



Annual Report 2017-2018

The Episcopal Church
Of
Saints Andrew and Matthew

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2018 Rector's Annual Report

Annual Meeting

May 27, 2018

Greetings from the coast of Maine! My sabbatical travels have brought me here for a few days while the brothers at the monastery have their own retreat time. I return to Cambridge later this week (May 10th) for three more days of retreat.

I am aware that you all will gather on Sunday May 27th for the annual meeting of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. I admit that it is strange for me to be writing this report and not be with you on the 27th. This is the first time in my years as a parish priest that I have not presided at an annual meeting. I am confident that the wardens and the members of the vestry will lead the meeting well. I did however want to send a brief report as rector to the entire parish.

First some words of thanks to the members of the vestry who are rotating off the vestry as of this year's annual meeting. Thank you to Michelle Smith, John Goodill, Audrey Collins and Dave Clouser for your term and your faithfulness to this parish. I also wish to thank Sam, Rachel, Patty, and Tom for your willingness to be on this year's slate for the vestry class of 2021. I look forward to welcoming the new vestry members upon my return. I also wish to thank the hardest working staff in the Church. Dana, D-L, David, Janice, Marlon, Charles and Mary, who put in many hours to ensure that tasks are completed and the parish is clean and Sunday morning worship is planned and God is praised. Also a note of thanks to Emily, Barbara, Lloyd, Anna, Paul and Peter for presiding at Sunday worship and the Wednesday healing service. A special thanks to Maryann Younger who has done an exceptional job leading our pastoral care team and sharing with all of us her gifts for ministry. We will miss her when she and Kris head to New York in the fall when she continues her theological studies at the General Theological Seminary. Go with God, faithful servant of the Gospel.

Thank you again for giving me the gift of this sabbatical. It is hard to believe that it has been five weeks. The time is going by quickly. I have learned a great deal about myself as I have had to learn and follow new routines such as sleep and not to worry. While at the monastery, I gave myself permission to have at least two twenty minute contemplative sits a day as well as to worship with the brothers at the Daily Offices and Daily Eucharist. Also I am not in control! I have to sit and participate and not be *on* every Sunday which I have enjoyed immensely.

In mid-April I attended the annual retreat of the religious order that I am a member of, the Order of the Ascension. This dispersed order of lay and ordained members are committed to the process of parish development so that the parishes we serve as rectors or are members of become thriving centers of worship and mission. This year our focus was to step back and look at the history of the order that began in 1985 and to reflect on the culture of the parish where we are today. Our task was to list what the culture of the parish is and not impose upon it our own ideas as to what we thought the parish was to be in our own image. This was not hard for

me to do as I listed these areas which I believe are part of SsAM's overall culture: Inclusion/Diversity, Community Involvement, Liturgy/Music and Advocacy/Outreach. As you gather for the annual meeting of the parish what would you add to this list? Am I correct in listing these areas as part of the culture that make us SsAM? How can we continue to grow into this culture and what might this look like as we work together for the parish? One thing that I have been praying and reflecting about is how I want to spend time in 2018/2019 teaching and coaching the parish in a developing a life of prayer on an individual and corporate level. I look forward to hearing your thoughts when I return.

How are you doing with the sabbatical practices of Ceasing, Resting, Embracing and Feasting? I am learning to live into these as well and trying to be aware on a daily basis as to which one I am practicing at that moment.

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: Brandon Bates, Eugene McGowan, Max Bell, Cynthia Cumberbatch, Alethea Mosley, Joe Alexander, Jorge Williams and Richard Jones. May their souls rest in peace.

My friends be well and have a great meeting and a restful summer. I look forward to seeing you in mid-August.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.
Rector

2017 Parochial Statistics (July 2, 2017 – May 13, 2018)

Average Sunday Attendance - 177

Weddings – 2

Burials – 5

Baptisms – 2

Confirmations – 0

Receptions – 0

Warden's Report 2017-2018

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

We embrace the four pillars of our mission established three 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.

We have had deficit budgets for 2017, and 2018, meaning that we have to draw from the principal of our endowment to meet operating costs both years. In 2017, we pulled about \$50,000 from the fund principal, and in 2018 we project a need to pull about \$40,000 from the fund principal. While the trend is in the right direction, the need to draw from principal is at odds with pillar number 2. We hope that you, our congregation, can continue to be as generous, or even more so, as you have been. However, we realize that we need to look elsewhere as well for funding. To that purpose, we established a new committee, "Going Forward", at our Vestry meeting on the 9th of May this year, with the charter to seek new sources of funding, to capitalize on the resources that are available, especially time, and talent, from our congregation and our diocese, to create both tactical and strategic plans to create a sustainable future. We are looking for expertise in fund raising and grant writing, and suggestions and ideas that may bear fruit, keeping in mind our fundamental nature and mission.

Please see the Property Committee Report for details of the past year's maintenance. Some highlights:

- Cleanup and reallocation of vacated space after the departure of the Choir School
- Tree maintenance at the Rectory
- HVAC repair at the Rectory
- Video inventory
- Cataloging of SsAM's art collection
- Hanging the large painting in the back of the Sanctuary
- Planning for a rotating display of SsAM's art

Charles Lewis retired as Sexton this year; we thank him for his long and devoted service. He continues to work part time as needed. Marlon Rochester was promoted to Facilities Manager (Head Sexton) full time. With Mary Cooper and Charles, we have a dedicated team working to maintain the two properties, and support worship services and other activities that rely on SsAM's facilities.

Our music ministry has been thriving with the acquisition of a Steinway piano and the continued use of the Esterly Organ for services, concerts, and support of community musical events, such as Jazz Vespers and the Samson oratorio.

Our worship services continue to develop and explore new approaches, with deep services the Passion, and of course we retain our Mardi Gras Sunday prior to Lent. We welcomed Maryann Younger as our Lay Pastoral Minister this year, and she has contributed a number of new programs. SsAM remains welcoming to a diverse community and congregation, and supports a wide variety of outreach programs: Friendship House, AA, AIM, food vouchers, &C. We welcome a few new families to the congregation this year and support a growing YF group.

We had a successful community Open House September 30, 2017, bringing our congregation and our parish together. This year we are planning the SsAM Community Fun Fest in partnership with the Christiana Cultural Arts Coalition for September 29th.

Fr. David began his sabbatical after Easter 2018, and our prayers and best wishes go with him. I realized, with some “encouragement” from others, that the Vestry, and in particular, the Senior Warden, needed to be more accessible to the staff on a regular basis to fill in any gaps due to Fr. David’s sabbatical at the administrative level. I have begun coming to SsAM Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 4:30 to work with and support the staff and strengthen their connection to the Vestry. I plan to continue the practice even after my tenure on the Vestry ends in June, as co-chair of the Property Committee. I hope that my presence will also support our new Senior Warden, Steven Jones, and our new Junior Warden, Nana Soto, and the Vestry. We at SsAM are at a critical point in our history: we need to have a sustainable financial position to continue our mission and ministries, at the same time remembering that we are “the Body of Christ, sharing one bread, one cup.” We can do this, we just need to be present.

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.

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

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

Dave Clouser, Senior Warden
Steven Jones, Junior Warden

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

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SsAM

So many exciting things are happening in the music ministry at SsAM. Great music has always been one of the defining aspects of The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew, and this year, there are two particularly exciting developments that support this important ministry. In 2017-2018 we saw the addition of two first class musical instruments to our sanctuary, and a new crop of young singers participating in our Chorister Training Program.

The music ministry at SsAM has taken on new dimensions this season through the benefits provided to us by the Katherine Esterly Organ (completed in February 2017). Not only has this world class instrument added greatly to our liturgies, but SsAM has become a destination for organists throughout the country as an example of the newest trends in custom organ design. Also, we purchased a Steinway B piano in August of 2017. In addition to improving the quality of music in worship at SsAM, these new instruments are already beginning to draw interest from musicians throughout the region who would like to perform in musical events at SsAM.

The piano that had been in the sanctuary for the past 5 years belonged to Harrison Walker and had been donated to The Cathedral Church of St. John. His intention was that the piano would stay with the Choir School, so when they moved out last summer, we found ourselves with no piano in the sanctuary. That meant no piano for rehearsals, no music from Linda Jackson and Cynthia Martin at the 8:00 a.m. service, no piano solos or duets with Jackie Roberts at 10:30, and on and on! We were advised by a number of pianists in the area that, if we wanted SsAM to be considered as a legitimate performance venue for jazz and classical musical events in the area, we needed to seriously consider purchasing a Steinway B, which is the industry standard for smaller concert and recital halls. After an extensive search throughout the area for possible replacements, we determined that a new Steinway B, which runs about \$100,000 was simply out of our price range. As luck would have it, on a visit by David Christopher and Pat Saunders to Jacobs Music in Philadelphia, we came across a refurbished 1908 Steinway B that had been completely rebuilt and was in beautiful shape for \$39,900! After quickly consulting our "piano advisors" we were told that this was a deal that couldn't be missed. Jacobs Music had just gotten the piano in and priced it for quick sale over the Labor Day weekend. Thanks to the quick work of Pat Saunders, our treasurer, Tina Betz, and Vestry Warden Dave Clouser, we were able to find money and the piano was delivered mid-September. A special thank you to Karen Johnson, Debbie Layton, Pat Purcell, the Eaton Music Fund and the Sharing our Blessings Campaign for making the purchase of this instrument possible.

The Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ, which was formed in the Spring of 2017, presented an exciting season of events featuring the Katherine Esterly organ. Other events featuring the organ were also presented by Delaware ChoralArts (DCA), our community chorus in residence at SsAM, and The National Association of Negro Musicians.

Sept. 30	Children's Organ Concert (FOKEO)
Oct. 28	Organ Recital of works based on Negro Spirituals (NANM)
Nov. 18	Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with organ accompaniment (DCA)
Dec. 20	Messiah Sing-Along (FOKEO)
Mar. 2	Organ Recital by Alcee Chriss (FOKEO)
Mar. 26	Dupre "Stations of the Cross" presented by Organ Students at Curtis (FOKEO)
June 1	Organ Recital by Eugene Lavery (FOKEO)

A sincere thank you to all of the patrons who made special contributions so that these events could be possible. Also, a special thank you to the members of the FOKEO committee, Josh Martin (chair) Jacqueline Roberts, Mary Meese, Emily Gibson, Dana Robertson, David Christopher, The Rev. Canon Lloyd S. Casson and Fr. David Andrews.

The SsAM Chorister Training Program "rose from the ashes" this past season as a new crop of young singers from the parish became involved. I am happy to report that we now have 5 solid choristers that are participating on a regular basis. Three of the choristers were particularly dedicated and made stellar progress this year. Jose Cruz, Barbara Lamptey and Keziah Soto were presented with their Blue Ribbons (Junior Chorister) on May 20 at the annual Chorister Recognition Ceremony. Our two youngest members, Kailey Aberdeen and Nikolas Alexander, are showing great enthusiasm and potential and were presented with the level of Novice Singer.

I appeal to members of the SsAM congregation to please consider helping with the Chorister Training Program as we strive to develop the musicians and church leaders of the future. There are two ways you can help. 1) Contact David Christopher through the church office to volunteer to assist with the choristers at rehearsals and services, and to help with the many administrative responsibilities required to make a children's treble choir program work effectively. We also need to begin a program to assist with transportation for choristers to rehearsals. 2) There is very little money budgeted for this important program, so making a financial contribution earmarked for the Treble Choir program would make a huge difference. A typical budget for a chorister program of this type could run anywhere from \$5,000 to \$35,000 depending on the quality and extensiveness of the program. At this point, we are operating on fumes and the occasional donation received from individuals from the parish. Your gift to the chorister program could make a huge difference.

Our SsAM Adult Choir is really the backbone of our liturgical music program at SsAM, and this past season, they really blew it out of the park! The choral music at Sunday morning liturgies, as well as for special liturgies such as Christmas Eve, Carnival Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, was consistently excellent and spirit-filled. In January, SsAM Choir once again collaborated with Delaware ChoralArts to present our annual Spirituals Concert. Guest artists for this year's Spirituals Concert were two Wilmington legends, Madeline Bolden Johnson and Lawler Rogers. On Good Friday, the choir presented "The Seven Last Words" by Theodore Dubois with guest soloists.

Our relationship with Delaware ChoralArts as a collaborative community partnership continued to evolve this past season with more singers from the SsAM Choir and congregation participating. This relationship with DCA allows us to have large scale choral events at SsAM

that would be impossible without the resources of an organization like DCA. Some of these events are with orchestra, but most of the concerts feature the Katherine Esterly Organ, showing off it's wonderful potential to provide accompaniment that is a worthy substitute for an orchestra in large scale choral/orchestral works.

We were delighted to once again welcome back the Wilmington Children's Chorus for the spring concert "Music from Sub Saharan Africa" to packed houses on May 19 & 20. They held their summer camp at SsAM again last June 26-30 and will be holding it again this June 25-29. This year, WCC has graciously offered a substantial discount to members of the SsAM Chorister Program who wish to attend.

This past season, the SsAM Music Committee provided a constant sounding board and support for the music ministry. With so many musical happenings at SsAM, we need a strong committee to oversee and create synergy between the various aspects of the program. The committee this year was Tina Betz (chair), Jonathan Whitney, Dana Robertson, David Christopher and Fr. David Andrews. It is my hope that we can involve more parishioners in this important committee moving forward.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the musicians from the parish that enrich our community with their musical gifts. Thanks to Jonathan Whitney for his excellent work with the Drumming Circle and Jazz events at SsAM, to Linda Jackson and Cynthia Martin for their piano ministry at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service, and to Jacqueline Roberts for her inspiring piano ministry at the 10:30 a.m. service. And last, but not least, a huge thanks to Bernadette Holcomb for her work as the music librarian. Without her constant care, the music would be a serious mess.

David Christopher

Organist, Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy

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.

Many 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 sixth full year. 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 the fall we moved outside to newly created Rock Lot in the creative district. Attendance swelled with community members during our time there before the cold returned. Excited by the positive fellowship the drum circle brings to the Rock Lot, the Creative District decided to support the drum circle's return to the rock lot through the purchase of new drums, offering snacks at Tuesday events, marketing, and paying my fee during the summer when we usually take a break. A highlight of our year was the drum circle's return to

the Rock Lot where the SsAM drum circle and members of the community all jammed with monks from Assam, a region in India. It was beautiful to see our drum circle, members of the community, and the monks fellowshiping around the common bond that the drum provided.

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.

The drum circle will continue throughout the summer at the Rock Lot. There is always room for anyone to join us. We'll supply the drum. You supply the passion. *Sessions will be in cancelled in the case of rain.*
Jonathan W. Whitney

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

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

At the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service the acolytes are Ron Jackson, Anne Kaufmann, and Wanda Smith. Charles Annan helps when he is not traveling around the world!

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

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. A vital part of worship, acolytes blend into the background helping the liturgies flow smoothly. Acolytes work in close coordination with members of the larger worship team - clergy, altar guild, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, liturgical assistants, musicians, and ushers - for each service.

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

Barbara Henry

ADULT EDUCATION AND FORMATION

On-going programs:

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

Merton Musings on Saturdays: Thomas Merton wrote books and articles on spirituality, ecumenical understanding, peace and social justice still timely in our own day, that in discussion give us better understanding of ourselves and each other in faith. A group gathers on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. – noon (at a parishioner's home) to read and discuss Merton using a series of booklets with chapters of 4 small pages. This is a safe haven to speak of faith, doubt, confusion, and understanding that may be different from one another. We engage in dialogue, not debate! No advance preparation is needed and no need to attend every time.

New programs:

Bible Study: facilitated by Bob Young and Pat Hampton, this 32 week multi-media approach to small-group study used daily readings and weekly discussions accompanied by subject-specific videotapes. Our **Season of Creation** celebrates and embraces the bible's vision of the earth in which all of God's creatures – human and other forms – live out our destinies in a peaceful and harmonious environment, sharing equitably the rich and sustaining resources of the planet. We also acknowledge the unfortunate reality – that in all aspects of creation, this vision is blurred or hidden by human division, arrogance, war, greed and the abuse of our natural environment. The discussions were facilitated by SsAM and community members of Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice.

December (Advent): We spent the month reading the book, *The People of the Way* to learn about new ways to be the Episcopal Church in Delaware. **January:** Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, has called on the church to be the Beloved Community as part of the Jesus Movement. We read Charles Marsh's book entitled *the Beloved Community* and had conversations about what the Beloved community means to us. **Rhythm of Life:** facilitated by Fr. David during the winter, the sessions explored the themes of Contemplative Prayer and Meditation, Contemplative Study, Contemplative Community and Contemplative Solidarity. We were also introduced to how developing a rhythm of life can lead us to a deeper knowledge of how to lead a Christian life today.

Epistles and Prophets: As a continuation of the commemoration of the 50 year anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in April, Emily Gibson facilitated our Epistles and Prophets program. *The speaker series, "Three Epistles on Race in America," explored contemporary black/white relationships using writings that, while perhaps lesser known than King's famous "I have a dream" oratory, resonate powerfully today. The speakers were New York City journalist Errol Louis, New York University professor and poet Fred Moten, and Trinity's Vicar, Phil Jackson. Hear their challenging examinations of three civil-rights era letters from Dr. King, James, Baldwin, and Thomas Merton, and share them with friends in your community.*

Reclaiming Jesus: this follow up to Epistles and Prophets focused on the five week curriculum on **Civil Discourse** developed by the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations. It will end with a conversation with members of Network Delaware on how to advocate and take action.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the linens and items for the Eucharist for all services throughout the year including the Baptisms, Chapel/Healing Service, Funerals and Weddings and decorates the sanctuary for Christmas and Easter. Several members take responsibility for making sure the linens are clean and ready for every service. We hope several more members of SsAM (men as well as women) will join us in this essential "behind-the-scenes" ministry.

Dot Dorsey – Chair	Pat Saunders Co-Chair	Anita Young – Co-Chair
Shirley Bynoe		Ernest (Ron) Jackson
Leslie Clouser		Anne McMahan
Cynthia Cumberbatch (deceased)		Wanda Smith
Tracy Lea Dorsey		Nana Soto
Shawn Dorsey		Lu Soukup (linens)
Shannon Faulk (linens)		Eunice Trotz
Anne Gibson		Ana Washington
Patricia Hampton (linens)		Paulyne Webster
Kelly Holt		

BREAKFAST & CHAPEL OUTREACH

BREAKFAST OUTREACH Purpose: To prepare and serve Sunday breakfast to the hungry in the Wilmington community five or six times during the year. Attendance for the breakfast ranges from 80 to 160. **Activities:** Two teams, with a total of 22 volunteers, prepared the breakfast five times during the past 12 months. In addition, thanks to the SsAM congregation, 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 and Linda and Ron Jackson who share this wonderful responsibility once Sunday a month and for Pam Peters filling-in when needed and Jackie Moultrie for helping. Thanks to others who fill in as well as those "upstairs" parishioners who join us in worship occasionally. Everyone is welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Geoff and Alice Sawyer, Chairpersons

COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

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

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

Weeks are divided by Alphabet Teams to bring refreshments for coffee hour:
first Sunday of the month Team A-D

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

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

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

Outreach at Christmas. This Christmas, members of SsAM generously donated gifts for 14 children who live in transitional housing offered by Friendship House. Each child received five gifts plus books suitable for each age level. In addition, eight mothers received \$50 in gift cards to use for themselves or for holiday dinners. Marcy Perkins of Friendship House sent the following thank you from the Angel Tree recipients: *"All of us would like to thank you for your kindness in providing such nice gifts for the women and children of Women's Housing. We appreciate the time and thought it takes to select and purchase these gifts. Thank you for thinking of others and for caring for the least among us. You helped fill their holidays with joy and testify to the goodness of God."*

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 2017, the AIM fund received \$14,525.87 from donations, which helped to fund special outreach projects, summer camp scholarships, seven college scholarships, and in support of Episcopal Relief and Development for hurricane relief. In addition, we provided grants to the following agencies: the Food Bank of Delaware, Limen House, Seamen's Center, and the Cathedral Choir School. The first AIM collection in January was designated for Code Purple. Thanks to your generosity, \$538 will be given to Friendship House to assist in the expenses of providing hot beverages and soup and sandwiches during Code Purple. Other organizations also acknowledge SsAM's efforts: \$400 came from First Church of Christ Scientist to support our community ministries.

Scholarship Program. In 2017, the scholarship program entered its 17th 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], Cameron Easton [Southern Connecticut

State University], Richard Hernandez [Albright College], Malafa M. Mase [St. John's University], Veronica Oates [Tennessee State University], and Alana Walker [Wesley 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 who coordinated the volunteers. SsAM was open for Code Purple on three occasions: 12/28, 1/5, and 1/17. Thirteen individuals provided soup and sandwiches for these dates.

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday. This fellowship/outreach activity in February has become an annual event. Thirteen excellent soup makers donated different soups that were purchased by members of the parish. Proceeds of \$306 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! 24 complete sets were donated, but with your generous cash contributions we were able to purchase an additional 152 pairs 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 161 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 |
| | ▪ 2017 – 176 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, seventeen different faith communities prepare and serve this meal to an average of 130 individuals and families per week. After each Sunday breakfast, guests and volunteers are invited to participate in an ecumenical chapel service hosted by parishioners of SsAM.

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

- 1) In June, Sharon Bryant, D-L Casson, and others led a SsAM team at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community which benefitted Friendship House.
- 2) Our youth held several activities, including a Thanksgiving basket drive and providing essential items to the homeless on Rodney Square.
- 3) Members of the parish donated clothing to Friendship House's Clothing Bank.
- 4) Mary Anne Edwards serves as the treasurer of Network Delaware which has an office at SsAM.
- 5) Anita Young again invited the public to view her Santa Claus collection and asked for donations , which were given to the Seamen's Center.

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 17 years, FAITH Center has served the working poor who are facing a one-time financial difficulty. The center is prepared to provide modest crisis alleviation grants for basic needs such as help with housing costs to avoid eviction and homelessness; help with utility costs to avoid disconnection of services; help with unexpected and/or uninsured medical costs; help with expenses to obtain or keep employment; and help finding assistance for special needs. The Community Advocacy Committee's budget of \$4,000 also reflects our parish's continued financial support for the FAITH Center. Parish member Rob Gurnee now serves as the executive director of Lutheran Community Services who administers Faith Center.

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. Several members of SsAM attended the anniversary celebration. 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. 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 \$3,000 (scholarships for children – the school gives out \$30,000 per month in scholarship aid)
- Friendship House \$8,000 (for support of the many programs for the homeless administered by Kim Epehimer and her staff)

- Delaware Futures \$3,000 (this educational program, which was started in 1993, is helping to prepare disadvantaged students for college)
- Sojourners' Place \$3,000 (transitional program to help those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse).

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. We are planning to support a newly established art program at Baylor in the fall.

5) **Providing Space for Other Advocacy & Community Faith Organizations.** Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has a separate meeting room in the lower level of our building, which is used seven days a week by three different AA groups. Other organizations that use our facility include Delaware Choral Arts (DCA) rehearsals and concerts, the Wilmington Children's Chorus (concerts and summer camp), Faith Victory Christian Center (monthly meals), Friendship House (multiple programs 365 days/year), Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice Reform (forum and workshops), Network Delaware (office space and programs), Pacem in Terris (PEACE WEEK Dinner), STIR (dinner), and the Shipley Development Corporation. Many of these organizations make use of the James Thomas Memorial Kitchen – it is indeed living out its mission of being a kitchen for the community. For example, Faith Victory Christian Center in Claymont holds its annual Thanksgiving dinner at SsAM, which served 300 people with volunteers from Archmere and Barclay's Bank. Other groups using our building for religious services include Ingelsia Pleno Renacer (Sundays in the AA room), Walking the Word Ministry (Sundays – Chapel) and now a prayer group Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (Universal Church).

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 a Holy Communion service.

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

Many of these outreach efforts are highlighted on SsAM's website, www.ssam.org. In addition to listing opportunities to volunteer, the site gives links to provide more information on many of the agencies that our parish supports. The committee welcomes input from all members of the parish. Please contact any committee member if you would like to be a part of community advocacy at SsAM. *Alice Smith*

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

Retha Fisher
 John Goodill
 Marshali Hansen
 Sandy Holt
 Dariel Janerette
 Karen Johnson
 Nancy Miller
 Phil Murphree

Susan Murphree
 Lore Noyes
 Linda O'Connor
 Alice Sawyer
 Alice Smith, Chair
 Orlen Washington

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 **quarterly**; typically in March, June, Sept and December of the last Friday of those months. It is free and most attendees are visitors to SsAM and also members of this parish.

Highlights from the past year were:

- June 2017 - we showed the movie "13" about the prison system and how so many huge companies unfairly benefits from the injustice that is done. We thank Mr. Norwood and others who facilitated the movie and the discussion after the film. Very eye-opening.
- October 2017 - We have a wonderful event just focused on Needlecrafts: ALL kinds, knitting, quilting and all kinds of sewing crafts. It was nice to have some of SsAM's own like Christina Brennen-Lee and Jude Ouma be a part of it; especially to have a young male person like Jude to show us his crocheting skills. And of course there were community people like C. Adrienne Daniels, well known quilter. Nzinga Debrick also engaged the audience in making our own type of knitting scarfs by using yarn and a piece of cardboard. Earlier in the month, we co-sponsored a special ArtSLAM with the Delaware Concerned Citizens for Environmental Justice, an open mic and collective artistic photo exhibit of resistance.
- December 2017: we did not do a Kwanzaa event this year due to a change to a new group leading the Africkan Connection/Kwanzaa Committee. The community was happy to see a younger group of adults take the leadership role and do things a bit differently for the Kwanzaa season.
- March 2018 - we celebrated Women's History month again this year as part of Art Slam. Again, it was nice to have 2 of our own parish members be our featured artists. Imani Blake of YYF did poetry and Cheryl Renee Gooch captivated audience as Author of Hinsonville Heroes--Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County Pennsylvania. Also, Taria Pritchett, a young author, motivator was a part of this Women's History Art Slam. And we at SsAM are always delighted to have Crystal Baynard Norman who told us about some of her new projects like her meditation coloring books and her presentation about Harriet Tubman. And speaking of Harriet Tubman, we had a very remarkable dance group known as the The 3 HARRIET'S. They were just awesome. And we rounded out March 23, 2018 by

having approximately 7 or 8 vendors of which one brought cupcake samples. It truly was an awesome night!

Future Goals: We will continue with quarterly Art Slams and will integrate special Art Slam events as we see a need for SsAM and the community at large.

- For June 2018, Florence Collins Hardy a local visual artist & well known friend of Art Slam will do something entirely different as she is a member of the Delaware Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and will give a presentation about the history of the EAST SIDE of Wilmington DE.
- And for the following quarter we hope to have a group come in and do some dancing, singing and audience participation on Sounds of Motown! It should be fun.
- Increase committee membership; Work with area educational and civic institutions and the new Creative District to make SsAM an integral part of downtown Wilmington
- Increase coordination of activities with vestry and other parish ministries
- Increase publicity to general media, community and the diocese

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE @ SsAM

The Environmental Justice ministry at SsAM is co-chaired by Paulyne Webster and Linda Whitehead. Below are some highlights of the 2017 – 2018 year's work:

- 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 (DCR4EJ). This combined group gives increased clout to EJ efforts in the state. The group's mission statement is to inform and empower communities to take action to protect the fundamental rights to clean air, water, land and food. This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Community Service Building in Wilmington.
- Our main program of the year was a multi-day event co-sponsored with Coming Clean in October 2017 held primarily at SsAM. The event included the following:
 - Oct. 19, 2017: Community Press Conference
 - Oct. 19, 2017: Leadership meeting
 - Oct. 20, 2017: Community Tour of polluted areas in Route 9 corridor
 - Oct. 20, 2017: EJA Assembly at SsAM
 - Oct. 20, 2017: Art Slam at SsAM

- Oct 21, 2017: DE Environmental Justice Solutions Forum. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mildred McClain of Harambee House and NEJAC. Approximately 100 people attended.
- Oct. 22, 2017: Closing event was inviting participants in the Solutions Forum to join us for Sunday worship. Dr. McClain preached and DCR4EJ was well represented at the service.
- DCR4EJ partnered with the Environmental Justice Health Alliance, Union of Concerned Scientists, Community Housing and Empowerment Connections, Inc. and Coming Clean to research and produce a report on Delaware entitled *Environmental Justice for Delaware: Mitigating Toxic Pollution in New Castle County Communities*. The report identifies seven communities in New Castle County with higher percentages of people of color and/or poverty levels who face a higher cumulative health risk from exposure to hazardous waste when compared to Greenville, DE. Subsequently, DCR4EJ has been meeting with the communities affected as identified in the report and helping them develop action plans for next steps.
- DCR4EJ developed and offered a six-week adult education class on Sunday mornings on environmental justice during The Season of Creation. Materials from the Creation Justice Ministries were adapted for this series. The topics and dates were as follows:
 - Oct. 22 – The Living Planet
 - Oct. 29 – Our Common Humanity
 - Nov. 5 - The Saints Among US
 - Nov. 12 – Our World at Peace
 - Nov. 19 – Our Role as Stewards
 - Nov. 26: The Cosmic Christ
- Members of DCR4EJ attended the New Jersey Environmental and Climate Justice Summit on April 4, 2018. Various panels were presented on Environmental Climate Justice issues and solutions in New Jersey.
- Members of DCR4EJ participated in the Dignity Rights and Environmental Justice Symposium on April 13th at Widener University Delaware Law School both as presenters and attendees. Michele L. Roberts, long-time member of SsAM, was an invited presenter at this event for the second time. *Paulyne Webster and Linda Whitehead*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (E.C.W.)

All women of SsAM are member of Episcopal Church Women. We participated in the new Open House in September and raised funds through a bake sale. In December, we hosted our Christmas Luncheon and received contributions of infant's clothing for Friendship House. ECW also co-hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake (and more) Supper with the Youth and Young Families (YYF) Ministry. Mostly recently, several ECW members held a baked goods raffle which raised \$350 for Friendship House. *Dot Dorsey, Cynthia Oates, Mary Morgan*

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Eucharistic Ministry at Saints Andrew and Matthew is a very dedicated group which embodies what Christ has intended for His disciples. Everyone is committed to this ministry to assist the Celebrant in administering communion on Sundays and at other services. This year, we added Maryann Younger as our Liturgical Assistant for the 8:00 a.m. service. Our 10:30 Liturgical Assistants are Tracey Dixon, Eudel Drain, Barbara Henry, and D-L Casson (coordinator). The LA is responsible for being the eyes and ears for the Celebrant, ensuring that acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors and ushers are in place (or finding last minute substitutes). We also have 16 Eucharistic Ministers administering communion at the two services. We continue to have updated training sessions to cover changes in our liturgy. As we continue in this ministry, we are always open to new members. If you are interested in adding your spiritual gifts to this ministry, we are more than happy to welcome you.

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 Sunday services, but also for Lessons and Carols, Evensong and other special services. Lectors are trained in how to properly pace the reading of the scripture and the pronunciation of the people and places of the bible. 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. 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 Bemby and Tom Angell, Co-leaders

LITURGY

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 cross training of acolytes, Altar Guild and Eucharistic Ministers
- Implemented a trial period of no announcements during Lent
- Discussed the importance of silence during services

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 D-L Casson are:

Tom Angell
Ernestine Brock-Walker
Jenna Christy
Dot Dorsey

Tracy Lea Dorsey
Eudel Drain
Pat Hampton
Barbara Henry

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. 2017 GOALS

1. Continue with "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

- Developed with others the SsAM Fall Open House where over 70% of the congregation participated. We worked together to provide entertainment, music, tours of the church, bake sale, photo booth, tag sale, drumming circle, smoothies, health screening and FUN for SsAM members and the community!!!!–
- Contacted former members to encourage their return to SsAM
- Updated and maintained pew visitor form holders
- Developed a SsAM bookmark to give to guests
- Working with the team to plan and execute 2018 Community Fall Fun Fest

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

AMBASSADOR MINISTRY

(a sub-committee of Member Development)

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. It is anticipated that more people will be coming to "check-out" SsAM as our Sunday services are now being live-streamed on Facebook, thanks to Nana and Moses Soto. *Pat Hampton and Anita Young*

PARKING LOT

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 past year. As a continuation of last year's focus, we sought to improve the operational and cost efficiency of

managing the parking lot. For example, this year we continued our effort of looking into reducing our tax expense. In addition, we agreed to more favorable lease terms with Colonial Parking for their use of the parking lot during normal business hours. In addition, we welcomed in a transitional phase of membership.

As noted in SsAM's prior annual report, we continue to keep the tax structure "as-is" from years gone by. The decision to keep the tax structure "as-is" is to ensure we do not make any changes that may compromise the integrity of SsAM, not to mention, the non-for profit status of SsAM as well. However, as was the case with Shipley Lofts, we intend to hire a tax attorney to look into garnering a favorable tax status commensurate with our overall purpose, and again, while keeping the above mentioned potential impact on SsAM in the forefront of those discussions.

We renewed our Lease Agreement with Colonial Parking, which we believe to be a win-win situation for both parties, and indicative of long lasting and fruitful relationship. Our relationship with Colonial dates back several decades now, and one we hope to continue to flourish. After careful discussions, we came to a new lease agreement; and as a result, a few changes were made. For example:

- Parking lot was converted to a self-managed lot
 - vs. an attendant managed lot as in the prior lease
- The parking lot lines were redrawn for single parking so to accommodate the self-managed lot
 - vs. quite a few double-parking spaces as in the prior lease
- The number of available parking spaces now consists of 52 spaces
 - vs. 72 as in the prior lease
- The number of available spaces for church use during normal business hours is 9 spaces:
7 self-park/single spaces and 2 double-park spaces

(For further details involving the new lease, please contact the Office Administrator.)

In addition to the above, we had a few changes to our board. Jim Linderman, Jerry Lucas and Retha Fisher have resigned from the Board; however, both Jim and Jerry will continue to serve in an advisory capacity. Jim, Jerry and Retha have served on the Parking Lot for several years, and their service and dedication will be hard to fill. We thank them for their service. Bill Kaufman and Leroy Trotz have in turn, have volunteered to fill in their places, with Bill acting as Treasurer and Leroy acting as Secretary; and in the coming months, we intend to welcome additional members onto the committee as well.

Going forward, the focus of the Parking Lot Committee will be, first, to effectively transition the new members into their role; second, to address the By-Laws and amend them, if necessary, to fit the current state of the committee and its affairs; third, to continue our efforts of finding a viable means to address our tax expenses; fourth; to develop contingency plans (e.g. how to self-manage the parking lot); and fifth, gather ideas around the direction of the future-state of

the SsAM Property, Inc. so that we may better prepared for the times ahead and to better serve the mission of SsAM.

In the meantime, we will continue to maintain a safe parking facility to the parishioners attending SsAM and the downtown Wilmington community...God willing.

Our financial status as of May 4, 2018 is as follows:

- Original Loan balance from SsAM (*at 8% interest per annum*): \$ 157,500
- Checking account balance: \$8,546.47
- Money Market account balance: \$2,654.18

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

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

Mark T. Williams
President, SsAM Property, LLC

PASTORAL CARE

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

This year, the pastoral care team renewed its commitment to this work through 5 workshops and a book study. This work culminated in 18 people being commissioned by Bishop Kevin Brown on March 18. Members received a pastoral care pin that identifies them as a trained member of this team.

Beyond the outward facing work, we've also supported one another, accepting that role as part of our commitment to this work. We've prayed together. We've trusted each other with the hard and vulnerable parts of our lives. We've studied, and reflected, and honed our skills; all to serve the community and each other better. And serve we have.

- 605 Cards written and sent, not counting how you send cards to one another
- 28 people receive a weekly mailing of the Weekly Vision and Leaflet to stay connected

- A dozen or so of hospital or other acute care visits
- 85 Eucharistic Visits to folks unable to come to church for communion
- Countless casual conversations prayers we do as part of living and breathing.

Additionally, we launched a new ministry, Centering Space. Offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, members of the Pastoral Care team are on hand during Communion to hear individual prayers and to help them life those petitions and thanksgivings to God together. It is our honor and privilege to serve God and our community through providing pastoral care.

A Year's Reflection as your Lay Pastoral Associate

This time last year, I realized (somewhat unhappily) that I needed to take a “gap year” from seminary. I reached out to several colleagues in the Diocese to ask how I could best spend my time. David Andrews was at the top of my list because for as long as I’d been in discernment, God kept pulling me here. And I think David was in cahoots with God. Whenever I ran into him, he would inevitably ask: “When are you coming to SsAM?” Finally, here was our chance! Desiring to serve SsAM in some meaningful way for your benefit, and gain experience for mine, we settled on a plan where I would: 1. be “liturgically based” here, which meant participating as part of the worship team on the altar each week at both services and occasionally preaching; and 2. create a series of pastoral care workshops to strengthen an already active pastoral care team.

Here’s what I found over the course of this past year:

- The entire kingdom of God is in our pews every Sunday: young and old; straight and gay; black and white and every color in between; financially secure and homeless; addicted and in recovery; joyous and grieving; new to church and old timers; and folks with kids, ones who never had kids, or those where the kids have grown and gone. All of us, both sinners and saints show up each week.
- Spirit-filled music that inspires us to clap and dance, and that makes me want to leap for joy, and other times music and anthems that moved me to tears.
- Sunday worship that is often fun (Carnival Sunday), sometimes heartbreaking (any number of funerals), but always reverent and dignified.
- Tremendous kindness to the hungry and homeless, in both organized ways and in simple and individual ways that we prepare a plate of food, or fetch a cup of coffee, for a hungry soul taking refuge in our lobby. The pitcher of ice water and cups that is always available.
- A large, skilled, and highly committed pastoral care team willing to learn and grow in their ministry.

I am sure I am forgetting so many of the other amazing ministries. Mostly, it’s been a **genuine-ness** that I’ve rarely felt any place else. Genuine as to who (and whose) we are, genuine in our search for a closer relationship with God, and genuine in how we care for one another.

So, while I am here through July, I wanted to thank you now for this amazing experience. It has been everything that I hoped for and more. As I head back to seminary in the fall, I will take you me in my heart, and I hope that you will keep a part of me here, too. xoxo, ~*Maryann Younger*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee has as its mission two goals. The first is to maintain the aging buildings of SsAM and the rectory. The second is to have a plan in place to determine what projects will be done in the future, and in what order. The driving force of course, has been, and will continue to be, the money that is allocated to us by the Vestry for these purposes. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the resources that you, the congregation, have made possible to us. Dana Robertson is part of thicommittee and helps us keep in track financially. Marlon Rochester is now our Facilities Manager. Together with Charles Lewes and Mary Cooper, part time sextons, they do what they can to make sure that our church building and grounds are as clean and safe as possible.

Many thanks to those who worked on Cleanup Days to give SsAM some extra cleaning in the Fall and Spring. Special thanks to Cyndi Dombrowski, Anne Gibson and Sandy Hines, for their tireless efforts to keep the flower beds and the Garden of Praise looking beautiful during the growing season. All of this makes the daily jobs of the sextons easier, and further helps us be good stewards of the funds allocated to us.

Routine maintenance of the building takes place constantly to make sure that little things do not become big ones. In addition, there were some special activities that took place.

The Building of SsAM

1. After the Choir School left, the big job was to de clutter the building. This was helped by the White Elephant Sale at the Open House, and the subsequent removal of unwanted or redundant items.
2. Cleaning and allocation of rooms now the Choir School has vacated our building.
3. The stained glass window is now on permanent display in the auditorium.
4. A video has been made of the contents of each room at SsAM.
5. A safety plan has been initiated for this building. The plan will be further developed as information is obtained.

Planned repairs in the near future at SsAM

1. An automatic electronic door opener for the non-gendered restroom across from the kitchen.
2. Weather stripping and bracing the red doors at the entry way into the sanctuary.
3. An upgrade to the HVAC system in the office areas and Crypt Hall.
4. A fully developed safety plan put in place.

Rectory

As with SsAM, routine maintenance takes place at the rectory to make sure it is properly

maintained. In addition, other activities took place there too. They include:

1. Tree pruning to ensure that limbs do not damage the rectory or garage roof.
2. Painting inside after the leak in the air conditioning was discovered.
3. The air conditioner was replaced.
4. The exterior was painted.

Thank you to the active members now on the Property Committee.

Ernest Barnes

Cynthia Martin

Cyndi Dombrowski

Dana Robertson

Sandy Hines

Peggy Shane

Dave Clouser and Pat Saunders, co-chairs

Organization and Design: (O & D) A Property Sub-Committee

Accomplishments

The result of the art, artifacts and information inventories by O & D was used in the Open House White Elephant Sale.

2016 – 2018 Goal: De-clutter, Organize and Beautify SsAM space

- De-cluttering was successful in making our public spaces more open for internal and external programs
- Organizing of St. Andrews and St. Matthews books and records (thanks to Anne Gibson and Adele Meredith for cataloging books in the Crypt Hall library)
- Beautification ideas and suggestions of Narthex and other areas of the Church will be reviewed, prioritized and presented to the Property Committee of the Vestry.

Archives: A Property Sub-Committee

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 was used in the White Elephant Sale. *Cynthia Primo Martin and Peggy Shane*

REGAL HEIGHTS CARE CENTER MINISTRY

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

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

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS CAMPAIGN

The *Sharing Our Blessings Campaign* was officially over in April of 2017, but pledge money continued to be paid until March 2018. The final amount contributed to the campaign was \$1,445,477.34. This incredible sum was well over the initial goal of \$1,350,000. The amount collected was needed because of higher than estimated costs proposed in 2011. The generosity of all donors made The James Thomas Kitchen and the Katherine Esterly Organ realities. These two facets of the campaign continue to feed body and soul. Gratitude to all donors cannot adequately be expressed. The donor wall has been ordered and should be in place above the pass through window in the auditorium from the kitchen sometime in the early fall. There is money in the *Sharing Our Blessings Campaign* to pay for this donor wall.

Once again, it is my privilege as Campaign Chair to thank, not only the donors, but also members of the Steering Committee who worked during the campaign. Their names are listed below. To say that this was a successful campaign would be an understatement, and if your name appears on the wall in any way, we thank you. Blessings to you,
Pat Saunders, Campaign Chair

Active members of the Steering Committee during the period of the Campaign: 2012-2017

Dorothy Dorsey

Joshua Martin

Joseph Johnson

Dana Robertson

Karen Johnson

Lucia Robinson

Deborah Layton

Alice Sawyer

Cynthia Martin

Geoffrey 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 8 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. We are in talks with another local art organization to partner with us in the running of the gallery.

Vestry member Sharon Leyhow is on the board as well as myself.
Geoff Sawyer, Chair of the Board

2017-2018 Stewardship

The theme for the 2016-2017 year was “Generous Church”. It arose from a program about generosity the Fr. David introduced to the stewardship committee. It took root with us, and we imagined ways to inspire personal generosity. That year was marked by exceptional results from our stewardship campaign: Pledge Goal \$480,000, Amount Pledged \$482,858.

The following year, 2017-2018, the theme was “SsAM, What it Is, What it Could Be, A Closer Look”. The results improved: Pledge Goal \$500,000, Amount Pledged \$486,538.

The trend is in the right direction, though the 2017-2018 goal was apparently a bit aggressive. Still, \$13.462 is just an additional \$83/year for each pledging family, or about \$1.60/week, so we’re close. I won’t wear you out with more appeals for contributions; this is a report of how we’re doing, not an annual appeal letter.

There is one appeal I will make. We are searching for new members for the Stewardship committee. The current members have served 3 years; we are seeking candidates with fresh outlooks and ideas.

Thank you for your exceptional generosity to SsAM’s mission and ministries. We can do this. We just have to be present.

In faith,
Dave Clouser,
Chair, Stewardship Committee

SsAM SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

This year we are using a new SPARK curriculum designed for our youngest children ages 2-8 for SsAM Sunday School. We meet each Sunday from 10:30-11:15 am in the education suite. Spark lessons follow the liturgical calendar using a children’s bible, songs, rhymes and simple skits to re-enact the stories. Afterward the preschool children stay in the nursery and the grade school children join their family in the sanctuary for the Eucharist.

Serving as Sunday school teachers are: Alice and Geoff Sawyer, Carol Scott, Sherry Bell, and Cyndi Dombrowski. Serving as child care staff for the nursery are YYF youth Imani Blake and Gigi Hernandez with Michelle Smith providing adult supervision. 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 a warm welcome. Each congregant is accommodated a seat in the most pleasant and efficient manner possible. Ushers count the number attending each service, collect the offering and assist in communion.

Ushering is a part of the Ministry of Hospitality and Welcome in the life of the Church. Ushers are often the first voice and interaction 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 who comes through our doors what type of family SsAM truly is.

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

Jenna Christy and Patty Greene

Co-Chairs

Ushers’ Ministry

YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES (YYF)

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

Highlights of the past year include:

- Hope of the Streets: providing toiletries and water to those in need at Rodney Square
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner: YYF organized and staffed this successful event
- Fireside Chat with our Elders
- Nightwatch at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine (NYC): an interfaith retreat

- Collaboration with Trinity Episcopal and Emmanuel Churches youth group activities
- Participated in the SsAM fall fundraiser operating the smoothie bike

Future:

- YYF will develop a more structured leadership framework to support the youth centered mission in collaboration with the other urban churches, Trinity and Emmanuel.
- YYF will continue to support the development of programs and service in the community that complement our mission.