Annual Report 2023-2024

The Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew
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Report of the Rector

I want to start with saying thank you to my wife, Cheryl, and my daughter, Lexi. I am truly blessed with an incredible family which has only been made more obvious with how they have navigated the beginning of our ministry together. They used every transportation method available to visit so we could be together, but also to participate in this community. They did all of this while navigating Lexi finishing high school and preparing to sell our house. We are very grateful to all here at SsAM that have supported our family during this time, but I especially want to recognize the support from Cheryl and Lexi, and all that they have done to help our shared ministry to thrive.

As we move into our first Annual Meeting together, we do so in recognition that it marks the end of Sandy Johnson's tenure as our Senior Warden. Personally I am so grateful to Sandy for the ways that she welcomed me with open arms, helped me to get to know the parish, and made sure that during a period where I have been separated from my family that I laughed and that I was supported. I will always remember my first meeting with her, during the interview process, which was full of wisdom, but also joy and much laughter. She always finds a way to bring that joy to every situation, no matter how challenging. As a congregation, we are grateful for her leadership and wisdom which was instrumental in guiding us through our transition period. But we are also thankful for the many years that she has served including five years during the initial period of consolidation and previously at St. Matthews. In many ways, we are who we are at SsAM because of Sandy's incredible service and faithful leadership.

I also want to express my gratitude to the other outgoing members of our Vestry-Janice Teemer, Dave Clouser, and Carey Corbin. Janice and Dave stepped in to fill vacant positions when we needed experienced leaders. In addition to stepping in when we needed them, Janice has continued to serve on the Finance Committee providing guidance and wisdom in that area, while Dave stepped in to be the Junior Warden and lead our Property Committee. Carey is concluding her three year term along with concluding her service on both the Search and Transition Committees. Thank you to all three who have served so faithfully.

A great deal of thanks goes to D-L Casson and David Christopher. We are truly blessed by their gifts for ministry that are so critical to making SsAM thrive along with all the other ways that they embody our mission. But on a personal note, words cannot express how kind, understanding, and patient they have been to me. Having a new Rector is a big change for the staff of a church, and D-L and David have not only handled the transition with grace and love, but they have gone out of their way to make me feel welcomed and part of the community every day.

I want to say thank you for Fr. Jim Bimbi for his ministry as our Interim Rector which concluded in 2023. Fr. Jim's presence, grace, wisdom, and humor provided the pastoral presence that we needed during our time of transition. As part of the interview process, I had the opportunity to meet with him and I was immediately struck by his calming presence and graceful demeanor. I had already fallen in love with SsAM, but meeting Fr. Jim confirmed what I had already suspected that there is something truly special about this community and that the congregation had been well cared for pastorally. I am also grateful for the desire of the Bimbi family to return to SsAM and for Fr. Jim to move into leadership of our Altar Guild. We are blessed to have so many faithful servants among us.

Finally, I want to commend, and thank, the members of our Search and Transition Committees-Sherry Goodill (Chair), Bill Young (Vice Chair), Ernestine Brock-Walker, Carey Corbin, Tom Angell, Christina Brennan Lee, and Joshua Martin (Search only). Over the course of 18 months from their commissioning to our Celebration of New Ministry in January, their work faithfully captured the mission, ministry, and spirit here at SsAM which has set us up for a beautiful future together. From the moment that I met them via Zoom, to my in-person interview, all the way through figuring out how to support me and my family living in different cities, every member of the team was kind to all the applicants and passionate about this community. We are grateful to the entire team for their faithful service, and I want to extend my personal thanks for all that they have done for me and my family during the entire search and transition process.

The beginning of a new pastoral relationship is an exciting time. It is full of energy as we get to know each other and as we dream about what God has in store for us, both here at SsAM and for our community.

And friends, that is really important to celebrate! This is only the third time in the history of our beloved parish that this has happened. I know how tempting it is to jump right to what we will do together, I wrote an entire draft of this report focused on exploring what God might be calling us to, and address some of the challenges we face around finances, being more visible in the community, and building a community that nurtures and restores helping all of us to know God's love more deeply.

But in this moment, God invites us to relish in the liminal space of that moment when we came together, and the sacred time of learning about each other, and dreaming together about our shared future.

I am so thankful to have been called to SsAM. I am so excited for us to come together to share the message of God's love and restorative justice widely. We are part of a sacred and special faith community, and I am so looking forward to exploring what God has in store for us together.

Thank you for the most generous and loving welcome anyone could ask for.

Yours in Christ,

Patrick+

Report of the Senior Warden

Dear SsAM Family,

My letter to you is one of great thanksgiving to God and you for the opportunity to serve as your vestry senior warden. The past three years of transition have offered many opportunities to get to know you better. Our refuge has been our ***faith in the mustard seed – our spiritual*** **stronghold**. Your unwavering trust, love and belief paved the spiritual journey for the work. ***Thank you!*** Our **Interim Rector, Fr. Jim Bimbi –** with whom we were so happy that his 6 months turned into 18 months, and who continues to assist us with the Altar Guild - made the way bright. **Canon Casson,** who wrote our Prayer for Transition, and **Fr. Ed Godden**, supported **pastoral care, ministry and liturgy**. The Bishop and Mission Office supported our process. **Our staff**, D-L and David remained steadfast with operations and wonderful liturgy and music. SsAM's **ministries and committees** continue to experience phenomenal transformation of strategy and implementation for SsAM. ***Thank you!***

Our search for a new Rector bore incredible fruit with the call of **Fr. Patrick Burke**. The **Search Committee**, led by Sherry Goodill and Bill Young, created a bond so well woven with our prayers and petitions that we were confident of our great result. Our **Transition Committee** assured us that Fr. Burke's arrival and greeting were well coordinated. ***Thank you!***

Where we are now reminds me of our early consolidation years during which we examined the present and planned the future, always living into our mission to love God, follow the teachings of Jesus, and demonstrate such with each other and the Wilmington community. Each of us is called to join this work. With prayer, all things are possible. ***Thank you!***

With deepest gratitude,
Sandy Johnson, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Annual Report – Year End 2023

2023 Operating Budget: In 2023, with pledges, plate, other offerings and investment income, SsAM had total income/contributions of $739,424. Total expenses were $780,364, resulting in a shortfall of $40,940. To cover the shortfall, $30,000 was used from the previous sale of the rectory in May of 2021 along with $20,000 from sales of shares in Master Fund A to balance the budget. In 2023 the bulk of our Operating Budget salaries, benefits, and related consulting costs made up over half of our 2023 budget. Our Diocesan Acceptance was roughly 11% of the 2023 budget.

2023 Endowment: The year-end balance in Master Fund A was $4,142,512, with a gain of $256,638 in value due to markedly stronger market performance. This increase was an addition to the principal outside of the roughly $180,000 interest disbursements used to fund
operations.

SsAM – Operating Budget

	Pledge Units	Contributions/Investment	Expenses/Disbursements	Shortfall
2023 – Actual	117	$739,424	$780,364	($40,940)

+$50,000
$9,060 Shortfall covered by Master Fund A – Liq ($30,000) & Shares ($20,000)

Health of Master Fund A: The market has seen record gains and continues to be more stable thus resulting in a year-end gain of roughly $256,000 in Master Fund A. It is important to note that despite the market volatility and impact of Covid, Master Fund A still shows almost a $500,000 gain from 2021 to present.

2023 Audit: The audit was completed with no remarkable findings within our financial operations.

Current 2024 Finance Administrative Changes

Vestry has engaged an independent firm to oversee our accounting. The choice was made to go with Breakwater who also manages finances for the Diocese and three other parishes. There is one single point of contact for all accounts and thus the well of knowledge and church operations is deep. Breakwater has access to Quickbooks, the bank accounts, and Servant Keeper and is ensuring proper coding to the chart of accounts which assists in budgeting, the tracking process, the annual parochial report and the annual audit. Breakwater is charged with creating standard operating procedures for SsAM's financial administration. It is integrating all systems to streamline operations. Additionally, Breakwater also is ensuring that consistency is maintained with its review of the past year and completing reconciliations. They will work with both Finance and Vestry along with the Treasurer, Parish Administrator, and Rector to ensure everyone is getting the financial reporting they require. A strong financial function provides SsAM staff, the Treasurer, the 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.

Financial Position Summary

The Vestry's strategic plan for SsAM will focus on the stability and use of SsAM's endowment balanced with our level of budgetary spending. With input from the Finance Team and congregation, our revenue sources will be examined along with the goal of increased membership and volunteerism, increased pledging, and the pursual of grants. A combination of these and other strategies will be necessary to overcome the ongoing Operational shortfall and provide the financial stability and growth we all see in this, our church home.

Report of the Director of Music and Associate for Liturgy

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC and Associate for Liturgy 2023-2024

This year has been such a pivotal and strategically important time for SsAM in so many ways. It seems to me that we are still in the process of recovering from the challenges and setbacks we experienced during the pandemic, but I have been so encouraged to see the direction our parish has been taking this past year. Not only has our attendance increased significantly, but the overall morale and enthusiasm seems higher that it has been for a long time.

By far, the most exciting and defining event of the 2023-2024 season was the arrival of our new Rector! Father Patrick's passion and enthusiasm has infused every aspect of SsAM, and it has especially brought new life and energy to our parish liturgies. His knowledge and appreciation of great music and his beautiful tenor voice have been just what the doctor ordered. I have every confidence that Fr. Patrick's leadership is going to help SsAM fulfill the vision that the founding members (who I lovingly call the "originals") had when the parishes joined in 1996.

I also want to give a shout out to Sandy Johnson for her amazing leadership through the difficult times of the pandemic, and through our transition to a new rector. Sandy has always had a beautiful vision for SsAM and in her welcoming and upbeat way, she has succeeded in leading us through the wilderness toward the promise land! She deserves our love and thanks for a job that only she could have done!

And speaking of a job that only one person could pull off, I can say from first-hand knowledge that very few people have a true grasp of the incredibly complex job that D-L Casson does as SsAM's parish administrator. When I first joined the SsAM staff in 2001 there were two full-time secretaries, a full-time parish administrator, and a fairly substantial volunteer staff. I have no idea how she manages it, but today, D-L handles the responsibilities of all of those positions and more. She is a real treasure, and it would be impossible for me to do my job without her unwavering support and the decades of wisdom and experience she brings to the table.

When one thinks about the outstanding music ministry that has been such a defining aspect of our parish since its formation in 1996, the first thing that comes to mind is the outstanding liturgical and choral music led by the SsAM Choir! I'm so happy to report that this past year, the SsAM Choir reached and perhaps even surpassed its pre-pandemic splendor! We not only have a full compliment of staff singers, but we welcomed 6 new volunteer singers this year! As special thank you to Bernadette Holcomb, our choir librarian, who continues to keep us organized and our music beautifully filed away!

THE SsAM CHOIR

SOPRANO	ALTO	ALTO (cont.)	TENOR
Ernestine Brock-Walker	TIna Betz*	Jeannine Marron-Twardus	Ben Gonczi*
Kimberly Doucette*	Joan Bobnick	Tabe Mase	Colin Stapleton-Bradley*
Isabel Gray*	Diane-Louise Casson	Gus Mercante*	
Pat Hampton	Bernadette Holcomb	Adele Meredith	BASS
Minlee Taylor-Murphy	Martha Kirkpatrick	Jean Wadman	Brian Carter*
			Clint Williams*

** indicates staff singer*

This past December, the SsAM choir continued its collaborative relationship with the choir from Grace United Methodist Church and presented "A Feast of Carols" at SsAM on December 19, 2023. The event was extremely well attended again this year, and we hope to continue having collaborative events with Grace in the future. Thanks to Jonathan W. Whitney and the musicians known as The Whitney Project, two Jazz Vespers were held this year. Jazz Vespers for the Season of Creation took

place on Sunday, Nov. 19th, and our annual MLK Jazz Vespers took place on Wednesday, Jan. 10th. Both services were well attended and we hope to add additional services of Jazz Vespers this coming season.

As our artist-in-residence, Jonathan also arranges for instrumentalists to join us occasionally for worship to expand our ability to bring gospel and jazz to our musical experience. This year, we had additional musicians (bass, drums, keyboard) for the final Sunday in Season of Creation on Nov. 26th, for Fr. Patrick's service on installation on Jan. 31st, and for Carnival Sunday on Feb. 11th.

It was a slow season for Friends of the Katherine Esterly Organ with only one major concert featuring students from the Curtis Institute organ department on March 16th. However, plans are underway for an exciting 5-concert season next year including chamber music, a Messiah sing-along, an all-Bach Extravaganza, a concert of music by all-women composers, and a concert with Jonathan Whitney for organ and percussion depicting the battle at Couch's Bridge. Stay tuned for more information.

SsAM hosted a number of outstanding choral events this past season. Delaware ChoralArts, SsAM's ensemble-in-residence presented "At Home in the Stars" on Saturday, June 1 in collaboration with Jonathan Whitney and the Whitney Ensemble featuring "In Sideribus Domi," an epic work by Paul Halley. Other selections included works by Dan Forrest, Gwyneth Walker and Thomas LaVoy. The Wilmington Children's Chorus presented two concerts at SsAM as well. On December 15 and 16, WCC presented "Alegria: Traditional and Classical Holiday Music of Latin America," and on February 10 WCC joined with Delaware ChoralArts and the Choir School of Delaware to present "A Joyful Noise," a concert celebrating the life and legacy of Daniel L. Ridout, Jr. Attendance at all of these events was exceptional!

I also want to extend a sincere thank you to William Landis, our live-stream technician. It has become clearer than ever that a high-quality live-stream of our services and special events is crucial to expanding our reach to an ever-broadening community. We have folks that watch our services from all over the country as well as our local members who aren't able to be with us in person. Will has been doing an excellent job working with a temporarily installed, makeshift system that was cobbled together piece by piece during the pandemic! The challenge is that the system is extremely complicated to use and has a steep learning curve, making it difficult to teach anyone else how to use it. Happily, a new system is being installed and will be in place by the time of this year's annual meeting. This new system will not only be much easier to use, but it will fix many of the connectivity issues we have experienced with our outdated technology.

And last, but not least, thank you to all of the SsAM members who not only lend both moral and financial support to the SsAM music ministry, but participate so beautifully and enthusiastically in our parish liturgies. Nothing makes me happier than to lead the congregation in the singing of hymns and service music, especially on the magnificent Katherine Esterly Organ. Thank you for the opportunity to serve another year as SsAM's organist and director of music!

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

Children's Chapel @ SsAM

September 24, 2023, until May 26, 2024

Children's Chapel had been a vibrant part of the SAM community each Sunday. However, after the COVID pandemic, numbers were down to the point that it had ceased to exist. It was decided that a

new format was needed, one that would engage parents while enticing children. We began by moving the Children's Chapel to the second and fourth Sunday of each month. We had the children come when the liturgy began, and we would accompany them to the Sanctuary at the sign of Peace, when they would join their parents. We had specific things we needed to accomplish each week – music, a lesson (usually with a craft involved), sharing with one another, and prayer. This is the second year we have utilized the format we developed in the fall of 2022. In the beginning we had approximately six to eight children each week. This year we had ten to twelve children and by the last Sunday in May, we had eighteen children interested.

This year we met for the first time on September 24, 2023, and completed our sessions on May 26, 2024. We had three teachers, Mary Lou Edgar, Carrie Corbin, and Noel Williams. The children were well behaved and in no way disruptive once the class began. Our only issue was the age range of children we had. They ranged in age from four years old to twelve years old. We managed the crafts, songs, and lessons so that each age range could be involved. Because we had a new rector, Fr. Patrick Burke, some of our lessons focused on him being new and welcoming him to our parish. The first week we met, we made a large poster welcoming Father Patrick. We then had the Bishop visit on one of our weeks and the usual holidays. Consequently, we missed some of what we planned to do. However, our children kept up very well. And we learned that that were learning.

The topics we chose for this year were: prayer; stewardship; different religions and how they celebrate God. We spent a great deal of time during the spring focusing on Noah's Ark. We had a large ark with animals and Noah as well as a beautiful book which told the story of Noah. We were very fortunate that Fr. Patrick invited the children (if they were willing) to join him on the Altar when they came upstairs before Communion. We had four children who have served as crucifers now because they became interested in being more involved. Additionally, the children learned about making the Sign of the Cross and what it means. They were involved in our Christmas Eve service and Palm Sunday. They were available to see five children baptized, and we were then able to talk about what that meant for the children, their families and what it meant for each of the children in Children's Chapel when they were baptized.

We spoke a great deal about loving our neighbor the way God loves us. We made a poster of that for Fr. Patrick in our last week together. It was a good thing to think about because there has been so much negativity in the world. They were not particularly aware of global issues, but they could think about hurting others in their own lives. All in all, we did a lot of things and learned a great deal. There never seemed to be enough time, so we are considering changing this to once a week in the fall.

Report of the Communications Committee

Every week, our Parish Administrator, D-L Casson, sends out eBlasts on Fridays and publishes 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 continued to write spiritual reflections for the Friday eBlast.

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 two Facebook pages -- one page for videos of services (1,300 followers) and one for our Friends (722 followers). Our church's ambitious schedule of 15 weekday prayer services uses Facebook Live to

broadcast their services. Sunday 10:30am worship services and special services are shared via video using both YouTube and Facebook with the help of Will Landis at the control panel. Those video broadcasts are available live and, afterwards, on demand. If you have a smart TV, you can probably use it to watch our services on YouTube in the comfort of your easy chair. We estimate an average of 75 people watch our worship services every Sunday via the Internet and that our prayer services have 45 viewers each week and a "reach" of ten times that.

Every two weeks, SsAM's Social Media team -- Sharon Bryant, David Christopher, Ken Francis, Christina Brennan Lee, and Danny Schweers -- meets to review our efforts on Facebook and Instagram (289 followers). If you use another social media outlet regularly, please let us know.

On a side note, the hashtag #ssam brings up 30,000 posts on Instagram about Korean barbecue. If you are using hastags, please add a unique hashtag like #ssamDelaware so your posts do not get sidelined with Korean side dishes.

Scores of phone calls and emails go in and out of the church each day. While our church tries to limit communications going out, nothing is done to keep members from communicating in. We welcome your calls and emails!

--Danny Schweers, Chair, Communications Committee May 30, 2024

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEEE
2023-24

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. The following information covers many of these areas of outreach.

AIM Fund. We continue to take a special collection on the first and third Sunday of each month, along with mail-in contributions. In 2023, donations to AIM, including scholarship donations, amounted to over $8,000, with an additional $4600 collected through May of 2024. Expenditures were $7,000 for college scholarships, contributions to Lutheran Community Services and the Camp Arrowhead building renovation fund, and a Camp Arrowhead camping scholarship to Karter Saterfield. On months with five Sundays, we take a special "yellow hat" collection on the fifth Sunday for Habitat for Humanity. The committee is exploring other opportunities to work with Habitat for Humanity in the future; this initiative is being headed by Sylvia Banks.

We rejoice in the continuous generosity of SsAM members through the many in-kind and monetary donations that are received each week. In order to better coordinate in-kind contributions at SsAM, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and the Community Advocacy Committee have joined together to promote a new ministry called "Meet the Need." Both groups work very hard to sponsor collections that address the rising cost of living and how this impacts those in need for food and other life necessities.

Feed the Hungry. The rise in food insecurity — lacking enough food to live a healthy, active life — is steadily increasing. Food valued at about $500 was collected from SsAM member donations. This was donated to Friendship House's transitional housing units and to Bill Perkins' work with low-income folks and four Venezuelan families. In addition, in January we collected coffee, tea, sugar and creamer for Friendship House and Sojourner's Place to use in welcoming clients to their programs. More information can be found on SsAM's website; click here http://www.ssam.org/feed-the-hungry/ to find the local

food pantry closest to you and learn how you can help. This is an important ministry at SsAM that continues throughout the year.

Undee Sunday. Thanks to SsAM's affiliation with Friendship House (FH), we are able to provide support to those in Wilmington who have found transitional housing through FH and through its daytime centers. During November, the Community Advocacy Committee organized our annual Undee Sunday. Members of SsAM donated 46 sets of thermal underwear plus regular underwear for Friendship House clients and the Clothing Bank

Outreach at Christmas. SsAM members generously gave to the Angel Tree project in December. This year we were able to provide $75 gift cards to the 30 women participating in Friendship House's transitional housing program. In addition, several members of the parish purchased gifts for 18 children of these women. In early December, Chuck Bean delivered four boxes of Christmas decorations and ornaments to the transitional houses to brighten their surroundings. Shawn Helmick, coordinator of the transitional housing program, spoke to our members on January 21st about this program.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Campaign. We held a hat, gloves and scarf collection which covered the cold months of January and February. Some of the items are being stored at church when an individual comes in on a Saturday or Sunday. The remainder was donated to the FH Empowerment Center. This collection replaced the Christmas gifts collected in the past for the Sunday breakfast, which has been replaced by "to go" food bags and coffee.

Canon Casson Scholarship Program. The Community Advocacy Committee awarded two scholarships in 2023 to Gianna Hernadez and Caiden Smith. We hope to have a few more graduates apply in 2024.

Community Listening Sessions. On May 19, members of SsAM joined Rashita Lewis, Kim Eppeheimer, and Bill Perkins in a discussion of how our congregation can help as we see a rise in the number of those who are unhoused, and those who are struggling financially, here in Wilmington, across the state, and nationally. The sessions were recorded and Father Burke and the Vestry would like to hear any comments you have regarding this issue. For those who were unable to attend, the sessions were recorded and are available for viewing via a private YouTube link, available from D-L Casson.

Code Purple and Code Orange. SsAM provides space for Friendship House to host Code Purple (when temperatures fall in the low digits) and Code Orange – a new outreach that began in 2023 and continued during the high heat days in June and July. SsAM 's auditorium provides a place for people to cool down and escape the heat from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays when temperatures or heat indices exceed 95 degrees (exact temperatures to be determined). On other days, the Empowerment Center @ SsAM is available for this ministry. Similar to Winter Saturday Hospitality, there will always be a staff member present to work with volunteers. SsAM has begun to assemble an on-call team to be ready if there is need. If you are interested, please contact D-L Casson.

New Program: Laundry and Showers for the Homeless. Friendship House has started offering showers and laundry services at their empowerment center in the basement of SsAM. ITEMS NEEDED: laundry detergent, laundry bags, laundry sheets, commercial Oxi-Clean; wash cloths, bath towels. SsAM is contributing to the cost of the program. To start, laundry will be offered two days a week with a volunteer needed from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Friendship House hopes to add a third day in the future. They also plan to offer showers three days a week with a volunteer need from 2:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Days are to be determined. If you would be interested in either of these opportunities, please let Cassandra Bryant at Friendship House know!

Mobile Medical Unit is now available 8 a.m. to noon every other Wednesday in our parking lot, 713 N. Shipley Street. The Christiana Care Mobile Unit provides full primary care services. This includes

immunization, acute illnesses, RX, referrals to see specialists, etc. The unit is also set up to do regular care (serve as the primary doctor for those who wish to see a doctor ongoing). Friendship House and Christina Care are partnering to provide this access to medical care, which began June 14, 2023. We thank the parking lot committee and Colonial Parking for supporting this outreach effort.

Individual Member Initiatives.

- **Friendship House Virtual Highmark Walk.** Sharon Bryant led the SsAM and Friends of SsAM Team for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, which benefits Friendship House. This year SsAM had 27 registered walkers, with 20 showing up for the in-person walk. SsAM's team raised $2,340 and $1,000 was added for reaching the $2,000/20 walker goal.
- **Epilepsy Walk.** 8 members of the Youth Fellowship and their families and friends participated for another year in the Epilepsy Foundation 5K run on June 01, 2024, at Glasgow Park in Newark, Delaware.
- In addition to delivering Christmas decorations to the transitional housing, **Chuck Bean** also paddled down the Brandywine to raise funds for Urban Promise.
- **ECW**. The Episcopal Church Women collected developmental toys for St. Michael's School and Nursery during December. In addition, they support the YMCA Home Life Center, Child, Inc., and the Home of the Brave. A **year-long "Clothing Drive"** to assist Friendship House and Sojourner's Place ended in December. 2023.

Support of Other Organizations. At the end of 2023, 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. 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 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)
- Faith Center $4,000 (The center provides 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. Parish member Rob Gurnee serves as the executive director of Lutheran Community Services who administers Faith Center.

Providing Space for Meetings of Other Advocacy Organizations. Providing Space for Meetings of Other Advocacy Organizations. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has a separate meeting room in the lower level of our building, which is used five days a week. Other organizations that periodically use our facility for meals and meetings include Delaware Choral Arts (DCA), the Wilmington Children's Chorus, Friendship House, Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice, Network Delaware, and the Shipley Lofts – Chris White Development Corporation. The Boysie Lowery Living Jazz Residency was held at SsAM in June, 2023, Wilmington Black Storytellers Residency; Greater Experience Worship Center; Sneham Association (soup kitchen); Delaware Poor People's Campaign.

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 is constantly astonished by the grace demonstrated in your giving. Thank you so much for everyone's participation. 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. We miss the input of three of our committee members who have moved away: Mary Anne Edwards, Dariel Janerette, and Athena Jolly.

Renee Andrews-Delaine
Sylvia Banks
Shirley Bynoe
Eudel Drain
Laura Eisenman
Retha Fisher
John Goodill
Sandy Holt
Mary Ellen Knothe
Phil & Susan Murphree
Alice Sawyer

Alice Smith, Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MINISTRY AT SsAM
Annual Report: 2023 – 2024

The Environmental Justice ministry at SsAM is part of Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice (DCR4EJ). DCR4EJ is co-facilitated by Dora Williams and Linda Whitehead. Below are some highlights of the 2023 – 2024 year's work.

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 SsAM or meets virtually via Zoom. The group uses the Jemez principles to Democratic Organizing and the Principles of Environmental Justice to shape how we work together with each other.

Major activities this year included:

- October, 2023: A half-day Education Forum was held at SsAM for members of SsAM and the community: Several experts in the field who work in Delaware brought their perspectives to the panel discussion and individual presentations. Michelle Roberts, a member of SsAM who also is a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, preached in church that Sunday and also was the M.C. for the event.
- Feb. 29, 2024: The YES Conference is always a highlight of the year. YES stands for Youth Environmental Summit. This conference invites approximately 500 Delaware high school students interested in environmental issues in Delaware to attend. Students are in charge of planning, selecting speakers and workshops, evaluating the conference and planning for the next year. It is very inspirational to see 500 students passionate about stopping climate change work together to put on this conference. Workshops were offered on topics like tree planting, composting, coastal erosion, PFAS in your drinking water, etc.
- April 11, 2024: A delegation from DCR4EJ travelled to Washington, DC to the White House to meet with President Biden. He wanted to acknowledge the work of several residents in Delaware

contributing to stopping the climate crisis. He also asked for our help spreading the word about the infrastructure bill. And he threw in a tour of the Oval Office which we understand is a rare event.

- June 19, 2024: A newly recognized federal holiday, Juneteenth, was celebrated with a meeting totally dedicated to the work going on in communities to support environmental justice.
- Communities within Delaware continue to reach out as needed to DCR4EJ. Most active are the Route 9 corridor and the Claymont area. Community members typically work first at building relationships in their local communities and then go further as needed. The Route 9 corridor includes two large chemical plants (Croda and FujiFilm) which have both been reported polluters. The local community meets with Croda representatives to brainstorm solutions such as alarms at the time of a chemical spill, etc. Similar solutions are being brainstormed with the community of Claymont.

You are welcome and encouraged to join us at our next meeting. Meetings happen every third Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm at SsAM or virtually via zoom. Email delawareconcerned4ej@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dora Williams and Linda Whitehead

Report of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Episcopal Church Women of STS Andrew and Matthew completed several fundraising projects during September, 2023 through June, 2024 :

PRIMEROS PASSOS: This collection was for the Episcopal Church Women of the State of Delaware, consisting of classroom supplies, diapers,l and teacher supplies for this bilingual school organization that is now housed in it's own building. The school was previously housed at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Georgetown. As this was an ECW State event, we did not do a monetary assessment but we did deliver 15 boxes of the supplies requested at the annual meeting.

CLOTHING DRIVE: This drive ran for the current year and supported the Friendship House Clothing Bank and Sojourner's Place. We also took clothing to Goodwill Industries because the clothing was not the type that Clothing Bank needed. Also there was such a great response from our congregation that Sojourner's asked us not to bring anymore clothing as they were inundated with clothing items. We had twenty of our parishioners donate to this cause.

BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT CAMP : It was brought to our attention by Judi Gregory, that Camp Arrowhead could use funds to help sponsor scholarships for needy children. We took on this project and decided that the Book Sale that Anne Gibson suggested we hold, the funds collected from this event be donated to Camp
Arrowhead. We received over one thousand books that were donated from our church family. As a result, we made a monetary donation to Camp Arrowhead of $1096. Although we did not sell all the books, we feel this was a great result.

The remainder of the books were donated to our "Peggy Shane" Library in our church Crypt Hall; Friendship House; Katy Soukup; and several nursing homes.
Again we thank SsAM family for their tremendous support.

ST. MICHAEL 'S DAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY:
We decided to ask St. Michaels what there need was for the children they have enrolled in the school and their reply was a need for "Developmental Toys. In that collection we received twenty boxes of said items and a monetary donation of $105. Mrs.Lucinda Riss and staff were very grateful for this donation. As always, we are thankful to our spiritual family at SsAM for their help in serving our community.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES: I received a call from an employee of this organization requesting our help in gathering toiletries for the community they disburse food to. They found that most of the people needed toiletries as well as food. The items needed were: tooth brushes, tooth paste, dental floss, paper plates, disposable cutlery, paper towels, napkins, small bottles of lotion, Vaseline, Chapstick, combs and brushes, socks, wet wipes, small packs of tissues, and nail clippers. We completed this project in January of this year and as always, they were very happy with what they received. Thank you SsAM family. We will consider this project in the near future.

PROJECTS TO COME: We are currently working on a Survey to be sent to our members, especially the women in our congregation to determine other needs to be fulfilled as we continue or work in Mission and Ministry. This survey will be mailed out in late August or early September of 2024. So ladies be looking to receive it and return in a timely manner in order that your suggestions can be received and acted upon as the need arises.
"Also, as the Ministry of Women in the Episcopal Church here in America, goes back for centuries, the history of the Women's movement within the Episcopal Church is fascinating and it behooves us to become more familiar with that history because all women and girls are members through their Baptism, Confirmation or Reception. Our goal for the future is to actively seek young girls especially from our Youth Group to indoctrinate them as to what we do and wh

WOMEN'S RECOGNITION PROJECT AND LUNCHEON: This is very important to ECW at SsAM in order that we recognize those who came before and gave their time and talents to make our ECW as effective as it is in our Church and our Community and maybe get suggestions from them on what children may need us to do for and with them. So as we continue the work that we are lead by the Spirit to do in serving others, we appreciate all the blessings that have helped us do that work.

And as our ECW prayer states:

> *ALMIGHTY GOD we pray that you will bless our work In mission and ministry in our world to help us pray fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make known the power of love given through your Son, Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons of the past, and not fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world."*

Our current active members and by "active ", we mean those who attend our monthly meetings, on the second Saturday of each month from September through June each year, are: June Knight, Vice President, Mary Morgan, Treasurer, Secretary (currently vacant), Patricia Hampton, Anne Gibson, Mary Lou Edgar, Pam Peters, Paulyne Webster, Gloria Conner-Bungy, Judi Gregory, and Jackie Roberts.
I am asking the ladies of SsAM to prayerfully consider being ACTIVE in this Ministry. We need your help.

September, 2024 we will be electing new officers in this very worthwhile Ministry. Requirement for serving as officer's is, you have to attend at least one year of regular meetings.

Just a reminder, All women of the Episcopal Church are ECW. It's just a matter of participating actively in the ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ernestine Brock-Walker, President

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

The purpose of H &W Is to act as a conduit to help and support people from the congregation get appropriate direction for their health care services if needed. In addition. We take on projects to help the community at large, as well as present topics of interest regarding health. We encourage anyone from the congregation to join us in these efforts.

Present projects include:

1) maintain a defibrillator(ACD) at the church (note previously we trained church staff and a number of congregants in CPR). We would support another defibrillator to be permanently placed in the church as well as one on the first floor. There is Narcan available in the cabinet for intranasal use in case of a drug overdose near or in the church. We will need to add standardizing monitoring of the equipment.

2) support of Healing tree SCD- a program initiated by Reverent Pat Weikert- to help the community of people struggling with sickle cell disease and their families. This is a multi-congregational outreach in Wilmington. We aide in the NOURISH program providing and educating families on health food choices that benefit SCD and a Mentoring program for those transitioning from teenage and pediatric care to adult care. SsAM also is acting as an place to hold funds for that nonprofit (The Healing Tree) in their own non mingled account. There is a website https://healingtreescd.org/ and now 503c nonprofit certification. More volunteers are always needed and those interested can contact John Goodill or Chuck Bean or go to the healing tree website for more information. (http://healingtreescd.org)

3) June 9th John Goodill organized a seminar on End-of-Life Care Planning that was attended by 29 people. It was very informative and emphasized the advantages for your family to be aware of your desires at the end of life. This is a program that can be expanded to others in the future.

4) Sherry Goodill with Scott Serota and Ernestine Brock-Walker(chair of Pastoral Care) presented a seminar on June 30 on MIND BODY HEART SPIRIT AND SELF CARE AND COMMUNITY CARE. 18 people attended. This may serve as a framework for future program

5) Eudel Drain and nurses group did BP screening and discussed chronic disease especially renal Disease as a wakeup call for self-awareness and self-help.

We are open to other ideas and the help of anyone who is interested in this ministry. The more you give of your self the more is given to you. Please consider joining the Health and Wellness Committee.

We need Nourish and Mentoring Volunteers.

Respectfully ,

John Goodill and Chuck Bean

Report of the SsAM Property Committee

Members

Dave Clouser (Chair)
John Goodill
Cecil Gordon
Sharon Leyhow
Bob Richmond

Activities

The committee meets every fourth Tuesday of the month using a Zoom link set up by Bob Richmond:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85206233815?pwd=WLUaQyNqOQ63hwbBll0hLdW73gtXQy.1
(Thanks, Bob.)

Any interested congregation member is welcome to listen in on the meetings. The meetings are also recorded. Contact Bob Richmond for more information.

Our initial focus is in creating a prioritized list of property needs (repairs, upgrades, etc.) to help us create a Property Plan and Capital Budget. We walked through the building with Our property consultant, in November of 2023, with the focus on items that needed repair, and areas where we could mitigate energy costs. From that effort we put together a table of issues, prioritized them, and are researching cost and effort required.

Property Issues 2024-02-27 Version 2

Issue #	Issue	Location	Description/Comments	Cost Estimate	Priority	Sched.
	Sound and Streaming system	Sanctuary	Full upgrade	$28,000	Outreach - Invite-Welcome-Connect top	2024
1	Flooring	Choir Pews	Replace defective flooring	$2,500	Safety -top	2025
10	Replace Flooring	Chapel	Replace moldy flooring	$6,500	Safety-top	2025
n/a	Railing	Sanctuary	Men's side railing		wobbly	
15	Plaster Repair	Sanct.	Repair the plaster in 4 bays in sanctuary	$23,000	July 2024? Sharon to Check on past funding	2025

30	Improve on-line audio system for those using hearing aids	Sound System for on-line	Telecoil Feature to work with hearing aids and with on-line system	Have Quote: ~$18,000 but adjustable		
16	Lighting	Sanctuary/ choir area	Replace light with LEDs	tbd		
18	HVAC	Sanctuary	Replace 4 aging units	tbd		
23	Lighting	Crypt Hall	Convert to LED	tbd		
24	Carpet	Crypt Hall	Replace or clean carpet on ramp	tbd	Can we get a quote to replace carpeting	
7	Ceiling Tiles	Crypt Hall	Replace broken tiles	$500	Easy to do	
8	Paint	Crypt Hall	Paint walls and woodwork	$1000		
9	New Windows	Crypt Hall	Replace windows	$10,000		
26	Lighting	Chapel	Replace lights with LED equivalents	tbd	In process	
25	Lighting	Demby	Replace lights with LED equivalents	tbd	In process	
26	Lighting	Second Floor Hallway	Replace lights with LED equivalents	tbd	In process	
4	Stucco	GOP	Replace or repair peeling stucco	$8,500		
n/a	Bench	GOP	Repair or replace bench			
n/a	Red door	Narthex	Add insulation			
5	Window Shades	Auditorium	Add Blind or shades to 12 auditorium windows	$6,700		
6	Room Divider	Auditorium	Add a sliding wall room divider or equivalent	$2,000		
11	Rebolt Pews	Chapel	Re-bolt pews to floor	tbd		
12	Paint	Chapel	Paint woodwork and walls	$500		
13	HVAC	Chapel	Improve ventilation	$3,000		
14	Signage	Outside	Replace outside signage with electronic, flexible…	$10,000		
2	Balcony Railing	Sanct. Balcony	Add balcony Railing	$4,500		
3	HVAC	Narthex	New HVAC	$10,000	David will	

					Check w/Paul	
19	Floor	Auditorium	Refinish wood floor	tbd		
20	Storage Area	Auditorium	Figure out how to make it presentable – Partitions. Storage corrals move some to stage after clearing. Table and chair carts	tbd	Check storage room to see if items can be stored there	
21	Refrigerator	Kitchen	Get rid of white refrigerator	tbd	Defrost or dispose	
22	HVAC	Crypt Hall	Cut off heat feed to heaters in Crypt Hall	tbd	Check w/DL to turn off radiators	
25	Exterior Trim	Chapel	Repair and paint exterior trim	tbd	Bob Oates carpentry repair	
27	Carpet	Children's Wing	Carpet is worn, replace?	tbd		
28	Entrance Way	Red Doors	Insulation vs new HVAC	tbd	Bob Oates	
29	Carillion	Balcony	Permanent Mount for Carillion			
n/a	Water	Chapel	Water comes in door			
n/a	Code	Children's second floor bathroom	Not up to code			2027
n/a	Kitchen Reno	Children's Wing	Need an uplift.			2027

We are meeting to refine the list.

Notes

We promoted the Sound and Streaming issue to this year's top priority, because of serious problems with the system that disrupt both local sound in the sanctuary and streaming services and recordings. We bid the proposal (with exceptional help from David Christopher and Father Patrick, thanks!). Of the two respondents we chose Mid-South Audio, LLC. The vestry approved the choice and the amount ~ $28,000, for the core upgrade, and we have made the down payment and have scheduled the project with Mid-South. The funds come from the Property Set-aside from the proceeds of the sale of the SsAM rectory. The committee is also submitting a Barnabas Grant request to the diocese to help defray the expense. We are hopeful that the upgrade can be in place soon.

There are optional elements in the proposal at additional cost of which we deferred consideration until next year. However, Mid-South agreed that as part of the core upgrade, they would install any

additional wiring that the options require.

Related to the sound system upgrade, Bob Richmond is investigating how to get the Telecoil sound loop for hearing-impaired listeners upgraded as well, and integrated into the new system.

Automatic Electronic Defibrillator

John Goodill is investigating what we should do with our AED system. We currently have one AED which moves between upstairs and downstairs, depending on where the largest gathering of parishioners is. John is looking into a second AED, so there can be one on each floor in a well-known location, and into a regular maintenance program.

Garden of Praise Bench

Jim Ballard has reached out to the committee with a proposal about replacing the benches in the GOP.

Handicap Parking Spots

The committee and the Vestry will be working on a proposal for the repainting of the 5 SsAM parking spots on Shipley St. to include one or more van-accessible handicap spots. The Sr. Warden also has a call to the City of Wilmington about repurposing the metered spots on Shipley in front of the church as handicap-accessible spots. The committee will follow up on that as needed.

Miscellaneous

At the request of the Sr. Warden, the committee is investigating hiring a building inspector to inspect the facility for code and safety purposes, generating a report that can guide us as we execute on the issues in the table above. In particular, we have bathrooms and a kitchen upstairs, as well as the need for handicapped access to the children's wing, which needs to be addressed as our youth group grows and we make use of the facilities there.

We hired a welder to repair the altar railing, and now know a shop we can call on to do welding repairs and wrought-iron railing work as needed.

DL has been active in having lighting replaced with LEDs where possible.

2023-24 SsAM Stewardship Committee Report

Members: John Goodill, Chair, Danny Schweers, Dan Edgar, Patty Greene, Sharon Leyhow, Patrick Burke, Rector.

Totals:

121 pledges – Achieved 100% participation goal.

$430,000.00 pledged

Theme – Rooted in Abundance

Important areas of focus:

-Intensive focus on Stewardship campaign during Season of Creation (Oct-Nov)

-Purposeful emphasis on Participation in any way over a strict financial accounting

-Messaging from various Ministries during the campaign (ECW, H/W, Community Advocacy, Invite-connect-welcome, Music, Children/youth, Environmental Justice, and Lay/Clergy leadership) to make it clear to what we are contributing.

- Sharing the Ministries' messages in the Weekly Vision and weekly eblasts worked well and was an important part of the overall communication plan for the campaign.

-Use of a large thermometer icon to track the progress of the campaign

-Non-financial youth pledging – engaging youth ministry and youth to participate in stewardship campaign in variety of non-financial giving connected them to the campaign.

-Concept of attending to aspects of stewardship all year long via monthly messaging from various Ministries.

Commentary:

- Generally successful stewardship campaign
- Helped by excitement and energy around the new rector.
- Idea of 100% participation especially important as well as reminder 'it is in giving (of anything) that you receive.'
- Did not have good follow through on year-round stewardship effort.
- Will be important to appoint/engage this year's committee and congregation at large early to assure ongoing stewardship success.

Submitted by:
John Goodill on behalf of the 2023-24 SsAM Stewardship Committee

Necrology

Valerie (Nettie) Alexander
Gregory Conner
Barbara Davison
Leona Ellison
Janet Fielding
Rick Harvey
Gregory Huiner
Sherlee Love-Saunders
Tony Rand
Lois Ridout
Dana Robertson (staff)
Helen Yarbough