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Rector's Annual Report 2014-2015

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3)

A great deal has happened at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew since I wrote my last annual report one year ago. We have experienced a great deal of change in our membership and we have encountered many challenges as well. Through it all, however, we remain a strong, vibrant, spiritual faith community that cares deeply for each other and for the wider Wilmington Community. Let me begin this year's report with the changes that we have undergone this past year.

Changes: I usually wait to mention the faithful folk who have passed since the time of the last annual meeting until the conclusion of my remarks, but this year I must begin with the departed because of the number of faithful parishioners who died this year. One year ago at the time we met for the annual meeting, our dear Rod Welles had begun his transition to eternal life. At the conclusion of last year's meeting we gathered to take a "selfie" and sent it to Rod and Sue the afternoon before he passed. Rod's death has had a profound effect on the entire SsAM community and his presence is still very much with us in Sunday worship and around the halls of the parish he loved and devoted so much time to. In mid-December Dr. Katherine (Kitty) Esterly died and her death also left a huge hole in the life and ministry of SsAM. Rod and Kitty lived and loved the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew and their passing has left a big hole in our hearts and in our faith community. We have also grieved the loss of: Hugh Wallace, Harrison Walker, Elfreda Merchant, Jeanette Johns, Arthea Emory, Kyron Bailey, Patricia Turner Debnam and Louise Spaulding.

Challenges: The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew like many mainline churches is getting older. This is our reality. The Church is changing as the culture around us changes. The local Church which was the focal point of many activities fifty years ago can no longer claim that influence, as individuals and families are pulled in many different directions and Church is just one of these many directions. Since late 2014 a new Member Development Committee has formed at SsAM in order to assess where we are as a parish and to develop strategies to get the word out about the parish as well as to welcome and incorporate new folks. Since the beginning of the year, we have begun to see new folk come to SsAM and state that they wish to

become members. This is very exciting but we must continue to work together to welcome and invite folks we know to come to SsAM and be part of this faith community.

Another challenge that the parish faces is our continued dependence upon our endowment to cover the deficit of the operating budget. Under the leadership of our treasurer, Bill Kauffman, the finance committee has taken time to study giving trends within the parish as well as track the amount actually pledged by members of the parish. What is of concern is that the age of those who give the most continues to increase while the amount actually pledged decreases. SsAM is a generous and giving parish and we have one of the highest average pledges per parishioner in the Diocese of Delaware. However as the parish gets older, the reality is that our income stream will decrease which will lead to greater dependence upon the parish endowment.

Therefore as the Rector of SsAM, I wish to invite you to consider becoming part of the SsAM legacy by placing SsAM in your will. If you do not yet have a will, I encourage you to get one and if you need to update your existing will, I invite you to do so as well. In 2016, the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew will celebrate its twentieth anniversary. In the Diocese of Delaware we are a young parish and we want to continue to be a place that offers excellent worship, genuine pastoral care, open welcome, powerful outreach and formation for all ages to continue for years to come.

Opportunities: In the last year we have experienced many changes and have struggled to make sense of the challenges and we are still here: growing in faith, love and service to the Lord. We have two choices regarding the challenges we face. We can either throw up our hands and proclaim they are too overwhelming, or we can work together and pray, struggle, and work to bring about a new day for the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. As the Rector I choose the second and hope you will too.

We have opportunities as a parish that will open us to something new and powerful. As I write this annual report, our Youth and Young Families group is preparing to leave on June 11th for a mission trip in Jamaica. This group has worked hard this past year raising money and forming community and I am excited about their trip and look forward to their return when all of us will hear the stories they have to share. My hope is that our youth and their chaperones will engage another culture and return fired up by the Spirit of God to continue doing God's work in and around SsAM. Go YYF!!

Another opportunity we have is for each member of the parish to assess and practice a spiritual life that centers around: learning to say one of the Book of Common Prayer services, also known as the *Daily Office*, gaining understanding in what we do at the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist and committing time each day for personal devotion. These three practices are complemented by the building of community and service to others. These practices are important in these times as the Church is failing to connect and reach a younger generation. These practices will, I hope, ground us in discerning something new that God is calling us to. I invite you to open yourself to what God has in store. I can assure you it will be new and bold.

Thank You: I conclude my annual report by giving thanks. Giving thanks to the entire SsAM family and to our vestry: Alice Sawyer and Debbie Layton, the Church wardens, Bill Kauffman, treasurer and to Janice Teemer who is our faithful note taker at vestry meetings. Please extend a warm thank you to vestry members: Shawn Dorsey, Mark Williams, Tom Angell, Cyndi Dombrowski and Shannon Faulk.

I also have the pleasure of working with a hard- working and committed staff that care passionately for the life of SsAM. Dana Robertson, Parish Administrator, D-L Casson, Executive Assistant to the Rector, David Christopher, Associate for Liturgy and Music Director, Charles Lewis and Debbie Donovan, Sextons and Janice Teemer, Office Assistant We have many in the parish who volunteer their time in the office or as counters. Thank you all.

It is also an honor to work along wonderful colleagues: The Rev. Canon Lloyd Casson, Rector Emeritus, and the Rev's Peter Huiner and Emily Gibson, priest associates.

Thank you all and I look forward to our continued growth as a parish as we witness to the Good News in and outside the place we call SsAM.

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

Parish Parochial Statistics:

Average Sunday Attendance: 193

Baptisms:	5
Confirmations:	1
Burials:	6
Weddings:	3

**THE SPIRIT OF SsAM
SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
2014-2015**

“The heart of man plans his way...but the Lord establishes the steps.”

Proverbs 16:9

It has been a great honor to have served as your Senior Warden this year; with the loving support of so many of you, I am pleased to report another great year for our beloved church. The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew is thriving in all the right ways – on course for the future. The spirit of SsAM is alive and well.

It is because of each and every one of you that this church is such a special place to worship, and such a special place to belong. I want to thank you for your participation, involvement and dedication as we continue to become stronger as a unique faith community. God brought each of you here and I am so grateful. There is a special spirit of SsAM, which we experience in our worship and in our togetherness. We are a strong community as God has intended us to be.

I want to begin by thanking the Reverend David Andrews for all that he does here for us. He is the leader and keeper of the Spirit of SsAM. We are so very grateful for his guidance and willingness to try new ways to develop and nurture the spirit. We have walked the streets of Wilmington to bring ashes on Ash Wednesday and the Urban Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. He helps us to bring our collective spirit into the greater community. Thank you, David.

As a parish, we continue to define our niche, by focusing our efforts. This past fall, at a vestry retreat, we settled on four main areas of strategic focus. They are:

1. To continue to develop and enrich our unique worship experience
2. To strengthen our relationships and church community
3. To grow our youth and young families
4. To recommit to intentional diversity and inclusion as a way of life throughout this special parish.

We felt so strongly about these priorities that a unique budgeting process was developed to assure that our resources were in line with the strategic areas. Ministry and committee leaders were asked to present their budget requests to a special finance committee task force. The 2014-2015 budget was no longer business as usual, but a reflection of our priorities. I might add that it was an exciting process to watch, listen and learn about the wonderful work of our committees and ministries. I can attest to the passion and dedication of our many lay leaders. Thanks to all of you who volunteer and give so willingly of your time and talent for our church.

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” In 2014-2015 we have done so much together. Please take the time to read the Annual Report and learn about all the great work being done here at SsAM. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated leaders here. Thank you.

There are however real challenges that we face as a congregation and we must step up our efforts to stay vibrant for the future. We have an aging facility to maintain, with unpredictable needs and an aging population of parishioners. We must find ways to attract and keep younger families and individuals – particularly the “non-joining-anything” millennials. We also face the reality of a national trend of people moving away from organized religion altogether. We must explore new ideas and new models of worship and spirituality to thrive into the future.

Standing here today, as your outgoing Senior Warden, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. Many of you know that I was elected Senior Warden only a few days after having had open-heart surgery. It has been a challenging year for me personally, and I am so grateful for the loving support of so many of you. You are unsung heroes and I am going to “sing” today.

A special thank you to Bill Kauffman, whose steady hand with the Finance Committee is invaluable, and thank you to the irrepressible Pat Saunders for her leadership in the Capital Campaign. I can hear that organ in our future! Thank you to Barb Davidson for her work on the Stewardship Campaign, to Jerry Lucas for his leadership on the property Committee and Alice Smith for her steady leadership of Community Advocacy, SsAM’s compassionate arm in the community. These are just a few of you...I could “sing your praises” all day long.

I am especially grateful to our outstanding SsAM staff and my fellow Vestry members who kept me on track and moving forward. It has been a privilege to serve with each of you. Thank you Dana Robertson [who has had his own challenges this year] for your support and mentoring and tireless dedication. Get well. We miss you. A great big thank you to D-L Casson – our “rock” – for your wisdom, competence and wonderful spirit...and to Janice Teemer, warm and always positive. Thank you to Charles Lewis and Debbie Donovan...behind the scenes, keeping everything going.

Hans Christian Anderson once said, “Where words fail, music speaks.” Music is a very big part of the spirit of SsAM and we are so grateful to David Christopher and his choristers of all ages who “speak to us” so eloquently throughout the year.

I am also extremely grateful to my fellow Vestry members who have served with me this year and supported our work together. I especially want to thank Debbie Layton, our Junior Warden, for her willingness to share her broad knowledge and dedication to the Episcopal Church – and for her caring support and friendship this year. I could not have done it without her.

Four Vestry members are retiring this year. Please join me in thanking them for their service to SsAM: Mark Williams, Cyndi Dombrowski, Sean Dorsey and Tom Angell. Also thank you also Shannon Faulk, our past Vestry Secretary. Thank you all. Job well done. We miss you already.

Educator and consultant Kester Brown said, “Jesus’ command to love our neighbors is a command to love all strangers, precisely because we too have been strangers to God and

welcomed in.” The spirit of SsAM can be found in the way we welcome in those seeking comfort and a loving community of faith. That special welcoming spirit demonstrates the love that we are when we are at our best as a congregation. It feels like “home.”

It is nearly impossible to capture in words this illusive spirit of SsAM, but we know it when we feel it. We feel it in the music, the prayers, the worship, the poets' enthusiasm at Art Slam and the thoroughness of the work of the Finance Committee. We can feel it in the beats of the drumming circle, at Sunday School and at the Sunday breakfast and chapel service. We feel it when the AIM offering is passed around, during “Code Purple” serving the soup so lovingly prepared...even when someone from the street is in need of a bathroom and finds one available and clean in our vestibule. It is everywhere here because YOU are here. Your hands, your hearts, your willingness to participate and support brings the spirit alive. This church is filled with such goodness...good people, good work...all good news for the future of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

Romans 8:28...

“And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good.”

Thank you for this great privilege to serve.

Alice Sawyer

At St. Andrews and Matthew through the power of the Holy Spirit:

- 3 teams, totaling 37 SsAM volunteers, prepared breakfast for the hungry five times during the past year
- For the second winter in a row, we provided Code Purple sanctuary 35+ days
- 15 children in Friendship House transitional housing received Christmas gifts thanks to your generosity
- Dickey Jones has processed 251 food voucher requests for 65 people so far this year
- We have two aspects of an Environmental Justice Ministry which are an outgrowth of Michele Robert’s sermon two years ago during the season of creation
- Our newest Ministry is the Member Development Ministry which has already developed a Welcome to SsAM box which is used at events
- More than 300 pipes have been sponsored in the new organ (which will have 2,477 pipes)
- The average pledge for 2014 was \$2,743
- We have a Newcomer’s group and a 20-30-40 group
- We are saving \$10,000 a year on auditing fees thanks to the Finance Committee
- The 1st Annual Rod Welles Memorial Jazz Vespers drew more than 125 people earlier this month
- The New Generation Church worships in the Chapel on Sunday afternoon
- SsAM has been the site for a grocery give away and a breakfast organized by the Faith Victory Christian Center

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE/TREASURER'S REPORT 2014-2015

The Finance Committee is charged with monitoring the financial activities of the church, providing financial advice to the Vestry, and preparing the annual budget for Vestry approval. Each month financial statements are presented to the Vestry by the Treasurer.

The parish of Saints Andrew and Matthew ended 2014 with an actual deficit of \$6,249 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$18,550— or better than expected results by approximately \$12,000. We suffered a significant loss of pledges for 2015 with the passing of a few of our parishioners. It is anticipated we will need to withdraw \$100,000 from our endowment in 2015 and in 2016 if we are to maintain the level of our current ministries.

The Finance Committee is examining various-cost cutting and revenue-raising alternatives. One initiative that the Committee recently implemented was the reduction of our outside audit fees through competitive bidding, resulting in a reduction of our expenses of over \$10,000 for each of the next three years.

The Finance Committee has conducted an extensive study of financial trends in the church. One finding is that 88% of our pledge income is derived from parishioners over the age of sixty. The highest percentage of pledge income comes from people in the 70—79 year age range.

From January through May, 2015, total income is on target with actual receipts of \$299,000 versus a budgeted \$297,000. As far as expenses, we are over budget by about \$10,000— most of which was caused by greater than budgeted expenses from the music department.

The Finance Committee continues to explore options to ensure the financial stability of Saints Andrew and Matthew parish.

Submitted by Bill Kauffman, Treasurer

Finance Committee Members: Jim Ballard, Mary Anne Edwards, Bill Kauffman, Melba Lucas
Pat Saunders, Cheryl Thomas, Mark Williams, Dana Robertson (staff)

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ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

11012 • Petty Cash	
RESTRICTED	250.00
11049 • Youth and Young Families	1,574.56
11111 • Capital Campaign - Checking	277,048.22
11020 • Money Market Account	133,751.45
11040 • Kellum Fund Checking Account	668.42
11050 • SsAM's Property Checking	4,882.21
11055 • SsAM's Property - MM Acct	2,836.29
11056 • E.C.W. of SsAM Operations	4,150.45
11057 • ECW Money Market	6,799.65
11058 • Lenten Luncheon	<u>10,548.62</u>
Total RESTRICTED	442,259.87
11010 • Checking Account	<u>21,313.20</u>
Total Checking/Savings	463,823.07

Accounts Receivable

1110 • Pledges Receivable	<u>5,720.99</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	5,720.99

Other Current Assets

11300 • Capital Campaign Pledges-ST	111,573.69
12101 • Capital Campaign Pledges-PV	-12,173.16
11200 • Prepaid Expenses	<u>2,786.52</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>102,187.05</u>

Total Current Assets	571,731.11
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Fixed Assets

11063 • Property held for lease - park	160,000.00
11065 • Construction in Progress	41,548.17
11060 • Land, Building & Contents	7,232,269.37
11061 • Bldg-701 Shipley Street	393,681.00
11062 • Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-4,260,404.47</u>
Total Fixed Assets	3,567,094.07

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Other Assets

12100 • Capital Campaign Pledges-LT	214,090.13
11900 • Note Receivable - Sams Property	10,000.00
11100 • Investment Accounts	
11160 • Grimes Account - SunTrust	15,138.15
11150 • Master "A" Account - SunTrust	244,355.22
11135 • Kellum Account - SunTrust	117,676.14
11130 • Danby Account	2,432,929.16
11120 • Investment Account	304,343.74
11117 • RES-Irene Eaton Bequest	58,249.28
11115 • Prettyman Account - Wilm Trust	636,503.73
11110 • Prettyman Account - SunTrust	393,757.90
11165 • SsAM Investment Account	<u>3,434.01</u>
Total 11100 • Investment Accounts	4,206,387.33
11069 • Shipley Village Asset	
11070 • Loan Receivable - Shipley Vill	<u>400,000.00</u>
Total 11069 • Shipley Village Asset	400,000.00
Total Other Assets	<u>4,830,477.46</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>8,969,302.64</u></u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

21073 • ST Portion of Parking Lot Lease	10,000.00
21002 • Def Revenue - Pledges	2,250.00
21071 • Employee Health Contribution	150.00
21041 • Security Deposit	1,000.00
21001 • Accrued Expense	9,099.40
21070 • Flex Spending	840.93
21000 • Accrued Vacation	<u>26,566.79</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>49,907.12</u>
Total Current Liabilities	49,907.12

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Long Term Liabilities	
20101 • Unearned Rent	400,000.00
20110 • Deferred Revenue	955.86
20100 • Deferred Rent	63,277.04
21072 • Diocese Loan Capital Campaign	<u>115,000.00</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	579,232.90
Total Liabilities	629,140.02
Equity	
23089 • Temp Rest Endowment	269,974.00
23088 • Kneelers	4,917.35
23087 • Downtown Arts Committee	397.01
22030 • Memorial Fund	42,341.53
22040 • A.I.M. Fund	3,481.26
22070 • Altar Guild Memorial	750.76
22090 • Paul Green Fund	1,868.32
22100 • Irene Eaton Fund	56,760.83
22121 • SsAM ECW	21,498.72
22910 • Andrew's Place	1,386.80
23070 • Capital Improvement	568,417.54
23080 • Education Fund	1,245.88
31000 • Retained Earnings	6,580,275.02
33000 • Perm, Restricted Net Assets	784,288.00
Net Income	<u>2,559.60</u>
Total Equity	<u>8,340,162.62</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>8,969,302.64</u>

MUSIC AT SsAM

**ORGANIST, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, and ASSOCIATE FOR LITURGY
2014-2015**

The Music Committee, chaired by Tina Betz, has played a key role this past year in the continued development of the music program at SsAM. The committee's responsibility is to work with the Music Director, Rector and staff to oversee all musical and cultural events at SsAM. These responsibilities include (but are not limited to): 1) Overseeing the operation of the various musical ensembles, 2) Overseeing and managing all "Artist-in-Residence" relationships with ensembles or individuals, 3) Overseeing and managing all special concerts and artistic events at SsAM, 4) Providing support for special events such as receptions as well as ushers, greeters and box office. This committee provides an important structure and support system that facilitates the growth and evolution of the Music Program at SsAM as we work to facilitate the needs of the parish and community, and plays a key role in the fulfillment of the parish's mission and vision.

The SsAM Treble Choir and the Chorister Training Program continues to be our most important area of focus. The first component of the Treble Choir program that has become well established this year is the St. Cecilia Girl's Choir, an ensemble for girls in grades 5 through young adult. This past season, the girls sang in church at least once a month and participated in special events such as Choral Evensong and several community performances. As the overall children's music program continues to develop, our goal is to develop a similar program for boys as well as more opportunities for younger and less experienced children to participate in liturgy while developing their musicianship skills and love of singing.

As always, the backbone of our liturgical life is our amazing Adult Choir. I am delighted at how the choir keeps getting better and better each year, and at the dedication and passion that each and every member brings to the group. Singing with the SsAM Choir is a big commitment considering the expectation of inspiring and excellent music that we have come to expect, but I believe all of the members agree that it's a tremendously enriching and fulfilling experience to lead worship with the SsAM congregation. If there are any more singers out there, I urge you to consider participating in this dynamic ministry.

The SsAM Drumming Circle continues to develop and thrive under the leadership of Jonathan Whitney, artist-in-residence at SsAM. Not only an important ministry and spiritual discipline for those who participate, but the drummers also participate in worship periodically. Thanks to Jonathan for his energy, creativity and collaborative spirit.

Another important development this year was the return of our Jazz Vespers series under Jonathan's leadership. There were three services, one in the fall and two in the spring, that were extremely well-received and well-attended. The concluding Jazz Vespers on June 7 in memory of Rod Welles was particularly successful, and we intend to hold that event annually in the late spring as an ongoing tribute to Rod.

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE at SsAM - For a number of years, we have discussed the idea of forming a separate 501c3 non-profit at SsAM in the area of music and special cultural events. This past December 2014, Fr. David appointed a task force consisting of me (David Christopher), Tina Betz (music chair), and Jonathan Whitney (artist-in-residence) to gather information and explore the possibility of forming this. On May 26 at 5:30 p.m. we invited a number of key players to the table including Canon and D-L Casson, both of the Vestry Wardens, Alice Sawyer and Debbie Layton, and other leaders from the community to gather and discuss how a group of this nature could benefit the parish and the community. Currently, the task force is working on a (draft) mission statement and potential path forward and will be presenting our findings along with a proposal to the SsAM Vestry in the near future. We have tentatively given the name of GLOBAL VILLAGE at SsAM to this project.

Personally, I feel that THE GLOBAL VILLAGE is a critical step in the development of our parish. As we all know, our musical and cultural programs are one of the key aspects of our parish that attract new parishioners, and are a strong force in moving the parish toward the fulfillment our collective "dream" of being a "living instrument for diversity as we serve God in the broader Wilmington community." The challenge recently has been that, even though we have been as frugal as possible, our endeavors in this area cost money and have begun to "strain the pocketbook". In light of the fact that we could potentially be a key player in the city's new Creative District, the SsAM Global Village will allow us to develop stronger ties with the community and raise funds from sources that will not otherwise contribute to a religious institution. This should take a great deal of strain off of the parish's funds, while increasing our relevance to the community. I encourage you to support this new effort within the parish and to stay tuned for future developments as the conversation expands to include the vestry, the congregation, and leaders from the broader community. Thanks to Fr. David, Tina Betz and Jonathan Whitney for their leadership and efforts on this project.

As always, it is a great pleasure and a privilege to work with the talented and visionary members of the SsAM staff; Dana Robertson, D-L Casson, Janice Teemer, Charles Lewis and Debbie Donovan. And of course, it's always an enjoyable and rewarding experience to be a "partner in crime" with our fearless leader, Fr. David Andrews who continues to lead this very special parish in a wise and sensitive way toward our vision of being a diverse, dynamic and inclusive Christian community that makes a real difference in the community and in the world. It's a particularly wonderful time to be a part of this amazing congregation, and a great joy to have the opportunity to serve as the director of music, organist and associate for liturgy.

Respectfully submitted,

David Christopher
Organist, Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy

SsAM DRUMMING CIRCLE 2014-2015

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 been included in numerous SsAM services, both as a separate ensemble as well as accompanying the choir. We also drummed at the end of this year's Urban Way of the Walk event on Good Friday.

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. This winter we were blessed to perform for members of Wilmington's homeless community during one of the Code Purple evenings. We also welcomed them into our rehearsals to share in the drumming and laughter.

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

Jonathan W. Whitney

MINISTRY REPORTS

Acolyte Ministry 2014-2015

Thank you to all the faithful acolytes who serve as acolytes at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. At the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service the acolytes are Charles Annan, Ron Jackson, Anne Kaufmann, Christina Brennan Lee, and Wanda Smith. At the 10:30 service our acolytes are Al Brock, Cameron Dixon, Tracey Dixon, Forrest Fisztgiles, Barbara Henry, Adele and Walt Meredith, Lore Noyes, Rayon Pinnock, and Les Roberts.

The ministry of acolytes is a very old tradition in the Church. Acolytes have served as ministry 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.

Acolytes work in close coordination with members of the larger worship team: the Clergy, altar guild, greeters, intercessory prayer people, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Liturgical Assistants, musicians, ushers and more, for each service. This year we welcomed Lore Noyes as a new acolyte at the 10:30 service. We will continue offering training refreshers in the next year.

This Sunday morning responsibility as well as weddings, funerals, Evensong, Jazz Vespers and other services is a central ministry, and I would like to invite members of SsAM of any age to consider joining us. 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 (although not during the service). Please prayerfully consider joining us in the acolyte ministry. Fr. David or one of the acolytes would be glad to discuss your involvement at any time.

Respectfully submitted,
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 service 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 2014-15

This year, the theme for our Adult Enrichment has been *My Faith in Action: A Year of Learning for Life and Developing Spiritual Practice*. The goal and focus of this program year was to encourage the exploration of ways to develop or expand one's current experience of a spiritual practice in addition to Sunday morning participation in the Eucharist. Several types of programs were offered at different days and times of the week such as Saturday morning and Wednesday evening and were designed with the hope of attracting interest at various times. They included ways of learning about the history of our Church, liturgical/spiritual teachings and traditions, how faith is reflected in film, or how meditation and prayer may lead one to unexpected places in relationship with God.

Canon Casson's welcomed return to lead weekly Tuesday evening meditation has been very successful as were the several sessions to discover one's Spiritual Type. The Sunday morning Episcopal 101 to learn about the myths and realities of the early Anglican/Episcopal Church development had a steady attendance of 10-15 and received positive feedback from those who attended regularly. The Richard Rohr DVD series on Alternative Orthodoxy drew a steady 15-20 per Sunday morning and sparked some great discussions.

The small group that has been meeting regularly for spiritual reflection and discussion using the inexpensive materials from Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton is in its second year on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays and anyone wishing to join the discussion can do so at any time without prior reading. Other attempts to have on-going programs on 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings, and on Wednesday evenings were quickly abandoned due to little or no attendance. Goal: To increase interest and participation in Adult Enrichment offerings.

To that end a survey has been disseminated to determine what the needs and wants are of the SsAM faith community with the hope of sparking an interest in growing spiritually in convenient and satisfying ways. Small group book discussions, further exploration of other dvd series, and expanding the work begun with Knowing Your Spiritual Type are all potential offerings. Also the establishment of regular Morning and Evening Prayer at the Church during the week is in development.

We hope that the members of SsAM will let us know how to help them foster an interest in personal spiritual development whether through weekly/monthly programs at the parish or even ways to pursue information on one's own. We are also looking for people willing to host a small group in a particular discussion thread, book reading, or of some other faith-based interest whether at the church, in their home or even a public venue such as Brew-Ha-Ha.

All are welcome to join us when we reconvene in mid-September. The brochure announcing the Fall programs for youth and adults will be shared in mid-summer.

Christina Brennan Lee and Father David

**ALTAR GUILD
2014 – 15**

The Altar Guild has a staff presently of twenty four members. We would like to increase our membership, especially at the 10:30 service. All are welcome, men or women at either service. These members are responsible for timely preparations of all services (Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.), weddings, baptisms, funerals, Evensong/Jazz Vespers and whenever we are needed. We also are responsible for silver cleaning, laundry (linens) and candle filling. Again, All Are Welcome!

Members:

Shirley Bynoe	Marita Lewis
LaVerne Cheatham	Anne McMahan
Cynthia Cumberbatch	Adele Meredith
Dot Dorsey	Alethia Mosley
Tracy Lea-Dorsey	Pat Saunders
Shannon Faulk	Wanda Smith
Anne Gibson	Lu Soukup
Patricia Hampton	Cislyn Taylor
Susan Hengel	Eunice Trotz
Kelly Holt	Ana Washington
Ernest Jackson	Paulyne Webster
Anne Kauffman	Anita Young

Faithfully Submitted,
Dot Dorsey

**AMBASSADOR TEAM MINISTRY
2014-2015**

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 to ascertain their interests including everything from just visiting on Sunday, to gaining information about our outreach ministries, to full affiliation with SsAM, (including transfers to SsAM from another Episcopal Church), Baptism, Confirmation or Reception from another faith community.

Future Plans include:

1. Continued recruitment and training of Ambassadors.
2. Set dates for a Fall and Spring New Member/Newcomer gathering.
3. Support the continued development of Dinner Groups.
4. Continue to evaluate the tracking system and the Ambassador Ministry for refinement and improvements.

5. Update the Ambassador Information Pamphlet.
6. To partner with the Member Development Ministry in their goals to Recruit, Retain and Reclaim members here at SsAM.

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, myself or the church office, and we will be in touch.

Patricia Hampton, Co-Chair
 Anita Young, Co-Chair
 Carol Scott, Trainer

**BREAKFAST & CHAPEL OUTREACH
 2014-2015**

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:** Three teams, with a total of 37 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 Carolyn Haon for 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
 2014-2015**

Chair: Linda Smith
 Members: Sharon Bryant, Audrey Collins, Anne Gibson, Marita Lewis and Dana Smith

This ministry was established to encourage a social time after the service and to welcome new members and visitors. Hot coffee and tea, as well as iced tea and lemonade or orange juice are provided by SsAM.

Weeks are divided by Alphabet Teams to bring refreshments:

the first Sunday of the month	Team A-D
the second Sunday of the month	Team E-K
the third Sunday of the month	Team L-R

the fourth Sunday of the month Team S-Z
Fifth Sunday in a month the Vestry

The committee would like to request that any new members attending the 10:30 service share their name and phone number with us so we can add your name to our list of members to call. 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 2014 - 2015

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 15 children who live in transitional housing offered by Friendship House. Each child received four 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. Marcy Perkins wrote a letter to SsAM stating, "With a grateful heart, I write to thank you for your extraordinary kindness to our residents this Christmas. Thank you for blessing us with your generosity and for bringing light to our homes." [The letter was accompanied by short notes of thanks from the parents.]

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. In addition, members of the parish contributed to the Stockings for Soldiers drive, which supports troops who are stationed overseas.

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. During 2014, SsAM contributed to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund in honor of the agency's 75th anniversary and made a contribution to the Anglican Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak; Pacem in Terris (for support of the dance program at Baylor Prison); \$4000 for the scholarship program; money requested by the rector for a parishioner in need; and supplemental funds for the Code Purple and Urban Promise programs.

Youth Funding. The AIM fund also provided a \$1000 donation toward the youth mission trip to Jamaica. In addition, the May AIM offering was designated for this endeavor.

Scholarship Program. In 2014, the scholarship program entered its 14th year with eight \$500 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 \$500 scholarships for the fall semester: Jordan Anderson [Wilmington University], Sierra Dorsey [Delaware Tech Community College], Cecily Gordon [Georgetown University]. Clifton Gordon [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill], Matthew Johnson [London School of Economics], Alana Walker [Delaware Tech Community College], Gloria Williams [Benedict College (SC)], and Tiffany Wisler [Goldey Beacom 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 2 p.m. and close at 8 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 following teams volunteered this year:

- 1/6/15 Geoff/Alice Sawyer, Carolyn Haon, Laura Eisenmen – Soups
Erik Eisenman, Debbie Layton, Nancy Hillyard – Sandwiches
- 1/16/15 Ana Washington, Susan Murphree, Yvonne Tetreault – Soup
Carmen Brown, Phil Murphree – Sandwiches
- 2/13/15 Ana Washington, Carolyn Haon, Laura Eisenmen – Soup
Carmen Brown, Susan Murphree, Phil Murphree, Cynthia Oates, Erik Eisenmen -
Sandwiches
- 3/6/15: Geoff/Alice Sawyer, Carolyn Haon, Phil/Susan Murphree – Soups
Colette Scaggs, Nancy Hillyard – Sandwiches

If you would like to volunteer to make soup and be part of this ministry, please contact Phil or Susan Murphree at (302) 427-0392.

Food Voucher Program. Volunteers from our church operate a system of referrals to two food banks. These referrals are given to people who live in Wilmington and can show financial need. They are offered on Mondays from 10:00 to noon and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. thanks to Richard (Dickey) Jones, Volunteer. 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.

Souper Bowl Sunday. This fellowship/outreach activity in February has become an annual event. Nine excellent soup makers donated different soups that were purchased by members of the parish. The \$452 in proceeds from this activity went to the AIM Fund for parish outreach efforts.

Undee Sunday. Phil and Susan Murphree reported that 159 complete sets of thermal underwear were given to our needy friends. Twenty-two residents at Andrew's Place received a set that was sized to fit their needs. The remaining 137 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, thirteen different faith communities prepare and serve this meal to up to 160 individuals and families per week.

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 15 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 also reflects our parish's continued financial support for the FAITH Center. SsAM has budgeted an annual contribution of \$4,000 to FAITH Center.

2) Friendship House Ministries. SsAM supports the efforts of Friendship House in many ways: volunteer support; Sunday breakfast ministry; Sunday chapel service; housing of Andrew's Place and the Women's Day Center in the basement of the church; and 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 over 25 years.

Members of the parish are also encouraged to donate clothing for the Friendship House Clothing Bank. During our Undee Sunday drive in November, SsAM was able to give 137 sets to the Clothing Bank to be distributed to others in need.

We would like to recognize Karen and Joe Johnson who have just finished serving as SsAM representatives on the Friendship House board. We are happy to announce that D-L Casson is now 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. In 2014, the committee agreed to disburse the \$23,000 budgeted to the four traditional agencies supported by our parish in the past. 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 \$10,000 (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. In 2015, 100% of participants were accepted into college.)
- Sojourners' Place \$3,000 (transitional program to help those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse). Executive director Eric Harris shared the agency's mission and vision for the future at the adult discussion program on June 7.

4) Dance Program at Women's Prison. SsAM provided a \$1000 grant for the tenth year to help underwrite the cost of a dance program organized by Pacem in Terris. The dance instructor, Martha Peterson, together with her drummer, led the inmates of Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in dance in two different classes, morning and afternoon, for a week, culminating in performances on October 14, 2014. This year the program was a little different in that the dance was a variation of a story-dance about the perils of drug addiction. Martha won an award for the choreography of this dance, but some of the dance was choreographed by the inmates themselves! Alice Sawyer represented SsAM at the program and provided a glowing report(copies are available) about one of the dancers she had met in previous years, "Christine and the 'freedom dancers' reminded me that the human spirit yearns to be free from our own particular bondage – poor choices, addiction, illness, low self-esteem, fear, poverty, despair, prejudice... Like Christine, sometimes we are the only ones that can free ourselves from what holds us prisoner. Paraphrasing the words of political activist and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, whom I heard speak many years ago, the very last of the human freedoms, that no one can take away from you, is your freedom to chose how you will react to what happens to you in your life."

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 Delaware Chorale Arts, the Wilmington Children's Chorus, Friendship House, HARP (Homeless Are Real People, Too), AARP, Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Reform, and the Shipley Development Corporation. In March, SsAM hosted a group of college students from Oral Roberts University who participated in the Urban Promise Spring Break program.

6) Supporting Peace Efforts. The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew has joined the Movement for a Culture of Peace (MCP), which organized a March for a Culture of Peace on September 27. The MCP is a broad coalition of faith and community action groups that have found common ground for nonviolence and justice in Delaware. SsAM also hosted a strategic nonviolence workshop which was sponsored by Pacem in Terris in March.

7) 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. (See separate report in this booklet)

8) World Wide Efforts. Our parish supports the worldwide outreach efforts of the Episcopal Church through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

SsAM Recognized for Outreach Work. SsAM works closely with Charlie Johnson of H.A.R.P. (Homeless Are Real People, Too) by providing space for their Welcome Home program (people transitioning from prison to the community) and for larger events, such as their annual banquet. The agency works on issues related to homelessness, panhandling and being responsive to those in need. At H.A.R.P.'s annual banquet, SsAM was presented with the William "Hicks" Anderson Community Activist Award, due to our parish's tireless efforts in advocating for the homeless and ensuring that they are treated with dignity and respect.

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 like to be a part of community advocacy at SsAM.

Sylvia Banks
Joyce Bembry
Shirley Bynoe
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
Orlen Washington

**DOWNTOWN ARTS
(Art Slam @ SsAM)
2014-2015**

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 every last Friday of the quarter. It is free and most attendees were visitors to SsAM. Highlights from the past year were:

- June 2014: Featured artist was Folk Lore Artist Eunice Lafate plus some of Wilmington's well known drummers: SsAM's own Audrey Collins, Baba Ngom Kamau, Waju Christie, Mama Pat, Shabaka Coffield, and master drummer Pape Dembe aka Paco..collectively known as Griots. In addition, storytelling by Mama Pat reflecting with Canon Casson and the audience about Mitch Thomas on the radio.
- Dec 2014: The Downtown Arts Ministry, the church and the community celebrated the 2nd day of the Kwanzaa principle of Kujichagulia or Self Determination on Saturday, December 27, 2014. It included youth performances from different agencies such as the WILMINGTON PAL and the Brown's Boys and Girls Club.
- March 2015: featured one of SsAM's own living legend, Madeline Bolden Johnson along with vocalist and storyteller Sharon Moore
- April 2015: One of SsAM's favorite poet returned to Delaware from Colorado on vacation. Beverly Andrus aka the "Radical Poet" quite the Poet known for bringing social issues to the forefront. Special guest poets including Crystal Baynard Norman, Poet Laureates for the state of Delaware Joann Balingit and E. Jean Lanyon Poet Laureate Emeritus of Delaware. Also and amazing performance of Raphael Xavier who did some acrobatic type stunts.
- June 2015 Two artists will be featured: Jordan Hines and Pharoh The Poet

Future programming ideas:

- Sept 2015- we are working on a special evening featuring how to preserve old Photos
- Other ideas: SsAM members to display photos/art, new and former poets, community forums
- December - Kwanzaa @ SsAM

General Future Goals:

- 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

Committee Members: Audrey Collins, Melba Lucas, Linda Smith, Diane Clarke Streett, Leroy Burks and Sharon Bryant (Chair)

**Episcopal Church Women (ECW)
2014 – 15**

The Episcopal Church Women are all women of the church. Our active members and officers are:

Gloria Conner-Bungy	Pat Saunders
LaVerne Cheatham	Ana Washington
Barbara Davison	Paulyne Webster
June Knight	Helen Whitson
Pam Peters	
Dot Dorsey – President	
Cynthia Oates – Vice President	
Ernestine Brock-Walker – Secretary	
Anne Gibson – Corresponding Secretary	
Patricia Griffin – Treasurer	

These active members work diligently sponsoring: The Prayer Breakfast, Pancake Dinner and the Christmas Bazaar so as to raise funds to contribute and help to defray funds that are needed and donated to causes in the church's name.

ECW Donations May 2014 – May 2015

September 20, 2014	8 Foot pipe for organ in honor of David Christopher	\$ 250
March 26, 2015	SsAM's YYF Mission to Jamaica	1,000
April 5, 2015	DE Diocesan ECW Annual Donation	250
April 17, 2015	Friendship House	500
April 17, 2015	St Michael's School Annual Donation	300
Total	\$2,300	

We are not a Social Club. We are trying to live and do God's work. Meetings are once a month, the second Saturday every month, promptly at 10 AM. Most times the meeting does not run over an hour and a half. There are no meetings in July or August. We will reconvene on September 12, 2015. Above is a listing of donations we were able to make with the workings of our small active group. Imagine what we could do with a larger active group.

WOMEN! COME JOIN US!

Faithfully Submitted,
Dot Dorsey

Environmental Justice Ministry @ SsAM

There are two aspects of the environmental justice ministry at SsAM: Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Ministry (Paulyne Webster) and Delaware Interfaith Power and Light (Ann Tate). A summary of their reports follows with full reports available on the Information Table.

Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Ministry

The Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (“DCREJ”) is a ministry that was birthed out of the Season of Creation in 2012, to honor the rights of Mother Earth. Given the mission of Saints Andrew and Matthew, we were very intentional about being sure this ministry was built on the foundation of “justice”. Given the issue of health disparities in our community of our parish and the 19801 community, we found it important, to address the issues of environmental justice. We affirm and uphold the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) movement’s definition of “environment” as the place where with live, learn, play and pray. We found it fitting to honor the Episcopal Church’s commitment to environmental and climate justice.

Serving as a ministry of education and awareness on the environmental and climate crisis, we have been able to inform communities locally how to respond to chemical and natural disasters. We are assisting in making the connections and outreach to communities on the need for renewable energy, safer chemicals and safer processes and access to healthy and nutritional foods. We are also supporting the work of a campaign known as the Campaign for Healthier Solutions. Many low income and communities of color across America have become inundated with Dollar Stores, at times making it their only access to food. We are supporting the work of the EJHA, by signing on to a letter to the CEO of Dollar General, Dollar Tree and Family Dollar. We want them to remove the toxic products from their shelves, and replace them with locally grown and made, and manufactured products and goods. We feel this greats the economic justice that the local communities needs and helps them to force the demand of goods and services to be healthy and affordable. That includes supporting green ports and goods movement. We thank Michele Roberts for inspiring us and providing us with entry to many of her contacts in the environmental justice field.

We are hosting a planning meeting with the leaderships of local groups who will be involved in the planning, here at SsAM, June 24th (7:00-8:30). We hope to commit to a date at that time, We are the stewards that must be sure we leave a legacy for our children and honor Creation.

Will you join us?
Paulyne Webster

Delaware Interfaith Power and Light

Since October, 2014, I have represented the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew on the Delaware Interfaith Power and Light Board. DEIPL is one of 40+ State affiliates whose goal is to “marshall faith communities to propose environmental justice and to ensure a livable planet for future generations.”

SsAM serves as a resource center for DEIPL and has been the location for three of its programs:

- A session to inform SsAM and wider community on how to monitor their energy use
- A workshop/energy seminar for those who are responsible for the maintenance of churches where participants learned of the “unique energy concerns of congregations.”
- Sharing information with the SsAM community about its role as a Resource Center and to explain DEIPL’s role in trying to engage the poor in energy job programs

In an attempt to increase its knowledge about energy efficient programs operating in this area, DEIPL visited the Philadelphia Energy Coordinating Energy. The staff explained its fuel assistance/utility assistance and conservation services for all, regardless of income. We also saw the most unique free job training and Remediation Certification program which placed unemployed and underemployed residents in full-time jobs. DEIPL has also toured empty city owned plots to discover which ones are suited to be used as community gardens. Please let me know how you would like to be involved.

Ann Tate

Eucharistic Ministers 2014-2015

Our Eucharistic Ministry has grown this past year to twenty-five participants, including one youth minister, Cameron Dixon. We are delighted that he volunteered to serve in this capacity as well as the other service duties he already performs for the Eucharist each Sunday. We also welcomed Andres deCos and Barbara Henry as regular licensed Eucharistic Ministers.

Our new members and continuing members had several training sessions, facilitated by D-L Casson. We also received an updated manual which included the “whys” behind the actions within the liturgy as well as many of the terms used by clergy and Altar Guild members. I, myself, know a little more than when I started way back in the year "0" about the purpose of different actions that we do during Communion and why we do them. We have learned what the "nuts and bolts" are of being a Eucharistic Minister and how to properly perform this ministry because how we perform is crucial to our communicants as they receive the Holy Eucharist.

At the 10:30 a.m. service, we have three Eucharistic Ministers and a Liturgical Assistant to assist the Celebrant. To better meet the needs for our members we have added a "gluten free" station for those who need it so that they are able to participate fully at communion. The

"gluten free" Eucharistic Minister, also takes communion to the Sunday School/Nursery and to those who set up coffee hour. This allows us to meet the needs of all present even if they cannot be at the service in the sanctuary. The Liturgical Assistant assists the Celebrant and takes care of many of the logistical details (and emergencies), freeing the Celebrant to be able to focus on the spiritual aspect of the liturgy and the Eucharist.

During our Christmas and Easter services we had several communion stations to accommodate anticipated crowds and this worked out well. It was a joy to see so many Eucharistic Ministers willing to share their gifts to make these services better for all present.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year, with God's help, to have more training and informational sessions to keep the Eucharistic Ministry interesting so that we can maybe gain more volunteers for the work that we are called to do at the Eucharist. I thank D-L for all the work she has put in to make this ministry one that we are all proud to serve in.

Respectfully submitted:
Ernestine L. Brock-Walker

LECTORS 2014-15

Known as readers in some parishes, the SsAM lectors are key (and visible) ministry members not only at our 8:00 and 10:30 liturgies on Sundays, 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. Over forty adult parishioners served in this capacity during the year as well as several of our YYF members and Zoey Rogers, aged 8. We also thank everyone who was willing to take the time for the 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 welcoming to all. While we have a wonderful roster of lectors, we particularly welcome the men of SsAM to volunteer at our next training.

Joyce Bemby and Tom Angell, Co-leaders

LITURGY COMMITTEE 2014-15

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. This year, D-L Casson wrote several liturgical commentaries providing SsAM members with the history, traditions and meanings underlying our liturgy in various liturgical seasons.

Over the past year we have:

- Supported having the Prayers of The People (PoTP) prayed from within the congregation (at the 10:30 service)
- Supported having a Rite 1 service once a month during a trial period
- Provided positive feedback about having a moment of silence after the scriptures
- Conducted a joint meeting/training with the Altar Guild ministry

At the most recent meeting, the members of this ministry provided a de-brief of Holy Week and helped plan a revamped 2016 Easter Vigil in which Crypt Hall will be a sacred “tomb” for prayer and meditation during the Triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter). All members of SsAM are welcome to join this ministry and can do so by contacting D-L Casson.

The current members are:

Tom Angell	Katie Soukup
Ernestine Brock-Walker	Lu Soukup
Laverne Cheatham	Ann Tate
Lionel Hampton	David Andrews
Pat Hampton	David Christopher
Pat Saunders	D-L Casson
Christina Brennan Lee	
Adele Meredith	
Barbara Henry	

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY
2014-2015**

Sharon Ann Leyhow and Cynthia Primo Martin, Co-Chairs

David Andrews	Judi Gregory	Wanda Smith
Dariel Janerette	Pat Hampton	Cheryl Thomas
Dave Clouser	Pat Saunders	Anita Young
Leslie Clouser	Alice Sawyer	Tony Gaboton
Carol Scott		

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 lapsed parishioners. We are working in partnership with the Ambassadors

Ministry whose mission is to incorporate and include visitors to SsAM and to guide them through membership.

2015 GOALS

1. Increase number of new members to SsAM
2. Reclaim former and “not seen lately” members
3. Develop short term activities/plans to meet Long Range Goals
4. Set up measures for each goal/area
5. Determine ways to connect other ministries with Member Development to develop a unified approach to increasing number of new members and reclaiming of former/not seen lately members
6. Develop evaluation tools for annual review of progress against long term goals

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Developed a long range plan with annual goals and action plans
- Specifically developed numerical goals to increase membership in several categories in a 5 year plan. (SsAM has met the membership goals for 2015 already!)
- Collaborated with Ambassador’s Ministry to ensure combined efforts towards mutual goal
- Were represented at the October 5 Ministry Fair
- Identified and personally contacted “lapsed” or “not seen lately” members
- Developed “Name Tag Kit” for ushers to use to help identify visitors at our services
- Developed a “Welcome to SsAM” box for use by MDM members at SsAM events to provide information to event goers seeking more information on SsAM...appointed
- In process of developing a Welcome to SsAM booklet with pertinent information for prospective members...began announcing birthdays, anniversaries, etc. in VISION
- Updated 2008 SsAM profile on SsAM website
- Suggested new member orientation initiative
- Suggested adding “Friends of SsAM” to our weekly e-blasts
- Set up meeting with various “touch” ministries to coordinate efforts to track congregant contacts
- Investigated new and additional signage to market SsAM to the community

Anyone interested in becoming a member of MDM or helping in any way, please contact Sharon Leyhow at sharon@comcast.net or Cynthia Primo Martin, cprimo@comcast.net, 302-540-0196.

Pastoral Care and Eucharistic Visitors 2014-2015

The Pastoral Care Ministry remained service focused over the past year. This year we were able to reach out to most of our congregants in one way or another. We continue to strive to contact all SsAM members to get emergency contact information to keep on file in the church office. We also conducted a brief survey to find out congregants needs such as a visit from Fr. David or from one of the Eucharistic Visitors.

Transportation is another aspect of Pastoral Care and we were able to help those unable to attend church services independently thanks to Jenna Christy, Bill Young, Bob Young and Tom Roberts. We continue to work with the Altar Guild and hope to improve the scheduling of communicants to be visited with the Holy Sacraments.

Church members who have their birthdays on file continue to receive birthday cards thanks to Diane Streett, Bill Young, Gloria Conner-Bungy, and Susan Thomas-Holder who do this on a rotating basis. We send a special thanks to Charlene Simmons who sends cards for many occasions including those friends and family members who are in the military and to Pat Saunders who never forgets to send cards of all kinds, just because...

Those congregants who were unable to come to SsAM and enjoy the decorated church at Christmas and Easter were given the poinsettia and lilies after the services. The altar flowers are regularly taken to the communicants by the Eucharistic Visitors.

We welcome all who are interested in providing any aspect of pastoral care.

PROPERTY MINISTRY 2014-2015

Members: Jim Ballard, Walt Cheatham, Wayne Corbin, Cyndi Dombrowski, Ken Francis, Anne Gibson, Herb Harvey, Sandy Hines, Jim Linderman, Jerry Lucas, Sandy Johnson, Cynthia Martin, Dennis Porter, Janice Teemer, Leroy Trotz

As we indicate each year, despite the relentless activities of the church staff, work by many contracted vendors and various activities of the property committee; because of the age of the physical plant and the utilization of the facilities, we are always stretched to simply maintain the status quo. For those who are not aware, Dana Robertson plays a crucial role in both the finance and property activities and therefore we are very pleased by the increased effort from Charles, Debbie and the church office led by D-L while Dana has been ill. We welcome any group such as the team who maintain the Garden of Praise to take on a specific project in need and thank those who participated in the scheduled work days.

Completed Projects

A number of significant repairs have been completed at the Rectory, the church and the parish hall and, working jointly with the Environmental Justice Committee, we have had a number of meetings and discussions concerning the energy use in the church properties. Concerning energy we have eliminated any consideration of solar for now, but have implemented some other suggestions and are pursuing a few items of interest. We have also reached agreement on the construction design for the organ.

On-going Activities

Under the leadership of Jim Ballard, a small group continues to make minor repairs. The major energy related activity is the pursuit of a single heating/air-conditioning unit for Crypt Hall and later for Demby. We are also hoping to complete some minor roof repairs, exterior painting, a review of storage alternatives and, with the SsAM Property Committee, to address sidewalk issues on Orange and Shipley Streets.

Garden Subgroup

The Garden Of Praise and other garden areas are being handled by a sub group that simply needs an infusion of occasional supplies. Thanks to them all.

Budget

In view of the projected church deficit for 2015, I wish I could say that property is under budget, but the reality is that we will be very lucky to end the year on budget.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Lucas

REGAL HEIGHTS CARE CENTER

2014-15

OFFICIANTS: Fr. David T. Andrews, Jr., Canon Lloyd S. Casson

VOLUNTEERS:

Charles Bungy	Christof Dorsey*	Julien Dorsey*
Gloria Conner-Bungy	Shawn Dorsey*	Tracy Dorsey*
Alice Sawyer	Tammi Morris*	Kori Mobley*
Geoff Sawyer	Mali Mase*	Tabbe Mase*
Isabella Casey	Monica Oates*	Veronica Oates*
Molly Casey	Christine Pinnock*	Phyllise Wilkins-Church*
Paulette Francis	* YYF members	

MISSION: To take the spiritual church, the Holy Eucharist and the Word to others unable to attend the physical church, to follow in Christ's footsteps by spreading His love to all people by ministering to the sick, widowed, elderly and all who are alone.

ACTIVITIES: Services are held at Regal Heights every fourth Sunday and Volunteers arrive by 2:00 pm, Chapel services begin at 2:30pm. Last year, music was provided by Sandra Johnson and this year the music is provided by a Regal Heights residents. Singing is a pleasure for the residents.

If interested in volunteering one Sunday a month (the 4th), please contact Gloria at 302-654-7630 or leave a message at the Church Office.

Gloria Y. Conner-Bungy

**Sharing Our Blessings (Capital Campaign)
2014-2015**

The past year has been one of little visible activity for the Capital Campaign, Sharing Our Blessings, but there have been things going on so that the next phase of the campaign may be successfully completed.

The James Thomas Kitchen has continued to serve as a boon to the community, there were nearly 40 Code Purple nights called this past winter. The weather was especially harsh, and people in the community who live on the streets are the ones who are the hardest hit. Hot soup, sandwiches and coffee must taste so good, when you haven't eaten all day.

We continue to raise money for The Katherine Esterly organ, which is scheduled to be installed in the fall of 2016, despite the death of our beloved Kitty. We continue to receive pledge money from those of you whose pledge is not yet complete. There have been many pipes sold through our Sponsor a Pipe campaign. This is a meaningful way to honor a loved one. In addition, we are reaching out to members of the community for further support. These efforts have been successful, and they are on-going.

In December, both Mike Quimby and the architect, Daniel Hancock, came to SsAM, to determine if the ideas and price for construction of the organ chamber were adequate. They were, and thus we are determined to start construction on Easter Monday of 2016.

Thank you should be said loudly and clearly to each of those who have helped with this campaign. We will pay off the loan and we continue to make payments every month. This is important and shows dedication and responsibility on our part. We currently have \$419,355 in the bank, and we will make another payment of \$104,023 to Quimby at the end of the month.

This campaign is in its 4th year and your willingness to continue to support it is much appreciated. With your help, we will achieve our goal.

**SHIPLEY LOFTS & THE CHRIS WHITE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
2014-2015**

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 4 years ago. Over the last 12 months, the lofts have been rented at a 95% - 100% occupancy rate to artists. Our operating budget continues to break even. We have also legally changed our name from the Shipley Village CDC to the Chris White CDC. 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, Cyndi Dombrowski and Mark Williams, are on the CDC Board. I also remain on the board.

Geoff Sawyer Secretary to the Board

**SsAM's PROPERTY, INC.
(The Parking Lot)
2014-2015**

During our last SsAM Property Board, held May 19, 2015, we discussed several important items concerning the parking lot, its governorship and current state.

We had appointments for open board positions. Our current board is comprised as follows:

- President – Mark T. Williams
- Vice President – Jim Ballard
- Treasurer – Jim Linderman
- Secretary – Harvey C. “Buck” Smith, Jr. /Jerry Lucas (on a rotating basis per meeting and minutes scribed)

In addition to confirming the above positions, we intend to have a “confirmed” list of committee members by the end of the summer.

We also discussed having both adjacent sidewalks to the parking lot repaired (the sidewalk on Shipley St. and the one on Orange St.). At the moment, we have 3 viable options to consider.

- (1) Partner with the City of Wilmington to repair both sidewalks
- (2) Partner with the State of Delaware (DE)
- (3) Pay for the repairs ourselves

We are already in discussion with the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware. We have met with the Director of Urban Planning and City Engineer for the City, and have had correspondence with the the Office of State Rep. Stephanie Bolden. In addition, we may likely reach out to the State Senator Mary Rose Henry's office as well. As discussions with any of the aforementioned develop, we will promptly inform the parish via the Vestry of our progress and intended actions.

However, if none of these options materialize, while we have already notified the Vestry and Fr. Andrews, for the records, please note we will require funding from the church (SsAM) to repair both sidewalks. The estimates we have so far to repair both sidewalks range from \$10,000-\$20,000 (based on quotes from authorized contractors). It is important to note that while we need to repair both sidewalks for aesthetic reasons alone, until repairs are completed, we are increasingly at risk – both legally and financially - if an accident is to happen as a result of their dilapidated state during the interim of any repairs. Therefore, our goal is to have both sidewalks repaired by mid-October 2015, but preferably by the end of this Summer 2015 - well before the first signs of icy weather.

Our financial status is as follows: as stated in last year's annual report, we borrowed the final \$10,000 for the 702 Orange Street property in January 2014, bringing our total principal loan balance to approximately \$35,000; our repayment to SsAM continues at 8.0%, for an annual interest payment of \$2,800; and as of May 6, 2015, SsAM's Property, Inc. has \$4,541.47 in its checking account and \$2,752.66 in the savings account.

Our next meeting will likely be Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Williams
President, SsAM's Property, LLC

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
2014-2015**

The response to our appeal to the congregation for pledge has been heart-warming. Recognizing the uncertainties that many of us live with, and the anxieties of our times, it is heartening to know that the average amount pledge increased. While the number of Pledge units decreased due to loss of membership through death and moving, we were only approximately \$200 lower than the 2013 total pledge amount.

- The average pledge for 2014 was 2,743 (with a median of 1,800) per family.
- The number of Pledge units decreased from 169 to 161 this year.
- The total amount pledged was \$441,692.
- Of the \$441.692 pledge amount, 400,542 (91%) was received.

The committee would like to thank all who assisted with making this effort successful.

Committee members:

Pat Hampton
Dennis Porter
Barbara Davison

**Sunday School (Godly Play)
2014- 2015**

This year is our fourth year of teaching the Godly Play Sunday School for children ages 3-8 with a team of teachers rotating each week to lead the lessons. We have a small group of younger children ages 3- 8 years old who attend the lesson and stay on for the nursery program each week. Serving as Godly Play storytellers on the rotating schedule are: Alice and Geoff Sawyer, Carol Scott, , Sherry Bell, Cyndi Dombrowski, and Anne Gibson serving as assistant teacher.

Serving as child care staff for our nursery are Tianna Wisher, Veronica Oates, Richella Grimes, and Sophie Poindexter.

Godly Play is a unique approach to Sunday School where the teachers facilitate the planned story in an annual series of lessons that are boxed up ready to go. During the Godly Play story the children are encouraged to work with the lesson props to re-enact the story, consider “wondering” questions about how the story relates to them, and create drawings to express what they’ve learned.

A special thank-you to all of the teachers and to Anne Gibson who makes greeting cards for our parish visitors to deliver to shut-ins. And a big THANK YOU to the parents and grandparents who bring the children to Sunday school each week.

We are always looking for more young families with children who would like to attend and help lead the Godly Play lessons. The commitment for teachers is to attend a one-day Godly Play Training, a Safe Church workshop in the fall and to teach on a monthly rotation schedule. Working with our youngest SsAM members is a lot of fun and a great way to meet new families. Let us know if you are interested in being part of Godly Play as a storyteller.

Carol Scott

USHERS MINISTRY 2014-2015

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, a position of great trust. The commitment of the Ushers here at SsAM is to reverence this holy place and its witness to faith and seek to make it a place of welcome and hospitality. The Ministry currently has a membership of 25 (including 7 youth) trained Ushers who are responsible for the following:

- Greeting attendees at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services and all special services (i.e., funerals, Evensong and Jazz Vespers and some special events)
- Distribution of service leaflets and the Weekly Vision;
- Assisting people find seating and keeping the attendance count at all the services.
- Collecting offerings and helping the congregation during the Communion process
- Giving directions and being host and hostesses to all who come to SsAM for worship or any other church-sponsored/related activities.

This past year, we trained 5 young people to serve as Ushers. They served at the Easter Sunday service and at the Mother’s Day service. We will be exploring other opportunities for their participation.

This coming year, we will continue to recruit and train more Ushers; hold quarterly team meetings; and continue to meet with the other Ministry Leaders. The Usher Ministry will also be partnering with the Member Development Ministry (MDM) in their commitment to

The Ministry of Hospitality and Welcome is an important one in the life of the Church in general and SsAM in particular. I extend a huge vote of thanks and appreciation to all the Ushers for their dedication, service and support of this ministry.

Lionel Hampton, Chair
Usher Ministry

**YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES (YYF)
2014-15**

The YYF report will be made available after their return from their Mission Trip to Jamaica.