

SAINT MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2019

AGENDA

	Page
1. Call to Order	
2. Election of Secretary	
3. Agenda.....	1
4. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, November 11, 2018.....	2-4
5. Election of Vestry and Delegates to Deanery and Convention.....	5
6. Treasurer’s Report.....	6-7
7. Stewardship Report/Pledge Summary.....	8-9
8. Report from Senior Warden, Profile & Search Committees.....	10
9. Report from the Interim Rector.....	11
10. Open to All	
11. Adjournment	
12. Organization Reports (submitted by title)	
Report from the Youth Ministry Coordinator.....	12-13
Property Committee Report.....	13-14
Giving History.....	15
Attendance History.....	16
From the Parish Registers.....	17
From the 2018 Parochial Report.....	18
Deanery, Vestry, Outreach Ministries.....	18
Outreach Ministries Continued.....	19-20
Pastoral Care Ministries.....	20-21
Parish Life Ministries.....	21-22
Christian Education – Adult & Children’s.....	22-23
Youth Ministry	23-24
Saint Matthew’s Nursery School	24
Communications, Altar Guild, Altar Flowers	25
Eucharistic Server, Music	26
Acolytes	26
Memorial Garden	26
Saint Matthew’s Officers & Staff.....	27

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by the Rev. David Robinson.

Election of Secretary: A motion was made by acclamation to elect Carolyn Bedics as secretary of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat John and passed by a unanimous ballot. Father Dave thanked Carolyn for her service as secretary last year.

Agenda: The agenda was verbally reviewed by Father Dave. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Karen Randall, seconded by Treva McLaughlin, and approved unanimously.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 12, 2017, annual meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes without amendment was made by Roger Holt, seconded by John McLaughlin, and unanimously approved.

Election of Vestry

Father Dave thanked Kim Brown, Jon Clark, and Ed Furman for their years of service on Vestry. A motion was made by Pat John that Karen Randall, Chris Suhy, and Tim Walsh be elected for 3-year terms to fill the vacated positions. The motion was seconded by Judy Groben and unanimously approved.

Election of Deanery/Convention Delegates and Alternates for 2019

Father Dave briefly explained the role of delegates to those present. He also noted that the nominees for 2019 are the same as for 2018; 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. Ed Greer seconded the motion, and a unanimous ballot was cast approving their election. Dave noted his gratitude for consistent, and willing leadership in this parish.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Furman presented the Treasurer's Report. He directed those present to the document displaying Church and Nursery School (NS) results for 2017, and for 2018 through October as compared to the approved budget. The following was noted:

1. Noted 2017 overall surplus of church and NS. The 2018 budget was close to breakeven.
2. Pledge running behind budget, but largely offset by plate income. NS assessment noted.
3. Other than Property, all church expense items are on budget. Expecting year-end deficit of \$10k on the church side, but commensurate offset in NS.
4. Operating accounts fluctuate throughout the year, but never below \$50k.

Ed then explained the **Cash and Investment** accounts, and the fact that the Money Market account is used to fund capital improvement projects. Started the year with \$742k in all accounts combined; spent money from these accounts on capital projects as noted; received unrealized gains, and ended with the current balance. The

capital projects which were completed were discussed. It was noted that in the past two years we have spent roughly \$50k per year on improvements.

Question from George Bishop as to how much of the funds are restricted. Response: none.

Dave noted that in the past 10 years, the average surplus each year is \$25k, even though it fluctuates year to year. Discussed how funds flow from operating accounts to investment accounts as makes sense. Went on to specifically discuss the generator project and its necessity. Also discussed railings work further.

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

Rector's Report

Father Dave first addressed the information contained in the Stewardship Report. Specifically noted were the following items:

- The trend since 2004 has been a decrease in number of committed pledges, through 2015. Although there were increases in 2016 and 2017, it dropped again in 2018. Dave noted that main reason is attributed to the number of parishioners we lost in 2017.
- Noted that when we are in the current pattern of increased plate, it often means that we will receive more pledges in the following year.
- Noted where we stand right now regarding 2019 pledges, and the fact that the Vestry will have to make a guess soon regarding where it will end up in order to finalize the budget.
- Noted participation and giving chart: worship attendance hovering around the 200 level. Total members then reviewed, which has decreased a bit. Plate/pledge has been fairly steady over this time period.

One theme this fall has been that we are gift-givers. We are a gift-giving community. Another theme has been that we create an alternative reality. It was noted that other areas of our community are run by mandates, e.g. school districts, etc. Much of our work is voluntary, without being so rigidly dictated and monitored. It is a wonderful thing.

Our community of individuals is very different, with different opinions and backgrounds. Here we come together in unity, in our desire to serve Jesus Christ. Noted several things that show that:

- 10:30 music leadership; recognition of Terry and Carol Farley for their 31 years; introduction of Phil as their replacement, and thanks for his service.
- Transition of office staff.
- Looking at a snapshot of our finances, Dave is grateful/thankful for our stability, and our ability to maintain our property and grounds, and the people that help coordinate that. For example, imagine 100 people gathered in the parish hall for Vacation Bible School during a sweltering July week. New air conditioning units made all the difference!

- Noted the work of the altar guild and most notably the challenges in our “year of funerals.” 2018 had 8 funerals, 11 baptisms, 3 weddings (two of which were gift-givers, which is a trend).

Worship attendance over the past 3 years; the 7:45 service is averaging 25 people; 9:00 service, 105; the 10:30 service numbers are decreasing, but 2018 bounced up a bit.

Youth Ministry: A toddler atrium was added, where youth can start as young as 15 months; and in total there are 4 atriums. This year there is a total of 41 children participating in chapels. While this is fewer than participated in 2007 when membership was higher, Dave believes that the surrounding community is maturing somewhat, and that is reflected here in our numbers. He is grateful to our catechists for their work, and their strong commitment. , 12 teens are consistently attending classes. We also have a vibrant Vacation Bible School: 75-80 children attended, plus there were 26 adult and youth leaders.

Newcomer ministry: We recently had a luncheon for new members with 22 adults, 12 children invited. Have added an additional 5 adults since then.

Dave is happy to be here with this community.

Meeting adjourned: 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Bedics

NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY
AND
DEANERY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES

Nominations for Vestry for a three-year term beginning January 2020, are:

Marie Clark

Mary Anne Noon

Bill Reynolds

Deanery and Convention Delegates for 2020 are:

Pam Dunlap

Karen Sawyer

Mary Anne Noon

Alternates:

George Bishop

Judy Groben

Connie Dee

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church

2019 Treasurer's Report

	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>September 2019 YTD</u>		
			<u>9 Months Budget</u>	<u>9 Months Actual</u>	<u>Actual Better / (Worse) Than Budget</u>
<u>CHURCH</u>					
Receipts:					
Pledges	\$ 354,054	\$ 341,000	\$ 255,750	\$ 251,331	\$ (4,419)
Plate	\$ 29,125	16,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 16,449	\$ 4,449
Other (Recurring)	\$ 101,533	103,300	71,700	70,673	\$ (1,027)
Other (Designated)	\$ -	-	-	5,265	\$ 5,265
Total	<u>\$ 484,712</u>	<u>\$ 460,300</u>	<u>\$ 339,450</u>	<u>\$ 343,718</u>	<u>\$ 4,268</u>
Expenses:					
Diocese & Outreach	\$ 35,200	\$ 34,229	\$ 31,064	\$ 31,072	\$ (8)
Salaries & Benefits	323,079	289,471	230,997	208,843	\$ 22,154
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Property	90,282	83,900	66,191	66,627	\$ (436)
Parish Programs	29,651	32,850	25,020	35,040	\$ (10,020)
Office Expense	18,198	19,444	13,023	11,738	\$ 1,285
Total	<u>\$ 496,410</u>	<u>\$ 459,894</u>	<u>\$ 366,295</u>	<u>\$ 353,320</u>	<u>\$ 12,975</u>
Receipts Over / (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ (11,698)</u>	<u>\$ 406</u>	<u>\$ (26,845)</u>	<u>\$ (9,602)</u>	<u>\$ 17,243</u>
<u>NURSERY SCHOOL</u>					
Receipts	\$ 344,273	\$ 383,409	\$ 259,059	\$ 251,703	\$ (7,356)
Expenses	313,607	375,150	256,033	\$ 257,047	(1,014)
Receipts Over / (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 30,666</u>	<u>\$ 8,259</u>	<u>\$ 3,026</u>	<u>\$ (5,344)</u>	<u>\$ (8,370)</u>

St. Matthews - Cash & Investment Summary
as of September 30, 2019

Cash and investment summary:

Operating accounts	114,860
Memorial accounts	30,106
Endowment accounts	714,732
Total	859,698

Endowment accounts:

Vanguard - money market	86,705
Vanguard - Balanced index	217,127
Vanguard - Wellington	347,540
T.Rowe Price Dividend Growth (Youth Scholarship)	5,018
T. Rowe Price - US Treasury	58,342
Total	714,732

Endowment summary:

Balance - 1/1/2019	655,018
contributions	5,000
Capital expenditures	(31,639)
Unrealized gain	86,353
Total	714,732

Capital expenditures:

Advent Security	4,250
Pastoral Care	5,000
Generator	7,379
fix incorrect transfer	4,000
Railings	11,010
Total	31,639

Stewardship Report

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2005</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2006</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2007</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2008</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2009</u>
PLEDGES	196	191	190	186	184
Total dollars pledged	\$334,100	\$364,112	\$401,970	\$417,974	\$391,211
Annual per household	\$1,705	\$1,906	\$2,116	\$2,247	\$2,126
Weekly per household	\$32.78	\$35.97	\$40.69	\$43.21	\$40.89
Actual Pledge Received	\$358,210	\$379,625	\$380,354	\$386,925	\$351,432

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2010</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2011</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2012</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2013</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2014</u>
PLEDGES	173	166	170	166	165
Total dollars pledged	\$363,605	\$377,795	\$379,923	\$364,670	\$358,854
Annual per household	\$2,102	\$2,276	\$2,235	\$2,197	\$2,175
Weekly per household	\$40.42	\$43.77	\$42.98	\$42.25	\$41.82
Actual Pledge Received	\$350,774	\$369,867	\$373,605	\$344,180	\$351,852

	PLEDGE FOR <u>2015</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2016</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2017</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2018</u>	PLEDGE FOR <u>2019</u>
PLEDGES	151	157	165	148	140
Total dollars pledged	\$356,411	\$362,092	\$383,419	\$362,576	\$342,873
Annual per household	\$2,360	\$2,306	\$2,324	\$2,450	\$2,449
Weekly per household	\$45.39	\$44.35	\$44.69	\$47.11	\$47.10
Actual Pledge Received	\$347,668	\$372,146	\$386,940	\$354,054	\$280,700

(as of 11/05/19)

2019 PLEDGE SUMMARY

Total Amount Pledged	140 pledges	\$342,873
Total Amount Pledged for 2020	98* pledges	\$258,304*

***NOTE: Pledge amounts calculated as of November 5, 2019**

2019 PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION

<u>WEEKLY PLEDGE</u>	<u>NO. OF PLEDGES</u>	<u>PERCENT PLEDGE</u>	<u>TOTAL ANNUAL</u>	<u>PERCENT ANNUAL</u>
Under 5.00	3	2.14%	\$624.00	0.18%
5.00 - 9.99	6	4.29%	\$2,880.00	0.84%
10.00 – 14.99	10	7.14%	\$5,890.00	1.72%
15.00 – 19.99	7	5.00%	\$6,620.00	1.93%
20.00 – 24.99	14	10.00%	\$15,650.00	4.56%
25.00 – 29.99	17	12.14%	\$23,055.00	6.72%
30.00 – 39.99	17	12.14%	\$29,588.00	8.63%
40.00 – 49.99	12	8.57%	\$25,996.00	7.58%
50.00 – 74.99	28	20.00%	\$80,930.00	23.60%
75.00 – 99.99	14	10.00%	\$61,400.00	17.91%
100 & over	12	8.57%	\$90,240.00	26.32%
	140	100.00%	\$342,873.00	100.00%

Carolyn Bedics

Parish Manager

Rector Transition Update

What's happening now?

The Vestry is creating two committees, the **Church Profile Committee**, and the **Search Committee** to lead us thru the transition process. The Church Profile Committee is being led by Joe Buesgen, and the Search Committee by Tim Walsh. Both are finalizing the group of members to assist with the committees, taking careful consideration to include as diverse a cross section of our parish members as possible. Joe and Tim will be reaching out to those church members in the next few weeks to ask for their help and commitment to work on these committees.

The Church Profile Committee is tasked with defining who the church is, and gleaning a collective vision of who we want to become. They will do this by conducting surveys, having small group discussions and in other ways not yet defined. Efforts will be made to hear from our entire congregation to build this vision. The parish profile will be published to clergy who may be interested in our calling.

The Search Committee will then screen and interview clergy candidates that best enable St. Matthew's to grow towards this vision. At the end of the process, the Search Committee will present a candidate(s) to Vestry for vote on the new rector.

Arlette Joseph, the Canon for Transition suggested we use the services of an outside consultant to assist us in the process. Most churches in transition do. The consultant's experience with church transitions will facilitate a more thorough and proficient process. Joe has already reached out to 5 prospective consultants, and is arranging interviews with the 3 that expressed interest and availability. All three of these consultants have very impressive resumes, some of which have already assisted local churches in our area.

There is much work to be done. We are faithful and excited that as we move forward the vision for St. Matthew's will become clear. As we move forward with this process we will communicate and update the congregation with regular updates. Please feel free to talk to myself, Tim or Joe should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Suhy

Interim Rector's Report

St. Matthew's is a diverse, wonderful, faithful parish. Long served by a faithful and loving rector who exemplified the Christ-life, you have learned from him, and your faithful leaders continue without a hitch the ministries to the parish and beyond. A hallmark of your common life is your ability to hold in tension various viewpoints, ways of regarding theology, political positions, and views on the various issues facing our society in such a way that you continue to mirror Christ's vision that "they will know we are Christians by our love." This stands as a remarkable testimony to a society that currently seems unable to view with compassion someone who holds a different perspective, viewing them instead as the enemy. St. Matthew's witness proposes the Gospel way of being together in the love for Christ and each other.

The people of St. Matthew's effortlessly and quietly go about ministries of outreach, pastoral care, and parish life. Our parishioners without fanfare serve the people of Haiti, provide food to the Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard for needy families, the Layette Sunday collection provides clothing for the needy. There is a Prayer Shawl group who knit warm scarves and hats. Our high school youth are engaged in a mission trip during the summer. Additionally, our middle school youth support Vacation Bible School as helpers, while also engaging in outreach projects during that time. We support financially the Interfaith Housing Alliance, Episcopal Community Services, the United Thank Offering, and the Diocese of Kitale High School Scholarships. One of our most visible and faithful outreaches is the highly respected Nursery School program.

Other members are engaged in ministries that sustain our common life through pastoral care: exceptional educational ministries for children, youth, and adults, Altar Guild, Altar Flowers, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, Arise Band, choir, acolytes, and the Memorial Garden, Eucharistic visitors, the prayer chain, the vestry, the intercessory prayer ministry, neighborhood shepherd ministry, the flower ministry, ushers. These also are described in this report.

Small groups in the parish are engaged in welcoming newcomers, coffee hour, men's breakfast, Sunday Nursery School, various ministries of hospitality like coffee hour, St. Matthew's Day, and Vacation Bible School.

There is a new puppet ministry emerging which should add a playful and thoughtful presence to the 9:00 contemporary service the first Sunday of each month.

In their reports this year, I have invited our leadership to celebrate this past year and the Lord's faithfulness with them and to dream a bit about where the Lord may be taking them in the year ahead.

During this past year Frs. David Robinson and Jay Walton have finished their tenures with St. Matthew's. I have come to serve as your interim during this transitional moment between one beloved rector and the next. This is a time for faithful prayer and discernment, and faithful sustained attendance and giving. You will be developing profiles this year in such a way that you reveal your story and values and vision. This will help your new rector to discern a call to walk with you on the next chapter of your common life. Christ's journey stretches before you all.

In Christ,

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube

Youth Ministry Coordinator Report

I was recently installed as the parish's Youth Ministry Coordinator, and while I am quite new to our parish family, I wanted to offer a few words regarding "the state of our youth." I will also label our ministry's aim.

Throughout the interview process, and since arriving at Saint Matthew's three weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet, connect, and worship alongside a large portion of our church's young people. I found that this is a very special group for a variety of reasons. Each of them exhibits a Christ-like love that challenges convention, and that extends far beyond the worship setting.

Firstly, I have found that our youth not only accept but affirm all members of the community — regardless of their identity. This is teaching me how to live out the life that Christ implored us to live. Our young people continue to express that they are eager to participate in authentic outreach experiences that don't simply address superficial concerns, but that produce long-lasting impacts for their beneficiaries. Each of them is learning how to serve Him "not only with [their] lips, but in [their] lives, but giving up themselves to [His] service".

Secondly, I have found that our emerging adults are deeply intellectual and artistic individuals who are creating the conditions for our peaceable living in decades to come. Their work in several applied fields will help shape the future, and we are called to support them in all of their endeavors. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge their many creative and scholastic accomplishments. Please note that these are not simply "merits" or "accolades," but that these are serious advantages that have the potential to change the ways in which our society functions in years to come.

Our youth are shaping the future of tech innovation:

Several of our young people are engaged in the process of learning Python, an industry-standard computer coding language. Python is known for being challenging to learn due to its dynamism and highly advanced internal data structures. Python is preparing our young people to work in a variety of professional sectors, where employers will seek out their skills in what is called: rapid application development. (RAD) describes a burgeoning software development method that heavily emphasizes rapid prototyping, rather than dated, cumbersome models. This valuable tool will provide our youth and the communities in which they serve with deeply significant computational resources. Another youth in our cohort applies Python code in order to engineer HCI's (Human-Computer-Interfaces). His team's robots can perform a variety of tasks, and also compete against other machines.

Our youth are shaping the future of government and policy:

Many of our emerging adults are enrolled in rigorous history and social science courses and are becoming highly learned individuals. Our tenth-grade students in AP History courses could easily teach an adult about the nuances of the constitution and its framers. Our youth are working on plans to mitigate our increasingly divisive and polarizing political climate by bringing all Americans together under common causes, and by advocating for what they feel called to.

Our youth are shaping the future of art and culture:

Saint Matthew's young people are working hard to deepen their athletic and creative disciplines, and in doing so, are setting high bars of excellence. Some are approaching a four-minute mile in track and field. Others are working hard to increase their stamina in the soccer arena, and to excel in other athletic endeavors. Many are drawing, painting, singing, and dancing. Each of them is uncovering what it means to deepen a discipline, learn self-control, resilience, and a sense of team. Most significantly, they are uncovering the depth of the human soul — the intimate connection that art and culture have on our human psyche and common consciousnesses — "The stuff" that binds us together as One.

In my ministry, I will foster a safe and broadly affirming culture for all of our young people by honoring their talents, skills, and emerging expertise. I will yield my time to deepen our individual and community relationships within the faith and fellowship milieu. I will walk with them as they uncover their individuality and sense of agency. I will help orient them to the outreach settings they feel called to serve in. I will advocate for them even when it is unpopular or fiscally inconvenient. Finally, I will attempt to display to them, with the parish's help, that Saint Matthew's is both a safe harbor, and a potent resource that can fill a variety of their physical, emotional, and spiritual "wants".

Submitted most respectfully,

Anthony M. Carrella
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Property Committee Report

Generator Installation Completed

We completed the installation of the emergency generator, a project we started in 2018. This generator will allow the Church to continue to operate in the event of an electrical outage or natural disaster.

Installation of New Access Control System

Earlier this year, as the Vestry started to review what changes needed to be made after Father Dave's retirement, it became clear that the matter of physical access was one that needed to be addressed. Over the years, no record was kept as to who had physical keys or access codes, and the number issued of both was both significant and unknown. That, along with the increased safety/security requirements of having an onsite preschool, prompted action. In March, the Vestry tasked the Property Committee with reviewing what is being done by other places of worship and presenting options. After doing so, the Vestry voted to proceed with the installation of the access control system detailed above. The company selected by the Vestry to provide, install and support the system is local, and a woman-owned business.

In August, we installed an access control system at St. Matthew's. This access control system requires electronic keyfobs to access most of the exterior doors and replaces physical keys. The system allows control of who accesses the church at what time, and via what doors. It allows us to program certain doors to unlock/lock at certain times. It also keeps a record of these transactions, in the event of a problem or issue. Our goal is not to keep people out of the building who belong here, but rather manage the security of the building in the most effective way possible.

Installation of New Gas Boilers

This year, the Vestry decided to explore replacing the gas boiler that heats the Parish Hall and the nursery school/office wing. Our existing unit, although well-maintained and serviced annually, had already lasted beyond the 10-15 year average expectancy. In addition, it was quite inefficient, and there were concerns about safety. In June, the Vestry discussed options and voted to accept a bid.

We immediately filed for the necessary permits with the state and received preliminary approval in late July. In late August, we began the process of removing the old boiler. Over the course of several days, our contractor disassembled the large unit and hauled it up and out of the basement of the Parish Hall.

The new boilers were installed and became operational in September. The new system operates more efficiently and cleanly and has two boilers sharing the load. This also means that if one fails, the other will continue to heat the buildings. In addition, we're supporting a local business - the boilers we installed are manufactured by Crown Boiler Co. of Philadelphia.

Fall Parish Clean-Up Day

In late September, we coordinated the Fall Clean-Up Day. In addition to helping set up for St. Matthew's Day, we prepped and painted the deck on the Sunday School modular unit and wooden railings, pruned back overgrown trees and shrubs around the property, cleaned out the furnace room, and did some minor maintenance/organizational tasks in the Parish Hall.

Roof Repair

The roof in the Sanctuary has developed a few minor leaks. We consulted with several local roofing companies, and after receiving quotes to completely replace the roof, we opted to repair in an attempt to (hopefully) extend the life of the roof by a few more years. These repairs were completed in late October, and we are waiting to see if these efforts were successful.

Minor Projects

- Replaced mats in entryways
- Pressure-washed playground equipment and replaced mulch in the playground
- Pressure-washed modular unit
- Purchased a new rack for holding and storing folding chairs
- Purchased new tables for the narthex
- Assisted Kyle Higgins plan and execute his Eagle Scout project (bird and bat houses in the meadow)

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Buesgen, Tim Jennings and Bill Rhydderch

Saint Matthew's Giving History as of December, 2018

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts--Pledge</u>	<u>Receipts--Plate</u>
1973	13,896	3,240
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

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 2018 – NOVEMBER 2019**

Holy Baptism

Cole Michael Henderson	January 13, 2019
Quinn Louise Anderson	June 2, 2019
Ryleigh Autumn Dixon	June 2, 2019
Ella Rose Pyfer	June 2, 2019

Burials

James F. Drinkwater	February 26, 2019
Evelyn Partenheimer	March 30, 2019
Suzanne L. Kopczynski	June 6, 2019
Christopher T. Brannon	June 8, 2019

Transfers FROM Saint Matthew's

Paula King-Smith	TO	Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA
------------------	----	--

Transfers TO Saint Matthew's

Holy Matrimony

Rebecca Dorothy Galick to Andrew David VanBuren	June 1, 2019
Shelby Leigh Province to Scott Matthew Merrill	October 18, 2019

From the 2018 Parochial Report

Baptized Members	594
Average Sunday Attendance for the Year	199
Church School Students (All Children and Youth)	61

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.

Haiti Mission

A Nurse Practitioner in our parish has been involved in medical missions to Haiti. We have supported her by providing medical and practical supplies, and financial support. A school for children and a trade school for adults have been, or are being, built. To learn more contact: **Deb Montalbano**

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard

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.

The Nursery School also helps to support this ministry. Community Cupboard representatives noted that donations often decrease at the start of a new year. Therefore, the Nursery School has special collections January through April, coordinated with chapels, where the following specific items are collected: dish & bath soap, detergent, toilet paper, peanut butter and jelly. 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. As with the Feed the Hungry program, our community has been extremely responsive over the years in supporting this mission. It is often difficult to fit all of the donated goods into the volunteer cars for delivery! 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. In a recent visit from Mwamba founders Emmanuel and Dorcas Chemengich, we learned that graduates have gone on to be teachers, nurses, an archeologist, and an airline pilot! Our goal has been to provide support for at least a dozen students over the next several years to enable these students to complete their high school education. **We sponsored seventeen students in 2019!**

Middle School Summer Service Camp (MSSSC)

Each summer, MSSSC takes place the same week as Vacation Bible School (VBS). Participants spend their mornings helping the VBS team with the children and the various activities. The youth then spend their afternoons performing service at various non-profit organizations in the area. For example, this year they sorted

clothing and donations at Cradles to Crayons in Philadelphia, as well as spent time with our home-bound members living at Fort Washington Estates. **Coordinator: Karin Davis**

Episcopal Community Services (ECS)

For many years, we have supported ECS's Fill the Bus initiative, which this year supplied **over 700 students** with backpacks filled with all the necessary school supplies to start their year. We have routinely donated between 20 and 30 completely filled packs, along with gift cards for teacher's supplies.

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. 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. 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.

Going forward, the continuing challenge will be to find more parishioners able and willing to assist in this ongoing weekly ministry, either by making up the flower vases or in the delivery of the completed vases. At this point, it rests on the shoulders of a very few, and more support would be most helpful.

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 Neighborhood Shepherd Ministry: As Neighborhood Shepherds, devoted volunteers provide a meal and visit to parishioners recovering from surgery, illness, or the birth of a baby. In an attempt to expand this ministry and provide more continuity to our outreach, Father Peter has suggested we extend this ministry to include a supply of home-cooked then frozen meals, for use by any families or individuals in need. This will provide the opportunity for volunteers with a busy schedule, to add to our meal pantry when it is most convenient for them. Of course, a freshly prepared meal and a visit will continue to be welcome as well. **Please contact Connie Dee** (conniedee711@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer.

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. A welcome bag is then delivered that includes a note of thanks, church information, and bread, muffins or cookies. Currently, we have a team of 22 greeters and 6 bread deliverers. At the Ministry Fair in September, we received two new recruits for 2020.

So far this year, 21 new people signed the Guest Book. We were also fortunate enough to welcome several new families from Holy Trinity Church in Lansdale that recently closed.

Our last Newcomer's Brunch was held in June of 2018 where we welcomed our new members with a cake and flowers boutonnières at Coffee Hour.

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! **The Coordinator for St. Matthew's Day in 2019 was Karina Caddick.**

The Coffee Hour Committee

Coffee Hour is running well, as usual. Plenty of 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 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" meet 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. Coordinator: **Doris Hunsicker**

Men's Breakfast

This 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**.

Christian Education

The spiritual journey of faith is a lifelong process that has barely begun with adulthood. At Saint Matthew's we seek to encourage and equip our members to live with a vibrant faith in a challenging world. Our worship and service are the primary means of adult formation in Christ at St. Matthew's, as we hear the scriptures and sermon, pray, receive the sacrament, and go out to serve in the name of Christ. Small groups gather for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer as noted in our weekly Sunday bulletins.

Adult Forum: Adults have had many opportunities at Saint Matthew's through which to explore the Christian faith and life. The Adult Forum meets in the Parish Hall during the 9 a.m. hour and is coordinated by its participants. Contacts: **Karen Randall and John McLaughlin**.

Bible Study: We currently have three different Bible study groups that meet throughout the month. These meetings take place both at St. Matthew's, as well as in the homes of parishioners, and on different days of the week. Monday Evening Bible Study takes place twice a month at St. Matthew's. Exploring Our Faith Together is held in parishioner's homes, and is offered most Tuesdays. Discovery Bible Study is offered most Thursday evenings at St. Matthew's.

Our hope for 2020 is to expand our adult formation throughout the year.

Children's Christian Education

For nearly 30 years, Saint Matthew's has embraced the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)**. The goal of our program is to nurture each child's unique relationship with God. This is done through manipulative materials, prayer, song, listening to Bible stories, preparing children for participating in the liturgy and giving children time to explore their own spirituality through the Catechesis materials.

We are one of only a few churches in the country to offer CGS for four levels of education:

- Toddler – 16 to 36 months, led by Sandie Preusch
- Level 1 – Preschool ages 3-5, led by Nancy Cunningham and Nancy Williams
- Level 2 – Primary – Kindergarten through Grade 2, led by Linda Schindewolf and Linda Baier
- Level 3 – Senior – Grades 3-5, led by Judy Groben

Our religious education program is based upon the work of Maria Montessori, famous for her method of educating generations of children. Originally developed in Rome by Sofia Cavaletti and Gianna Gobbi, it has spread throughout the world. Each of our atrium rooms contains materials that have been carefully chosen, are age-specific and geared to focus the children's attention on key scriptural passages or moments in our services. This year, many new and updated materials have been added to our atria.

We are blessed to have seven experienced catechists who have undergone rigorous training for at least 90 hours to lead our program—some have trained for hundreds of hours. Four of our catechists are currently participating in formation classes for Level 2. In addition, we are fully staffed with volunteers who assist our catechists.

A **Sunday School Steering Committee** consisting of Judy Groben, Linda Baier, Jeanne Garrison, Jon Clark, Mike Acquaviva oversees the Sunday school through prayerful stewardship of monetary and human resources. The committee's responsibilities include providing for the administrative structure of the Sunday school program; defining and updating our mission, goals, and objectives; problem-solving; establishing and maintaining lines of communication; program development; ensuring the quality of our program, and annual budget review and proposal to the Vestry.

Each year Saint Matthew's offers children in third grade and older the opportunity to participate in **Solemn Communion/First Communion** preparation. This program is an opportunity for children to explore the meaning of the Eucharist during five evening classes, a Saturday retreat and then receiving communion during a Sunday Service.

On Saturday before Easter, a **Liturgy of the Light** worship service is held. This children's service, modeled after the Episcopal Easter Vigil, is an opportunity for children to participate in the worship service and to celebrate the risen Christ with their families.

An **All Saints program** is offered each November. This year we held our "Salvation Stroll" where children and their families learned about several events in the Bible and concluded with a worship service.

During the coming year, we plan to maintain a strong program and add new and updated materials. Our hope for the future is to attract young families to our parish so that more children can benefit from our wonderful program.

Coordinator: Linda Baier

Sunday Nursery

This Sunday nursery serves newborns through pre-school age toddlers in the Summer months and serves newborns through age 14 months as needed during the school year. The Sunday Nursery is staffed by members of St. Matthew's youth community. **Contact: Karen Carter**

Vacation Bible School

It seems that each year our VBS program grows, and this year was no exception with 81 children participating in the program. VBS provides Christian education, fellowship, and fun in a Christian atmosphere one week during the summer both for children of Saint Matthew's, as well as children of the community. This past year, St. Matthew's was transformed into an African landscape thanks to the many volunteers that donate their time, coordinated by **Laura Zakrzewski** and assisted by many others, including the teens participating in the **Middle School Summer Service Camp**.

Youth

My name is Anthony Carrella, and I am the new Youth Ministry Coordinator at Saint Matthew's. I am currently working on reconceptualizing our ministerial framework so that the church can more appropriately serve the needs of its young people, and to suit the transition in staff leadership. While most of this work is nearing a finalization stage, a few outlying questions remain. Included below is a brief description of our current ministry profile, as well as a programmatic vision for 2020 and beyond.

At present, the Youth Ministry at Saint Matthew's serves ~35 parishioners, with a growing cohort of alumni. A parishioner is considered a *youth* as they enter Grade 6, and their *youth* status culminates following their high school graduation (or until age 18, whichever occurs first). The Ministry also serves the interests of a growing group of college-age alumni. Upon my arrival, it would seem that intentional programming for youth ceased in August of 2019. This programming included bi-monthly faith and fellowship activities, several diocesan dinners, and a mission trip to Eastern Shore of Virginia.

In the coming months, I will aim to:

- Form and steer a "Youth Ministry Task Force" comprised of several parishioners, and a vestry liaison.
- Rename "Youth Ministry" to "Youth and Emerging Adult Ministry"
- Create three subcategories for youth: "Youth," "Discerners," and "Emerging Adults"
 - One will be considered a "youth" until the completion of their Confirmation requirements (Grade 6 -- Confirmation)
 - One will be considered a "discerner" while participating in Confirmation class activities. (Confirmation Discernment)
 - One will be considered an "Emerging Adult" when the individual has been confirmed into the church, or when an individual turns 17 years of age (whichever occurs first).
 - One's "Emerging Adult" status culminates at age 19.
- Foster individual relationships with each parishioner in the ministry, as well as their families.
- Create cohort-specific programming for youth and emerging adults.
- Host bi-monthly fellowship opportunities rooted in faith development, outreach, and of course, fun.
- Lead a delegation of youth, emerging adults, and adults in an annual Mission Trip.

Saint Matthew's Nursery School

Saint Matthew's Nursery 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. The school has an enrollment of 132 children and a staff of eight teachers, five enrichment teachers, and nine teacher's aides. Our dedicated and caring staff provides 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 staff works very closely with outside county agencies to ensure that students with 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 older 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, The Book and the Cook, Sensational Art and Kids in Motion. Each year the school holds an annual Book Fair, a Family Event and a one-week optional camp.

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 27th 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 are evaluating our playground and looking at ways we can improve it for both safety and aesthetics.

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

Jackie Anderson, Director

Communications

The goal of this ministry is to enhance communication within the Parish Family, as well as make known the opportunities available at Saint Matthew's with the Community at large. We are particularly striving to be a church that the immediate neighborhood community sees as an alive, inviting house of worship engaged and in Spirit.

Our **website** is updated weekly or daily as needed. Saint Matthew's website address is www.saintmattsec.org. We now have an online directory and password-protected access to your parish records and giving.

St. Matthew's also maintains a page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SaintMatthews/) in order to publicize events to both the parish and community, communicate news and information, and share photographs and videos from happenings at St. Matthew's. Please like/follow to be more informed!

We look forward to continuing to improve communications at Saint Matthew's in 2020. Staff contacts are **Luray Watkins** at ParishSecretary@saintmattsec.org and **Carolyn Bedics** at ParishManager@saintmattsec.org.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is currently made up of 12 active members. Weekly, 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 Episcopalian 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**

Altar Flowers

The chart to sign up for the 2020 chancel flowers will now be located in the Narthex, on the wall to the left of the exterior doors beginning Sunday, December 1, Advent 1. Please choose a Sunday that is special to you, and sign up to honor a loved one(s) or event. Luray Watkins, our Parish Secretary/Receptionist, will contact you regarding the wording of the thanksgiving or memorial that you prefer. A minimum donation of \$50 is requested for an arrangement of flowers. The actual cost is \$70 per arrangement.

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 10:30 a.m. Eucharist 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.

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 9:00 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:

9th Year	Cooper Smith	6th Year	Kathryn Raskay
7th Year	Olivia Baltzer	4th Year	John Gill, IV
	Maggie Clark	3rd Year	Dana Gill
	Ava Kaschube		

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 Acolyte Director, **George Bishop**.

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 – 2019

Interim Rector	The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter B. Stube	610-304-2539 (cell)
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Anthony Carrella	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	
Parish Secretary	Luray Watkins	
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	Pam Dunlap	215-362-3439
Treasurer/Finance	Karen Randall	215-816-0655
Property	Joe Buesgen	215-290-1556
Property	Tim Jennings	215-343-1251
Finance/Property	Bill Rhydderch	215-657-3036
Finance	Tim Walsh	215-380-1749
Parish Life	Nancy Williams	215-822-9401

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	George Bishop	215-441-8056
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	