



# Annual Report 2016-2017

The Episcopal Church  
Of  
Saints Andrew and Matthew

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# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINTS ANDREW AND MATTHEW

June 2016 – June 2017

Rector's Annual Report  
June 11, 2017

***We were losing the more traditional form of faith which saw religion as a practical activity. Like driving, swimming, dancing or gymnastics, you learn the truths of faith only by constant, dedicated practice—not by reading texts or adopting a metaphysical 'belief'. Like a myth, a religious doctrine is essentially a program of action. It makes no sense unless it is translated into practical action that helps you to dethrone egotism, selfishness and greed by practicing compassion to all living beings.***

**Karen Armstrong**, discussing her book *The Case for God*,  
*Washington Post web site, October 8, 2009*

It is difficult for me to fathom that this is my eighth annual report and meeting as the Rector of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. As tempting it would be to look back over the last eight years and highlight all that the parish accomplished, but instead I wish to focus mostly on the future, specifically how we incarnate what Karen Armstrong says in the above quote. Before doing so, we need to look at one recent achievement: the successful conclusion of the *Sharing Our Blessing* Capital Campaign that came to a remarkable close on May 15<sup>th</sup>. It is my deepest hope that the parish truly understands what an accomplishment this is for a parish the size of SsAM. We are not a small parish by Episcopal standards, but it is wonderful testament to the faith of the members of SsAM who not only met the original goal of raising 1.35 million dollars but in fact exceeded that goal by over 100,000.00 dollars. Pat Saunders and members of the Steering Committee are to be applauded and thanked for their tireless efforts and their faith to see the campaign to its completion. This is especially impressive due to the reality of the downturn in the nation's economy the last several years. To Pat and to you the members of SsAM, well done!

So what is the next big bold project that we as a parish will begin in this next season of our history? Just as we came together as a community during the Capital Campaign it is my hope that we will channel that energy as well as be guided by God's Holy Spirit to discern what our next big bold vision will be. Let me offer some ideas as to what this vision may look like. Let me begin by stating my belief that each one of us has been invited through the sacrament of Baptism to live our lives grounded in the life of Jesus Christ. We are each invited to study and reflect on the life of Jesus as it is told by the authors of the four Gospels and as it is interpreted in the Epistles of St. Paul. There is another aspect of being followers of Jesus Christ that is equally important and that is learning how to live as Jesus did in the world today. The two are connected in that we attend Church every Sunday to be renewed by God's Word that we hear read from the Old and New Testaments and the Gospels and through the prayers of the people we pray that God continue to watch over those who govern, the needs of the world, the sick and the dying and the body of Christ. We are fed by our participation in the Eucharist and are called to go into the world remembering what we have just done so that Christ may live

through us as we love and care for all God's creation. In Church Development language this is known as Renewal-Apostolate. As baptized people each one of us is called to live our lives in a totally different way than the world teaches. My dream is that SsAM will be a center of learning how we practice being renewed and formed in the life of Christ so that we might go forth and each be a vehicle of transformation to all whom we meet.

This however takes work. I believe the work of ministry is a blessing because it is downright humbling to be called to follow Jesus Christ. The Good News is that we are called from where we are to follow him. Just as Peter, John and James left their fishing nets to follow Jesus, so are we today. Now I know that to drop everything, including our families and employment, is not realistic but we are still called to learn how to follow and to become a community where all the gifts that are present here may be used by God to grow the Body of Christ. No matter how long you have been a member, all gifts and ideas are important to listen to and to reflect on. So often we get in the way as we want to make sure "my idea is listened to". Each one of us are unique and loved as a son or daughter of God and each one of us has, at some point, experienced the love that comes as a free gift. We have been set free to love and forgive others as we have been loved and forgiven. To live into this flow of the renewal-apostolate framework invites each of us to know that we are loved by God and that no matter what happens the other six days of the week, we are loved to live our lives in a new way.

The new life requires a risk on our part to learn how to pray, to introduce yourself to a new member of SsAM, to be active in the many ways that SsAM is engaged in and outside the parish, to grow in confidence and understanding of the shape of Sunday morning worship and not to be afraid to try new things. God is present in all of what we do, but we must open our eyes, our ears and most especially our hearts to God in Christ.

This will be especially important a year from now when I will be on Sabbatical from April to the middle of August of 2018. As a part of my Letter of Agreement that I signed in 2010 I was eligible for a sabbatical two years ago but I chose to delay my taking it until the completion of the *Sharing Our Blessing* Capital Campaign. The time has come and the vestry and I agree this will be in 2018. A sabbatical is not an extended vacation but is derived from the Old Testament concept of sabbat. A sabbatical is a time for both of us to step back from one another for a period of Sabbath or rest. I envision that this time a part will be used by both me and by you to reflect on the last seven and a half years as well as a time to rest and renew so that together we might listen to God's Spirit for the time after I return. During this time, supply clergy as well as the vestry and staff will care for the pastoral and the sacramental needs of the parish. I will be sharing more about the shape of my time away and how you can be involved in the months ahead. This time apart will be a time for many at SsAM to step up and use the gifts that you have to continue to grow SsAM into the community that is focused on renewal and living as apostles of Jesus every day. I look forward to the coming year working with all of you so that we might be a community that learns how to be the Jesus Movement and Blessed Community today.

I am humbled every day to work with a dedicated staff who "bring it" every day to the parish to support the community that is both inside and outside the walls of the church on Shipley Street. A big thank you to Dana Robertson, D-L Casson and Janice Teemer for all they do keeping track of volunteers, working with the vestry and finance and the property committee, answering the phone, fielding difficult questions and being a resource to folks who come looking for assistance. I could go on and their support is invaluable. To David Christopher I owe my

gratitude to what he brings to the life of SsAM. His creative vision for programming and liturgy and his knowledge of strategic planning and marketing are important to what we do in the parish. I can say that as a priest, it is a true gift that I can enter into the Liturgy on Sunday because of the support of the volunteers that give so much to make Sunday morning worship so special at SsAM. A big thank you to Charles Lewis, Marlon Rochester and Mary Cooper for their hard work to keep the parish clean, which is a challenge do to all that happens here Monday through Sunday.

The parish is blessed with a hard working vestry. This year I wish to thank Michelle Smith and Dave Clouser who were Senior and Junior Wardens and for members of the vestry who are rotating off at this year's annual meeting. Thanks to Bill Kaufmann, Debbie Layton and Phylisse Wilkins-Church for your faithful service to the parish the last three years.

My report would be incomplete if I did not mention the saints among us who remain with us in spirit and memory but who we see no longer. Our hearts miss: Kendall Gardner, Francis Weber, Curt Dorsey, Gwenita Walker, Claudine Hackett, John Owens, Marion Allison, DeVere Patton, Jayne Britt and Joyce Matlack. May their souls rest in peace.

This has been a full year and I look forward to what God has in store for us next.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.  
Rector

**2016-2017 Parish Statistics (to May 31, 2017)**

Average Sunday Attendance: 202

Weddings: 1

Burials: 7

Baptisms: 8

Confirmations: 14

Receptions: 2

## Warden's Report

It has been an educational experience and a privilege 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 still embrace the goals established two years ago at the Vestry retreat:

1. To strengthen and grow Youth and Young Families
2. To create a sustainable financial picture
3. To provide engaging worship that is rich and meaningful—where people come back
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.

This year's accomplishments show commitment to and work toward those goals. SsAM ended a successful five-year capital campaign, raising the funds both to renovate the kitchen, and this year, to build, install, and dedicate the Kitty Esterly Organ. With additional bequests, we balanced the 2016 budget, and upgraded and modernized the three bathrooms that are largely used by congregants and visitors. In addition, the Organization and Design subcommittee, with the support of the Vestry, commissioned a timeline mural for the hallway between the church office and the auditorium, and saw it through to completion. The HVAC in the Chapel has been upgraded this year as recommended by the study done last year.

Other ongoing property maintenance work:

- Painting the Shipley Street façade
- Repairing the soffits and woodwork on the Shipley Street roof line.
- Chapel exterior entrance drain cleaned
- Maintaining the Garden of Praise
- Maintaining the lawn and shrubbery by the Parish House entry.
- Painting the rectory exterior
- Repointing the brickwork of the rectory garage
- And many others...

While we have not managed to balance the 2017 budget, with hard work by the Vestry and Finance committees we were able to cut the deficit in half, from \$100K to about \$50K. We are still looking for fund raising and cost-cutting opportunities. We held a Financial Town Hall meeting to discuss the budget and present to the congregation the current status and challenges that remain, to further transparency of the budgeting and financial processes at SsAM. We have started a three-year strategic planning committee to look at the challenges we face both in finances and in managing aging facilities that require major capital and operational maintenance, and are looking to a year-round stewardship process with a long-term view.

Our worship services continue to develop and explore new approaches, with deep services such as Tenebrae and the Passion, and of course we retain our Mardi Gras Sunday prior to Lent. Fr. David continues to provide help and teaching for the congregation, in addition to the daily and weekly offices. SsAM remains welcoming to a diverse community and congregation, and supports a wide variety of outreach programs: Friendship House, AA, AIM, food vouchers, etc. We welcome a few new families to the congregation this year, and support a growing YF group.

Looking to the future, we have begun planning for a community Open House scheduled for September 30. We are supporting Fr. David in his plans for his sabbatical next spring, and contributed to the grant application for funds to help with the expenses of those activities. Our thanks go to the outgoing Vestry members for their contributions. If the past is any indication, we enter the future with love for one another, and a caring family at SsAM. Let's open ourselves to sharing our gifts and embrace a future full of God's love, and really become the Body of Christ, sharing "one bread, one cup."

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

Michelle Smith, Senior Warden  
Dave Clouser, Junior Warden

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**6.11.17**

Please refer to the special packet which includes: the Treasurer's Report, Operating Budget Performance (2016), Financial Position, Operating Budget, responses to questions and comments raised during the Financial Town Hall, and Sharing our Blessings (our capital campaign).

# MUSIC AT SsAM

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This past year, the music ministry at SsAM has been largely focused the installation of the new Katherine Esterly Organ (KEO). For a detailed timeline of the installation, please see Pat Saunder's annual report for the Capital Campaign in the financial packet.

Now that the organ installation is complete, a new committee has been formed called the Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ (FOKEO)! The purpose of the organization is to raise funds and oversee the production of future events that involve and feature the KEO. There was an initial appeal for funds from folks attending the dedicatory events that raised over \$9,000 which will be used for additional programs during the 2017-2018 program year. The committee is chaired by Josh Martin and members include Jacqueline Roberts, Mary Meese, Emily Gibson, Dana Robertson, David Christopher, Canon Lloyd Casson and Fr. David Andrews.

This past year saw the graduation of most of the girls that were singing in the SsAM Treble Choir, so the former group did not sing for most of the season. Some younger children from the parish began to show interest in singing, so a new group of 6 choristers was put together this spring. A number of those choristers sang in church on June 4, and there is a lot of enthusiasm for a renewed effort in September with younger children from the parish. Several of the choristers have signed up for piano and vocal lessons this summer to help prepare them for choir in the fall.

Our Musikgarten program led by Lianna Magerr has met on a regular basis on Saturday mornings and is helping to train the youngest members of our parish. For children ages 3-5, this program instills basic skills in music and movement that we hope will eventually bring young children to our Chorister Training Program.

We had a number of collaborative musical events this season. SsAM partnered with Delaware ChoralArts (DCA), the community chorus that is one of our resident ensembles at SsAM, to present a 20th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, Nov. 20. The concert featured the SsAM Choir with Delaware ChoralArts in presenting "Voices of Light", a concert of music inspired by the Season of Creation. In January, DCA and the SsAM Choir again collaborated for the annual Spirituals Concert. Finally, In April, many of the SsAM Choir members joined DCA to present our first major choral work accompanied by the new KEO, "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by Johannes Brahms and "Five Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

We had a highly successful Messiah Sing Along on Dec. 21 featuring the KEO and soloist from the SsAM Choir. On June 3, we held our 2nd Annual Hymn Sing led by the SsAM Choir and featuring hymns requested by members of the congregation.

Our artist-in-residence, Jonathan Whitney, put together three very inspiring Jazz Vespers this past season. We had Jazz Vespers in October that celebrated the Season of Creation, one in January for Martin Luther King Day, and our annual Rod Welles Jazz Vespers in June. Jonathan's work with the SsAM Drumming Circle continues to enrich the musical and social landscape of our parish tremendously. The Drumming Circle plays frequently at key liturgies and performs periodically at events in the community.

We were delighted to once again welcome back the Wilmington Children's Chorus for the spring concert to a packed house on May 20 & 21. They held their summer camp at SsAM last August 8-12 and will be holding it again June 26-30.

In closing, I encourage members of SsAM to share their ideas and suggestions for our music ministry. Our intention is to program music that is relevant and inspiring to members of the parish in a way that helps us remain focused on our mission and vision. Much of the music we perform and events that we have come about as ideas from our own parishioners. I encourage you to send me your thoughts via e-mail or note, or give me a call. Feel free to suggest hymns, anthems, songs, or even particular styles of music that might enhance our worship. Also, if there are singers or other musicians out there who would be interested in participating in the SsAM music ministry, or if there are music lovers who would like to help with the music committee or Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ, please let me know.

David Christopher

### **SsAM DRUMMING CIRCLE**

I experienced my first drum circle in 1999 at the corporate headquarters of the Kaman Company, one of the sponsors of Jersey Surf Drum and Bugle Corps. I was a snare drummer in Surf at the time, and all of the members of the Corps along with a group of Kaman employees took part in the drum circle facilitated by Kalani (a Kaman sponsored artist). I was at the peak of my career as a rudimental percussionist and it was awesome to see non-musicians find true enjoyment in playing the instruments I loved.

Several years ago, David Christopher and I began to talk about the idea of having a drum circle at SsAM. Initially, the drum circle rehearsed and performed for a single church service, but soon we progressed to playing several services during the Season of Creation. This year was our fifth full year of meetings. The drum circle continues to be a part of the uniqueness of the worship experience at SsAM. As a performing ensemble, the drum circle has performed at numerous SsAM services, both as a separate ensemble as well as accompanying the choir. In May we visited Hanover Presbyterian where we accompanied their choir and performed in several places during their Sunday morning liturgy. We shared the activities and rhythms that we practice on Tuesdays with their budding drum circle.

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.

We are now on our summer vacation, but we will begin meeting again on the Tuesday after Labor Day. There is always room for anyone to join us. We'll supply the drum. You supply the passion.

Jonathan W. Whitney

# SsAM MINISTRIES

## Acolyte Ministry

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

At the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service the acolytes are Charles Annan, Ron Jackson, Anne Kaufmann, and Wanda Smith.

At the 10:30 service, acolytes include Al Brock, Calec Cruz, Tracey Dixon, Gracie Gaskell, Silas Harrison, Barbara Henry, GiGi Hernandez, Collins Jones, George Jones, Walt Meredith, Lore Noyes, Rayon Pinnock, and Keziah Soto. This year we welcomed Gracie, Keziah, Calec, and Silas as new acolytes.

Les Roberts, who has served as crucifer and thurifer at SsAM since its inception and as an acolyte at St. Matthew's prior to that, retired from the ministry this year. While we will miss his service, his sense of humor and bright smile, we know each Sunday he sits just a few rows behind us with his wife and son.

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, torchbearers 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.

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, in a series of ancient directions to the clergy known as the *Ordines Romani*, acolyte duties were described and included instructions that acolytes led processions in the early Church. During the same time period, we see the predecessor to our current Gospel procession as two acolytes carried candles to accompany the reader and ensure that he had enough light to see the text. 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. In addition to Sunday morning responsibilities, acolytes may be asked to serve at weddings, funerals, Evensong, Jazz Vespers, or other services.

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; you give service to the Church; and you will laugh a lot (but not during the service). Please prayerfully consider joining us. Speak to one of the current acolytes or Father David for more information.

Barbara Henry

Traditional Acolyte Prayer

Almighty God, who has called us, your servants, to the sacred office of Acolyte in your church, that clothed in white we may minister before you, we pray your great mercy to guide, strengthen, and sanctify us by your Holy Spirit, that, always doing your will, we may both by our service in your house and by our daily life, please you and glorify your Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### Contemporary Acolyte Prayer

Gracious god, the epitome of light and love: You call us to light the way for your people in a world of change and uncertainty. Grant to your acolytes reverent hearts, steady hands, and the will to persevere in serving at your altar and at prayer. Bless and guide us by your wisdom and help us to spread your word throughout the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

#### Adult Education and Formation

Last summer Fr. David met with a group of about twenty to review the spiritual practices of preparing for Sunday Eucharist, Saying the Daily Office, and Personal Devotions and how to incorporate these practices in daily life. Also last summer Fr. David met with the stewardship committee and reflected on the theme of Generosity. This prepared us for the Generosity retreat that was held the last weekend of September and brought together thirty parishioners to tell their story of generosity. This was followed by a month long devotional series that was held on Sunday morning between the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

Other education offerings included sessions on how to pray the bible (Lectio Divina) and centering prayer. For the five Sundays of Lent Fr. David explored the rich themes of this penitential season.

Canon Casson offers Meditation on Tuesday evenings, drawing on a wide range of practices including centering prayer, silence, mindfulness training, and conversation.

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.

#### 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, no matter the time, day or week. Our Altar Guild also decorates the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter. Several members take responsibility for making sure the linens are clean and ready for every service. It may appear that we have only women, but we have several dedicated men: Charles Annan, Ron Jackson and Shawn Dorsey. We invite men and women to join us.

Dot Dorsey – Chair

Pat Saunders Co-Chair

Anita Young – Co-Chair

Charles Annan

Kelly Holt

Shirley Bynoe

Ernest (Ron) Jackson

Leslie Clouser

Anne McMahan

Cynthia Cumberbatch

Adele Meredith

Tracy Lea Dorsey

Wanda Smith

Shawn Dorsey

Nana Soto (in training)

Shannon Faulk (linens)

Lu Soukup (linens)

Anne Gibson

Eunice Trotz

Patricia Hampton (linens)

Ana Washington

Paulyne Webster

Submitted by Dot Dorsey, Co- Chair

### **Ambassador Team Ministry**

The Mission Statement: To provide Christian Hospitality to all who come to our doors; and shepherd those who are or want to affiliate with SsAM on their faith journey. SsAM Ambassadors serve as shepherds (liaisons) to visitors by providing information and ascertaining their interests. We are a part of the Member Development Ministry and continue the shepherding as new members join SsAM. During the past year, we have seen an increase in visitors to SsAM, as a result of our website and email outreach; attendance at many of our musical programs; through word-of-mouth from people who attend our Drumming Circle. We also get visitors from our Breakfast & Chapel Outreach ministries, Art Slam at SsAM and most importantly, by personal invitations from our parishioners. It is anticipated that more people will be coming to "check-out" SsAM as our Sunday services are now being live-streamed on My Star Radio by Kofi Jacquaye, thanks to Nana and Moses Soto.

Future Plans include:

- Increase our efforts to recruit, train and assign SsAM Ambassador Team Members to any and all potential opportunities to shepherd and enfold new members into the SsAM community from all parts of our outreach points.
- Set dates for a Fall and Spring New Member gatherings.
- Continue to monitor current Dinner Groups and assist in the creation of new ones.
- Continue to evaluate the tracking system of the Ambassador Ministry for refinement and improvements.
- Continue to partner with the Membership Development Ministry in their goals and to Recruit, Reclaim and reclaim members here at SsAM
- Work closely with the Membership Development Ministry in their "Open House" effort in September.
- Continue to have a presence at the Liturgical meetings of Pastoral Care, Ushers, and Eucharistic Visitors

All of us are "Ambassadors for Christ" here at SsAM. However, if you feel "called" to be more intentional about this ministry or just want more information about the process, please call either Anita Young or myself or the church office and we will be in touch.

Patricia Hampton, Co-Chair

Anita Young, Co-Chair

Carol Scott, Trainer

### **Breakfast and Chapel Outreach**

**BREAKFAST OUTREACH Purpose:** To prepare and serve Sunday breakfast to those in need in the Wilmington community four or five times during the year. Attendance for the breakfast ranges from 80 to 160. **Activities:** Three teams, with a total of 25 volunteers, prepared the breakfast five times during the past 12 months. Thanks to SsAM volunteers, over 150 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. **Activities:** Special thanks to Susan and Phil Murphree who share this wonderful responsibility once a month and for Linda and Ron Jackson and 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.

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

Hot coffee and tea, as well as iced tea and lemonade or orange juice are provided by SsAM. The committee enjoys the ministry we provide to the members of SsAM and we hope the members enjoy the service we provide.

## 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.** This Christmas, members of SsAM generously donated gifts for 12 children who live in transitional housing offered by Friendship House. Each child received five gifts plus books suitable for each age level. In addition, each parent was given \$50 in gift cards to use for themselves or for holiday dinners. The twelve children and their five mothers, who are currently residents of the transitional housing at Friendship House, were the recipients of your generosity for Angel Tree.

Geoff and Alice Sawyer also coordinated the collection of over 150 gifts, donated by members at SsAM for our Sunday breakfast guests. These were distributed just before Christmas

**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 2016, the AIM fund received \$12,754 from donations, which helped to fund special outreach projects, summer camp scholarships, seven 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, Seamen's Center, and the Cathedral Choir School. We also gave additional funds to the Faith Center and Sojourners' Place for their food pantries.

**Scholarship Program.** In 2016, the scholarship program entered its 16th year with seven \$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. The following students were awarded scholarships for the fall semester: Cameron Dixon [University of Delaware], Sierra Dorsey [Delaware Tech Community College], Richard Hernandez [Albright College], Veronica Oates [Tennessee State University], Sophie Poindexter [University of Delaware]: Alana Walker [Wesley College], and Tiffany Wisner [Springfield College].

**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. Special thanks to Phil and Susan Murphree and Alice and Geoff Sawyer coordinated the volunteers.

**Food Voucher Program.** Volunteers from our church operate a system of referrals to food banks at local churches. These referrals are given to people who live in Wilmington and can show financial need. They are offered on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. from the church office. Recipients may access the system twice per month and must show an original photo ID for themselves and for each member of their family for whom they are requesting help. In addition, the Women of SsAM organized a collection of canned goods for a local food pantry.

**Souper Bowl Sunday.** This fellowship/outreach activity in February has become an annual event. Twelve excellent soup makers donated different soups that were purchased by members of the parish. Over \$350 in proceeds from this activity went to purchase supplies for Code Purple.

**Undee Sunday.** Phil and Susan Murphree reported that UNDEE SUNDAY another success this year...our 2nd best ever! 38 complete sets were donated, but with your generous cash contributions we were able to purchase an additional 135 pair of thermal underwear for our needy friends! We gave all of our 15 friends at Andrew's Place each a nice set that were sized to fit their needs. The remaining 158 sets were donated to the Friendship House Clothing Bank to be distributed to those in need. For your information...listed is our donations over the past years.

- |        |          |        |              |
|--------|----------|--------|--------------|
| • 2005 | 49 sets  | • 2011 | 82 sets      |
| • 2006 | 76 sets  | • 2012 | 110 sets     |
| • 2007 | 62 sets  | • 2013 | 179 sets!!!! |
| • 2008 | 73 sets  | • 2014 | 142 sets     |
| • 2009 | 91 sets  | • 2015 | 138 sets     |
| • 2010 | 100 sets | • 2016 | 173 sets!!!! |

**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, thirteen different faith communities prepare and serve this meal to about 150 individuals and families per week.

**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, Beth Jones, 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 a Thanksgiving basket drive and a clothing drive for Friendship House's Women's Center.
- 3) Members of the parish donated clothing to Friendship House's Clothing Bank.

**Support of Other Organizations:**

1) **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 16 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.

2) **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 30 years.

In 2016, our Vestry signed a covenant with Friendship House formalizing the relationship/use of space/ and budgeting for the Friendship House program at SsAM. This covenant went into effect at the end of October, 2016. This formalizes the relationship/use of space/ and budgeting for FH program. Recently, Friendship House announced that Kim Eppheimer will succeed Bill Perkins as the next Executive Director of Friendship House, with a target timing of January 1, 2018. We would like to recognize D-L Casson as our representative to the Board.

3) **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 \$5,000 (scholarships for children – the school gives out \$30,000 per month in scholarship aid)
- Friendship House \$7,650 (for support of the many programs for the homeless administered by Bill and Marcy Perkins and their staff)
- Delaware Futures \$5,000 (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).

4) **Dance Program at Women's Prison.** Although funds were budgeted for support of this program, officials were forced to cancel the program due to overcrowding at the prison.

5) **Providing Space for Meetings of Other Advocacy Organizations.** 5) 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 the Cathedral Choir School, Delaware Valley Chorale, the Wilmington Children's Chorus, Faith Victory Christian Center, Friendship House, Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Reform, Network Delaware, Pacem in Terris, STIR and the Shipley Development Corporation. Most of these organizations make use of the James Thomas Memorial Kitchen. It is indeed a living out its mission of being a kitchen for the community.

6) **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 an Eucharist.

7) **World Wide Efforts.** Our parish supports the worldwide outreach efforts of the Episcopal Church through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. In 2016, 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' website, [www.ssam.org](http://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 Bembyr  
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  
Brian O'Connor  
Linda O'Connor

Alice Sawyer  
Alice Smith, Chair  
Thomas Vail  
Orlen Washington  
Rob Westergom

## **Downtown Arts (Art Slam @ SsAM)**

### **Goals:**

- To be a presence in the downtown Wilmington community
- To provide a wholesome, nurturing environment for new and seasoned artists
- To interest non-congregants in the ministry and programs of SsAM
- To engage in cooperative ventures with other downtown entities
- To generate programs that will improve our downtown community
- To raise donations for Friendship House through free will offerings/refreshment sales

### **Programs:**

Art Slam @ SsAM – provides an open venue for artists and performers of all artistic expression to share their gifts and talents the last Friday of the quarter. It is free and most attendees were visitors to SsAM.

### **Highlights from the past year were:**

- Sept 2016- On September 30, 2016 there was a variety group of artists: Our very own Morgan Bell gave the audience some soothing cool songs with quite a lot of audience participation as she played her guitar. Her husband, Mark Taneyhill, read from his poetry. A young talented artist/historian, D. Marque Hall, delighted the children and adults with his black historical coloring books. Dr. Sharon L. Burton giving us some information about her new book "TRANSITIONING TO I CAN FROM I CAN'T". There was also impromptu song and poetry from the children and adult visitors on this night. Community Leader and Activist Edwina Bell gave heartfelt testimony of her journey from drugs and what God can and will do in our lives. Great audience participation on this date.
  
- DEC 2016 Just like last year, The Downtown Arts Ministry, our church and the community in conjunction with The Afrikan Connection celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Kwanzaa /principle of Cooperative Economics or Ujamaa on December 29, 2016. We had roughly 70-75 guests. This was a very special time in the history of Kwanzaa as it was the 50th year anniversary of this cultural celebration. Dr. Sharon Burton agreed to be our MC for the evening. LaVaida White led the lighting candle ceremony with the children, Pharoah the Poet always captures the audience with his dramatic effect of poetry. And of course, SsAM appreciates the many talents of poet & entrepreneur Crystal Baynard-Norman. Folk Artist, Eunice LaFate was one of our vendors. Since our theme was "Technology, Youth and You" we really tried to focus on young people actively working and having businesses in field of computers and technology. Chris Brancato, a young adult shared a lot of knowledge the importance of technology for all ages. In addition, another young businessman opened up a media/technology center right across the street from SsAM. Travis Smith of Act Generation and his team came with lots of enthusiasm and also put to rest some of the concerns of older adults had about computers and technology.

We also had Sharon Bryant's sister C. Laney M. Hoxter, Director of Multicultural Student Services of Cecil College invite students from Africa to celebrate and teach their native

languages. As participants in the celebration, Chris, Nina, Nella, Princess, Danielle and Aristote with the assistance from Advisor-Laney presented an interactive mini-workshop to teach the audience familiar Swahili words for the day. For the "Learning Swahili" 7 words were presented Love-Mapendo, Peace-Salama, Justice-Mahakama, Phone-Simu, Church-Kanisa, Family-Jama and "I'm Great- Muzuri. The audience asked for translation and pronunciation of English words. Most of the international students at Cecil College speak many languages. Since it was the 50th anniversary of Kwanzaa, our committee member, Linda Smith suggested we have a special presentation to Dr. James Newton who is well known and longtime Professor of African-American Studies of University of Delaware. Dr. Newton expressed his gratitude to SsAM for the recognition.

#### **Upcoming events:**

\* March 2017- A play (Out of the Ashes) was initially scheduled for March 31, 2017 and rescheduled for May 2017. Unfortunately, the co-founder, Patty Harris had a conflict with both dates and the June date conflicts with the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, so we hope to have the play performed as a part of Peace Week Delaware in September.

\* September 2017 - A Needles craft event/workshop

#### **Future Goals:**

- We will continue with quarterly Art Slams and will integrate special Art Slams as we see a need for SsAM and 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 the SsAM vestry and other parish ministries, including the Open House scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Increase publicity to general media, community and the Diocese.
- Increase support and attendance by members of SsAM.

Committee Members: Audrey Collins, Gloria Hampton, Melba Lucas, Linda Smith, Diane Clarke Streett, Leroy Burks and Sharon Bryant

Sharon Bryant - Chairperson

#### **Environmental Justice at SsAM**

The Environmental Justice committee at SsAM is co-chaired by Paulyne Webster and Linda Whitehead. Below are some highlights of the 2016 – 2017 year's work:

- The committee met approximately monthly throughout the year.
- July 15 – 16, 2016 – hosted a training at SsAM about the Clean Power Plan and advocacy needs for the state of DE.
- Youth and Science Program: Held gatherings with city youth to explore concepts around science and the environment. We worked with youth from Ezion Mt. Carmel church, Mt. Joy and SsAM to introduce the language and concepts of environmental justice. Sample

activities included meeting with an Urban Forester from the city of Wilmington, learning about water conservation, viewing and discussing the documentary “Bag-It” about the threat of plastic bags to the environment and more. Gatherings were led by Crystal Baynard-Norman, assisted by Linda Whitehead and others.

- Early in 2017, we combined forces with the Sierra Club and Community Housing and Empowerment Connections Inc. (CHEC) to formally create Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (DCRFEJ). 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.
- A small group from DCRFEJ met with members of Senator Carper’s staff about the need to protect the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA.
- DCRFEJ sponsored State Representative Harold Mitchell from South Carolina to spend a day in DE to talk about his work on an environmental clean-up project in his state. Senator Mitchell met with state legislators in DE as well as with members of DCRFEJ.
- Representatives of DCRFEJ attended the Climate March in Washington, DC on April 29, 2017.
- Note: DCRFEJ works closely with Michelle Roberts, of the EPA, who is a Wilmington native, a member of SsAM, and a tireless advocate for EJ issues.

DCRFEJ is planning a 2017 fall conference and has invited former VP Joe Biden to keynote the event.

### **Episcopal Church Women (E.C.W.)**

All women of SsAM are Episcopal Church Women. At this time, only a few women are active in E.C.W., but it is a spiritual and diverse group. These active members continue to support our parish activities and reach out to the community in our parish’s name.

On the second Saturday in December, we held our Christmas Luncheon which provided an opportunity for women to gather in holiday fellowship. While our small numbers kept us from offering the Prayer Breakfast or Lenten Luncheons, we were delighted to pass the baton to our YYF (Youth and Young Families) ministry to make sure that the tradition of a Shrove Tuesday dinner would continue. Last year we also had a Jazz Tea and continued to encourage participation in the UTO (United Thank Offering).

#### **Officers:**

Dorothy (Dot) Dorsey, President  
Cynthia Oates, Vice President  
Ernestine Brock-Walker, Secretary  
Anne Gibson, Corresponding Secretary  
Patricia Griffin, Treasurer

#### **Additional Active Members:**

Gloria Conner Bungy  
Patricia Hampton  
June Knight  
Pamela Peters  
Paulyne Webster

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

The Eucharistic Ministry at Saints Andrew and Matthew has grown yet again by adding three new Eucharistic Ministers: Collins Jones, George Jones and our Junior EM, Gigi Hernandez. As you may have noticed, they have been an integral part of our Sunday morning service at 10:30. They have been trained by several seasoned EM. Gigi partners with the EM on the Gluten Free station which provides hands on training for her.

Les Roberts retired as an EM. He has been a very dedicated member of several ministries at SsAM and we miss him as an Eucharistic Minister. We thank him for his dedicated service to us and may God always bless him and his family for being so loyal. We know that God will lead and guide him in all his endeavors.

We had refresher training which will continue this year. This keeps us grounded in the work that Christ has for us to do in His house and in the world. We thank Diane-Louise Casson for keeping us informed and guided in this ministry.

As we continue in this ministry, we are always open to new members. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact me. Keep us forever in your prayers.

Ernestine Brock-Walker

### **Lectors**

Known as readers in some parishes, the SsAM lectors are key (and visible) ministry members not only at 8:00 and 10:30 liturgies on Sunday's, 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. Two such training sessions were held during the past year. As changes in Liturgy style or content is changed, lectors are also trained in what is needed and expected. For example, as a moment of silence was introduced after each reading, lectors were asked to pause before returning to their seats.

Over forty adult parishioners served in this role during the year as well as several of our YYF members. We want to especially thank everyone who took time for extra preparation required for the readings for Christmas and Holy Week.

We strive, as in all ministries, to be inclusive and representative of our congregation's diversity. Our aim each Sunday is to intentionally showcase our diversity as a model of living into our mission of being inclusive and welcoming to all. Lectors are asked to find substitutes when they cannot make an assignment so we are not 100% in this effort but we continue to plan for it and strive for it in assignments.

While we have a wonderful roster of lectors, we invite and welcome others to our ministry particularly we need additional men. Any new volunteers are welcome to attend our next training.

Joyce Bembry and Tom Angell, Co-leaders

## Liturgy

At SsAM, our liturgical design is a unique blend of the *Book of Common Prayer*, diverse forms and styles of music, and the active participation of lay members of the congregation as partners with the clergy. The liturgical teams of acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers/Liturgical Assistants, lectors, musicians, and ushers work closely with the Rector and Director of Music to provide prayerful, spiritual and meaningful services throughout the various seasons of the Church.

The **Liturgy Committee members** take a long term view by working with the Rector and Director of Music in planning for (and debriefing) Christmas, Holy Week and the Season of Creation. Over the year, they:

- Provided a de-brief on the Season of Creation and Christmas services
- Planned Holy Week services and endorsed having adult education for Lent focused on liturgy
- Updated “Our liturgy unfolded” materials by D-L Casson so that we now have a publication that covers every Church Season
- Encouraged cross training of acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers

All members of SsAM are welcome to join this ministry and can do so by contacting D-L Casson. The current members, in addition to Fr. David and David Christopher are:

Tom Angell	Adele Meredith
Ernestine Brock-Walker	Mary Morgan
Rosie Castelli	Pat Saunders
Dot Dorsey	Wanda Smith
Tracy Lea Dorsey	Anita Young
Pat Hampton	David Andrews
Barbara Henry	David Christopher
Christina Brennan Lee	D-L Casson

## Member Development Ministry

Sharon Leyhow and Cynthia Primo Martin, Co-Chairs

Members: David Andrews Wanda Smith Dariel Janerette Dave Clouser Pat Hampton  
Valerie Gilliam Cheryl Thomas Nana Soto Pat Saunders Anita Young Alice Sawyer

**MISSION:** To RECRUIT new members to SsAM, to RETAIN those who join, and to RECLAIM those who may have drifted away for any reason. Our primary focus will be on maintaining a diverse and inclusive congregation by bringing in new individuals and families across the board, but especially in the targeted areas we have identified. Our secondary focus will be on reclaiming former parishioners. We are working in partnership with the Ambassador Ministry whose mission is to incorporate and include visitors to SsAM and to guide them through membership.

### 2017 GOALS

1. Continue with “Year 3” of the 2015-2017 Long Range Plan to contact potential members, and former members with the goal of increasing new membership and have missing members return.
2. Relationship development by connecting with new SsAM members

### 3. Develop short term goals/tasks to meet Long Range Goals

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Facilitated Town Meeting discussion on ways to improve newcomers/visitors experience at SsAM –
- Contacted former members to encourage their return to SsAM
- Conducted Church Census to improve efforts to track congregant contacts and interests
- Developed and installed “SsAM Wall Time Line” highlighting histories of St. Andrew’s, St. Matthew’s, St. John’s and SsAM
- Developed “Name Tag Kit” for visitors and New Member/Visitor space in church.
- Maintained pew visitor form holders
- Developed Welcome to SsAM Bi-fold with pertinent information for prospective members
- Provided Program Outline for Open House to Vestry

Anyone interested in becoming a member of MDM or helping in any way, please contact Sharon Leyhow at [rjmsal@gmail.com](mailto:rjmsal@gmail.com), (610) 444-9854 or Cynthia Primo Martin, [cprimo@comcast.net](mailto:cprimo@comcast.net), (302) 540-0196.

#### **Parking Lot Committee**

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

- Jim Ballard
- Retha Fisher
- Jim Linderman
- Jerry Lucas
- Mark T. Williams

Our number one priority is to maintain a safe and sound parking lot. In doing so, the Parking Lot committee has once again been fully occupied over the course of the last year. Our primary focus over the past fiscal year was to improve operational and cost efficiency of maintaining the parking lot; namely, looking for viable way to improve our tax expenses, as well as discussion future state of the managing the operations required to maintain the parking lot to SsAM (church) and the downtown community of Wilmington.

To address improving our tax expenses, we hired Attorney Richard Abbot to provide us with legal consultation on this matter (note: Atty Abbot was instrumental in presenting a similar case before the county and city for Shipley Lofts a few years ago). After a thoroughly reviewing our current structure; clarifying the overriding objective of those who put the current structure into place to begin with; ascertaining the future direction of SsAM; weighing the advice of counsel; etc., we decided to keep the current structure “as-is.” |

After many hours of review and discussions, it became obvious the overriding aim of those who put the current structure in place years ago was to “help” provide the downtown community of Wilmington with adequate parking, yet simultaneously ensuring the interest and purpose of SsAM (church) were not compromised in any manner while doing so. For example, the current structure ensures that the tax status of the of SsAM (church) is not compromised in any way; protects the assets of SsAM (church); and provides additional parking spaces to the downtown community.

The annual property tax expense (i.e. county plus city property taxes) represent a very sizable portion of the Parking Lot committee's total annual expenses. Therefore, we may revisit this matter in the future; however, doing so will require the attorney to be hired to specialize in Delaware property tax law, and should be weighed against: the estimated benefits of doing so (e.g. annual tax savings) less the cost to hire, and the probability of securing favorable decisions from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (e.g. from the county and city). Until such time, we continue to maintain a safe parking facility to the parishioners of SsAM (church), and the downtown Wilmington community...God willing.

Our financial status is as follows:

- Loan balance from SsAM is \$157,500
- interest is at 8.0%
- current checking is \$7,379.89
- current saving is \$2,652.95

Mark T. Williams  
President, SsAM Property, LLC

#### **Pastoral Care Ministry**

The Eucharistic Visitors who take communion to members of SsAM each week are the most visible members of this important ministry, but there is so much more being done "behind the scenes." Pastoral Care ministry members reach out to our members through prayer, phone calls and visits. The Church Office sends the *Weekly Vision* and Prayers of the people to those unable to come to church as well as *Forward Day-by-Day*, special devotionals and Palm crosses depending on the church season. Thanks to all who volunteer as Eucharistic Visitors, writing cards or reaching out to members by calling them on the phone or scheduling a visit. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please let Fr. David or D-L Casson know.

#### **Property Committee**

Jerry Lucas has rotated off of the property committee after years of dedicated service. We thank him for all that he has done for SsAM and wish him well. He has left the committee with a five year plan that he and Jim Ballard see as important going forward.

- In the Fall of 2016, the Vestry authorized the renovation of four restrooms at SsAM. They are the lounge restroom, which had the most extensive renovation, requiring a complete demolition, before it could be restored. The other three, the one across from the kitchen and two on the upper floor required cosmetic upgrades only. The cost for this was \$63,000. InSite Constructors did the work.
- During the winter and spring, there have been no major repairs at SsAM. The rectory was repainted on the outside during late May. The estimated cost was \$2775. Preston Smith painting did the work.

- There was a successful Spring Cleanup Day on April 1st. Thirty-five people came to help spruce up the property both inside and out. It was a very productive morning, and it was great to see such enthusiastic participation.
- The Fall Cleanup Day is scheduled for September 16 in preparation for the Open House.

As part of the Five Year Plan for this year, it is hoped that the level of amps can be raised to 1000 amps to accommodate the expected increased level of electric use in the future. In addition, the roof air conditioners need to be examined and perhaps replaced. The Property Committee is mindful of two things. How best to take care of aging buildings, while being respectful of the budget. These two factors drive every decision we make.

### **Property Committee**

Dave Clouser. Co-chair  
 Pat Saunders. Co-chair  
 Ernest Barnes  
 Cyndi Dombrowski  
 Sandy Hines

Cynthia Primo Martin \* Co-chair,  
 Organization & Design  
 Peggy Shane \* Co-chair, Organization &  
 Design  
 Orlen Washington  
 Ex officio Dana Robertson

### **Organization and Design Sub-Committee**

The historical timeline mural project was completed and installed, April 2016, in the hallway leading to the auditorium.

#### **On-going Activities:**

- The Narthex welcome and beautification project has progressed with the identification of the design elements including a welcome sign and displays of the 14 Guiding Principles, Vestry and New members. A proposal has been requested from an architectural designer.
- The results of the art, artifacts and information inventoried by O & D will be used in the White Elephant Sale planned for the September 30 Open House.

Peggy Shane, Co-Chair  
 Cynthia Primo Martin, Co-Chair  
 Jenna Christy  
 Cyndi Dombrowski  
 Pat Hampton

Sandy Hines  
 Karen Johnson  
 Deborah Kraak  
 Pat Saunders  
 Janice Teemer

### **Archives**

The work in the Archives continues to identify the rich history of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. The material identified in this process will be used in the White Elephant Sale.  
 Cynthia Primo Martin and Peggy Shane

### **Regal Heights Care Center**

The faithful volunteers arrive at Regal Heights at 2:00 p.m. to bring the residents into the community room for the service, which begins at 2:30 p.m. A short service of song, the Word and the Holy Eucharist that we experienced earlier at SsAM is shared with all present. Music and singing is provided by the Regal Heights Residents' Choir and Fr. David officiates.

SsAM members who are interested in this ministry on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month may call the Church Office or call Gloria Conner-Bungy at 302-654-7630.

#### Ministry Members

Charles Bungy  
Gloria Conner-Bungy  
Paulette Francis

Sandy Johnson  
Alice Sawyer  
Geoff Sawyer

### **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 [SVCDC], 23 artists' lofts [most of which are being rented at subsidized rental rates] were opened 6 years ago.

Over the last 12 months, the lofts have been rented at a 100% occupancy rate for the most part to artists. Our operating budget continues to break even. The Chris White Gallery has become increasingly successful with wide ranging art genres displayed from the tenants of Shipley Lofts but also from partnerships with outside groups ranging from the University of Delaware to the Winterthur Museum.

As is stated in the CDC by-laws, at least two members of the SsAM Vestry are on the CDC Board. I also remain on the board.

Geoff Sawyer, Chair of the Board

### **Stewardship (Annual Giving)**

This year's stewardship theme focused on learning about Generosity. The material we used was created by Generous Church. This included a weekend retreat that was held at the St. Albans Center in later September. In October we continued to reflect on the theme of generosity using a twenty-eight day devotional guide which allowed us to reflect upon various themes of being a generous giver. The ingathering of pledge cards occurred during the season of creation and the results were an example of how SsAM continues to grow into being faithful stewards of God's gifts to us. We received 158 pledges for a total of \$484,158.

### **Sunday School -- SsAM Godly Play**

This year is our 6th year of teaching the Godly Play Sunday School for children ages 3-8 each Sunday from 10:30-11:15 am in the education suite. This year we have a small group of pre-school to early elementary children who regularly participate in the Godly Play lesson. Godly Play is a unique approach to Sunday School where the teachers facilitate a series of lessons that follow the liturgical calendar. During the Godly Play story the children are encouraged to work with lesson props to re-enact the story, consider "wondering" questions about how the story relates to them, and create drawings or crafts to express their ideas. Afterward the preschool children stay in the nursery and the grade school children join their family in the sanctuary for the Eucharist.

Serving as Godly Play teachers are: Alice and Geoff Sawyer, Carol Scott, Sherry Bell, and Cyndi Dombrowski. Serving as child care staff for the nursery are Tianna Wisher and YYF youth. Teaching our youngest SsAM members is a lot of fun. Recently when asked what we say after "Peace be with you", a 4-year-old replied "Alleluia". Of course! A special thank-you to all of the dedicated teachers and YYF youth for helping out with the children.

Carol Scott

### **Usher Ministry**

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 serve the congregation with excellence by creating an environment where all who enter our doors feel welcome. Each congregant is accommodated a seat in the most pleasant and efficient manner possible.

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 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 on a monthly basis and to those who fill in on special occasions. Your dedication to this ministry shows each worshipper that comes through our doors what type of family SsAM truly is. Special "thanks" and a fond farewell goes out to Marion Gibbs and Cynthia Oates for their dedicated and humble service to this ministry throughout the past years. Your presence and spirit at the front door will be greatly missed.

We would also like to welcome our new ushers Jackie Roberts, Les Roberts Jr., Kati Donovan & Henry Gaskell to the Usher Ministry. Our mission lives on through each new recruit.

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*

### **YYF (Youth and Young Families)**

Youth and Young Families continues to support the mission of SsAM by fostering a youth led Christian community that follows Christ in all aspects of their lives and serves the community. This has been a year of transformation and reflection. Leadership listened to the voice of our youth that have asked for more activities that would nurture their journey of spiritual development with Christ.

A few highlights of this year include:

- Camping trip in Earleville, MD. This was a unique opportunity for youth and family to connect with Father David, each other and the simplicity of nature.
- Lenten Bible Study Series with Father David where the Christ Walk with Kids, A 40-day Spiritual Journey for Tweens and Teens was explored.
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner. Youth and parents prepared and served the Shrove Tuesday dinner.

Future:

- YYF will develop a more structured leadership framework to support the youth centered mission.
- YYF will develop and complete the video series interviewing the elder members of SsAM to develop connections across generations.
- YYF will create a trifold that describes our mission and would enhance growth in our membership of families at SsAM.
- YYF will continue to support the development of programs and service in the community that complement our mission.