



Annual Report
2020-2021
The Episcopal Church
Of
Saints Andrew and Matthew

719 N. Shipley Street, Wilmington DE 19801
302-656-6628 www.ssam.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rector's Annual Report	2
Report of the Wardens	4
Finance	6
Music Director & Associate for Liturgy	8
Community Advocacy and Service	10
Environmental Justice Ministry @ SsAM	13
Episcopal Church Women (ECW)	14
Property	15

Rector's Annual Report
A Time to Recollect and A Time to Say Thank You

This will be my last annual report as the Rector of the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew. Traditionally this report reviews the year just past and looks toward the new year, but this year I wish to spend some time not only reflecting on the past year but to share some of what we have accomplished together during the past twelve years.

A year ago, the annual meeting was held virtually on zoom as a result of COVID-19 and the state of emergency declared by Governor Carney. Episcopal parishes in Delaware adapted to this state of emergency by offering live stream worship services on Facebook and YouTube or Sunday morning worship was pre-recorded during the week and "aired" on Sunday morning on Facebook and YouTube. The last year has been difficult on everyone and as I write this report we are slowly returning to normal, and my sincere hope is that we will once again see each other on Sunday morning for worship and fellowship.

This has been the year of zoom. I lost track a long time ago as to how many hours I have spent on zoom calls, but it has been a lot! On any given day it seemed that I was on at least three zoom calls a day and sometimes more, depending on the day of the week. These included zoom staff meetings, zoom executive committee meetings, zoom finance, property and personnel meetings. In November we started a weekly zoom coffee hour and though not many attended it was still great to see the folks who did come and to catch up with how folks were doing coping with the pandemic.

A year ago, I began offering on Facebook Morning Prayer and eventually added Evening Prayer. In the fall I invited members of the parish to assist with leading these Prayer Book offices and this has become a vibrant prayer ministry at SsAM. I wish to thank the commitment of Christina Lee, Mary Morgan, Sister Rosie Castelli, Wanda Smith and Adele Meredith for offering their leadership with these times of prayer. I am thankful for their support as they have taken this on as their ministry. As a result, we now offer on Facebook daily morning and evening prayer as well as Compline and noonday prayer every Saturday.

The other major event this past year was that this is the 25th year of the consolidation of Saints Andrew and Matthew. I am grateful for all the hard work of the 25th anniversary committee that has given us various opportunities to celebrate this wonderful parish. From the official zoom launch event in late January to the remembrances from SsAM members who have been here since the beginning to conversations with our community partners. All of it has been done on zoom and hopefully in the fall we can have an in-person celebration as this year of celebration concludes.

I wish to take this time to thank from the bottom of my heart the hard work of the SsAM staff: D-L Casson, parish administrator who works tirelessly for the parish, David Christopher, who has learned new ways to offer creative and transformative worship online, to Marlon Rochester and Mary Cooper who keep the church clean. I also thank Anthony Jones who filled in as office assistant, Altar Guild and lector when we were closed. Thank you all and I will miss you. Also, a huge thank you to our outgoing vestry members who have handled this extraordinary difficult year with grace and hard work. Thanks to Rachel Gaskell, our outgoing senior warden, for her steady leadership in the midst of a pandemic, Patty Greene, our creative stewardship chairperson and who I hope will continue to help guide us with stewardship programming and Tom Angell, our retired math professor who chaired the vestry nominating committee. Also, to Gary Jolly who was appointed to fill a one-year term and is running this year for a full three-year term.

We will have plenty of time to reflect on the last twelve years, but I wanted to conclude my report with some of the highlights:

- This past year's series of conversations about racism
- The Way of the Cross, Good Friday walks, from 2014-2017
- Children's Chapel that began in the fall of 2019
- YYF service project, Bringing Hope to the Streets (2017-2018)
- Welcoming the congregation of the Cathedral of St. John in 201
- A successful capital campaign that allowed the parish to upgrade the kitchen and built the Katherine Esterly organ
- Online prayer offerings offered Monday through Saturday

These are just a few of my memories and we will have time to share more during my remaining time as Rector. Thank you again for inviting me into your lives twelve years ago and I look forward to watching what God has in mind for your next season of ministry.

With love and affection,

The Rev. David T. Andrews, Jr.

Rector

2020 Parochial Report Statistics (Pre-Covid)

Average Sunday Attendance (in person from January to March 8th, 2020): 194

Number of Baptisms: 0*

Number of Confirmations: 0*

Enrolled in Children's Chapel: 16 (pre-Covid)

*Bishop Brown did not make his annual visitation due to the pandemic and is scheduled to come to SsAM November 7, 2021, when we will present a group of youth and adults to be confirmed and received.

Report of the Wardens

It has been an honor to serve as your Wardens of SsAM again this year. We are grateful for the remarkable support and collaboration received by our Rector, Vestry, staff, ministries and congregation. It has truly taken a village to support one another.

One year ago, we sat down to capture reflections on the 2019-2020 year. We spoke about a journey of change and our path to seeking stability. The 4 Pillars were highlighted, and the activities done to honor each. At the time, little did we know what the road ahead of us looked like, and that the true journey was just beginning. Naively we were only 3 months into the pandemic and for most of us not fully equipped to navigate the next 12.

We came to appreciate; COVID-19 drove many changes, both physically and emotionally. We regrettably had to close our church doors for a full 14 months. While not together, we met this challenge by using our imaginations, resilience and technology.

The Vestry, needing to play a more active role, began to meet twice a month to stay connected and to accomplish the work of our church and congregation. This would be the case for the foreseeable future.

In our journey, the Property Committee rewarded us with the application of their talent, experience and commitment to SsAM. They served as a key resource in learning how to navigate around the new COVID-19 requirements. The onboarding of a new Property Management Consultant enabled us to build in efficiencies utilized by our surrounding community partners and centers of worship. Amongst their key accomplishments included the installation of a complex HVAC project, which was completed not only seamlessly, but at 2018 prices accounting for a \$20,000 savings. Additionally, they ensured the successful sale of the rectory, by investing countless hours of engaging a realtor; presented to the Select Committee of the Diocese and overseeing the detailed items necessary for the sale of a property, in record time. Finally, and not least, they were pivotal in overseeing the work that enabled our reopening of the church this month. This could not have been done without our dedicated team in partnership with D-L Casson and Marlon Rochester (Sexton).

The Finance Committee also played a key role in their skillful approach to leveraging government assisted aid and building a financial plan to fit our new “normal”. They gave meaning and visibility to the phrase: “to live within our means.” Now coming through the other side, we have new tools and resources not previously utilized. For example, we appreciate now the Operating Budget is built from pledges and offerings whereas the newly created Capital Budget is funded project-by-project using funds from the endowment and finally the Ministries Outreach Budget supported in part by the interest earned from the funds invested in the Endowment.

Outlined in last year’s letter, these tools were built in response to the discoveries of past years where we unknowingly supplemented our Operating Budget by withdrawals from the Endowment principle. This practice unfortunately:

- (1) allowed us to spend beyond our means (i.e. pledges and offerings)

- (2) cost us additional money as it added to the bottom line of our Operating Budget on which the Diocese calculated our “fair share” acceptance
- (3) reduced interest we would have earned from the Endowment, resulting in less funding for future Ministry and Outreach programs.
- (4) The 2020-2021 journey also saw Community Advocacy continue its work with the timely institution of a new ministry: “Feed the Hungry” which connected us to our local food banks and pantries. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Ministry continued to support community agencies The Way Home, St. Michael’s Nursery and Day School, Lutheran community Services Food Bank. ECW collaborated with the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee, Pastoral Care Ministry, Health Care Ministry.

We continued the publication of newly launched “*Vestry View*”, a column established to give access to the issues being discussed and actions taken on your behalf. The vestry, through *Vestry View* offers an open invitation to attend meetings and encourage questions, comments and dialogue. The Vestry also hosted the first virtual Vestry Town Hall earlier this year, that was well attended and provided a valuable opportunity for exchange of ideas. We encourage the vestry to continue these practices.

Finally, we learned about a new journey - That of Father David’s and his announcement of retirement at the end of this year. This will mark yet another important milestone not only for David, but that of SsAM and our family. For all this and many more reasons, 2021 and beyond will be important stops along our next stage of this ongoing journey. We have collected many learnings along this path; including Ministry comes from multiple places which include our laity. Furthermore, we appreciate our congregation has a lot to say and that listening is the pivotal job of vestry.

The new vestry has enormous potential ahead of it: continuing the work of living within our means; using the resources of our congregation; enhancing communication through continuing *Vestry View*, Vestry Town Halls, and inviting the congregation to vestry meetings; developing and implementing a transition plans to prepare SsAM for a new exciting future. Our deepest appreciation goes to the outgoing Vestry members for their time, skills and passion. This time together has been a gift. We welcome our four new members, as they represent us on Vestry.

Thank you again for your support, contribution and love.

Rachel Gaskell.

Senior Warden

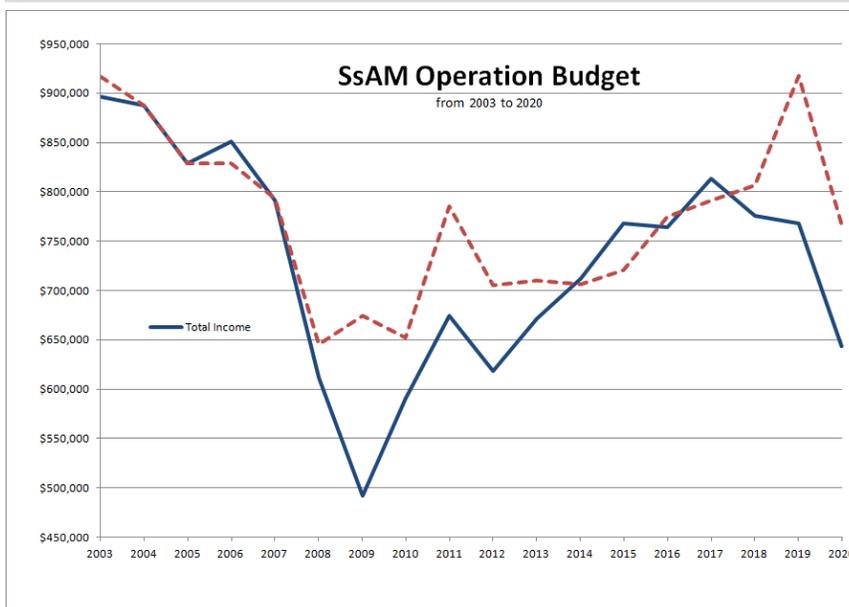
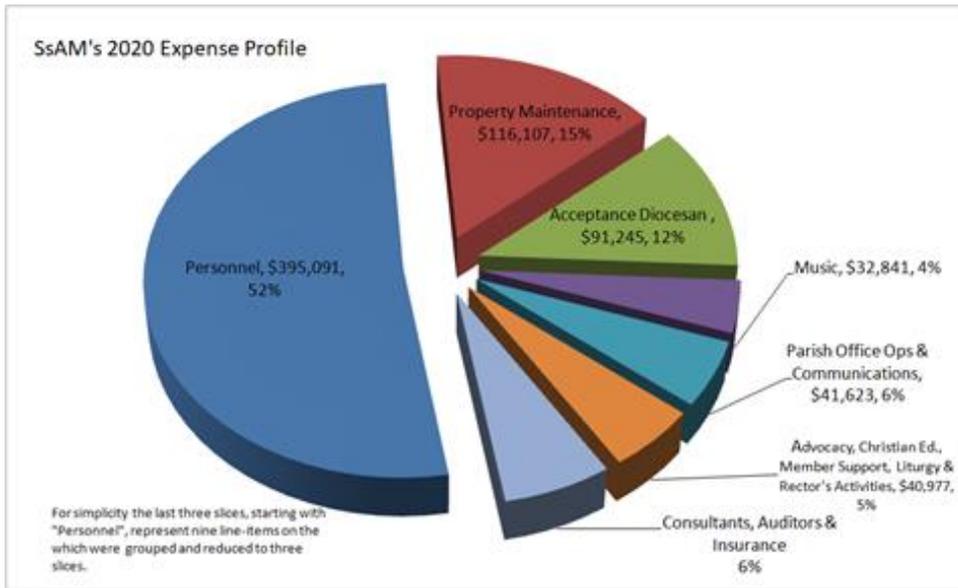
Peggy Shane.

Junior Warden

Finance Report January 2020 - May 2021

The finance committee is charged with monitoring the financial activities of the Church, providing financial advice to the Vestry and drafting the annual budget for Vestry review and approval. To carry out these duties the finance committee assesses SsAM's internal controls to ensure: compliance with laws and regulations, accountability, prevention of fund misappropriation and the effectiveness and efficiencies in handling the Church's financial resources. Each month the Treasurer presents to the Vestry financial statements and cash flow for review and consent.

The following pie charts provide fiscal information and insight about SsAM's finances as of 4.30.2021.



SsAM faced many challenges in 2020/2021 in light of the pandemic (COVID-19): the church building was closed for in-person services, no rental use of the facility, and no plate collections. In an effort to minimize the fiscal impact the Vestry created a COVID-19 Task Force to work with the Vestry and the finance committee on the church budget for 2020. This led to the introduction of 3 separate budgets in 2021: Operating Budget (staffing costs, utilities, office expenses, building maintenance), Capital Budget (long-term, non-recurring expenses to replace, repair equipment /systems in SsAM's facilities), and Outreach/Ministry Budget (advocacy, environmental justice, drumming circle, etc.).

During 2020, the finance committee invited the congregation to two Financial Town Hall meetings and offered transparency in church finances, detailing funding sources and expenses. The three-budget approach – Operating, Capital, Outreach Ministry, was introduced, aligning our budget management with the National Church Parochial Report. Finance Committee also introduced an Outreach Ministry Activity Request form to assist with the planning and execution of various outreach activities to strengthen our outward focus into the community.

Also in 2020, the Finance committee applied for and received from the U.S. Government a Paycheck Protection Program Loan (PPPL) designed to help defray the costs of staff salaries, benefits and utilities. SsAM demonstrated proper use of 100% of the loan resulting in total loan forgiveness. However, SsAM could not demonstrate a COVID-19 25% reduction in income/revenues from 2019 to 2020 and therefore did not qualify for a second Paycheck Protection Program Loan.

In 2021, SsAM continues to face the challenge of endowment spending for operations as the level of pledges and offerings continue to be consistent with previous years and annual outreach ministry spending continues at less than 5% of SsAM's annual budget. To address the push-pull of operating versus outreach spending, the finance committee recommended to the Vestry a three-year financial stability plan. The plan was approved by Vestry with the 2021 Operating Budget remaining consistent with 2019 and a drawdown of principal from the endowment of at least \$100K. The use of endowment principal to fund day-to-day SsAM operations is eliminated by 2023 and Outreach Ministry spending is projected to increase to at least 10%. A key guiding operating principle to maintaining financial stability is:

- Support **Operating Budget** principally with **pledges and offerings**
- Support **Outreach Ministry Budget** principally with **investment interest income and restricted giving**
- Support **Capital Budget/Projects** with **endowment principal and restricted giving**

In April 2021, the rectory was sold. Half of the proceeds from the rectory was placed into a liquidity account in Master Fund A and will be used to fund the current HVAC replacement with the other half going back into the long-term endowment investment.

Bernard Fisher – Treasurer Charisse Rodgers Yvonne Gordon – Co-Chair
Sharon Leyhow Janice Teemer Steven Jones Gary Jolly – Co-Chair

Report of the Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy

January of 2020 started off with two events at SsAM that have long been traditional for our parish. On January 19, the Whitney Project, under the leadership of our artist-in-residence Jonathan Whitney, celebrated Martin Luther King Day with a well-attended Jazz Vesper. The following weekend on January 25, the SsAM Choir in collaboration with our ensemble-in-residence Delaware ChoralArts presented our annual Spirituals Concert featuring guest artist Michelle Johnson.

The month of February brought a good sized crowd to an organ recital on February 16 by Marc Cheban on the Katherine Esterly Organ. Our annual Carnival Sunday celebration was held on February 23 with the traditional Festival Eucharist, complete with masks, beads, guest musicians and gospel music favorites.

With the encroachment of the COVID-19 pandemic, March saw the end of our live church services and the beginning of our transition to pre-recorded and Zoom services. The last in-person service was held on Sunday, March 8 and in-person gatherings were discontinued after that. We did hold a live-streamed service on March 22 with our nine staff singers, organist and Fr. David, but about that time we were realizing the danger of transmitting the coronavirus through close proximity and especially singing, so all future gatherings of any kind were canceled.

In light of a modified 2020 budget, Fr. David and I were faced with the daunting task of how we were going to worship and celebrate the Eucharist together as a parish. We had no live-streaming capability, yet we knew that we couldn't simply wait for the pandemic to be over. Our first few attempts at online worship were conducted through Zoom, but we quickly realized that this was not acceptable. The only option I could think of was to personally purchase an iPad Pro and use my own MacBook Air to film and produce a pre-recorded Eucharist. I did this by meeting 1-on-1 with readers, singers and Fr. David, and filming the service in pieces. I then quickly learned how to assemble the pieces in iMovie to create the type of service we would end up viewing as a parish for the next 12 months. At some point in the late spring, my MacBook Air had begun to fail from the heavy demands of video production. With a generous donation from an anonymous donor, we were able to purchase a new MacBook Pro that was equipped with the extra memory, storage and speed needed for video production.

A sincere thank you to all of the SsAM members who stepped up to participate in the pre-recorded liturgies as lay readers and singers. Thanks especially to Madeline Bolden Johnson, Pat Hampton, Ernestine Brock-Walker and Marita Lewis for their musical contributions.

In the month of August, we learned that funds up to \$2,500 were available to assist parishes with purchasing technology for live streaming through the Diocesan *Barnabas Fund*, so Fr. David and I applied and were approved. Based on recommendations from the Diocese, we purchased three MEVO cameras, microphones, a Netgear ethernet port, a Scarlett audio interface and all the necessary cables and adapters. We also purchased a pair of microphones (AKG C414) with funds from the Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ fund since this would allow us to make high quality recordings of the organ. My plan was to learn how to use this

equipment with OBS, an open source broadcasting software in able to begin live streaming from the sanctuary. Unfortunately, the learning curve proved to be extremely steep and it became clear that I would not be able to run the live streaming and play the organ at the same time.

A special thank you to Will Landis, a former longtime member of the Wilmington Children's Chorus and recent graduate from Westminster Choir College who came to our rescue and helped us figure out how to use our new system for live streaming. Keep an eye out for more information about Will and the exciting new live streaming ministry that he has made possible for SsAM.

As parish members have gradually learned about the budget limitations, additional contributions have been made to that restricted fund for liturgy and music totaling over \$15,000 by the end of December 2020. All of the music you have seen through Christmas 2020 as well as through Holy Week 2021 was made possible because of these special donations. Thank you so much to those members who have remained committed to keeping the great tradition of music and liturgy alive at SsAM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Christopher
Organist, Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

COVID and the closing of the church for the past year has had an impact on outreach to the community, but we still managed to help a lot of people even while social distancing.

Outreach at Christmas. The Angel Tree project at Christmas was another success. Ten children received at least four gifts from eight individual members of SsAM who took the gifts right to Epiphany House on Union Street. In addition, 27 church members purchased gift cards so that 14 mothers, seven teenagers, and six staff members received \$50 in gift cards. In addition, a donation was made from the AIM Fund to Friendship House to provide socks, hats, and gloves for the homeless that come to the walk-up breakfast each week. The Community Advocacy Committee thanks the members of SsAM for their continued generosity of spirit -- even during COVID.

AIM Fund. The closing of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic brought in-church collections for AIM to a halt. However, many members continued to contribute by mail. In 2020, donations to AIM, including scholarship donations, amounted to \$9,797.51.

Scholarship Program. The Community Advocacy Committee awarded four \$1000 scholarships in 2020 to the following students: Imani Blake – Delaware Technical & Community College – Junior; Cameron Dixon – Arcadia University – Post graduate work for a doctorate; Seth Faulk – St. Joseph's University – Freshman; and Savion Thompson – Johnson & Wales University – Freshman. The scholarship fund is named for Rector Emeritus Canon Lloyd Casson. This year, additional donations came in through memorials for Juanita Gibbs, Joe Johnson, Patty Richmond, and Joan Murphey Toulson (a former member of St. Andrew's who would have celebrated her 100th birthday this year).

Code Purple Assistance. Code Purple was not held this year at SsAM. Instead New Castle County established the Hope Center and Friendship House hosted Code Purple at that location.

Sunday Breakfast Ministry. When the church closed in March, Friendship House continued to offer hospitality to the homeless by providing coffee and donuts at the entrance to the parish house each morning from 7:30-9 a.m. They have been averaging about 100 people.

Undee Sunday. Forman Mills donated 100 sets of thermal underwear for children, women and men. Dariel Janerette worked with Luvenia, the Wilmington store manager; Rebecca Slutsky, Forman Mills operations and marketing coordinator; and Kristen Reisor, of Friendship House, to facilitate the donation. With your generous cash contributions, Eudel Drain, Joan Janerette, Cameron Easton, and Dariel Janerette purchased an additional 42 sets of thermals and 120 pairs of socks at Forman Mills and delivered the undees to the Clothing Bank. Each resident of Andrews Place received a set of thermals and socks. The remaining Undee Sunday funds will be used to purchase hats, gloves and scarfs.

Individual Member Initiatives/Friendship House Virtual Highmark Walk. In June 2020, the SsAM and Friends Team exceeded our goal of \$2,000 by raising \$3655. This effort was led again by Sharon Bryant. The 2021 walk was held on June 5, 2021 and Kim just reported that they raised

over \$70,000 with over 500 virtual walkers from 29 teams.

Feed the Hungry: An Advocacy Committee Ministry. As the coronavirus hit our community, local food pantries sprang into action to ensure that children, families, and individuals would not go hungry. The virus presented challenges that some pantries could not overcome. Other pantries shifted operations and trained staff to safely provide groceries and even takeout meals to those in need. All local pantries are in desperate need of donated goods to continue to support our neighbors struggling with hunger. The Community Advocacy Committee, led by Athena Jolly, created a new program this year to help support this need. **Click here** <http://www.ssam.org/feed-the-hungry/> to find the local food pantry closest to you and learn how you can help. You may also use any pantry you are familiar with and let us know which pantry you supported by emailing atj1132020@gmail.com. This important outreach ministry is still active. Please report every time that you contribute. Let the pantry know that you are from SsAM and let us hear about your experience.

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 20 years, FAITH Center has served the working poor who are facing a one-time financial difficulty, made worse by the pandemic. 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 serves as the executive director of Lutheran Community Services who administers Faith Center, and Emily Gibson and Tracy Lea-Dorsey serve on the board.

2) Friendship House Ministries. Friendship House addressed unmet basic human needs of the street homeless by securing a portable bathroom and handwashing station in the SsAM parking lot during COVID. Friendship House continued to find ways to close gaps by providing essential services at the Wilmington and Newark Empowerment Centers providing morning "to go" food bags and coffee. The Empowerment Center never closed during the pandemic. They worked out of the AA room until early 2021, so they could be separate from Andrew's Place. When the men of Andrew's Place moved to a house, the Empowerment Center moved back to their larger (and much needed) space in the basement. D-L Casson serves as a liaison to the board.

Through the efforts of Sandy Johnson, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church awarded SsAM a Beloved Community "Rapid-Response" grant. This grant helped Friendship House to fund motel rooms and provide meal delivery to the homeless with highest risk of potential infection. Transitional housing and the Clothing Bank have continued to serve clients in COVID safe ways during the pandemic as well.

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 \$3,000 (for support of the many programs for the homeless administered by Kim Eppehimer 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) Zoom Meetings. As part of SsAM's 25th anniversary celebration of the "present," our five community partners (listed above) participated in three Zoom calls on April 18, April 25, and May 2. Participants were asked to review videos of each program prior to the call, and then each executive director further explained their programs and answered questions. In the near future, we will post a list of ways that individual members of the parish can help each of these organizations on SsAM's website.

5) World Wide Efforts. Our parish supports the worldwide outreach efforts of the Episcopal Church through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. The Community Advocacy Committee approved \$500 on behalf of the parish for the ERD's US Disaster Program, which works in areas across the United States that have been affected by disasters. Most recently, the US Disaster Program is working with Episcopal church leaders to identify needs created by power outages and a lack of water in the southern areas of the US in the aftermath of the recent winter storm.

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

Sylvia Banks

Shirley Bynoe

Eudel Drain

Mary Anne Edwards

Laura Eisenman

Retha Fisher

John Goodill

Kelly Holt

Sandy Holt

Dariel Janerette

Karen Johnson

Athena and Gary Jolly

Phil and Susan Murphree

Lore Noyes

Alice Sawyer

Alice Smith, Chair

We thank Joyce Bembry for her membership before her move to another state.

Environmental Justice Ministry at SsAM

Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice or DCR4EJ is a lesser known ministry at SsAM focused on Environmental Justice (EJ) work. DCR4EJ was created in the fall of 2011 in direct response to SsAM's observation of and commitment to the Season of Creation and the Rights of Mother Earth. The purpose of this environmental justice ministry is to make connections between toxic chemicals, processes and pollution, the climate crisis, food apartheid and public health. Our mission is to inform and empower communities to take action to protect the fundamental rights to clean air, water, land and food.

The value of DCRFEJ is being a collective where grassroots, native indigenous peoples, organized groups and entities like the Community Housing & Empowerment Connections Inc. (CHEC), health advocates and Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club for examples, are united. The DCR4EJ is an affiliate member of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA). EJHA is a national collective of "fenceline" grassroots groups and advocates who serve them.

The group is currently facilitated by a rotating team including Linda Whitehead, a member of SsAM and Dora Williams, an Environmental Justice community activist. Examples of some of our projects this past year have included:

- **Responding to Croda Incident:** Croda is a chemical plant in Delaware close to the Delaware Memorial Bridge that had a chemical incident a few years ago and is now being monitored by the community for safety. A number of members of DCR4EJ have been very attentive to Croda's response to the spill in follow-up meetings. Croda continues to work on fixing plant violations and reports to DNREC on a regular basis.
- **Speaking with candidates running in the 2020 election about EJ issues.**
- **Assisting with local EJ issues in the communities as needed and requested**
- **Working with the YMCA** to develop the panel on Environmental Justice for the YMCA's racial challenge this winter and spring
-

This year we have had an intern from the Charter School of Wilmington. She has had the opportunity to learn about EJ issues and has supported DCR4EJ in a variety of ways mainly focused on communication. Future goals for DCR4EJ are to offer youth programming, build our web presence, and identify member specialty areas among others.

Environmental Justice advocacy is needed now more than ever. As we go into the world as followers of Christ who care for all, we'd like you to join us. Participation in this ministry is an excellent way to take SsAM beyond our walls and to get to know some of our neighbors. Please speak with Linda Whitehead for more information. Monthly meetings currently occur on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm by ZOOM. In the future, we hope to return to meeting in-person at SsAM again. New participants of all ages are welcome with a special welcome extended to youth in the area.

Linda Whitehead

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Ministry

The Episcopal Church Women Ministry (ECW) celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the new faith community known as The Episcopal church of Saints Andrew and Matthew (SsAM).

ECW congratulates SsAM on its work in our community. ECW is blessed to be a part of SsAM to continue our mission-driven service as expressed in our prayer:

“Almighty God, bless, we pray, our work in mission and ministry in the world. Make us so thankful for the precious gift of Your Beloved Son, that we pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known throughout the world the redeeming love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen”

This year, although challenging for us, has been devastating for others. This year has heightened the visibility of the disenfranchised and the disparities in healthcare, educational resources, and opportunities for employment for our brothers and sisters in Wilmington and around the country. We have been able to engage with our community partners to answer the call. Our activities were limited because of the impact of the pandemic, we persisted!

We sponsored

The Women’s Project with women from many churches in the diocese and the greater Wilmington area. We hosted a workshop on March 7, 2020, “The Influence of Women in the Church – Past, Present and Future.” We presented a brief history of ECW and facilitated “table talk” sessions. The energy and interest was high and we intend to re-gather in 2021.

Lutheran Community Services Food Bank-- collected items from January through April.

St. Michael’s Nursery and Day School -- a small financial contribution to their work.

The Way Home: An organization supporting re-entry for the recently incarcerated. We collected clothing, gift cards, and back packs.

SsAM 25th Anniversary Celebration: A successful Mother’s Day Curb-side Bake Sale raised funds to support the activities and programs planned for the celebration.

We collaborated and supported

Pastoral Care: We made frequent contact with our congregational family to let them know that we are still a spiritual working parish, helping where needed.

Health Care Ministry: We contacted our congregation to give them information about COVID-19 vaccine locations and offering transportation to vaccination events.

25th Anniversary Celebration PRESENT Committee Survey: We participated in making follow up calls to our congregation to ensure their participation in the Survey.

ECW is poised to re-emerging stronger and energized for 2021 and beyond. All are welcome to join us! Contact Ernestine Brock-Walker.

Respectfully submitted

Ernestine Brock-Walker – President

June Knight – Vice President

Mary Morgan - Treasurer

Peggy Shane – Recording Secretary

Patricia Griffin – Correspondence Secretary

Property Committee Report

Co-chairs: *Sandy Johnson & Cynthia Primo Martin*

Members: *Ernest Barnes, D-L Casson (Parish Administrator), David Clouser, Cyndi Dombrowski, Herbert Harvey, Sharon Leyhow (Finance Committee Liaison), Pat Saunders, Peggy Shane (Jr. Warden), Paul Crothamel (Property Management Consultant)*

What a year this has been!

- First, we want to extend our sincerest gratitude to Pat Saunders and Dave Clouser who served as co-chairs for so many years and led us through major improvements and decisions. They were gracious enough to continue as members and we value their experience and expertise.
- In Summer 2020, we welcomed Paul Crothamel as our Property Management Consultant: he “hit the ground running” and has been invaluable in advising and assisting in property related matters both at the Rectory and at SsAM.
- The August area “tornado” left the rectory with two large trees downed. One broke through the property fence and into the neighbor’s yard; it was removed quickly. The second tree, at the back of the property, was partially down with electrical/telephone wires tangled up in tree branches. After many months of inquiry to city and DPL officials, the tree was approved for removal.
- One of our major accomplishments was to list and sell the SsAM Rectory in the midst of a pandemic and during the winter months. We were able to get it under contract before it was formally listed as well as receiving our asking price. This was indeed a team effort of volunteers, staff and our consultant. Thanks to Sally Bittel Thomas, Mottola Group, for her outstanding work as our realtor.
- With the assistance of our property management consultant, we hired Services Unlimited, Inc. to do much needed upgrades to SsAM’s HVAC system. This upgrade was recommended to be done as soon as possible in SsAM’s 2016 Capital Plan. However, after the sale of the rectory, we had the funds to execute this plan. Our consultant estimates savings of 20% annually in energy costs.
- Under Paul’s oversight, the following was completed: Rectory received a boiler upgrade and other needed repairs/improvements before being prepared for sale; SsAM Chapel drain was installed and is now working properly; COVID disinfecting/sanitizing equipment and materials purchased--facilities staff trained on use; installation of new boiler pump circuit board controller by SUI; outdoor lighting repaired; miscellaneous staff training.
- Plans upgrade and improve the SsAM property, internally and externally, were recommended to be implemented in the next few years.
- In partnership with SEU and Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, SsAM recently completed an Energy Audit, funded by the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. Specific recommendations were made to implement in 2021-22 to further cut energy costs.
- Thanks to D-L Casson, Marlon Rochester and Mary Cooper for their continued service to SsAM in keeping our property safe and maintained.

Respectfully submitted, *Sandy Johnson and Cynthia Primo Martin*

