: 144 parish households pledged \$464,534 which is an average pledge of \$3226.00. I wish to thank the vestry and the parish for your continued support of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. At this year's annual meeting the vestry will lead the parish in a listening process that will focus on three areas: Finance, Stewardship and the Way Forward.

Faithfully Submitted,

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.

Rector

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we continued to use the SPARK curriculum designed for our youngest children ages 2-8 for SsAM Sunday School meeting each week from 10:30-11:15 am in the education suite. The lessons feature a new story each week using a children's bible, songs, rhymes and simple skits to re-enact the stories. The children enjoyed making some large group posters to illustrate the theme of the lessons. Afterward the preschool children stay in the nursery and the grade school children join their family in the sanctuary for the Eucharist.

Serving as Sunday school teachers this year: Alice and Geoff Sawyer, Carol Scott, Cyndi Dombrowski and Dan Young who joined us mid-year. The child care staff for the nursery is Michelle Smith and Gigi Hernandez. Thank-you to the dedicated teachers who will be retiring this year: Geoff, Alice, Cyndi, Carol and to Sherry Bell who retired earlier this year. We are meeting on June 30 after the 10:30 service to review the Sunday School program and look for the best way to meet the needs of young children and families at SsAM in the coming year. Join us with your ideas and suggestions.

Carol Scott

USHERS' ANNUAL REPORT

The Ministry of Ushering is rooted in biblical history and tradition. In fact, the position of "gate keeper" or "door keeper" was a significant and exalted office in the Hebrew Scriptures. "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84:10).

As one of the most visible ministries in SsAM, our mission is to create an environment where all who enter our doors feel a warm welcome. The ushers are part of Invite-Welcome-Connect. Each congregant is accommodated a seat in the most pleasant and efficient manner possible. Ushers count the number attending each service, collect the offering and assist in communion.

Ushering is a part of the Ministry of Hospitality and Welcome in the life of the Church. Ushers are often the first voice and interaction that visitors experience. We are responsible for

bringing comfort, compassion, and help to our first time guests, repeat visitors, and members. By maintaining a safe and quiet environment, our congregants are able to experience the sacredness and joy of a worship service.

We would like to say “**Thank You**” to those who serve as Ushers each week at both services and to those who fill in on special occasions. Your dedication to this ministry shows each worshipper who comes through our doors what type of family SsAM truly is. As Tracy Lea-Dorsey moves off an usher team, we thank her for several years on this ministry.

Our goal is to expand our ministry by establishing an ongoing recruitment program to increase membership and participation. So, please consider joining this ministry by helping to welcome those new congregants amongst us as well as those who have already found a home at SsAM.

Jenna Christy and Patty Greene

Co-Chairs

Ushers’ Ministry

YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES (YYF)

Youth and Young Families supports the mission of SsAM by fostering a youth led Christian community that follows Christ in all aspects of their lives and serves the community. YYF embodies the pillars of **The Jesus Movement**: *Creation Care*, teaching youth to be better stewards of our community; *Reconciliation*, teaching youth to work as empathetic partners in our community and *Evangelism*, teaching and leading by “truth in action”.

Highlights of the past year include:

- Hope of the Streets: providing toiletries and water to those in need at Rodney Square
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner: YYF organized and staffed this successful event
- Collaboration with Trinity Episcopal and Emmanuel Churches youth group activities
- Participated in the SsAM fall fundraiser operating the smoothie bike
- Participated in a 5K for the Epilepsy Foundation - Freedom from Seizures