

SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2020

AGENDA

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Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by the Rev. Canon Dr. Peter Stube with a prayer.

Agenda: The agenda was verbally reviewed by Father Peter. A motion to approve the agenda was made by George Bishop, seconded by Antonia Greene-Edwards, and approved unanimously.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 11, 2018 annual meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes without amendment was made by Roger Holt, seconded by Bill Rhydderch, and unanimously approved.

Election of Vestry

Father Peter thanked Pam Dunlap, Bill Rhydderch, and Nancy Williams for their years of service on Vestry. He noted that although he didn't work with them for long, he appreciated the Vestry's sense of unity and ability to work smoothly together. A motion was made by Nancy Williams that Marie Clark, Mary Anne Noon, and Bill Reynolds be elected for 3-year terms to fill the vacated positions. The motion was seconded by Pat John and unanimously approved.

Election of Deanery/Convention Delegates and Alternates for 2020

Peter noted that the nominees for 2020 are the same as for 2019; Pam Dunlap, Karen Sawyer, and Mary Anne Noon. The alternates nominated this year are George Bishop, Connie Dee, and Judy Groben. Bill Rhydderch made a motion that these individuals be elected as our delegates and alternates. Chris Suhy seconded the motion, and a unanimous ballot was cast approving their election.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Randall

Karen Randall presented the Treasurer's Report. She directed those present to the document displaying Church and Nursery School (NS) results for 2018, and for 2019 through September as compared to the approved budget. The following was noted:

1. 2018 lost roughly 12k. This year's budget was set to be flat overall.
2. Pledges are running behind budget, but largely offset by plate income. Other recurring income numbers include the Nursery School assessment and investment income. Karen explained that the designated gifts income was for Dave's gift, and that a commensurate expense is included in the figures.
3. Expenses are basically on track YTD, with the exception of Parish Programs. That category is \$10K over budget, but includes the designated gift noted above, and Dave's brunch.
4. The Nursery School is roughly \$5k behind plan through September. Karen is working with Jackie to understand the reasons and reflect appropriate changes in 2020 as necessary.

Karen then explained the **Cash and Investment** accounts. The Operating Account (cash) is essentially float. A brief explanation of our investment funds was then provided. It was specifically noted that St. Matthew's has a new T. Rowe Price account designated as a youth scholarship fund.

A single large contribution was received in 2019 from a donor with the understanding that it would support youth programs, specifically Youth Mission. Therefore some of that income went toward the Youth Mission Trip funds, and the remainder was the basis for this investment. The income generated from the investment will fund annual scholarships for St. Matthew's youth.

We are fortunate to have the investment balance that we do, as we count on the \$714k to throw off investment income for operating expenses. That income helps us reach a balanced budget. However, some of the funds are also targeted for pastoral care, and capital projects. Karen explained that \$153k of the \$714k is in a "rectory" fund. This is the proceeds from the sale of the rectory. Those funds have been earmarked for expenses for hiring a new rector. These expenses might include: consultants, travel for prospective candidates, moving expenses for new hire, etc.

Stewardship Report: Karen noted that she has some concerns with the information shown here. Looking over time, we are consistently decreasing in both the number of pledges received, as well as the amount. Pointed out 2020 pledge now versus this time last year, and that we are significantly lower this year. It is critical that we receive everyone's pledges given timing with budget process, and what any rector candidates will read into this trend. Appealed to all to send in their pledge cards. We have a lot going for us, but the numbers trend is concerning.

Question from Bill Graham regarding total amount pledged in the chart versus number below which is noted as "calculated." Karen explained that the 2020 number represents pledges received to date.

Question from Geoff Thomas regarding what the "fix incorrect transfer" figure was on the investment account. Karen explained that money needed to be transferred to the operating account to pay for a capital expense that was paid from operating originally.

John McLaughlin noted that there must be a number of pledges that come from homebound members. That was acknowledged.

Any other way money is received except pledges? Yes, investment income, NS assessment.

Pat John made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kevin Randall seconded the motion, and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Senior Warden's Report: Chris Suhy

Peter introduced Chris Suhy, and expressed gratitude that he is in this role.

Chris expressed that we are working at more consistent communications regarding the transition process. The Profile Committee is chaired by Joe Buesgen, and Tim Walsh chairs the Search Committee. We plan on hiring a paid consultant to aid us through both processes, and our first interview is next week. When the members of the profile committee are finalized, they will reach out to the entire community to help the committee determine who we are without Dave/Jay. Chris expects the profile process to take us through spring. We should expect the timeframe for the Search committee to be about a year.

A question was posed as to how the members of the committee were chosen. Chris responded that they tried to get a good cross section of people across ministries, age groups, and other demographics.

Another question was posed regarding whether we are creating our own survey, whether that is necessary? Doesn't the Diocese have any starting points? Joe Buesgen responded that we are not

creating one from scratch. We will start with one already built, then tailor it to who we are specifically.

Additional question regarding the potential consultants: Are they from the Diocese? The consultants we are interviewing are recommended by the Diocese, but not employees of the Diocese.

George Bishop made a motion to accept the Senior Warden's report. Joanne Reiner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Interim Rector's Report: Peter B. Stube

We reflect Dave in that we quietly do many things with Outreach, etc. As a result, when the Bishop suggested Outreach within the Deanery, Peter happily pointed out that we already do a lot of outreach, but would gladly partner with others for these structured projects.

Peter suggested that we reach outside our norm, and talk about what we do and celebrate it. As a church, we are well beyond the average statistic of 20% of the people doing all of the work. He noted in his report that there are many things he was pleased to see we do so well. We should look to continue and expand. When we pray together, look to feed our passion, and perhaps discuss our potential angers. These discussion should help to fuel our endeavors.

Peter noted that the younger generation does not join a church unless they "make a difference." They want to see active engagement in the community and Outreach. We need our youth in church, and engaged. They are not just our future, they are our present.

Peter expressed concern regarding the limited opportunities for faith formation for adults. It does not appear to have been a priority for our church. While the Bible study groups and Adult Forum are fruitful, we need to focus on faith formation.

He knows we are very diverse, but the hallmark of our common life is that we love each other. Our diversity isn't a divider. We reflect the necessary compassion. Spiritual discernment helps us discover that we all have a voice, and we're at peace with each other when all are heard. It is a community process.

What's happened in the last year:

2019 attendance: has dropped substantially since January. The year of transition is not the year to go on "vacation." Being involved now is critical. This is the time to try new ministries, e.g. faith formation discussed earlier. Make sure we are paying attention to the younger generations, and how they process their realities. Maintaining vision is also a way to maintain attendance. Noted the numbers from the registers, specifically the Trinity Lansdale folks coming in.

Peter specifically praised our music teams and their individual skills. He pointed out his love for our Nursery School. He enjoys the experience of the children here, enjoys chapels once a month. The Nursery School is perhaps our greatest outreach to the community, and it is worthy of our honor and praise.

Sunday School program is unparalleled. The level of education and experience of our teachers is outstanding. Our children are learning the stories, not just the moral of the stories. They learning these stories so that in the future, they can apply them to their lives.

Final comments: Keep on praying, keep on praising, keep on serving. Remain a community.

Confirmation date: October 4, 2020 Bishop Gutierrez will be here to celebrate with us.

Finally, Anthony! Rich, brilliant vision for our children, their parents, and work in the community. Shares Peter's vision for formation, etc. Hope that we will support that ministry fully. Explained his hours.

Open to all:

Joanne Reiner thanked Peter for all of his work. Mike Acquaviva thanked Karen Randall for her work.

Karen Randall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Rhydderch seconded the motion, and it was approved. Meeting adjourned: 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Bedics

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY

AND

DEANERY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES

Nominations for Vestry for a three-year term beginning January 2021, are:

Nancy Austin

John Gill

Karen Sawyer

Deanery and Convention Delegates for 2021 are:

Trent Coombs

Connie Dee

Pam Dunlap

Alternates:

George Bishop

Judy Groben

Interim Rector's Report

With the imminent arrival of your new Rector in a few weeks, my time with you draws to a close. In fact, my last Sunday with you will be Sunday, November 22. This will allow you a few weeks of preparation before your new Rector arrives.

The time with you has been a joyful experience. You are rooted in Christ and in faithful community. You have a strong commitment to Children through your Preschool program. Jackie Anderson is a strong, faithful shepherd of the school and the children that attend. It rightly deserves its strong reputation in the area.

You are blessed with strong, faithful servant leaders throughout the church. You have a clear sense of how to care for and nurture each other by praying for, calling on, and providing pastoral care for each other.

Your vestry is a gracious community of people who prayerfully seek to know the mind of Christ as they oversee the business of the church. Your wardens are wise and lead by serving; Chris Suhy, Chris Strittmater, and Bill Reynolds. Karen Randall is an exceptionally gifted treasurer and budget planner. Joe Buesgen has been our salvation around sustaining worship in a pandemic, devising ways of communications. Tim Walsh spent most of this year co-leading the Search Committee with Karen Sawyer. They led this parish through this process incredibly well. Tim is also the Outreach Chair. Marie Clark has played a significant role in the re-forming of parish lifelong learning. Mary Anne Noon has lent her expertise to our communication work. Tim Jennings quietly goes about the work of caring for the church property and, with Bill Reynolds and a few others, making repairs. Chris Strittmater, Tim Jennings, and Joe Buesgen rotate off vestry this year. They have offered faithful service.

In January (about six months into my tenure) we held a vestry retreat in which we did some strategic planning to provide new committees to provide infrastructure to assist your new rector in leading the church when he arrived. We created four committees; Education, Outreach, Socials, and Communication. These were added to other standing committees of Stewardship, Budget, and Properties. Shortly after these formed as we were beginning our work, the Covid-19 pandemic hit and we were suddenly having to find new ways to do the work before us. Your vestry, the committees, and our worship team were equal to the task. Carolyn Bedics, Joe Buesgen, and Anthony Carrella (our Communications Committee) quickly figured out how to move us forward as a church by creating new instruments for sharing with the church community information they needed in order to enter fully into worship and various studies for children, youth and adults.

Anthony and Joe had our online worship up and running in one week. They made steady improvements so that we could continue to function gracefully as a worshipping community.

Phil Lefevre and Martha Reynolds were undaunted by the necessary changes to how we must lead worship during a time when we were no longer able to be physically present to worship. Once we had established a new baseline for the worship experience; Joe, Anthony, Martha, Phil and I added to the Sunday experience, bringing back our singers in small numbers and adding a few instruments. I learned how to celebrate and preach to a largely empty church and then on Zoom and then again to a largely empty church.

Our other committees learned how to function using the internet for our meetings. The education committee brought all our lifelong learning under the same umbrella for the first time in a while. During the summer under the direction of Anthony and me, the committee did a thorough evaluation of our needs and programs to create a wholistic program with benchmarks and goals. We had to change how we did education for our children. Anthony and his team did splendid work in creating resources for families to use together to forward their faith formation in homes on Sunday mornings. Adult education set a time for Sunday mornings and has begun to

build slowly around and Episcopal program, “The Way of Love.” We felt that it was important to have this work done before the new rector arrived so that he can focus his attention on getting to know you all, and yet have a springboard to build on his gifts in Christian Formation.

The Social Committee has offered two parish social events. One was a Zoom Bingo party and the second an Oktoberfest for children with a live band and games. Sixty-five children and their parents attended the Oktober Fair!

The Outreach Committee has been looking at creating outreach strategies for the whole church community as you move into the future. All of these committees give the new rector an infrastructure on which to build.

Nothing in my preparation for ministry prepared me for the past nine months. Had I not had the incredible staff (one of the finest I have worked with) and vestry, the life and ministry of this incredible parish could not have continued. You all have been largely patient and supportive throughout this time. Thank you.

As you embrace the new ministry soon to begin in your midst, deal gently with your new priest and his family. Welcome them wholeheartedly, tell him your story so that he can merge his story with yours and you can discover together where the Holy Spirit is leading you, using the gifts and skills you now have together. It is time to sing a new song, embrace a new work, bear a new witness. If you hold too tightly to what was, you may not see what the Holy Spirit is going to do in your midst in the years ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you these 15 months. Every joy and blessing as you go forth for God.

In Christ,

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

2020 Treasurer's Report

	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>September 2020 YTD</u>		
			<u>9 Months Budget</u>	<u>9 Months Actual</u>	<u>Actual Better / (Worse) Than Budget</u>
<u>CHURCH</u>					
Receipts:					
Pledges	\$ 333,594	\$ 321,000	\$ 240,750	\$ 215,417	\$ (25,333)
Plate	\$ 22,922	14,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 13,995	\$ 3,495
Other (Recurring)	\$ 101,523	97,650	67,637	44,334	\$ (23,303)
Other (Designated)	\$ 7,590	-	-		\$ -
Total	\$ 465,629	\$ 432,650	\$ 318,887	\$ 273,746	\$ (45,141)
Expenses:					
Diocese & Outreach	\$ 34,012	\$ 35,087	\$ 32,070	\$ 30,020	\$ 2,050
Salaries & Benefits	258,031	259,985	190,894	116,010	\$ 74,884
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Property	111,691	83,600	63,930	48,239	\$ 15,691
Parish Programs	43,329	35,439	26,337	8,452	\$ 17,885
Office Expense	15,866	16,850	12,563	12,314	\$ 249
Total	\$ 462,929	\$ 430,961	\$ 325,794	\$ 215,035	\$ 110,759
Receipts Over / (Under) Expenses	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,689	\$ (6,907)	\$ 58,711	\$ 65,618
<u>NURSERY SCHOOL</u>					
Receipts	\$ 352,888	\$ 334,500	\$ 227,862	\$ 127,064	\$ (100,798)
Expenses	374,812	397,981	275,470	\$ 220,403	55,067
Receipts Over / (Under) Expenses	\$ (21,924)	\$ (63,481)	\$ (47,608)	\$ (93,339)	\$ (45,731)

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

Cash & Investment Summary as of September 30, 2020

Cash and investment summary:

Operating accounts	165,896
Memorial accounts	31,966
Endowment accounts	758,429
Total	956,291

Endowment accounts:

Vanguard - money market	80,475
Vanguard - Balanced index	242,409
Vanguard - Wellington	368,326
T.Rowe Price Dividend Growth (Youth Scholarship)	5,451
T. Rowe Price - US Treasury	61,768
Total	758,429

Endowment summary:

Balance - 1/1/2019	744,379
contributions	-
Capital expenditures	(6,979)
Unrealized gain	21,029
Total	758,429

Capital expenditures:

Profile Committee Expenses	5,480
Search Committee Expenses	1,200
Pastoral Care	299
Total	6,979

Stewardship Report

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2006</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2007</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2008</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2009</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2010</u>
PLEDGES	191	190	186	184	173
Total dollars pledged	\$364,112	\$401,970	\$417,974	\$391,211	\$363,605
Annual per household	\$1,906	\$2,116	\$2,247	\$2,126	\$2,102
Weekly per household	\$35.97	\$40.69	\$43.21	\$40.89	\$40.42
Actual Pledge Received	\$379,625	\$380,354	\$386,925	\$351,432	\$350,774

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2011</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2012</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2013</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2014</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2015</u>
PLEDGES	166	170	166	165	151
Total dollars pledged	\$377,795	\$379,923	\$364,670	\$358,854	\$356,411
Annual per household	\$2,276	\$2,235	\$2,197	\$2,175	\$2,360
Weekly per household	\$43.77	\$42.98	\$42.25	\$41.82	\$45.39
Actual Pledge Received	\$369,867	\$373,605	\$344,180	\$351,852	\$347,668

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2016</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2017</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2018</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2019</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2020</u>
PLEDGES	157	165	148	140	119
Total dollars pledged	\$362,092	\$383,419	\$362,576	\$342,873	\$297,124
Annual per household	\$2,306	\$2,324	\$2,450	\$2,449	\$2,497
Weekly per household	\$44.35	\$44.69	\$47.11	\$47.10	\$48.02
Actual Pledge Received	\$372,146	\$386,940	\$354,054	\$333,594	\$250,953

(as of 11/08/20)

2020 PLEDGE SUMMARY

Total Amount Pledged	119 pledges	\$297,124
Total Amount Pledged for 2021	64* pledges	\$223,542*

***NOTE: Pledge amounts calculated as of November 10, 2020**

**2020
PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION**

WEEKLY PLEDGE	NO. OF PLEDGES	PERCENT PLEDGE	TOTAL ANNUAL	PERCENT ANNUAL
Under 5.00	4	3.36%	\$712.00	0.24%
5.00 - 9.99	4	3.36%	\$1,760.00	0.59%
10.00 - 14.99	10	8.40%	\$5,785.00	1.95%
15.00 - 19.99	7	5.88%	\$6,480.00	2.18%
20.00 - 24.99	15	12.61%	\$17,275.00	5.81%
25.00 - 29.99	8	6.72%	\$10,800.00	3.63%
30.00 - 39.99	12	10.08%	\$21,010.00	7.07%
40.00 - 49.99	13	10.92%	\$30,436.00	10.24%
50.00 - 74.99	23	19.33%	\$67,546.00	22.73%
75.00 - 99.99	12	10.08%	\$51,060.00	17.18%
100 & over	11	9.24%	\$84,260.00	28.36%
	119	100.00%	\$297,124.00	100.00%

Carolyn Bedics

Parish Manager

Rector's Warden Report

What's happening now?

We began the year thinking we knew the extent of the work ahead of us - complete the Church Profile - employ the Rector search - and call our new Rector. They were daunting tasks, especially considering we have not done this in over 33 years! Yet we were prepared to do the work, and we began to imagine the many opportunities that arise with a new beginning. Excitement began to stir as we took stock of who we are, and tried to envision where God was leading us. In March it became clear that the Rector search was not to be our only challenge, as the full impact of the pandemic became known. Although this didn't deter our task at hand, it certainly did add another layer of complexity we did not anticipate!

I wish my report for this year only focused on the much deserved appreciation for the faithful and amazing work of the Church Profile and Search Committees. However, because of Covid, the work of those that helped us meet the challenges of the pandemic must also be recognised. Their perseverance to work through the many new Covid challenges was no small feat, and must also be commended. All of the church leaders and ministries should be acknowledged in the proactive ways they responded to the Covid pandemic.

Specifically, the **Church Profile Committee** managed to artfully reflect the essence of Saint Matthew's, and publish it in a report (please read the Profile Committee Report on the next page for the details around this challenge). The **Search Committee** accomplished their task with similar attention to detail, professionalism and skill, all while not ever being able to meet in person. They started with the excellent foundation provided by the Profile Committee, and sought out our new Rector (please read their detailed report on page 14). What an accomplishment during a pandemic that our new rector was able to find us. Both committees did their work with prayerful devotion.

Concurrent to the committees work, the pandemic forced the church to shift gears on many levels. How would we continue to worship? Continue our ministries? Operate a Nursery School? We had to learn how to do things we never imagined. Initially, it was necessary to close the Nursery School and cancel in-person services. Countless meetings, emails and prayerful consideration led us to learn new ways to worship "virtually." A "re-entry committee" was formed to consider the safest ways for us to operate. We experimented with outdoor services, and then back to in-person worship, "by reservation only." The technology seemed daunting to many of us, but fortunately we have some amazingly talented leaders at Saint Matthew's that were able to figure it out. This was not easy, and none of it just happened. There is no book on how to "do church" in a pandemic. The Diocese offered some guidance, but many decisions remained with the individual churches. Our church leaders rose to the challenge and accomplished what needed to be done with the help of some very gifted, skilled members of our church and staff. The patience and resilience of all involved, including the congregation, must be commended.

In addition to re-inventing how our church could worship and fulfill our ministries we needed to decide how, when, and if we would re-open our Nursery School. The Nursery School is one of Saint Matthew's largest outreach ministries which fulfills a community need like no other. Prayerful reflection, planning and the trust we have in our school director, Jackie Anderson, led us to the decision to re-open this past fall. It is thanks to Jackie's careful planning, and implementation of strict controls to follow CDC recommendations, that we were able to come to this decision. We are truly thankful for her work, as well as the work of all of the Nursery School staff.

Throughout this year, our interim rector Peter Stube has stood by and supported us, while encouraging us to grow. Undoubtedly like us, Father Peter had no idea what extra work and challenges 2020 would bring, or what

he had signed up for! We are truly thankful and appreciative for all that he has done for us. We thank you Father Peter.

What's next?

There is a palpable joy and expectation for what 2021 will bring for Saint Matthew's. It is with great excitement that we look forward to the arrival and leadership of our new Rector, Father Rodney Roehner, and his family just before the new year. What a marvelous Christmas present!

While we pray for some normalcy to come, the work of the church continues. We have already begun our planning for 2021. The Vestry is working on forecasts for next year's budget. We are thankful to those that have already pledged their support – and for their generosity to have increased their pledges for next year. The ministry leaders have begun to plan for continuing existing ministries, as well as considering what more we can offer. Saint Matthew's is truly blessed. I can't help but reflect on a favorite song that the Arise band sings, as Saint Matthew's Church echoes "We Stand in the Gap." Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Suhy
Rector's Warden

Parish Profile Committee Report

Formed in late 2019 the beginning of our rector search process, the Parish Profile Committee was tasked by the Vestry with defining who St. Matthew's is, and gleaned a collective vision of who we want to become. The Profile Committee was comprised of Jane Baker, Sheryl Barbin, Katie Brown, Joe Buesgen (chair), Marie Clark, Pam Dunlap, Jeanne Garrison, Jim Garrison, John McLaughlin and Kevin Randall. In December, at the recommendation of The Rev. Arlette D. Benoit Joseph, the Diocese Canon for Transition, the Vestry executed a letter of agreement retaining the services of The Rev. Melford "Bud" Holland. Bud worked with the Vestry and both our Profile and Search Committees throughout our transition period.

In January and February, the Profile Committee developed, organized, and executed a series of focus groups. Approximately 104 people participated in the sessions. The Profile Committee then codified the responses into a usable format, which was then used to formulate the structure of the Parish Profile and identify key elements on which additional focus/attention was required. The Focus Group report was also provided to the Search Committee in late February and was discussed with the Vestry in March.

In mid-February, we also engaged the services of Holy Cow! Consulting to help us formulate and execute a survey to further explore what was discussed in the focus group sessions. With the survey, the Profile Committee also hoped to engage parishioners who did not participate in the focus group process. We utilized Holy Cow's Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online survey designed to gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in a church. The survey ran through late March and collected information on a wide variety of topics from 125 parishioners. After the survey ended, a group representing the clergy and staff, the Vestry, the Profile Committee, and the Search Committee met with Holy Cow! to review the results. The Vestry and the Search Committee were also provided with the results in the hope that they will be able to make use of them in their work as well.

Throughout late February and early March, the Profile Committee actively worked on three documents: the Parish Profile, the OTM (Office for Transition Ministry) Profile, and the TMC Questionnaire. In late March and

April, our in-person writing and editing sessions were replaced by meetings via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. In April, we also had professional photographs of the church taken by Tim Schultz of Bright House Creative Partners. During April's Vestry meeting, a draft of the Parish Profile was provided for their initial review.

The Parish Profile was finalized in May and approved by the Vestry on June 9. On June 18, the Parish Profile and supporting documents were approved by the Bishop's office and made public. With that, our Search Committee began receiving applications for the position of rector at St. Matthew's

A copy of the final Parish Profile is accessible here:

https://saintmattsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Saint_Matthews_MapleGlen_Profile.pdf

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee held its kick-off meeting on January 3, 2020. The committee was co-chaired by Tim Walsh and Karen Sawyer, engaged Bud Holland as our mentor in the process, and included Roger Sumner, Antonia Green-Edwards, Nancy Williams, Gabrielle Pascuzzi, Connie Dee, Jon Clark, Manny Sevilla, and Trent Coombs as Committee members.

We worked in parallel with the Focus Groups, Holy Cow Survey, and Parish Profile Committee to gain an understanding of the needs of the parish and use those needs to formulate a consistent set of questions, to provide a fair and equitable form of discernment on each potential candidate. Using this plan, we were able to initiate the posting for the position on May 26, in the same week that the Parish Profile and OTM became official.

The following steps were put in place to use for each Candidate, with a decision point as to whether to continue after each.

- Receive and review the Candidates Cover Letter, Resume, and OTM
- Generate additional questions to close gaps that we identified in our initial review, and then request written answers for review.
- If satisfied to continue, schedule an Initial Zoom interview with the candidate. These were recorded so that team members unable to attend could watch later and comment.
- Compile a list of Skills, Experiences, and Attributes (Pro/Con) on each interviewed Candidate.
- Schedule a second Zoom Interview for the Candidates that had risen to the top of the discernment process.
- Invite the top Candidates to visit St. Matthew's for a third interview.

After completing each of the steps, conducting background checks and contacting references, receiving clearance from our diocese, and a visit to the parish in person, the Search Committee unanimously voted to present Fr. Rodney Roehner to the Vestry for consideration as our next Rector.

Saint Matthew's Nursery School

Saint Matthew's Nursery School has been a ministry of the church for twenty-eight years. The school serves children ages two-and-a-half to five. The two-and-a-half-year-old children and three-year-old children attend a two or three-day a week program, the four and five-year-old children attend a three-day, four-day or five-day a week program, either half or full day. This year, during the Covid-19 pandemic the school has an enrollment of 85 children and a staff of seven classroom teachers, four enrichment teachers, and seven teacher's aides. Our dedicated and caring staff provide the children with arts and crafts, singing, cooking, stories, academics and lots of love every day. The nursery school prides itself on the fact that it accepts all children regardless of their needs or abilities. The school staff works very closely with outside county agencies to ensure that students with IEP's (Individualized Education Plans) are reaching their goals.

We offer a physical education program, music class, chapel with the Rector, as well as library day for children in the four-year-old and pre-k classes. We offer Lunch Bunch every day from 11:30 – 3:00 p.m. and car line is available both at drop off and pick up times. In addition, we also offer the following enrichment classes: Mathemagic, Science, Reading Writing and Fun, Kreative Kids Art, STEAM, Sensational Art and Kids in Motion. Each year the school holds an annual Book Fair, a Family Event and a one-week optional camp.

During a typical year, the children are not only busy in school, but out of school as well. The three and four-year-old classes go on short field trips to the library, farm, nature center, theater for a play and police station. We also have many speakers that come into the school. The children have enjoyed the Horsham Police and Fire Department (with a fire engine), dental puppet show, Goldfish Swim School Water Safety Program, What Knott Farm petting zoo and a Whale-Watch program.

In our 28th year, our reputation is well established in the community. This is due to the excellent staff, caring parents and the strong support of the church and congregation. This year in particular we were faced with some new challenges in opening our wonderful school. We follow the guidelines set forth by the OCDEL (The Office of Child Development and Early Learning) and Department of Health. Our drop off and pick up is conducted outside utilizing both parking lots and taking each child's temperature. Upon entering the school each child washes their hands with soap and water before beginning their day. Throughout the day the staff cleans high touch surface areas both in the classrooms as well as the bathrooms. At the end of each day the Director sanitizes the entire school using a sanitizing sprayer and then the school is cleaned by the cleaning service. Moving forward we will continue to evaluate our playground looking at ways we can improve it for both safety and aesthetics. In addition, we are working on the necessary changes or improvements to become licensed by the Department of Human Services.

Please contact Jackie Anderson by telephone at 215-646-4466 or at her school e-mail address at nurseryschool@saintmattsec.org.

Jackie Anderson, Director

Life-Long Learning

SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

M a p l e G l e n | P e n n s y l v a n i a

NOVEMBER 2020



Last year, I reported to you on Saint Matthew's Youth Ministry. This year, in addition, I am blessed to be submitting a report on behalf the newly installed *Life-Long Learning Ministry*.

Between December 2019 and February 2020, The Rvd. Dr. Peter Stube, myself, and members of Saint Matthew's dreamed a big dream; that we might unite all of our community members together through *life-long*, intergenerational, faith-learning opportunities. While Saint Matthew's has always offered exceptional theological education and spiritual counsel, never have the programs been united under a common mission, purpose, or track. We were blessed to find a team of people who shared our vision and who wanted to positively impact the learning culture at Saint Matthew's in this new season. By God's grace, and with the blessing of Saint Matthew's Vestry, we began recruiting members of the parish to serve on a *Life-Long Learning Committee*.

This group of experienced teachers, catechists, and community leaders have dedicated themselves to our common purposes in the most extraordinary ways. Together, we have:

- Met with leaders of progressive Anglican seminaries, inviting their expertise on our initiatives,
- Crafted mission and vision statements for the educational programs at Saint Matthew's, as well as core values, leaning on our church-wide aims as a cornerstone,
- Researched and installed benchmarks of education for every age cohort,
- configured and implemented new curricula, and
- migrated numerous programs and resources to remote applications due to global pandemic.

On the whole, we are pleased to report that our *Lifelong Learning Ministry* is healthy, working well, and constantly innovating. Forged amid COVID-19, our ministry has embraced this liminal space as a time to reorganize, be present with our parishioners, and preserve beloved tradition, while also gently ushering-in the *new-normal*. Chris Argyris, the renowned scholar, educator, and organizational leader, once performed an important study, where he found that growing communities *must eliminate what prevents learning before [they] can learn something really new*. Argyris' discovery perfectly captures what our has LLLC has aimed to accomplish over these past ten months; we took our time to listen, study, and pose solutions for the *now* and the future, so that your education ministry might serve this community against all odds, and make way for all that is to come.

As we will soon welcome a new Rector to Saint Matthew's, we pray our careful work gives them ample room to partner with us and to *teach us something new* — as parishioners, as staff, as teachers, and as one family of God. Church, this is *your Lifelong Learning Ministry*, and we invite you to uncover how *you* are called to grow in the knowledge of God's unchanging love at Saint Matthew's.

Submitted respectfully on behalf of our stellar committee members,

Anthony Carrella | L.L.L Committee Co-chair, Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Life-Long Learning Ministry Overview

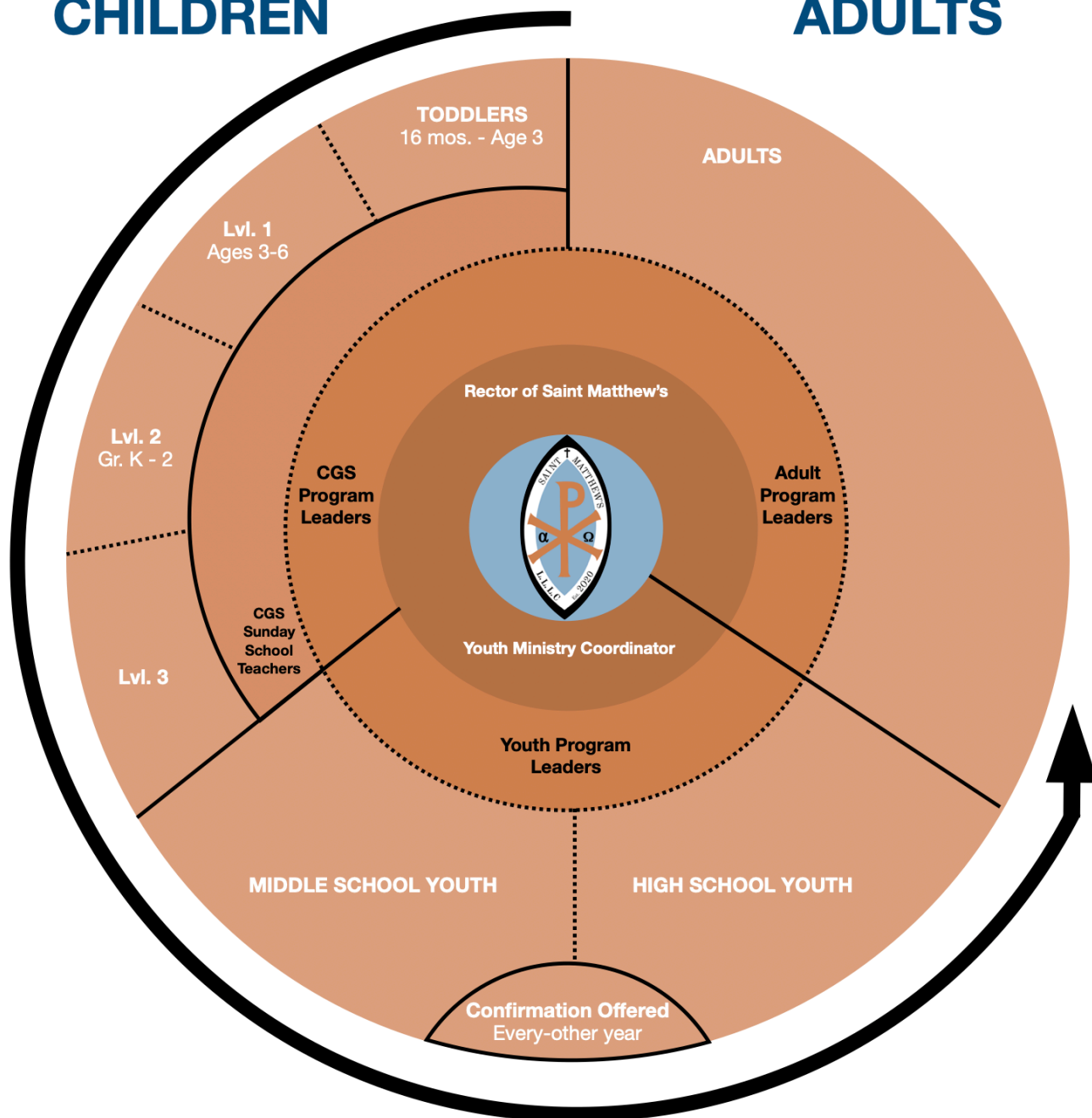
Co-Chairs: The Rvd. Dr. Peter Stube, Anthony Carrella

Vestry Liaison: Marie Clark

Committee Secretary: Judy Groben

CHILDREN

ADULTS



Program Area Reports

Sunday School Program

Program Leaders: Linda Baier and Judy Groben

Saint Matthew's has embraced the philosophy of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and has successfully implemented this work with children for nearly thirty years. The goal of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to nurture the child's relationship with God. The Catechesis accomplishes this through the use of manipulative materials, prayer, songs, listening to the Bible with the children, preparing children for full participation in liturgy and by giving them time to work with materials. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a religious education program based on the methods of Maria Montessori and Sophia Caveletti. Central to the catechesis is the atrium, a room containing beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key scripture passages or liturgical moments. After an introduction by the catechist, the children are invited to work with a material on their own to continue their meditation. It is the joyful, peaceful response of the children themselves that has inspired and determined the content of this unique program. In an attempt to get children into church more often, a puppet ministry was started on the first Sunday of September and continued until the first Sunday of March. From September 2019 to early March 2020, classes were held in the usual manner. As COVID-19 pandemic closed churches, changes needed to be made. The National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd announced that the presentations we are used to presenting in each atrium could not be presented on Zoom or any other virtual means. St. Matthew's six catechists gathered as a group to work out monthly programs that follow the guidelines and philosophy of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. For the month of September 2020, "Prayer" was the focus. A Zoom program is held with all Catechists and any child(ren) who wish to attend. Materials can be picked up and used to set up a family Prayer Table. Also included is a guide for family prayer, and activity sheets to use in conjunction with the monthly theme. Under normal circumstances, we gather around the Prayer Table in our atria, so the children are familiar with the Prayer Table. 20 kits were made for 20 families. Twelve were picked up. The month of October 2020 focused on the "Parable of the Sower". Again, the material included an activity of planting seeds on four types of soil. All supplies were provided along with activity sheets and further ideas for the month. 15 kits were put together. Four were picked up the first weekend. November 2020 will focus on preparing for Advent. Children will make an Advent wreath so they can begin to use it on December 1st. December 2020 will focus on Christmas, the Shepherds and the Magi.

We are one of very few churches in the country to offer all four levels of the Catechesis of the Good

- ♦ Toddler Level – (16 months – Age 3)
- ♦ Level I – Preschool (Ages 3-6)
- ♦ Level II – Primary (Kindergarten through grade 2)
- ♦ Level III – Senior (Grades 3 – 5)

Our catechists invite you to learn more about our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program by visiting Saint Matthew's Online, or by reading a complete longer report here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2w2hhzx>

— Linda Baier and Judy Groben

Y outh Ministry Program

Program Leaders: Anthony Carrella

Saint Matthew's Church is home to some of the most stellar young people I have ever had the privilege of working for. They are kind — they are good listeners — they exchange their thoughts and ideas with discerning hearts, and they strive to understand how God is working in their world. This church is tremendously blessed to be in the company of such observant, nuanced individuals.

Between November 2019 and March 2020, Youth Group was held once or twice per month in-person at Saint Matthew's: In November and December 2019, we envisioned how the small chapel space in the parish hall might become our meeting space. We all took our time working through a design process to sketch our ideas. 15 sketches were submitted, and we are looking forward to implementing those plans when the time for physical gathering comes again. We also gathered for Advent. 15 youth arrived at Saint Matthew's to cook dinner together (vegan chili), play a wild, cross-church advent-themed scavenger hunt, participate in a gift exchange, and share a short prayer service.

In January, on Superbowl Sunday, our youth were invited to a pre-Super-Bowl Party, and to lend a few thoughts to the parish profile. Co-led by Pam Dunlap on behalf of the *Parish Profile* Committee, we had five youth attend, and two parents.

In late February, moments before word of the pandemic spread, we took an adventure to King of Prussia for an afternoon at *Expedition Escape!* There were 11 of us there, including a few guests, parents, and we had a blast. We were able to escape the room, in a one-hour duration, with only four seconds to spare! Another highlight from the day: *You can tell your youth minister is still learning how to get around the area: Anthony made his way to Montgomeryville by mistake — but by the grace of God, and awesome help from parents, he found his way to the correct place eventually!*

Then, COVID-19 changed everything very quickly. Some time in the first weeks of March, we purchased a parish-wide Zoom account, so that the church's programs could be migrated to remote applications. I am pleased to report that during Sunday morning worship, there were a number of youth visible and engaged with the worship liturgy along with their family.

Between April and August 2020, Youth Group receptiveness and engagement was dynamic. My pastoral call and discernment guided me to hold a stable, relatable presence that supported the observed spiritual and emotional needs of our youth week after week amid the turbulence of the world. Additionally, I aimed to partner with youth at each gathering to invite the Spirit into one, if but brief, holy moment via remote. Indeed, our youth responded as honest people of God by offering incredibly potent prayers and petitions — and their questions — and their dreams.

- ✦ March and April saw three meetings total. Nine remote attendees were present at each.
- ✦ May saw three meetings over the month, ranging between three to seven remote attendees.
- ✦ June saw three or four meetings, ranging between two to seven remote attendees.
- ✦ July saw two meetings, ranging between two to four attendees.
- ✦ August saw one meeting, with two youth attending.

Additionally, throughout May and June, parents and teachers partnered me in producing an awesome, free Vacation Bible School deliverable. This year's theme was *ReNew VBS*, a creation-care program which framed sustainability initiatives through Jesus' *Parable of the Sower* — we chose this module because it was something you could produce in your own backyard with minimal effort, and with the option to add guests from your pods. Despite best attempts to put this program together, we found responsiveness to be rather

low — and that's okay. We're hopeful VBS might be live next year. If it's not, we hope the parish might give this another go.

Leading up to September, a robust communication was delivered to every child and parent on the church rosters, inviting them to join events in the program year. Middle and High School youth received a postcard addressed to them indicating our meeting times, and login logistics. I let our youth and parents know about our plans for the year — a mix between fun, learning when possible, and prayer. This Fall I offered a Bible Study on The Letter of James in the New Testament, which relays a number of Christ's core teachings. And in a rather timely way, invites us to learn about ourselves, and strategies for overcoming *trials and temptations*. At first, we received interest from three or four Middle Schoolers, and one High Schooler. The school year picked-up, virtual learning became a priority, and the willingness to participate over Zoom is somewhat low right now. We do have one or two committed young people to the study at this time, who are active in their participation.

The aim now is to listen closely to the need, and to continue building lasting, meaningful partnerships with youth. Several youth have underscored they are *not* disinterested in our programs, and are simply busy. Some have asked if I am disappointed in their attendance frequency, and I have told those youth something along the lines of:

Of course I'm not disappointed. This is your church, and it is always here. It is not going anywhere, just like your faith, and just like God's love for you. When you are less pressed with the obligations of remote learning, we will be here. Say a prayer when you can, connect with your heart once in a while for moment of silence. Check-in, and see how I'm doing, because I need your prayers too.

In the meantime, I continue to reference the most updated guidance, emerging trends, and best practices in youth ministry across the US to inform how and when we might begin to gather live and in-person. At the time of writing, the Diocese is said to be updating their guidance on COVID-19. Currently, while technically permissible under the most recent guidance, children and youth remain *strongly discouraged* from attending live parish events. There was a moment in early-mid October where a physical event seemed safe and possible, but as the beginning of November came upon us, my confidence in a safe gathering waned.

At this time, youth are set to receive an Advent Care package in the coming weeks to support them in the final stretch of their semesters. Additionally, youth will receive a communication introducing the new Rector very soon, with opportunities for gathering. Whether or not these will be live or remote is yet to be determined. I invite youth and family input on their COVID-19 preferences.

Finally, I invite you to join me in praying for our parish youth, their families, friends, and teachers as a regular part of your prayer life.

-Anthony Carrella

A dult Life-Long Learning Program

Program Leaders: Jon Clark, Karen Randall, The Rvd. Dr. Peter Stube

Our Saint Matthew's Adult Education (the 9:00 am Forum) was put on pause this past March since the pandemic changed the world, at least for a period of time. Out of a need for us to continue this part of worship and learning and with the guidance of Father Peter Stube and our Youth Minister Anthony Carrella, The Adult Life Long Learning Forum launched on September 13. During the summer, several members of our congregation were identified and formed the Life Long Learning Committee. We established benchmarks and researched curricula. After many prayers and discussions, our committee decided on beginning our Adult LLL experience with our Bishop Michael Curry's The Way of Love. The Adult Life-Long Learning Forum meets via Zoom every Sunday at 11:00 am. Our group, made up of our congregation and guests, focuses on a different topic from Bishop Michael Curry's 'The Way of Love'. Each week we are led by a different member of our Church who focuses on the topic given to us by Bishop Curry's outline. It has been a wonderful way to stay connected through prayer and worship while

enjoying an hour of discussion. The best part is that our group that meets each Sunday has actually increased in size! As our St. Matthew's future begins to come into focus, with a new Rector and the (hopefully) declining pandemic, our Life-Long Learning will be an important component of that next chapter. Please consider joining a wonderful experience in this relaxing learning and sharing setting of our Life-Long Learning Adult group.

-Jon Clark and Karen Randall

Weekly Activity Summary and a Note about Prayer Groups as of November 10, 2020

Payer Groups are led by individuals — dedicated servant leaders and elders throughout Saint Matthew's parish. While these groups are not led by or housed under the *Life-Long Learning Ministry*, praying in community is a cornerstone of our ministry's values. Click an activity title to join on Zoom if you're reading this online. Fr. Peter lends:

An ever-deepening understanding of the need to pray and how to pray, individually and corporately. Paul writes, "Pray without ceasing . . ." and "... for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." God is ever present with us, teaching us to pray and answering when we call, transforming our lives and the lives of those around us. When we are overwhelmed God, the Holy Spirit prays in our stead. In contemplative prayer our deep calls out to God's deep.

MONDAY

[Monday Bible Study at 7:00 PM](#)

TUESDAY

[Prayer and Share Gathering at 7:30 PM](#)

WEDNESDAY

[Noonday Prayer at 12:00 PM](#)

[Youth Groups at 5:00 PM \(HS second Weds., MS third Weds., Combined proceeding Weds.\)](#)

THURSDAY

[Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM](#)

SUNDAY

[Sunday School, Second Sundays at 8:45 AM](#)

[Adult Life-Long Learning Forum at 11:00 AM](#)



Saint Matthew's Giving History as of December, 2019

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts--Pledge</u>	<u>Receipts--Plate</u>
1974	16,409	3,512
1975	20,144	4,459
1976	26,794	3,936
1977	31,236	4,958
1978	45,214	5,412
1979	49,925	6,917
1980	56,759	6,586
1981	63,902	5,322
1982	72,123	4,415
1983	105,255	7,735
1984	114,664	9,765
1985	114,379	9,388
1986	120,483	9,820
1987	127,695	11,553
1988	129,398	14,581
1989	151,895	15,524
1990	146,641	15,282
1991	166,586	13,989
1992	170,227	11,052
1993	169,053	22,358
1994	175,078	21,716
1995	187,452	24,259
1996	179,441	17,417
1997	202,905	15,959
1998	209,003	19,148
1999	250,511	15,374
2000	289,054	15,353
2001	287,672	21,243
2002	282,449	18,466
2003	274,664	26,861
2004	295,361	19,506
2005	342,652	17,393
2006	379,626	19,670
2007	380,354	31,189
2008	386,925	25,790
2009	351,432	13,978
2010	350,774	25,315
2011	369,867	23,879
2012	373,606	23,033
2013	344,180	18,975
2014	351,852	16,529
2015	347,668	15,526
2016	372,146	24,362
2017	386,940	16,050
2018	354,054	29,124
2019	333,594	22,921

Saint Matthew's Attendance History - As of 6/09/2019

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>Sept.-June</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Avg.</u>
1973	7,051	136	1972-73	5,826	146
1974	7,271	140	1973-74	6,174	154
1975	7,904	152	1974-75	6,919	173
1976	7,913	152	1975-76	7,082	177
1977	9,167	176	1976-77	7,783	195
1978	9,483	182	1977-78	8,467	212
1979	10,430	201	1978-79	8,953	223
1980	10,949	211	1979-80	9,545	239
1981	11,320	218	1980-81	9,740	244
1982	11,518	222	1981-82	9,767	244
1983	11,346	218	1982-83	10,027	251
1984	10,927	210	1983-84	9,322	233
1985	9,741	187	1984-85	8,624	216
1986	10,018	193	1985-86	8,522	213
1987	9,961	192	1986-87	8,384	209
1988	10,107	194	1987-88	8,680	217
1989	10,529	202	1988-89	8,670	216
1990	12,960	249	1989-90	11,090	277
1991	11,448	225	1990-91	9,323	233
1992	11,405	219	1991-92	9,536	238
1993	11,313	222	1992-93	9,529	238
1994	12,432	241	1993-94	10,350	252
1995	12,780	246	1994-95	10,839	264
1996	13,082	252	1995-96	10,747	262
1997	13,143	253	1996-97	10,672	261
1998	13,791	265	1997-98	12,100	295
1999	14,075	271	1998-99	12,272	307
2000	14,100	271	1999-2000	12,313	308
2001	14,205	273	2000-2001	11,785	295
2002	13,672	263	2001-2002	11,946	299
2003	13,009	261	2002-2003	11,932	299
2004	12,787	246	2003-2004	11,427	286
2005	12,463	240	2004-2005	10,925	273
2006	11,978	230	2005-2006	9,472	243
2007	11,902	229	2006-2007	10,387	253
2008	11,159	215	2007-2008	9,613	240
2009	10,061	194	2008-2009	9,412	230
2010	10,446	201	2009-2010	8,279	202
2011	10,796	208	2010-2011	8,580	215
2012	11,010	208	2011-2012	9,331	228
2013	10,504	202	2012-2013	8,666	217
2014	10,283	198	2013-2014	8,216	205
2015	9,484	182	2014-2015	7,956	194
2016	10,584	208	2015-2016	7,892	206
2017	10,189	207	2016-2017	9,316	232
2018	10,391	199	2017-2018	9,101	219
			2018-2019	8,263	206

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS
NOVEMBER 2019 – NOVEMBER 2020**

Holy Baptism

Colin Scott Merrill	September 13, 2020
Elliot Jacob Butker	October 18, 2020
Paige Emily Broidrick	November 15, 2020

Funerals/Memorial Services

Richard O. Partington	December 11, 2019
Margaret Hitt	January 4, 2020
Virginia Wiant Parrish	February 1, 2020
Richardson funeral	March 7, 2020
Elizabeth Neu	November 1, 2020
Patricia Oram	November 8, 2020

Transfers FROM Saint Matthew's

Lynn Robinson	TO	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, PA
Kathy Farren	TO	St. Peter's in the Great Valley, Malvern, PA

Transfers TO Saint Matthew's

Alan Broadhead	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Karen Dennis	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Lorraine Flagg	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Wayne Flagg	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Pat Parrish	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Virginia Wiant Parrish	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Patricia Smith	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Ray Smith	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Joan White	FROM	Holy Trinity Lansdale, Lansdale, PA
Gilbert Smith	FROM	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Hilltown, PA
Josephine Smith	FROM	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Hilltown, PA
Jonathan Smith	FROM	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Hilltown, PA
Rachel Smith	FROM	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Hilltown, PA

Holy Matrimony

From the 2019 Parochial Report

Baptized Members	579
Average Sunday Attendance for the Year	181
Church School Students (All Children and Youth)	55

Property Committee Report

While church buildings and property were not in regular use due to COVID-19, the Property Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Manager, minimized spending while keeping up with any required routine maintenance or needed repairs.

In addition, members of the Property Committee have worked with the Parish Manager, Reopening Committee and Ushers to ensure that services, building use and events are compliant with COVID-19 protocols and guidance.

The Property Committee did not undertake any capital projects in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Buesgen, Tim Jennings and Bill Reynolds

Deanery

Saint Matthew's is a member of the Deanery of Montgomery, made up of fifteen parishes. Deanery representatives also serve as our Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. They meet with representatives from other parishes for fellowship, worship, and work sessions in preparation for the Diocesan Convention.

Deanery Delegates are: Pam Dunlap, Karen Sawyer, and Mary Anne Noon
Alternates: Connie Dee, George Bishop, Judy Groben

Vestry

Saint Matthew's Church, as all Episcopal Churches, elects a governing board called, "the Vestry". The Vestry is responsible for the financial and material affairs of the parish, and the Rector is responsible for the worship, program, and staff of the parish. Since the spiritual and material dimension of a parish go hand in hand, the Vestry works closely with the Rector and clergy in evaluating and carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ through this parish. The Rector's Warden, People's Wardens, and Treasurer, also known as the Executive Committee, serve as the Corporate Officers of the Parish and the Parish Personnel Committee.

The Vestry meets on the second Tuesday of every month and spends one weekend away every winter to plan and pray.

Outreach Ministries

The goal of our outreach ministries at Saint Matthew's is to assist and uplift those persons in need in our community, our nation and the world in Christ's name. We are currently accomplishing this goal by participating in a variety of local, national and worldwide ministries, as well as by financially supporting Episcopal funds and organizations that do the same. Our youth group, Sunday School, and Nursery School programs are also engaged in their own outreach efforts, and these are encouraged and supported financially by the entire congregation.

Listed below are brief descriptions of our current outreach ministries. We thank all those who labored in Christ's name.

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard

The Cupboard was founded by Mattie N. Dixon, a longtime resident of Ambler and a true visionary. In response to learning that people in her community were going hungry, she started serving families out of her basement in 1973. As word spread of Mattie's generosity and others joined her efforts, she moved to several other homes for her service, including Zion Baptist Church, Church of the Brethren, and 57 Butler Ave. In 2004, with help from the community and the Ambler Rotary Club, Mrs. Dixon was able to purchase their current building. This ministry distributes food items to families in need in the Ambler area and surrounding communities throughout the year. Parishioners deposit non-perishable foods in designated boxes any time they are able. These items are delivered by volunteers on a monthly basis to the Cupboard location in Ambler. There is also a special large collection in early November for Thanksgiving. Coordinator: **Nancy Williams**.

Feed the Hungry

The St. Matthew's community continues to contribute generously to the Feed the Hungry program. This allows us to commit to sending \$250 each month to Grace Bean Soup Kitchen at Saint John's Church in Norristown. As many as two hundred persons receive a nourishing meal on a regular basis through this ministry.

Coordinated by Parish Office Staff

Family Lenten Food Drive

Each year, starting on Ash Wednesday, there are grocery bags available to the congregation along with a list of suggested food items needed for donation. The filled bags are returned to the church prior to Easter for distribution to the families throughout the Philadelphia region. Unfortunately, the organization that we have worked with for many years for Lenten grocery bags, Concerned Parents Inc., was not able to accept food donations this year, but they did still need gift cards to the stores where their families shop. We continued our support in that manner, and we will continue to support this type of ministry in the future in whatever way is possible given environmental conditions. Coordinator: **Laura Meschio**.

Layette Sunday

This clothing ingathering takes place in the early part of each year. Clothing from infant through age 6 is sent to St. Timothy's Mission on Barnes Mountain in Kentucky, located in one of the poorest counties in the United States. The clothing is always greatly appreciated. **Coordinated by Parish Office Staff**

Adopt-A-Family

The Adopt-A-Family Program is an extension of the Interfaith Housing Alliance (IHA). IHA takes care of Hope Gardens, an eight-unit apartment complex in Ambler. These apartments provide transitional housing for families leaving the IHA program who continue to need help in establishing a permanent residence. A prospective family may find sanctuary at Hope Gardens for two years while receiving continued support from parishes such as ours. We provide supplemental rent support to a family during their stay at Hope Gardens and sometimes act as an extended family by providing continuous emotional support and friendship. The program is working well and the Adopt-A-Family Committee welcomes participation from volunteers in our congregation to provide

occasional transportation and babysitting and to respond to their special needs. We also provide Christmas gifts and occasional financial assistance in emergencies. **Coordinated by Parish Office Staff**

Diocese of Kitale High School Scholarships through Mwamba Foundation

Kitale is a largely rural region and lies in the north of Kenya bordering on Sudan and several other countries. The region is quite poor, and the diocese strains to help its 150,000+ rapidly growing membership. Mwamba partners with the Kenyan Church in order to offer scholarships to assist in the secondary education of girls and very poor boys in the diocese. St. Matthew's participates in this program, pooling our donations to sponsor students. It costs about \$400 per year to educate a high school student in Kenya. Each year, for the past several years, we have supported over a dozen students enabling them to complete their high school education. Mwamba Foundation is a separate non-profit, but our parishioners have always been a significant part of the governing board and our congregation is the largest single source of sponsorship for Mwamba Foundation. **We sponsored fifteen students in 2020! Coordinator: Karen Randall**

Operation Bear Hug

Operation Bear-Hug is a simple but powerful outreach program. On Christmas Eve, parishioners bring stuffed bears to the patients at Abington-Lansdale Hospital and Fox Subacute Nursing Care. For the very ill patients that need to remain in the hospital on Christmas, the kind words and prayers offer a bright reminder of the promise of Christ's arrival. On Christmas Eve in 2019, 21 volunteers distributed 65 bears at Abington-Lansdale Hospital. **Coordinators: Lisa & Tim Walsh**

Middle School Summer Service Camp (MSSSC)

Each summer, MSSSC takes place the same week as Vacation Bible School (VBS). MSSSC allows participants to spend their mornings helping the VBS teachers, and then the youth spend their afternoons performing service at various non-profit organizations in the area. For example, in 2019 they sorted clothing and donations at Cradles to Crayons in Philadelphia, as well as spent time with our home-bound members who are living in a local retirement community. Due to Covid-19, there was no MSSSC in 2020. We remain hopeful that the program can continue in 2021. **Coordinator: Karin Davis**

Episcopal Community Services (ECS)

For many years, we have supported ECS's Fill the Bus initiative, which supplied **over 700 students** with backpacks filled with all the necessary school supplies in 2019 to start their year. We have routinely donated between 20 and 30 completely filled packs, along with gift cards for teacher's supplies. The 2020 initiative was completely virtual through an Amazon Wishlist program. It is ongoing throughout the year.

In addition to supporting this specific program, we urge the congregation to prayerfully consider the financial support of ECS, especially as they reach out to support communities with disaster relief in times of need.

Pastoral Care Ministries

The Pastoral Care Visitation Team is composed of a group of parishioners who have had pastoral care training and who have an interest in serving in this ministry. Our mission is to visit members of the parish who are homebound, can't get to church very often, or just need a visit. These visits provide the recipient an uncommon depth of listening to their cares and concerns as well as prayer in the name of Christ through the community of Saint Matthew's. The team also alerts clergy and other pastoral care ministries when a parishioner has sacramental or other needs. In addition, the visits are often uplifting and enjoyable experiences for team members. The team members meet to serve as a support system for one another and to refresh our spirits. Clergy provides supervision and ministry support. Due to Covid-19 restrictions that began in March, we have not been able to make our normal visits, but we and others have helped stay in regular phone contact with our parishioners.

Additional members are welcome. If you're interested in training for this ministry or would like information about it please speak to the clergy or coordinators, **George Bishop and Treva McLaughlin**.

Eucharistic Visitors administer Holy Communion monthly to homebound parish members who request this sacramental ministry. Consecrated bread and wine are transported directly from the common table on Sunday mornings where a brief liturgy is offered. Ministers are trained and licensed by the diocese and serve three-year terms. Unfortunately, this program was suspended for most of 2020 due to Covid restrictions. It will resume once we are able to safely continue. Current Ministers are **David Brock, Pamela Garver, Mary Anne Noon, Carol Sable, Chris Strittmatter, Geoff Thomas**. **Chris Strittmatter** is the schedule coordinator.

The Flower Ministry at St. Matthew's operates as an activity within the Altar Guild. The actual placement of the flowers in the Sanctuary each week is undertaken by our designated florist, (The Flower Shop, Spring House), by arrangement with the Church office. The office also records details of requests from parishioners throughout the year for memorials, anniversaries, thanksgivings, etc., as detailed in the service bulletin. Parishioners are asked to defray at least a portion of the cost of the flowers they have requested. Currently, a minimum contribution of \$50 is suggested. This compares to an actual cost to the church of \$140 per week.

The Altar Guild's responsibility commences at the conclusion of Sunday services. The flowers are collected and rearranged in different vases for delivery to shut-ins or to members in attendance in recognition of service or circumstances. A large vase is also placed on the baptismal font in the narthex. This process took place through the beginning of March, 2020.

When the church campus closed in mid-March, and we no longer required altar flowers each week, this ministry was able to continue! We partnered with our florist to deliver flowers to two households each week. It was a perfect partnership that continued to support a local business, as well as offer a connection with our families, and a bit of sunshine in our homes. Flowers were delivered to 40 households during this time!

Flowers are a witness to the wonder of our Lord's creation and exemplify his bountiful gifts to us. Those who deliver to the shut-ins on our behalf each week report what pleasure and comfort the flowers bring to the recipients. It is a privilege to be part of this ministry. **Coordinator: Gwenyth Thomas**

The Prayer Chain members pray daily for those who have special needs. Prayer requests are made at any time by contacting the coordinators who rapidly disseminate information to the team. The prayer list is updated bimonthly. Coordinators are **Chris Strittmatter** wclktk@aol.com (215-412-3321) and **Judy Ermigiotti** judeermi@comcast.net (215-715-7465).

Intercessory Prayers are often held for healing, renewal and God's presence during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services on the first Sunday of each month. Either the clergy, or intercessors **Treva McLaughlin, Pam Dunlap, Melissa Brown and Chris Strittmatter** are available for personal prayer requests during the Holy Communion.

Parish Life Ministries

The Newcomer Ministry

Greeters can be found wearing red ribbon name tags around their necks. They welcome visitors and encourage them to sign our Guest Book.

For further information or to become part of the Greeter Team, please contact **Karen Becker**

Saint Matthew's Day

This is our annual picnic, which is held in late September each year. A dedicated group of individuals organizes this event, which traditionally features a feast including chicken barbecue, a whole roast pig for pulled pork, and

wonderful homemade desserts from our congregation. There are also games, pony rides, and a bounce house as weather permits! As with many events in 2020, this was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. We look forward celebrating Saint Matthew's Day in 2021. **The Coordinator for St. Matthew's Day in 2019 was Karina Caddick.**

The Coffee Hour Committee

Coffee Hour is a time when church members and visitors congregate between services, after Sunday School, etc. to have a cup of coffee and a bagel, and chat with their church friends and meet new people. Our staple volunteers are faithful, but when we return to the church campus, we could certainly use a few more volunteers for coffee hour set-up and also picking up the bagels. Contact: **Sue Acquaviva** (215-793-4381) or **Marie Clark** (215-793-0160).

The Knitwits

"The Knitwits" have traditionally met every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. from January through November for fellowship. They knit caps and scarves for seafarers, and along with other projects, knitted beautiful prayer cloths bearing the image of a cross for the blessing of the children's backpacks in September. They are missed by the office staff, who look forward to their return when conditions are safe! Coordinator: **Doris Hunsicker**

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

The men's group meets for breakfast, cooked by group members, on the third Saturday of each month from 8:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast is followed by Bible meditation and a time to share and pray. Coordinated by **John McLaughlin**.

Communications

Formed in January 2020, the Communications Committee works closely with church clergy, Vestry, office staff, the nursery school and ministry groups at Saint Matthew's. The Committee aims to provide timely, informative communications that reach all members of our parish and nursery school communities, as well as the broader community in which we are located.

Beginning on March 22, and in conjunction with our Worship and Music Teams, the Communications Committee has delivered a livestreamed worship service each Sunday to the congregation and community of St. Matthew's. When the Worship and Music Teams were not able to be physically present in the church due to COVID-19 restrictions, services were offered online via Zoom. Livestreamed worship services averaged approximately 250/views per week, with the highest-viewed weeks being March 22 (730+ views) and Easter Sunday (485+ views). With the return to limited in-person worship services on August 30, services continued to be livestreamed for those unable to come to the church.

During the pandemic, the Communications Committee generated multiple congregation-wide emails per week, notifying members about opportunities to worship and participate. The usage of social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to engage members of the parish and the community as a whole increased significantly in 2020. The Communications Committee has also continued to develop the St. Matthew's website, adding both content and functionality as required. Recognizing that not all within our community have access to social media or electronic communications, the Committee has continued with physical mailings when possible.

Website: www.saintmattsec.org.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintMatthews/

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is currently made up of 12 active members. When worshipping on site, we set the Lord's table for three services. There is a book that we follow, which affords us ease in setting up. We count out the wafers, measure out the wine, place all the necessary crystal or silver on the credence table in the proper placement. We fill the candles with oil, put up the hymn numbers, and decide to whom the flower ministry will send flowers. When everything is set properly, we put out the vestments that the rector will wear. Our team incorporates the colors of the vestments and altar according to the Episcopal Calendar in order to prepare for each service. A few members of our team are needed to clean and set up in between each Sunday Service weekly. Currently, **Caryn Brennan** does all scheduling for our team.

The Altar Guild also sets up for weddings, funerals and baptisms. There is always a lot to accommodate for each special service and our team provides loving attention to each detail to accommodate the needs of others for each service.

Our team is also responsible for preparing the Church for religious holidays, including Easter and Christmas. We work with vendors for flowers, plants, and bows for the holiday services. We organize the decorations, candles, and work with the florists to order and prepare for these special holidays. Our team also cleans and irons all linens for the altar weekly. **Contact: Susan Ricciardi**

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

Readers assist in the worship services by saying the prayers and reading scripture selections. The Eucharistic Ministers assist the priests at the altar by serving the wine or bread as needed. This ministry involves careful preparation of lessons and a review of prayers prior to Sunday services. Eucharistic Ministers must be licensed by the Bishop.

Serving as a Eucharistic Minister or reader can be a deeply spiritual way to take an active part in the worship of God in His church. Anyone from grades three and older interested in this ministry should contact the Rector to learn how to participate.

Coordinators: **Melissa Brown**

Music

The **Adult Choir** works on Psalms and anthems for the Traditional Eucharist service and special days of the church year, enriched by contributions from many fine guest instrumentalists, and supported by the strong presence of the organ and piano. It is a great joy when all these music forces join together on Sunday mornings and for special worship such as the Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, Palm Sunday and Easter Day services. While choir singing has been suspended for most of 2020, we have been fortunate to have soloists in the Fall, and look forward to the day when the full group can sing together.

Philip LeFevre, our organist and choir director, leads this group. Anyone interested in participating in the choir here at St. Matthew's should speak to Phil.

The **Arise Music Team**, made up of singers and instrumentalists, under the direction of **Martha Reynolds and Anne Flood**, provides music for the Contemporary Service including voluntaries, anthems, and congregational songs. The nature of this music requires an audition by interested musicians.

Acolytes

Saint Matthew's is blessed to have a faithful and enthusiastic team of young men and women who quietly serve the congregation as acolytes at worship services. We have periodic meetings and training sessions throughout the year. There are currently 7 members on our team:

8th Year	Olivia Baltzer	7th Year	Kathryn Raskay
	Maggie Clark	5th Year	John Gill, IV
	Ava Kaschube	4th Year	Dana Gill

This ministry is open to all young people who have completed the third grade and are interested in serving at the altar. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the acolytes to the rector.

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is located on the east side of our buildings, between the upper parking lot and the Parish Hall wing, and marked with a large granite cross. The ashes of loved ones are interred in one-foot square plots in the garden, and their nameplates are posted on the plaque on the outside wall beside the door leading toward the Memorial Garden. The brochure about the use of the Memorial Garden and also an application form to reserve space can be obtained in the church office if you are interested in future planning.

SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 Tennis Avenue, Maple Glen, PA 19002

www.saintmattsec.org

OFFICERS & STAFF – 2020

Interim Rector	The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube	610-304-2539 (cell)
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Life-Long Learning Co-Chair		732-599-8114 (cell)
Organist/Choir Director	Philip LeFevre	
Church Office Hours	9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Tuesday-Thursday) 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Monday and Friday)	215-646-4092
Parish Manager	Carolyn Bedics	
Nursery School Director	Jackie Anderson	215-646-4466
Bishop, Diocese of Pennsylvania	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez	
Dean	The Very Rev. Lynn Hade	

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden	Chris Suhy	215-833-6767
People's Warden	Chris Strittmatter	215-412-3321
People's Warden	Bill Reynolds	267-249-6429
Treasurer/Finance	Karen Randall	215-816-0655
Property	Joe Buesgen	215-290-1556
Property	Tim Jennings	215-343-1251
Finance/Property	Marie Clark	267-463-7212
Finance	Tim Walsh	215-380-1749
Parish Life	Mary Anne Noon	215-527-6385

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Sunday School Administrator	Linda Baier	215-672-3976
Children's Catechesis Coordinator	Linda Baier	215-672-3976
Coffee Hour	Sue Acquaviva	215-793-4381
Coffee Hour	Marie Clark	215-793-0160
Acolytes		
Ushers	Bill Reynolds	215-646-1483
9:00 a.m.	Trent Coombs	215-706-0572
Lay Readers	Melissa Brown	215-542-0529
9:00 a.m.	Pam Lang	215-721-1979
9:00 a.m. Music	Martha Reynolds, Anne Flood	215-646-1483
10:30 a.m. Music	Philip LeFevre	267-760-5264
Neighborhood Shepherds	Connie Dee	215-692-4243
Prayer Chain	Chris Strittmatter	215-412-3321
Prayer Chain	Judy Ermigiotti	215-715-7465
Pastoral Care Visitation	George Bishop	215-441-8056
Newcomers	Karen Becker	215-855-6473
Deanery Delegates	Pam Dunlap, Karen Sawyer, Mary Anne Noon	
Alternates	George Bishop, Connie Dee, Judy Groben	