



**Annual Report  
2021-2022  
The Episcopal Church  
Of  
Saints Andrew and Matthew**

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## Report of the Interim Rector

Having only begun my association with the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew on March 1, 2022, there is little for me to report – other than to express my gratitude for inviting me to be a part of your community. During this time of transition and preparation for the calling of your new rector, I hope to provide some stability of ordained leadership working in concert with SsAM’s dedicated lay leaders in all areas of ministry. My initial time, beyond worship planning and participation, has been spent learning how ministries and responsibilities are shared between staff and the various committees that are presently active. Admittedly, I’m still learning.

What I would like to begin focusing on in the coming months is how and when to reengage the ministries that have been mostly set aside due to the restrictions and concerns of participating during the pandemic. Activities and involvement of youth, faith formation opportunities, and after worship hospitality are areas that come to mind as worthy of attention. Reestablishing an active altar guild, reviving the ministry of Eucharistic Visitors to take holy communion to those who are sick or unable to come to church, recruitment of additional lectors and ushers, etc., are all ministries for which the involvement of the members of SsAM might get involved. Oh yes, and to remember to pray for one another as we strive to be witnesses of Christ’s love to a world that needs reasons to have hope for the future.

This faith community knows how to tell anyone and everyone who comes to worship that they are welcome. We hear it every Sunday:

*“No matter where you come from or where you’re going. No matter what you believe or what you doubt. No matter what you feel or just don’t feel today. No matter whom you love, you are welcome into this space to be met by God who knows you by name, who knows your heart, who knows your mind, and who wants to have a relationship with you.”*

This is a powerful commitment to the radical inclusion of all of God’s children. And all of God’s children have their part to play in the Kingdom of God, for peace and justice to be not just a slogan but a reality, and to find that place where their gifts can be offered in service to others.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Rev. James Michael Bimbi  
Interim Rector

## Report of the Senior Warden

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As one parishioner shared, our effort this year has been a “cowabunga” experience. During the last six months of 2021, we gave a fun-filled goodbye for our retiring rector and planned for our spiritual life with supply clergy supply. We celebrated SsAM’s incredible 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with past and present history, and a survey of the SsAM’s member demographics. The collection of items for the time capsule marking our 25 years continues.

The health and safety measures of COVID 19 are legion and continue with challenges to our fellowship, building membership, ministries, and relationships. We added the new innovations through technology for worship and other programming.

Our transition work is exciting. It includes not only examining ministries, lay leadership, finances and property matters, but also getting parishioner input for the attributes of our new rector and appointment of a Search Committee.

We sincerely thank Fr. Jim for joining us as interim rector, our staff, and for all parish members who serve and give, and for community friends who connect with us through prayer. We pause in thanksgiving for the life of our loving and dedicated vestry member, Peggy Shane. Let us continue to pray knowing that through God, all things are possible.

In much love and gratitude,  
Sandy Johnson, Senior Warden

## Report of the Treasurer

***From an Operating Budget perspective, I will cover where we ended 2021, where we are as of now in 2022, and where we are going and how we will get there.***

### **2021 Operating Budget**

In 2021, with pledges, plate, other offerings and investment income, SsAM had total income/contributions of \$650,056 with corresponding operating expenses of \$673,795. As authorized by Vestry a small portion of the funds from the sale of the rectory were used to balance the budget shortage.

**SsAM sold the rectory** in May of 2021 netting \$550,000. The decision was made to keep half in the liquidity fund in Master Fund A (\$275,100) to cover critical capital projects and any operating deficits. The other half was invested in Master Fund A as part of our long-term financial stability strategy to grow investments. In 2021, we upgraded the HVAC system at a cost of \$160,000.

### Health of Master Fund A

The year-end balance in Master Fund A was \$4,809,500, with a net gain of \$56,000.

The bulk of our Operating Budget continued to be salaries, benefits, and related consulting costs made up over 67% of our 2021 budget. Our Diocesan Acceptance represented about 11% of the budget.

### SsAM – Operating Budgets

	<u>Pledge Units</u>	<u>Contributions/Investment</u>	<u>Expenses/Disbursements</u>		
<u>Deficiency</u>					
2021 – Actual	129	\$650,056	\$673,795	(\$23,739)	Shortfall covered by Master Fund A - Liquidity
2022 - Budget	116	\$593,422	\$704,720	(\$111,298)	Shortfall covered by Master Fund A - Liquidity

### 2022 Operating Budget

As of the end of April 2022, we have received \$159,000 in pledges (\$68,000 prepaid), \$33,000 in offerings and \$46,000 in investment income totaling 40% of budgeted income with expenses of about the same.

**Cash Flow projections for 2022** show SsAM is trending in line with the budget and, if spending continues, will experience a 2022 operating deficit of over \$100,000. As a result, Vestry has taken action to ensure a balanced budget and has approved the balance of liquidity funds from the sale of the rectory of about \$110,000, with the first draw of \$55,000 made at the end of May.

### Health of Master Fund A

As we are all acutely aware, the market continues to experience high volatility. This continued downturn has resulted in a Master Fund A value loss of \$543,503 as of the end of first quarter. Again, Vestry has approved use of the remaining liquidity funds to be strategically disbursed to offset any deficits in the operational budget. These continued losses are a major blow to our long-term financial stability plan.

In 2022, the bulk of our Operating Budget continues to be salaries, benefits, and related consulting costs representing over 70% of the budget expenses. Our Diocesan Acceptance represented about 12% of the budget.

### Financial Consultant

As of April 1, 2022, Vestry engaged a Financial Consultant, Kalief Cole, to develop a well-integrated financial function that operates in line with the Episcopal Church Canons and ensures the most efficient and sound stewardship process. A strong financial function provides SsAM staff, Treasurer, Finance Committee and Vestry with complete and accurate information-data

necessary to make sound operational, outreach and capital decisions in support of the church's mission-vision. At the completion of this six-month financial transition/integration process, SsAM will be in a position to hire a Finance Administrator to operate all the fiscal functions of SsAM.

### **Financial Position Summary**

If SsAM wishes to focus on growing its endowment and continue its same level of budgetary spending, other revenue sources are necessary - increased membership and volunteerism, increased pledges and pledge revenue, and grants. If these type revenue sources are not generating the necessary revenue levels, then SsAM needs to begin to reduce its major overhead costs centers – salaries and benefits. A combination of these and other strategies will be necessary to overcome the on-going operational deficit spending and support the financial stability and growth we all seek in this, our church home.

*Scott Serota, Treasurer*

### **Report of the Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy**

#### **MUSIC IN LITURGY**

From June through August of 2021, our liturgies were led by our amazing choir members and staff singers. Due to COVID concerns, we were not able to have choir, but services were led by one or two singers, masked and distanced. A special thank you to staff singers Kimberly Doucette, Isabel Gray, Tina Betz, Gus Mercante, Clint Williams and Martin Hargrove as well as our choir members Pat Hampton and Ernestine Brock-Walker and our artist-in-residence Madeline Bolden Johnson, who sang solos and supported congregational singing.

From September through December of 2021 we were able to have a small choir of sopranos and altos lead worship. Our volunteer singers with the support of four staff singers did a marvelous job and were a delight to work with. Due to continued budget restraints, we were not able to hold weekly rehearsals, but held brief rehearsals after church on most Sundays after church to prepare for the next week.

On Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 21) we tried a completely different model for music to lead worship. A mic'd vocal quartet (Kimberly Doucette, Tina Betz, Gus Mercante and Clint Williams) along with the Whitney Project (Jonathan Whitney, drums, Rob Swanson, bass, Tom Palmer, piano) raised the roof with stirring hymns and anthems in a gospel style.

The Sopranos and Altos were joined by a several men from the congregation (Bill Young, Robert Young and Chuck Bean) for Fr. David's Farewell service on December 19 as well as for Christmas Eve. With a new wave of the COVID pandemic in January of 2022, we returned to worship led by soloists through the month of February. On Carnival Sunday (Feb. 27) we once again had our vocal quartet with instrumentalists from the Whitney Project lead a rousing pre-Lenten celebration.

We returned to having a small choir of sopranos and altos (but with the addition of Clint

Williams who can sing any voice part needed!) beginning March 6 (Lent I) through June 5 (Pentecost). The choir was joined again by Bill Young and Robert Young for Easter Sunday. Thanks to an increase in the music and liturgy budget, we are hoping to go back to a full SATB choir beginning in September of 2022.

#### LIVE STREAMING

Our live-streaming ministry has evolved a great deal under the expertise of our live-stream technician William Landis. As funds have become available, we have added new cameras and moved the live-streaming booth to the balcony. Part of the system is still temporarily installed with wires running through the church, but we have a proposal for a system with a new desktop computer, two additional cameras and with wires properly installed.

#### FRIENDS OF THE KATHERINE ESTERLY ORGAN

There were two FOKEO events this past year. On February 22, 2022, the organ students along with Alan Morrison from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia presented *Great Organ Music by Black Composers*, and international concert artist Nicole Keller gave an outstanding organ recital on April 24.

#### DELAWARE CHORALARTS (DCA)

Our ensemble-in-residence Delaware ChoralArts present two programs at SsAM. On Saturday, November 6, 2021 (7:00 p.m.) they performed Faure's *Requiem* with orchestra along with other well-known choral works. On March 27, 2022 (3:00 p.m.) they presented The English Choral Legacy featuring great works by English composers accompanied by organist Alan Morrison.

We look forward to another year of multi-faceted music at SsAM.

*David Christopher*

### **Report of the Communications Committee**

Despite the on-going pandemic, our church has kept in touch with its members.

Every week this past year, our Parish Administrator, D-L Casson, sent out an eBlast on Fridays and published the bulletins for Sunday worship. Frequently she sends special eBlasts out during the week, as does Danny Schweers and David Christopher. Those members without email receive paper updates via U.S. Mail. Mary Lou Edgar, Christina Brennan Lee, and Danny Schweers began writing spiritual reflections for the Friday eBlast in January, continuing to add a spiritual dimension to that publication while we search for a new rector.

Danny Schweers updates the SsAM website weekly. That site includes a link to the church calendar, which D-L Casson and volunteers keep updated. David Christopher, D-L Casson, and others contribute to our Facebook page, which is also used to share via video our church's ambitious schedule of 17 weekly prayer services. Sunday worship services at 10:30am are shared via video using YouTube with the help of Will Landis at the control panel.

Vestry, committee, and other meetings continue to be held via video using the Zoom app. This started with the pandemic in 2020. This has increased attendance significantly, as people no longer have to drive to church to attend meetings.

Finally, we must mention the scores of phone calls and emails that go in and out of the church each day. While our church tries to keep its members from being overwhelmed with communications going out, nothing is done to keep members from communicating in. We welcome your calls and emails!

Faithfully submitted,  
Danny Schweers, Communications Committee Chair

### **Report of the Community Advocacy Committee**

During the last half of 2021 and the first half of 2022, members of SsAM have shown their generosity to those city residents disadvantaged by floods, homelessness and poverty. The Community Advocacy Committee is constantly astonished by the grace demonstrated in your giving. Thank you so much for everyone's participation.

**Undee Sunday.** Eudel Drain chaired this project in November. As a result of individual contributions from SsAM members, she was able to purchase 72 sets of thermal underwear and 88 sets of socks from Forman Milles and Gabe's. Varied sizes and colors were obtained for men and women. In addition, members of the congregation contributed 6 sets of thermals, 9 women's underwear, and 12 men's briefs. This was all donated to Friendship for men staying in transitional housing and those who come into the Empowerment Center.

**Outreach at Christmas.** Covid prevented us from having individual children's wishes to fulfill. However, we worked with the Friendship House Empowerment Center and the Women's traditional housing to identify four families to help during the holidays. This included four children under the age of ten for whom we bought individual toys and clothing (even diapers and wipes for a baby under six months old). There were an additional 11 individuals -- mothers, teens and young adults -- for whom we were able to provide individually \$125 in either Walmart or VISA cards. A thank you note from Patty Gross read, *"I know everyone will be pleased with the generosity you have shown towards our residents. It will certainly brighten and warm their Christmas this year."*

**Flood Victims.** Donations toward flood victims were sent to Habitat for Humanity to help those who lost their homes and to Friendship House to help provide flood relief for a family who could not return to their home and were living in the Hope Center.

**AIM Fund.** During the church's closing, many members continued to contribute to AIM by mail. We are now again taking a special collection on the first and third Sunday of each month. In

2021, donations to AIM, including scholarship donations, amounted to \$10,295.16. Expenditures were \$5,000 for one scholarship to Cameron Dixon, \$1,000 for assistance to flood victims, and \$1200 to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haiti and hurricane rescue funds. During 2022 thus far, we have also made a contribution to ERD for Ukraine and to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the Episcopal Church) for a total of \$1,150.

**Scholarship Program.** The Community Advocacy Committee awarded one \$1000 scholarship in 2021 to Cameron Dixon – Arcadia University – for post graduate work for a doctorate. We are hoping more students will apply in 2022. The scholarship fund is named for Rector Emeritus Canon Lloyd Casson. This year, additional donations came in through memorials for Charlene Simmons.

**Code Purple Assistance.** Code Purple was not held this year at SsAM. Instead New Castle County established the Hope Center at the Sheraton Hotel, and Friendship House hosted Code Purple at that location. In early 2022, a new approach was tried on a couple of occasions so that men who were unable to find other housing remained downstairs in the Empowerment Center.

**Sunday Breakfast Ministry.** Friendship House continues to offer hospitality to the homeless by providing coffee, eggs and donuts each morning from 7:30-9 a.m. They have been averaging about 100 people.

**Feed the Hungry: An Advocacy Committee Ministry.** We at SsAM's Advocacy Committee invite all members of the congregation to continue supporting the *Feed the Hungry* Program, which in 2021 served more than 4,000 people in need by providing food and financial contributions to local pantries. We are aware of 103 reported volunteer activities by SaAM members but we know there were more. In 2022, each month a different food pantry will be targeted to receive the food brought into our church on Sunday during worship (special collection bins are in the narthex and by the elevator). During the week, you can drop them at the office preferably before 1:00 pm OR donate food or money to your favorite food. 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](mailto:atj1132020@gmail.com). This important outreach ministry is still active. Please report every time that you contribute.

#### **Individual Member Initiatives.**

- **Friendship House Virtual Highmark Walk** Sharon Bryant is leading the SsAM and Friends of SsAM Team for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, which benefits Friendship House. The walk this year is again live on June 11.
- **Urban Promise.** Chuck Bean participated in "Paddle for Promise" to raise funds for this fundraiser. The Men's Group donated a breakfast basket for the charity's annual gala.
- **ECW and the YWCA Homelife and Management Center and Child, Inc.** The ECW is establishing a sustainable relationship with these to agencies. A list of opportunities to minister for those in need will be published by the ECW.

- **Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice** donated 300 masks to Friendship House's Empowerment Center. This initiative was led by Linda Whitehead.

**Support of Other Organizations.** At the end of 2020, the following community partners received a financial gift from our church. All our partners have acknowledged SsAM's continued support and partnership with their programs.

**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. When the men of Andrew's Place moved to a new house, the Empowerment Center left their temporary quarters in the AA room and returned to their larger space where they provide counseling and case management.

**3) Financial Support of Traditional Agencies.** The Community Advocacy Committee continues to administer funding to agencies that have a historical tie to our parish. These funds come from the church' outreach budget. 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 Eppheimer and her staff)
- Delaware Futures \$3,000 (this educational program, which was started in 1993, is helping to prepare disadvantaged students for college)
- Sojourners' Place \$3,000 (transitional program to help those recovering from drug or alcohol abuse).
- Faith Center (listed above) \$4,000

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

Many of these outreach efforts are highlighted on SsAM's website, [www.ssam.org](http://www.ssam.org). In addition to listing opportunities to volunteer, the site gives links to provide more information on many

of the agencies that our parish supports.

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

Sylvia Banks	John Goodill	Phil and Susan Murphree
Shirley Bynoe	Kelly Holt	Lore Noyes
Eudel Drain	Sandy Holt	Alice Sawyer
Mary Anne Edwards	Dariel Janerette	<i>Alice Smith, Chair</i>
Laura Eisenman	Karen Johnson	
Retha Fisher	Athena and Gary Jolly	

### **Report of the 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. Our mission is to inform and empower communities to take action to protect the fundamental rights to clean air, water, land and food with a particular focus on people with less access to resources.

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 two-person 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:

- **Ongoing Response to the 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. Members spent a significant amount of time requesting that DNREC reconsider their approval of an expansion of the Croda plant. Despite a significant effort, the expansion of the Croda plant is going forward.
- **Creating a logo and brochure** (which are now available on the SsAM website.)
- **Assisting with local EJ issues in the communities as needed and requested**
- **Participation in an Environmental Organization Fair at the Youth Environmental Summit (YES) Conference in April at the University of Delaware**
- **Expanding our Relationship with the organization known as Delaware Interfaith Power and Light.** One recent webinar provided by DIPL was about responding to extreme heat.
- **Applying for Electric School Buses** is being supported by members of DCR4EJ. The school buses are helping to reduce childhood asthma, and get children to school more ready to learn. Funds are being explored available through the infrastructure bill.

We have continued to have the dedicated work of 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.

Environmental Justice advocacy is needed now more than ever. As we go into the world as followers of Christ, 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 ([lindaw302@verizon.net](mailto:lindaw302@verizon.net)) for more information. Monthly meetings currently occur on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm by ZOOM. New participants of all ages are welcome with a special welcome extended to youth in the area.

*Linda Whitehead, SsAM Liaison*

### **Report of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

The Episcopal Church Women of Sts Andrew and Matthew has been planning different ministry projects From September, 2021 through the present year of 2022. We have tried to live up to our call stated in our ECW 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*

The ECW has tried to fulfill this prayer directive by looking into our community neighborhoods to determine how we can make a difference for the good in God's world. We have begun to plan and give our support to two agencies who do resource and support for women, children and families. They are YWCA Home Life Management Center and Child, Inc.

Our Women's Ministry Project Committee is now getting discernment from these two very worthy agencies on how and what our role will be as their needs require. So far, below is the information we have received:

Both agencies would welcome advocacy to lift their voices in requests for items like fixing potholes in neighborhoods; housing for women; city, county and state funding. Help providing emergency meals, especially on weekends; schedule quarterly Sunday family dinners and birthday parties; create "Welcome Home Baskets with donated items; i.e., light bulbs, flashlights, batteries, tool kits, power strips, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, grocery store gift cards and bus passes. Also, help in maintaining small landscaped gardens and help **with** refurbishing their vegetable container gardens. We will be requesting donations from Home Depot for the welcome home baskets to support this effort.

We will be developing teams for Advocacy and Direct Action programs and we will be seeking input from our church family to assist in these endeavors. Your expertise in any of these programs will be greatly appreciated.

The Episcopal Church Women Ministry have supported by donating either cash

or food to the following:

- St. Michael 's Day School and Nursery
- Retirement Fund for Fr. David Andrews
- Friendship House-Hope Center
- Delaware State ECW
- Episcopal Relief and Development Ukraine Project

Our Ministry has volunteered for the following events:

- Healthcare and Wellness Ministry Fair for Covid-19 Testing, Vaccination;
- Retirement Planning For Fr. David Andrews' Retirement Party including being hostesses at the event.

The fundraisers sponsored by ECW were:

- Mother's Day Bake Sale for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee
- Advent Calendar Food Donations
- Valentine's Day Tea to support ECW Charities

Moving forward, the Episcopal Church Women Ministry of Sts Andrew and Matthew are inviting all the Women of SsAM to become active members of this Ministry because " WE NEED YOUR HELP" to carry on the work in Mission and Ministry in God's most Holy Name and World.

Our current active members are: Patricia Hampton, Anne Gibson, Mary Lou Edgar, Pam Peters, Paulyne Webster, Gloria Conner-Bungy and Pam Peters.

Officers: Ernestine Brock-Walker, President; Patricia Griffin, Corresponding Secretary; June Knight, Vice President and Mary Morgan, Treasurer.

As you all may know we lost our dear Peggy Shane, who served as our Recording Secretary and we miss her dearly. God rest her soul.

Respectively Submitted:  
Ernestine Brock-Walker,  
President

### **Report of the Health & Wellness Ministry at SsAM**

The Health and Wellness Ministry was re-imagined through the passion and enthusiasm of Peggy Shane, who for almost two years researched Ministry paradigms and recruited leadership that she presented to the Vestry on March 16, 2022. The Health & Wellness Ministry is being re-vitalized under the leadership of Drs. Athena Jolly and Chuck Bean and input and organizational leadership from Tabe Mase and Eudel Drain. The Vestry approved the Ministry and with Peggy's support the following Mission/Vision Statement was developed.

**Mission:** Be a Resource and Referral to promote a holistic approach to health and

wellness for our congregation and surrounding community.

**Vision:** An inclusive Christian ministry, that fosters fellowship among its members serving the Congregation and Greater Wilmington area through actions and programs that fulfill our mission, always treating one another and those we serve with dignity and compassion

**The Scope and Goals were articulated to:**

- "Support the vestry in their ministry of Christian growth with health/wellness initiatives that raise the spiritual, emotional, physical health and quality of life of the congregation.
- Become advocates for change that would create a healthier community. Provide resources for congregational and community outreach while collaborating with Pastoral Care and Community Advocacy Committees.
- Act as a resource to members of the congregation by contacting with healthcare providers, when they need assistance.

Since its inception the following activities have taken place:

The Health and Wellness Ministry has co-hosted a Community Vaccine and Testing Event with H&S Impact Group at SsAM on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20. At this two-day event, first, second and booster shots were provided to guests 5 years and older, on Saturday, March 19 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, March 20 from 1 pm to 6 pm. Testing was also offered with point of care Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Testing. Nursing support was provided by Tau Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi sorority, Inc. and Black Nurses Rock. Although the event was not as well attended as we had hoped, it did demonstrate that excellent planning and volunteer mobilization on behalf of the Ministry members.

The Ministry under the leadership of Dr. Charles Bean has acted as a resource to several parishioners with medical needs and will continue doing so, through the collaboration with Pastoral Care Ministry.

There have been several Wellness posts in E-Blast and SsAM'S website, examples are: "Take the Shot" inviting our Congregation to take the 4<sup>th</sup> vaccine shot or second booster "Walk to End Epilepsy" by participating or donating for the "Freedom from Seizures 5 K".

Currently a small group of Ministry members are working with the Parish Administrator to organize training for the use of AED response to other medical emergencies. Finally, the Ministry is comprised of a core group of health professionals who will plan and staff events and a few lay members who will act on an ad hoc capacity to staff and recruit volunteers. Members can choose activities that interest them to volunteer and participate.

We invite more members of the Congregation to join and contribute as the Spirit moves them.

### **Report of the SsAM Property Committee**

Co-chairs: *Cynthia Primo Martin & Patricia Saunders*

Members: *Ernest Barnes, D-L Casson (Parish Administrator), David Clouser, Cyndi Dombrowski, Ken Francis, Herbert Harvey, Gary Jolly (Jr. Warden), Sharon Leyhow (Finance Committee*

*Liaison), Peggy Shane, Paul Crothamel (Property Management Consultant)*

*The mission of the Property Committee is to provide a visible presence and witness to Christ in our neighborhood. This includes an energy efficient safe environment where our members and guests can pray, learn and grow in faith. This committee assures the care and appearance of the physical property at SsAM by keeping the facility in good working order from the grounds to roof, valuing SsAM's historic structure while also recognizing the need for changes to reflect the new church's mission.*

The Property Committee was saddened by the untimely death of Peggy Shane, who served as a faithful member of this committee until February of this year. Peggy worked tirelessly with this committee to improve the safety and appearance of SsAM. All of us feel the loss of Peggy. May she Rest in Peace.

Committee mem works to ensure safety and appearance of SsAM. To that end, we are submitting the following that has been accomplished this year, with the invaluable assistance of Paul Crothamel, Consultant, D-L Casson, Parish Administrator, Marlon Rochester, and Mary Cooper, Sextons.

- NARTHEX: painting; carpeting; purchase of welcome mat; cleaned and sealed tile
- DOORS: Front door repainted and kickplate installed to prevent splintering; parish house front entry door refinished and polyurethane.
- KNOX BOX: purchased and installed to meet Wilmington Fire Department requirements to have keys secured on the outside of the building.
- ROOF AND WALLS: cracks in roof and walls repaired to stop leaks in the building around the organ chamber.
- NEW AUDITORIUM LIGHTING : SsAM applied and received funding through to Barnabas Fund to install upgraded lighting.
- RECTOR'S OFFICE: painting; donated office desk furniture moved into office; adjoining bathroom repainted and tiled
- ELEVATOR : repaired to ensure doors do not close too quickly on parishioners and visitors
- SEU/DE POWER AND LIGHT ENERGY AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS: multi-year implementations began.
- ARCHITECT WALK THROUGH TO PROVIDE CURRENT PROPERTY INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: John Dobrianecki, SsAM's architect for several projects, inspected total building and provided information to develop the 3-year property needs plan for SsAM.



**CECIL GORDON**

It is indeed an honor to be considered to serve on the Vestry of Saints Andrew and Matthew Episcopal Church. Having been given the privilege to serve previously on the Vestry, I keenly appreciate the tremendous responsibility this governing board has.

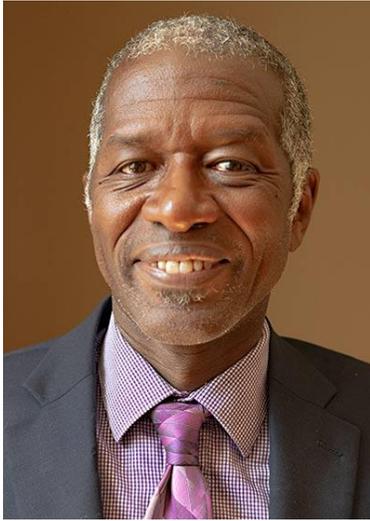
As an active member of SSAM for more than 30 years, I've immensely enjoyed participating in various ministries, including as a Sunday lector.

Having graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1975 (BA in psychology) and subsequently the UNC School of Medicine in 1980, I moved to Wilmington to complete training in a residency in obstetrics and gynecology. I've maintained a private practice in this community since 1984. Married to Yvonne for 34 years, we have two adult children (Clifton and Cecily). SSAM has always been our family's spiritual home.

Outside of the church I've continued to volunteer in various capacities throughout my life. Some of my activities include member of the Board of Trustees for Christiana Care Health System, Board Vice-Chair at EastSide Charter School, past Vice-President of the Delaware Board of Medical Practice, Wilmington Rotary Club and Board member of the Delaware Community Foundation.

One other special interest I've had for 20 years is promoting swimming in communities of color. As a volunteer for USA Swimming, I served as Chair of the USA Swimming Foundation Board, member of the USA Swimming Board of Directors, and was selected as an official for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. Drowning statistics remain critically high for Black children. My personal goal is to bring attention to this preventable tragedy and to find ways to reduce the alarming numbers we face.

As this country and our church slowly return to "normal" post pandemic, it will take a tremendous amount of work from all of us to recover fully. The Vestry must lead that effort at SSAM. I would welcome that challenge.



**Anthony Jones**

I am Anthony Jones. I am a cradle Episcopalian who grew up in the Metropolitan New York area. I graduated from Oberlin College, Union Theological Seminary, and Vanderbilt Law School. Professionally I worked as an attorney in my own practice. With respect to Ssam I serve as an acolyte, lector, Eucharistic minister, office assistant, altar guild assistant, and as a member of the Vestry. Additionally I serve the Diocese of Delaware as a Commissioner on the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

I am currently serving a one year term on the Vestry and am seeking a full term. Here are my observations and beliefs concerning the direction of the church.

Someone once said that congregations will forgive leaders of almost any fault except the failure to lead. The incoming Vestry must not fail to lead because the stakes are so high. We must be leaders in the process of choosing a new rector and that decision will determine our course for years to come. I think that the greater part of leading is learning to listen. You as a member of Ssam have many ideas of what you want in a rector. I think that the Vestry must have a general meeting in which everyone has the opportunity to express their concerns. One on one meetings are fine but right now we all need to hear the same thing at the same time. I think that the candidate profile that we post should emerge from that meeting.

Secondly, I believe that we must insist that the candidate pool include women and African Americans. This is certainly not to exclude or discourage white or male candidates. But over the past two weeks this church was electrified by the preaching of the Rev. Canon Jordan Casson and the Rev. Canon Martha Kirkpatrick. They are shining examples of what happens when diversity is taken seriously. We must have a diverse pool to choose from because that is who we are and what we stand for as a church.

Third, our church must grow or die. We are an older congregation. Many members of our family cannot serve as they once did because of disability. And many of our church family have died. We are slowly but steadily losing our support base. I believe we should have a standing committee on church growth that canvasses the church for dynamic ideas on how to grow this house numerically, financially, and spiritually. But I don't believe that we should survive for the sake of survival. I believe that part of this process has to include a healthy, robust discussion of who we are and how we can best serve the present age. If we do this we can grow our church because people we do not yet know will find life, meaning, and purpose here.

This is who I am and what I believe. Thank you.