ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
St. Matthew's Church, Bedford, New York

Last Sunday after the Epiphany February 11, 2018

Reports and Financial Statements of Parish Commissions and Organizations (2017)
The St. Matthew’s Prayer

Eternal God, thank you for St. Matthew’s; for the great cloud of witnesses that made it possible; for your presence when we gather together; for our Church, woods and stream where we may be still and know that you are God; for the pardon of our sins, the blessing of our vows, the crowning of our years with your goodness; for making us your children by adoption and grace and for refreshing us day by day through prayer and the bread of life. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory and the majesty, for everything in heaven and earth is yours, and you are exalted as Head above all. Amen.
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
February 11, 2018

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
   Rik Pike

2. Wardens’ Reports
   Daniel C. de Menocal
   Suzanne Bowers

3. Treasurer’s Report
   Mark Weigel

4. Acknowledgment of Committee and Commission Heads
   (For a list of Committee and Commission Heads, see the following page)

5. Acknowledgment of retiring Vestry Members:
   Jerry Bogert
   Patrick Brennan

6. Election of Vestry Members:
   • Suzanne Bowers has been nominated to stand for her second two-year term as Junior Warden.
   • Alison Gregory has been nominated to serve her second three-year term as vestry member.
   • Bonnie Tisi has been nominated to serve her second three-year term as vestry member.
   • June Blanc has been nominated to serve her first three-year term as vestry member.
   • Scott Brown has been nominated to serve his first three-year term as vestry member.

7. Discussion

8. Benediction
   Rik Pike
Annual Report

Some describe Rectorships the way astronomers describe meteors. They blaze through the sky upon arrival, sink their pastoral staff and leadership into the 9-iron divot of their tenure … and then disappear until the next promising candidates begin to blaze across the Bedford sky whilst a search committee divines what the stars in the night sky are revealing about who should be chosen. These celestial visitors are asked to re-purpose a congregation as they wend their way towards a new future until the next purpose-driven priest brings a new tool bag and the compass is reset.

But I am of a different mind. The kind of purpose St. Matthew’s will launch for a new beginning, search after search, will come from within the congregation. It will be fed by the parish’s will, capabilities, resources, legacy, and character. It will be implemented with the amazing staff I have had the privilege of working with. Purpose will arise from the way in which these home grown qualities interact and shape the future with a new priest. Rector candidates are often asked: “What is your vision for our church?” Which is a ridiculous question. Unless they possess a crystal ball, why should candidates have any inkling of a vision until they have at least a year on the ground under their belt? It is that interaction of priest, history, capabilities and people that are the ingredients to spell opportunity for what is next. If a church merely copies the play book from past history or a candidate’s last congregation … it will forfeit all the mingling of qualities that will compose a bright and promising future. Without this synergy, based on the ensemble of gifts and talents possessed by the church, there may arise the misfortune of many starts or restarts or recalibrations but no real beginning. One start after another only tires people.

It may surprise you to know, one of the best strategies for a sustaining start, even with modest resources, can be found in the Bible. Moses, who was so self-doubting about his ability to inspire others that he tried to turn down Jehovah’s call to lead the Jewish people to a new start, did it quite effectively. He translated the idea of a Promised Land into the picture of a land of milk and honey. He did not lead with creating an understanding of the destination; he portrayed the destination in a way that engaged the Israelites’ imagination. So enthralled were they … they followed Moses for 40 years in the desert to build the future he envisioned. Otherwise, I think they would still be camped on top of Mt. Horeb. Some still are.

As your Interim Rector, it has and will be my privilege and pleasure to endow, in any way I can, resources to set the table for your promised land. If a comet should blaze by, ignore it. Your own brightness is what will blaze the path to what holds most promise for what is next.

Pierce
Friends

A year of continuing change. That may well sum up all of our collective experiences in the parish this past year – and beyond that shared reality, the rhythms of this place have continued as they always have. The worship, the burials, the weddings, the baptisms – the festive seasonal celebrations, the Vestry meetings and the hard work of all the staff and lay volunteers to move us forward with purpose and sustained direction in a time of fundamental change.

I dare say if anyone in May or June of last year had predicted things would be going as well as they have been in this first transition year, they would have been told to keep quiet and not jinx anything! There seemed to me a palpable anxiety and fear among us all in those middle months of 2017. And yet, here we are, heads very much above the water – we have been blessed with a wonderful Interim Rector, an efficient, dedicated and hard-working Search Committee – and a Vestry that has kept us on an even keel as we have set sail for new shores.

Many say that transition times in any Episcopal parish pretty much split 50/50 down the middle – half fail miserably and can fall into the abyss, and the other half survive with all vital signs maintained to a healthy degree, and along with that the time of change encourages healthy debate and conversations about what is to come next. And friends, I feel we are quite firmly in the latter camp, and for that we must be quite thankful.

There is still much of the journey still to be run. This was always, and remains, a stable, vital and established parish with a bedrock of faith and hope that has helped us through these days of change – and I for one am excited about our new leadership ahead. And we continue to move forward with good cheer and with plenty of charity among us – we are making good progress!

Finally, I’m glad to report the Vestry engaged with Tracy and I towards the end of 2017 and a conversation was had about our immediate plans for the future. I’m delighted to say it was agreed it would be in the best interests of everyone if we stayed at St. Matthew’s through 2018 and into 2019 – and we are very happy to have been asked, and we look forward to some continued stability for our family in the coming year or so ahead.

I certainly remain blessed to be among you all – and I am looking forward to serving you in the coming year. Continued change is still very much in the air, and I hope to help you all as the good Lord allows.

Peace to one and all,

Richard S. J. Pike
Associate Rector

914-234-9636 rpike@stmatthewsbedford.org
2017 was a year of farewells, transition and welcomes for St. Matthew’s.

- In June, we bade farewell to Terry and Nancy with a great fanfare of celebrations, services and thanks for his ministry, leadership, successes and caring. Terry’s loving tenure of 23 years will be a notable era in the history of St. Matthew’s. We also said farewell and great thanks to our Property Manager Cliff O’Donnell who so ably maintained our vast property with pride for the past decade and a half. And, we said farewell to Maud Bailey who was so important in the Parish office handling our pledge drive, Capital Campaign and so much more.

- Our Rector Transition and Search phases immediately commenced in July at full steam. We began with a period of Self Discernment resulting in a summary document (The Parish Profile) detailing the statistics, beauty, vitality, desires and strengths of our Parish. In September we commenced our “Receiving Names” phase of the search. A special thanks to co-chairs Peter and Roger who, together with their Committee members, have diligently worked to find the right candidates for our next Rector. We look forward to receiving their submission of three Rector candidate finalists for the Vestry to select from. We also continued to develop our important Church restoration plans and, in the process, deferred the commencement of the project until April 2018 in order to bring the congregation back to the sanctuary for Christmas through Easter (which I’m sure was welcome news to the parish.)

- Also in September, we welcomed Pierce Klemmt as our interim Rector, who has more than ably helped to shepherd our parish through this period of transition. Pierce has been the right person at the right time for St. Matthew’s and we are so grateful for his wealth of knowledge and calm influence. Finally, but not least, we were pleased to announce the promotion of Sam Godoi as our Property Manager.

St. Matthew’s continues to be an extraordinary parish and 2017 has shown us that we have something very special here: a dedicated and engaged congregation devoted to the future of St. Matthew’s. Thanks to all of St. Matthew’s faithful for your commitment to our future.

As for the important data from 2017, we welcomed 15 new families this past year. Our membership now stands at 1,459 (430 families.) While this number reflects a decrease from the prior year, it is mostly the result of a “cleansing” of our parish rolls as there were many names that were listed as members who long ago left St. Matthew’s and Bedford.

Our Average Sunday Attendance again showed a decline in numbers, which is not unexpected following the retirement of a beloved Rector. I am convinced that as more people find out about Pierce and hear his engaging sermons, we will see improvement in our weekly attendance. If you know someone who hasn’t been to Church since summer, invite them to come on a Sunday to hear what Pierce has to say. Too, once we call a new Rector, we expect that we will find the curious venturing back to St. Matthew’s.

Mark’s report gives more detail about our budget numbers, but I will add that we are very thankful to those who have continued to support our parish financially. You who have stepped up this past year helped us keep this place running. We still need the support of our entire parish. We ended the year with pledges from about 49% of the parish (which also reflects the adjustment to our membership roll), which is unfortunately well short of our goal of 100% parish participation. Please join with your fellow parishioners and pledge now.

Thanks to our outgoing Vestry members: Patrick Brennan, who has been invaluable in developing our Church restoration project, and Jerry Bogert, who has been a constant voice of reason on the Vestry. My thanks to both of you. Our Vestry has benefitted from your participation.

Special thanks to Rik and Elena, who helped lead our parish this past Summer and guided Pierce on the ways of St. Matthew’s. Thanks also to our Superintendent Sam, our Sexton George, and our office staff, Barbara and Kelly. Thanks to Sophie who has again so ably led our Church School this past year. Bravo to our Maestro, Dr. Newman whose talents are nonpareil. Our Choir! You all are the very best, and we are blessed to have you.

Please read the following reports from all of our Commissions and Committees. We can all be proud of the number of parishioners volunteering and their excellence in carrying out their missions. Thanks to all our volunteers!

See you in Church!

Daniel C. de Menocal, Jr., Senior Warden
Selected Parish Data for 2009-2017

- **New Families**
- **Number of Families**
- **Average Sunday Attendance**
- **% of Families Pledging**
This is St. Matthew's!

**Supporting Our Sunday Worship - 8am, 10am & 5pm:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worship Commission</th>
<th>Christian Education Commission</th>
<th>Coffee Hour Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acolytes</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Altar Guild</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Readers</td>
<td>Music Committee</td>
<td>Flower Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Polishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Children’s Service</td>
<td>Linens &amp; Vestments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verger, Sexton, Clergy and Deacon</td>
<td>Lay Ministers, Readers &amp; Musicians</td>
<td>Nursery Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The Care of Our Facilities and Grounds:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchyard Commission</th>
<th>Property Commission</th>
<th>Woodlands Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Gardeners</td>
<td>Project SMILE</td>
<td>Environmental Committee</td>
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**Raising Funds:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewardship Committee</th>
<th>Christmas Boutique</th>
<th>St. Matthew's Pre-School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ketchum Society</td>
<td>St. Matthew’s Concert Series</td>
<td>Art Show Bedford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedford Spring Antiques Show</td>
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**Taking Care of Business**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Committee</th>
<th>Diocesan Convention Delegation</th>
<th>Communications Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The Key” Committee</td>
<td>Office Administration Committee</td>
<td>St. Matthew's Pre-School Board of Trustees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vestry</td>
<td>Investment Committee</td>
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**Helping To Make Things Nicer and Run More Smoothly**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men of St. Matthew's</th>
<th>Welcome Committee</th>
<th>Volunteer Coordinators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women of St. Matthew's</td>
<td>St. Matthew's Connection</td>
<td>Receptionists Committee</td>
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**Outreach and Helping Others:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Commission</th>
<th>Mite Box Funds</th>
<th>Volunteering at:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedell Fund Committee</td>
<td>Christmas Wish Tree</td>
<td>Mt. Kisco Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women of St. Matthew’s</td>
<td>Weekly Food Pantry Drives</td>
<td>Open Arms Shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church School</td>
<td>Coat Drives</td>
<td>Bedford Hills Correctional Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Group</td>
<td>Book &amp; Bible Drives</td>
<td>Community Center of Northern Westchester</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Matthew’s Pre-School</td>
<td>Toy Drives</td>
<td>Midnight Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Meal Collection &amp; Distribution</td>
<td>Ad Hoc Disaster Drives</td>
<td>Crop Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flower deliveries</td>
<td>Super Bowl Bake Sale</td>
<td>Scotts Corners Food Pick-up</td>
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**Producing Special Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Down to the River and Sing</th>
<th>Bedford Spring Antiques Show</th>
<th>Christmas Caroling</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spaghetti Supper</td>
<td>Chamber Concert Series</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring and Fall Clean-Ups</td>
<td>College Choral Jamboree</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mardi Gras</td>
<td>Gingerbread Houses</td>
<td>Men's Fellowship Breakfasts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt</td>
<td>Haunted Hike</td>
<td>Christmas Tree Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Brunch</td>
<td>Pancake Supper</td>
<td>Parish Picnics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Wreath-Making</td>
<td>Speaker Series</td>
<td>Welcome Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bingo, Backgammon, Twister</td>
<td>Flowering of the Cross</td>
<td>Youth Group Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Show: Bedford</td>
<td>Blessing of the Pets</td>
<td>5pm Children’s Chapel services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the 2017 fiscal year, the St. Matthew’s congregation continued the undesirable trend – albeit slower than prior year – of decreased pledging since 2015. Parishioner pledging decreased by nearly $20,000, or 3.0%, year over year (prior year decreased by 7.5%). While the church’s Parish Income – an aggregate of pledge income, contributions, offerings and memorials – was up $12,000 year to year, 2017’s Contributions line includes $41,000 raised to pay for our former rector’s retirement party (ticket sales, donations). If we exclude those one-time special contributions, Parish Income is actually down $30,000 YtY, and off its high in 2014 by roughly $41,000.

As an explanation for the pledging shortfall, last year was only the 2nd year of paid contributions to the church’s capital campaign. As a mild warning, I will mention that the church will have a similar headwind in 2018.

Nevertheless, we should be pleased with our congregation’s continued ability to generously fund our church’s operations and infrastructure, particularly in light of the equally tremendous success of our capital campaign. Many thanks to all who have already made their pledge for the 2018 calendar year.

As I’ve mentioned for several years now, St. Matthew’s is blessed with parishioners who volunteer their time to help generate multiple revenue streams for St. Matthew’s Church that are incremental to parishioner pledging. These revenue streams target a diverse demographic within our community (e.g. St. Matthew’s School through rent, the Bedford Art Show, the Bedford Antiques Show, the Bedford Chamber Concerts, the Christmas Tree Sale, the St. Matthew’s a Cappella Jamboree, the Holiday Boutique). These endeavors continue to supplement parishioner income and help us meet our annual spending needs. If you are not involved in one of these wonderful initiatives, please reach out to the chairs and lend your talent and energy. Every committee is looking for fresh new ideas and energy to keep St. Matthew’s a relevant cornerstone in our community.

In 2017, we drew $150,000 from the church’s operating endowment to help fund operations – the same amount as the prior 3 years. Given the continued success of our endowment investments
under the prudent leadership of parishioner John Talty and the investment committee, the church will draw $175,000 from its endowment in 2017 which represents roughly 3.5% of the current asset value of the endowment – a percentage under our target draw range of 4 – 6%, annually.

EXPENSE

Our church achieved its net budget (i.e. net $0) for the 2017 calendar year - in spite of lower pledge receipts – by incurring less expenses. These savings came mostly in the form of lower personnel costs, driven by our former Rector (Terry Elsberry), former Assistant Minister (Susan Wyper), Office Assistant (Maud Bailey) and longtime Superintendent (Cliff O’Donnell) leaving our church for new and exciting adventures. We wish them all the best of luck.

Further on our staffing needs, your vestry is at the very beginning of a project to analyze our church’s job roles to ensure we are securing the appropriate resources on our staff, and compensating them appropriately. In this significant time of change, we are deeply grateful to our clergy, as well as the entire staff of this church, for the time and effort they collectively expend keeping our parish filled with energy and relevancy.

The Diocesan Assessment – a calculated number based upon prior year revenue actuals – was up only $1,627 (prior year was up $8,145 YtY). While this puts the assessment higher than it has been since the recession hit in 2008 (2009 = $181,714; 2017 = $193,410), it is well below what it was in 2008, just before the recession took hold (2008 = $219,900). The reductions the Diocese afforded us from 2008 to 2011 were key in helping us re-balance our budgets in those lean years.
2018 BUDGET

Sources of Funds: Income (Total = $1,255,569 (2017); $1,175,400 (2018)):

YtY Comparison of Church Sources of Funds (Income)

Uses of Funds: Expenses (Total = $1,255,569 (2017); $1,175,400 (2018)):

YtY Comparison of Church Use of Funds (Expenses)

You can see variances by detailed budget line item in the accompanying backup to this report, but by large category, the main drivers are as follows:

REVENUE YtY $’s
- **Parishioner Income** (-$60k): Lower assumption on pledges (-$14k); 2018 does not include the proceeds for former rector’s retirement party (-$40k); Other (-$6k)
- **Investment Income** (+$24k): Higher draw from the endowment (+$25k); Lower interest income assumption (-$1k)
Fundraising Income (-$35k): Reduced allocation of superintendent’s salary in lieu of direct billing of contracted landscape vendor, to Churchyard (-$27k); Conservative assumption for parish fundraising activities and other (-$8k)

Rental Income (-$9k): Reduced revenue assumption for Fellowship Hall given potential conflicts with the church renovation (-$10k); Other (+$1k)

EXPENSE YtY $’s
- Personnel (-$53k): Payroll Expenses (-$46k) Other (+$3k)
- Diocesan Assessment (-$2): Calculated on 2016 revenue
- Admin & Overhead (-$62k): 2018 does not include expenses for former rector’s retirement party (-$56k); Other (-$6k)
- Reserves (+$18k): $10k budgeted for new rector search. Budgeting a property reserve consistent with forecasted need (+$6k)
- Property (+$15k): Snowplowing (now contracted externally) and supplemental landscaping labor to aid Superintendent during the most demanding times of the year (Spring / Fall clean-up) (+$22k); Less parish house cleaning needed (-$6k)
- Programs (+$3k): Outreach and Music Expense from actual to budget (+$2k); Modest increase to adult education ($1k)

Your vestry has reviewed this budget and believes it is a prudent and achievable target for the coming year.

SUMMARY
In closing, we all know our church is continuing through a phase of significant change (new Rector Search) and disruption (church renovation). I am immensely grateful to each person and each family for their respective contributions, whether it be financial, talent and/or time. Our church is in good financial health with a strong balance sheet and a prudent fiscal operation. I ask that we all (as in, 100% participation!) continue to support the church during the upcoming period of change so that we can emerge even stronger than we are now. We all want to see more people joining and coming to the church, leading and participating in the events, as well as pledging and driving financial support. Join us and help St. Matthew’s continue to be the warm and inviting place it is to worship and meet in fellowship with friends and family.

As I must mention each year, I rely heavily upon our capable office administration staff. Kelly Napolitano and Barbara Murphy are key staff members of our church office – they make sure our Clergy as well as the laity get what they need to provide you, the congregation, with the kind of heartwarming, soul-lifting church experience that keeps you coming back week after week, year after year. We owe them our deepest gratitude and thanks.

And so, as we head into 2018, Michael Struble, our Assistant Treasurer, and I collectively commit our talents to ensure continued prudent oversight of the financial operations of this church.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Weigel
Treasurer

Michael Struble
Assistant Treasurer
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
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<td>$1,186,177</td>
<td>$1,256,975</td>
<td>$1,166,800</td>
<td>$1,222,447</td>
<td>$1,289,480</td>
<td>$1,324,302</td>
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<td>Salary &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>Churchyard Expenses</td>
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<td>Bedell Exp Rmb - Out &amp; shared</td>
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<td>Churchyard Other Expenses</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Actual</td>
<td>$626,485</td>
<td>$714,240</td>
<td>$727,482</td>
<td>$728,231</td>
<td>$159,924</td>
<td>$128,381</td>
<td>$157,396</td>
<td>$21,714</td>
<td>$57,488</td>
<td>$54,541</td>
<td>$51,506</td>
<td>$49,441</td>
<td>$59,153</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
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<td>$714,240</td>
<td>$727,482</td>
<td>$728,231</td>
<td>$159,924</td>
<td>$128,381</td>
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<td>$51,506</td>
<td>$49,441</td>
<td>$59,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outbuild &amp; Outside Income</td>
<td>$125,350</td>
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**Note:** The table above shows the breakdown of revenues and expenses for the years 2008 to 2018, including specific categories such as Salary & Benefits, Churchyard Expenses, Bedell Exp Rmb - Out & shared, Churchyard Other Expenses, Miscellaneous Income, and Outbuild & Outside Income. The figures indicate the actual and budgeted amounts for each category over the specified years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The 2017 Annual Fund Drive continues to show a decline in pledging units. In 2016, 231 families pledged, but in 2017 a drop to 202 families pledged and a slight drop in revenue.

Again fewer people are doing more. Eight New members helped stem the decline in pledging units. We lost several parishioners last year, but the overall real decline was 24 less pledges from 2016.

Once again we have LYBNTY givers (Last year but not this year), this fluctuating group represents 7% of our non pledges. We try to convey that it is imperative to the church that everyone pledges something every year.

This past year, we have communicated with the Parish in the following ways:

1. The Key and Weekly Email Blast
   a. Each October we thank parishioners for pledging
   b. In November we start the call for the new fund drive

2. Standard Communication
   a. November Stewardship Letters and Pledge cards are mailed
   b. Annual Kick off Sunday, The Rector’s Call
   c. December Email Blast with link to website
   d. Personalized thank you note to each Parishioner from Member of Vestry and the Rector

3. Extra Mailing and E-blast in March
   a. Mailing and E-blast to LYBNT parishioners in August
   c. Added reminder to 3rd Quarter Statement

4. Continued to publish list of parishioners who have pledged in the Easter Key

The Annual Fund Drive as a campaign represents hundreds and hundreds of man-hours put in by vestry members and St. Matthew’s staffers and could not be accomplished without the fantastically dedicated and extremely knowledgeable help of the wonderful Maud Bailey and the amazing Kelly Napolitano. We should all be so grateful to them!
Unfortunately in 2017, we had 50% participation. We continue to have faith in our fellow parishioners that they will understand the importance of pledging and participate in the program. Our goal continues to be 100% participation.

It is always important to note that St. Matthew’s depends on the Annual Fundraising Drive to cover our operating expenses. Expenses rise much faster than our parishioners are giving, and the gift and blessing of St. Matthew’s must be borne by all.

For all those who continue to pledge faithfully and fulfill their pledge, we offer our deepest thanks.

Lastly, we would like to thank Maud Bailey who has left, for her dedicated service and passion for St. Matthew’s. We wish her well in her future endeavor.

On Behalf of the Stewardship Commission.

Paul Sturz
Lorraine Reeder
Doug Kim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pledge</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>757,561</td>
<td>2,428</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>702,827</td>
<td>2,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>233</td>
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<td>2,616</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>720,351</td>
<td>2,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>743,276</td>
<td>2,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>781,741</td>
<td>3,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>800,444</td>
<td>3,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>740,038</td>
<td>3,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>721,235</td>
<td>3,570</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bedell Committee Report for 2017

The Bedell Fund is an endowment established in 1996 by a substantial bequest to St. Matthew’s Church by Hope Bedell, that is dedicated to strengthening the Episcopal Church through the funding of capital projects and clergy support. The Vestry at that time constituted the Bedell Committee to administer grants and set forth operating guidelines. The guidelines, updated periodically (most recently in 2017) provide first, that grants generally should be large grants to aid and promote Episcopal churches and their programs and clergy in the Diocese of New York, with priority for those in Region II (Westchester, Rockland & Putnam); second, that grants should be for one time capital projects and/or seed money and should not be used for general operating costs; and third, grants to local (non-Episcopal) charitable organizations may be considered where there is a particular Christian aspect to their purpose.

The annual allocation by the vestry to the committee was $270,000 in 2017. The committee’s grant recommendations are subject to approval by the vestry. Since 1996, the Bedell Fund has disbursed over $4,000,000 in grants.

In considering the requests of applicant churches to receive a Bedell grant, the Bedell Committee seeks to assess the vitality of a parish. Is the parish growing and active? Will the Bedell funds help to propel it to a higher level? Does the parish impact the surrounding community with outreach of various kinds?

The 2017 Bedell grants were awarded to:

- Christ’s Church, Warwick $140,000 towards the renovation and expansion of their parish house. The total project was about $1,000,000. The project has been completed and the Bedell grant fully disbursed. The parish house was transformed from a one-story building to a two story building with additional classrooms for Sunday school and meeting spaces. Christ Church is in the center of the village of Warwick, in Orange County. It is an active and growing parish with about 100 pledging units and several new members from a nearby church that closed its doors recently. The parish house is used for many functions including a Saturday breakfast ministry and a thrift shop.

- St. Peter’s Church, Portchester, Westchester County $135,000 towards the restoration of two Tiffany Windows, part of an overall $1mm project for removal, restoration and reinstallation of 13 historic Tiffany Studio stained glass windows and 5 other stained glass windows that are original to the 19th century structure. These windows form the basis of their Historic Landmark Designation by national and state historic registries. The two windows subject of our grant have been removed from the premises and restoration work has commenced but so far no disbursements from our award. St. Peter’s is a cornerstone in the local community. Parishioners provide many essential outreach services and support to a largely Hispanic local population. The Diocese is firmly committed to this parish and provides ongoing financial and strategic support.
Previous Grants completed in 2017

- Christ Church, Sparkill, received a grant of $75,000 in 2014 for exterior and interior repairs to the church and renovation of a kitchen in their parish hall. Repairs to the church were completed in 2015 and the kitchen renovation was completed in October. The Bedell grant has been fully disbursed. The parish hall and the newly renovated kitchen are central to many church related and outreach activities including coffee hour, music concerts and external support group meetings.

At our June meeting, the committee celebrated Father Terry Elsberry’s ministry and invited past chairs to join us. In the fall, we welcomed Father Pierce Klemmt, interim rector. The terms of June Blanc and Teresa Scott are completed and the committee thanks them for their hard work and commitment. Kathy Brenner and Tom Eshoo will join the committee in 2018 along with returning members, Dale Akinla, Luther Peacock, Doug Kim, Peter Keller, Joe Maybank, Had Talbot and Camillo Santomero (vestry liaison).

June Blanc and Dale Akinla, Co-chairs
This has been a busy year for the Churchyard.

We have sold many plots in the Memorial Garden this year but still have a large number of plots in the Garden available. There are no regular plots available at this time.

I spent a lot of time trying to trim our bills to be more efficient and streamline our budget, while continuing to maintain and improve the beauty of the grounds. This process is going well. We used some outside help with trimming and leaf removal to augment the time that Cliff and Sam spent on the grounds. However, going forward we will be hiring a company to do the mowing, trimming and leaf removal in the churchyard. This will free up Sam from the normal maintenance work, although he will still be very involved with many tasks in the churchyard.

Our project to develop our data base of all those buried in our cemetery is progressing well. Checking and double checking all our records is a tedious chore, but an important one.

We have also instituted a new form for plot owners to use to request work to be done on their plots. Normal maintenance projects are accomplished by our staff, while special work needs to be done by outside landscapers. All work needs to be approved by our committee before it can begin.

We continue to use Presbrey Leland as our main source for headstones. We put plot owners in touch with Presbrey Leland to do the design, fabrication and installation, at the owners’ expense. Our staff then coordinates the installation with PL. Headstones also need approval from the committee before being installed.

Our commission is extremely grateful for Cliff’s help while he was with us, and for Sam, who works tirelessly to keep the churchyard looking wonderful.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Borner
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

The St. Matthew’s Endowment is in strong financial health and performed in line with the financial markets during 2016. The markets had a strong year and with the S&P 500 finishing 2017 with a strong gain of 21.8% including dividends. The St. Matthew’s Endowment had a return of 17.7%.

The Committee follows a policy of investing primarily in equity securities for the long-term. Its objective is to achieve a rate of return sufficient to maintain annual distributions and protect the Endowment’s inflation adjusted value for future generations while maintaining an acceptable level of risk. Cash reserves are held for anticipated requirements over the next 12 to 24 months.

The Endowment asset allocation is invested in passive index funds (84%), private equity funds (4%), and cash (11%). We have now completed three years of this passive strategy and the returns of our endowment have outperformed the majority of active managers during this period.

The Endowment is composed of three independent funds, and as of Dec 31, 2017 the funds were valued as follows; the Parish Fund ($5.2 million), The Churchyard Fund ($3.5 million) and the Bedell Fund ($14.3 million). The total Endowment was valued at $23.0 million as of Dec 31, 2017 and had $425,000 withdrawn during the year towards the operation of the Parish, Churchyard, and Bedell.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Annualized Returns</th>
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<td>Endowment</td>
<td>S&amp;P 500</td>
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<td>$9,950,144</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>$14,213,672</td>
<td>6.6 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$14,742,124</td>
<td>16.0 %</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>$16,680,396</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>$16,841,039</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>$9,590,762</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>$12,392,795</td>
<td>12.5 %</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>$13,400,025</td>
<td>-4.6 %</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>$12,335,708</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>$22,988,967</td>
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Investment Committee
John Talty (Chairman), Gregory J. Fleming, Wilmot Kidd, Piers MacDonald, Roger Vincent
June 2017 marked the end of the seventh year of operation for the St. Matthew’s Preschool (SMPS).

Under the outstanding leadership of Director Stephanie Scanlon and her wonderful teaching staff, the children had another terrific year. In addition to their regular classroom activities, the children enjoyed music, yoga and Spanish classes, cooking projects in the parish kitchen and nature walks in the woodlands. They also love tending to the Ada B. Combes Children’s Garden, where they learn about plants and gardening through their hands-on work in our beautiful raised-bed garden.

The weekly chapel service is one of the most unique and special elements of our program. The program, called “God’s Garden,” helps develop the spiritual lives of the children. They hear stories and learn songs that reinforce the values of faith, love, hope and service to others. Deacon Elena Barnum was kind enough to extended her ministry to include God’s Garden during the 2016-2017 school year. She established a warm rapport with the children and they enjoyed a wonderful year with her. We are grateful to her for her leadership of the program.

Because we are always mindful of security concerns, we have continued to work with an independent security consultant. He has helped us to review and improve our security protocols, assisted in the creation of a school safety plan and conducted training for the teachers in a kind of "crisis management" which would be specific to our property and population. This year, the school moved forward with recommended enhancements to the exterior school doors and a installed a new electronic door locking system. We are grateful to the Property Commission and the Vestry for enabling us to move forward with these important safety upgrades.

With 48 students, we were close to capacity for the 2016-2017 school year. For the 2017-2018 school year, we welcomed 44 students. Enrollment for the 2018-2019 year is underway and is looking strong, with only a few spots left in each age group.

St. Matthew’s School is blessed to have a vibrant and very creative Parents Association that has helped to build a strong community among the parents; provide support to the teachers and staff; and raise funds to support the school. In addition to hosting a back to school reception for parents and an end of year picnic for the children and their families,
the Parent’s Association also holds special get togethers for moms (and dads!) as well as a teacher appreciation luncheon.

At the end of 2017, St. Matthew’s School unveiled its new logo and announced that it would be changing its name to St. Matthew’s Preschool. We feel that the new logo better reflects the school and the joy, energy and enthusiasm we see in the faces of our students every day. We also wanted to be sure that our name reflected the fact that the focus of our school is early childhood education.

St. Matthew’s Preschool recently announced that it will undergo a leadership change beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Stephanie Scanlon, the SMPS Director, will be leaving our school at the end of the school year to become the Early Childhood and Lower School head at Heathwood Hall, an Episcopal school in Columbia, South Carolina. Stephanie’s contributions to the school are too numerous to list and her energy, commitment and guiding hand will be sorely missed. The SMPS board has engaged a search firm and has created a search committee to find Stephanie’s replacement.

A copy of the school’s operating statement is attached. We are proud to note that the school does not receive funds for its operation from the Church and pays rent to the church for the space used by the school.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank the members of the St. Matthew’s School Board. They have worked tirelessly to plan, promote, create and sustain what we believe is a very special place for preschool children. The St. Matthew’s School Board Members during the last school year were: Terry Elsberry, John Belknap, Suzanne Bowers, Leigh Garten, Will Irwin, Sally Ketchum, Karen Toy, Kelley Johnston, and Stephanie Scanlon.

St. Matthew’s School came into being largely due to the vision, energy and enthusiasm of Terry Elsberry. He was a founding member of our board and a passionate supporter of the school and its young charges. While his ministry to the school community will be greatly missed, his leadership and vision helped to create a solid foundation for the school and we are very grateful for his many contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Johnston
Chairman, St. Matthew’s Preschool Governing Board
St. Matthew’s Preschool  
Operating Statement (Cash Basis)  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

### Income

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### Expenses

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<td>Rent to St. Matthew’s Church</td>
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<td>Other Administrative Expenses</td>
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### Operating Income (Loss)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income (Loss)</td>
<td><strong>$13,757</strong></td>
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The 2017 Bedford Spring Antiques Show was a successful and fun event thanks to the efforts of many. For the 5th year, the Antiques Show and Champagne Preview Party were held at The Harvey School’s Athletic Center. Approximately 200 guests attended the Preview Party, and close to 225 visitors came each day on Saturday and Sunday to view the Show. This year we decided to forgo the dinner portion of the evening so there was no Live Auction or Raise the Paddle at this event. We did organize a small but successful Silent Auction of 5 items during the Preview Party which raised $8,900. Hadley Scully and Leslie Henshaw, the Preview Party Co-Chairs, worked tirelessly to promote the event’s success and invited Christopher Spitzmiller, a well-known designer, to be our Honorary Chair. Christopher lectured on his works Saturday afternoon during the Show which helped boost attendance. Kathy Abbott did a spectacular job of organizing and vetting the antique dealers who come from near and far. The Bedford Spring Antiques Show is known for its hospitality and the show café and dealers’ lunches that we offer provide a nice setting for all to shop for outstanding antiques. Over the past two years we have augmented our social media campaign to encourage weekend attendance. We would very much appreciate if all our St. Matthew’s parishioners could plan to attend the show over the weekend this year. We would like to thank our many parishioners who give so generously to make the show a huge success for St. Matthew’s, whether it be volunteer hours or bidding on/donating an auction item. Thank you!

Additional heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to:

- William Knauer and The Harvey School’s chef and staff for helping to make our event such a success
- Kathy Abbott for organizing a beautiful show with wonderful dealers
- The Preview Party Committee
- Special thanks goes to:
  Kelley Johnston  Treasurer
  Hadley Scully  Preview Party Co-Chair
  Leslie Henshaw  Preview Party Co-Chair
  Susan Carlson  Public Relations
  Katie Durfee  Advertising
  Holly Brown  Show Café
  Missy Renwick  Dealer Hospitality/Signage
  Tina Foster  Volunteers
  Steel and Tricia Swift  Vestibule Graphic Design

We look forward to the 2018 Bedford Spring Antiques Show to be held on April 13, 14 and 15 at The Harvey School.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Bowers
<table>
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<th>Income Statement</th>
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<td><strong>Ordinary Income/Expense</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunchroom Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Silent Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution from prior year's show</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Preview Party Sales</td>
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St Matthew’s Church School 2017-2018

Church School is in session September through early June for children ages 3 through 7th grade. The year includes 29 classes and a Palm Cross Activity Sunday.

CHILDREN’S SERVICE:
Services are held in our beautiful, cozy Children’s Chapel at 10:00 am.
First Sunday of the month: All School Communion service with lay minister and Rik Pike.
Sundays 2-5: PreK through 3rd graders attend a 20-minute service in the Children’s Chapel.
Minister: Service is led by one of five lay ministers or the Director.
Music: Provided by Mark Weigel on the guitar and keyboard. Service includes 2-3 songs.

CLASS TIME: All children (age 3 – 7th grade) attend class in the Parish House after service. There are five classes of two grades each. Classes are taught by a parent volunteer using the curriculum, Weaving God’s Promises (WGP). Class begins with a reading from the bible or a short story from WGP, followed by a craft, class activity or group discussion related to the day’s lesson.

CURRICULUM: Weaving God’s Promises offers a 3-year rotational curriculum and the sequence remains separate from the lectionary cycle. This year is the third year and is based on the Gospel of Luke. A story is provided each week, designating specific bible readings for middle school children. A wide variety of craft and dramatic activities are offered, allowing teachers to adjust based on the age and interests of their class.

ATTENDANCE:
The numbers: 43 families (53 last year)
65 children (84 last year)
25 is average Sunday attendance (26 last year)
All children who attend any days of Church School are offered an attendance certificate at the end of the year, June 10th. Awards are given for Faithful Attendance if eight or fewer classes are missed and for Perfect Attendance if no classes are missed. Activity Sunday or attendance at another service can compensate for a missed Church School class.

VIDEOS:
Weekly videos are shared with the Parish through the Thursday Blast. Rik Pike continues the series begun by the Christian Education Commission with Terry Elsberry. Video discussion is intended to enhance the week’s lesson with insight and modern relevance.

CHURCH SCHOOL PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES:
In the fall, children participate in the Blessing of the Pets, Red Rooster outing, the All Saints Parade and our cherished annual Christmas Pageant. In the spring, activities include Mardi Gras, Burning of the Palms, Bingo, Palm Cross Making, Maundy Thursday Dinner, the Children’s Holy Saturday Service, the Combes sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, Mother’s Day Flowering of the Cross and the Stream Stomp following the Attendance Awards.

OUTREACH:
Children participate in outreach through their weekly service offerings, Back to School and Mother’s Day Food Drives, the Thanksgiving Ingathering, the Christmas Toy Drive, a Super Bowl Bake Sale and collection for mite boxes during Lent. Hour Children, helping families at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, is the primary recipient of our efforts.

NURSERY:
The nursery is available at the 10:00 a.m. service throughout the year. It is offered to children under three on Church School Sundays and children under six if there is no Church School. The Director is in charge of staffing and arranges for an adult, Charlene Anderson, and a teenage parishioner to work most Sundays. Ten children have used the nursery this year, usually with 3-5 little ones on a given Sunday.

COFFEE HOUR:
The Church School is grateful for the child – focused, celebratory coffee hours provided by Team 1 on the first/last days of school, Halloween and after the Pageant. All teams are generous and thoughtful in providing a treat and nourishment after the hour of study, something our students really look forward to joining.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION:
Members meet monthly to discuss youth and children’s programs, Sunday attendance, curriculum and special activities.
Noriko Akinla, Chair
Michael Citro, Sophie Kernan, Terry Long, Ian MacLean, Mark Weigel and Rik Pike.

Respectfully submitted, Sophie Kernan, Christian Education Director
Communications: June Blanc, Chair

It has been a busy year for the Communications Committee. It is our goal that by housing all our communication pieces under one committee that we can keep our messaging consistent, coordinated and focused. We are also working on increasing our online presence through the website, Facebook and the Thursday weekly blast. Given the busy life of our parishioners and preferences for how to be contacted, the Communications Committee uses different media to reach our audience and connect them to St. Matthew’s.

The St. Matthew’s website: Mary Farley and June Blanc
The website was revamped to be easier to use, more aesthetic, highlight events, and be more welcoming. The website’s audience are our current parishioners and those who are looking for a church. More and more of functions such as registering and paying for events are also being provided making it easier for tracking for committees and registering/paying for attendees. The website also acts as a repository for information on the church (leadership, history, facilities, services), how to join, upcoming events, pledging and a new photo slideshow. The website receives approximately 900 hits per week.

The Key: Herb Foster and Jenny Convery
The Key remains our main mechanism for keeping parishioners informed of church activities and events, messages from our clergy. upcoming events, quick synopsis of past major events such as the Art Show through photos, the church calendar, what’s happening in Church School and our youth programs. The Key is produced 11 times a year and sent out to all parishioners either electronically (480 emailed) or by mail (214). The current and past Keys are available on the website. Many thanks also to our dedicated team who prepare The Key for mailing: Aimee Whitman, Betsy Meyer and Selby Ehrlich

Facebook: Camillo Santomero and Steel Swift
We are working to increase our presence on Facebook which is viewed publicly by the community as well as followed by our parishioners. It provides a way for parishioners to comment on the special qualities of St. Matthew’s or events, for publicizing our events to a wider audience, and for newcomers to get a view of our church as they shop for a home church. We hope parishioners will friend us and post or send photos to Camillo to post.
Weekly Thursday Blast: Barbara Murphy
The blast is intended as a quick reminder of events that are immediately happening (within the next 2 weeks) or timely announcements. It carries links for detailed information or registration. Information for the Blast should be sent by the end of Tuesday or early Wednesday morning to be included in the following Thursday weekly blast. Blasts are sent to 480 parishioners.

Press Releases: Herb Foster
For our major events such as the Art Show, Antiques Show or Bedford Chamber Concerts, their committees handle their own PR, but there are other events or announcements that are handled by Herb.

Photographers: Herb Foster, Tina Barrett, Sophie Kernan, June Blanc, Julie Bacon and Pat Thompson and Parishioners
The Communications welcome photos from parishioners. For specific events, the Communications Committee works to provide coverage. These photos are used in our various media including The Key, Facebook and the website. There is now a new section on the website with a slideshow of photos taken at events.

A special plea is made to parishioners to also send special photos they have taken to June or Herb to be shared with the parish.
The Men of St. Matthew's (MSM) is open to all male parishioners and is organized to support parish activities and engender Christian fellowship.

In 2017, we completed a change in the leadership of the MSM, as we said goodbye to Mike Struble and Douglas Kim as co-chairs of the group. Their enthusiastic replacements are Thomas Eshoo and Ryan Kent. Both members are active St. Matthew’s members with families, so they are ideal in this leadership role.

The monthly Men’s Fellowship Breakfasts - led by Kevin Lahart and Bill Fagan - continue to be a strong point of fellowship that brings together the MSM. The breakfasts continue to be well attended by a core group of a dozen or so parishioners. Saturday youth sports and the general demands of parenting are cited most often as barriers to the younger men of St Mathews attending the breakfasts. These breakfasts begin with coffee/bagels and casual conversation followed by a discussion around a selected topic led by one of the participants. They take place in the Fellowship Hall on the third Saturday of each month, and are promoted via email to the MSM group list and on the St. Matthew’s calendar. In the coming year, there will be an active effort to recruit new voices from within the parish to speak on Saturdays. In December, the men continued their annual tradition of preparing a special Christmas breakfast. The food was fantastic and we had a significant turnout, as in past years. Without fail, these breakfasts are a great source of fellowship, lively discussion, and laughter for all who participate. We are currently working on trying to establish an additional time slot, perhaps in the evening after work once a month for those MSM interested in participating in a fellowship group.

The MSM continued to provide organizational support, labor, and cooking skills to traditional events on the St. Matthew’s calendar: the Spaghetti Supper, the All-Parish Picnic, and the Christmas tree sale organized by Paul and Lindsay Matthews.

For 2018, in addition to supporting or leading the traditional events, we are going to continue the MSM handling coffee hour on Mother’s Day weekend. We’ll try to come up with a fun and unique to do this. We’ll also likely organize a father-son fun run in Bedford. Finally, it has been suggested that we should include male confirmed in the monthly men’s breakfast to help welcome them in their role in the church as young adults. We intend to start this up in the spring of this year.

We have tried to build on our success in raising the visibility of the MSM and its activities, and we think we continue to gain steady momentum. We communicate as often as possible with the MSM, both in person and via email, while also being careful of overload. Our sense is that the best way to continue to build the MSM is to be realistic about the number of endeavors we undertake, execute them well, have some fun in the process, and continue to build the core group of volunteers.

We welcome input and ideas as to how we can best deliver on our mission and serve the St. Matthew’s community in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Kim, Michael Struble, Tom Eshoo & Ryan Kent
Community outreach has been one of the primary functions of our church and it fulfills God’s command to love your neighbor as yourself. The Outreach Commission is a dedicated group of parishioners who recognize the value of outreach in our community. The outreach beneficiaries have come to know St. Matthew’s Church as a caring place that is available to lend a pair of hands and help them financially. As Terry often reminded us, the needs of the less advantage in our community is astounding and needs to be continually addressed.

Special thanks to Terry, Rik, Dan and the Vestry for their continuing support of St. Matthew’s Outreach Programs.

Our allocations from our annual budget were $20,000.00. Our Thanksgiving In-gathering donations decreased this year by $500 and we were able to donate at total of $1,340.00 to the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, Community Center of Northern Westchester, Open Arms and Mt. Kisco Emergency Housing Shelter. This represents a $5,000 decrease over the last five years.

In 2017 Peter Keller spent the night at the Emergency Housing Shelter held at the Antioch Baptist Church. This is the 12th year that we have participated and we will do so again in 2018. Caroline Shepherd, Lindsay Keller, Betsy Meyer and Laurie Sturz prepared dinner for the shelter and breakfast for the next morning. The funds we allocate to the emergency shelter are applied to the costs of housing homeless people during the hard winter months and are held in neighboring churches and synagogues. There can be as many as 22 people receiving this type of housing assistance on any given night and the need for shelter has seen an increase in usage in the last six years.

Dan Moore organized several Midnight Run Trips to New York City. There is scheduled a Midnight Run on March 24th. We are always looking for parishioners to help make sandwiches for the Midnight Run every third Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in the church kitchen.

We continue our Minutes for Mission, a program where non-profit directors or volunteers come and speak about their programs during the church service. This continues to be an informative opportunity for our parishioners to hear firsthand about these Outreach Programs. Past speakers have been Carola Bracco, Neighbors Link, CarlLa Horton from Hope’s Door and Friar Christopher Jenks from Fessedan House. This spring we will be hearing from POTTS (part of the solution) which is a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, educational facility located in the Bronx. Terry Elsberry and David Pakman are board members.
Neighbor helping Neighbor prepares dinners by parishioners and delivered the same day. Anyone who is sick and needs food or transportation assistance, please call Tina Foster. Tina is looking for more volunteers to food preparation.

Goals for 2018 are to increase giving and the volunteer level in our outreach programs.

Commission members include:
Rip Pike, Tina Foster, Lindsay Keller, Doug Kim, Betsy Meyer, Terry Long, Jody Mack, Dan Moore, Jan Pinckney, Caroline Shepherd, Missy Renwick, Twig Stickney, April Foley, and Laurie Sturz. Chris Robinson will be our new Neighbors Link partner.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sturz
Caroline Shepherd
Co-Chairs Outreach Commission
### OUTREACH

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**Total OUTREACH**  
18,785.75

**TOTAL**  
18,785.75
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
2017

St. Matthew’s has had a long history of taking care of their own. The group has evolved into a cadre of angels who, on a moment’s notice, will prepare a hot meal, and deliver it, to parishioners in their time of need or sorrow.

What an opportunity to share the Christian spirit and to help your neighbor!!

Please call Tina Foster (914-282-3054) if you would like to help out in this very special way.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Foster
St. Matthew's Church Property Commission
Annual Report 2018

Chairman
John Pinckney

Members
Andy Brenner  Dan deMenocal  Tina Foster
Tom LaMotte  Paul Matthews  Paul Sturz

Operating Budget
$65,000
Funds actually spent - $64,000

Items Accomplished in 2017

1. Replaced all windows at Jefferson Lane
2. Installed propane generators to service the Rectory and Parish House
4. Installed security door at the access ramp to the Nursery School
5. Began major refurbishing of the Caretaker's Cottage
6. Rebuilt retaining wall outside of the Parish Hall
7. Installed digital monitoring of wells
8. Converted telephones to voice over IP.
9. Recontoured Rectory patio to provide better drainage

Expected and Potential Expenditures for 2018

1. Continue work on Caretaker's Cottage including new appliances and gutters
2. Address drainage issues in parking lots affecting Parish Hall and the approach to The Chapel In The Woods
3. Blacktop repair or replacement
4. Continue to upgrade safety procedures and equipment

Changes for 2018

Our Commission and the care of property has been significantly impacted by Cliff O'Donnell's retirement. Many responsibilities and procedures have been altered. Working with The Vestry, we believe we will be able to maintain the beauty of St. Matthew's and still see economic benefit by utilizing some outsourcing.

Sam Godoi will be moving into the Cottage giving us an on site, conscientious presence. His knowledge, capabilities, and work ethic are remarkable. We feel very lucky to have him. Although he may be on campus, our hope is that he will only be called upon after hours for true emergencies.

In spite of having our funding reduced by twenty percent, we were able to stay within budget. With several large expenditures behind us, we are hopeful for a sound fiscal 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pinckney
Women of St. Matthew’s has some new members with a lot of very good ideas, and hope to do some worthwhile things this year. We hope to re-institute some events, such as the Christmas House Tour, that were popular and successful in the past. It is worth noting that every woman of the parish is automatically a member of Women of St. Matthew’s. People are very busy and are often reluctant to commit to being on committees for many different events. It’s possible to become involved without committing to a lot of meetings. Many events, such as the Maundy Thursday supper, happen only once a year.

We did not have our annual luncheon in 2017. It is usually held in the spring. It was felt with the Spring Antiques Show and the events surrounding Terry’s retirement that it was better to pass on it for a year. We hope to have it in 2018, if we will have use of the Fellowship Room.

There is a lot of enthusiasm for exploring different avenues of outreach, and also contributing to maintaining the fabric of the church.

Amoret Jorgensen has done a wonderful job with the Coffee Hour, keeping everything running smoothly throughout the back and forth of the church construction. The modified coffee hours have been a success, and hopefully no one misses the china too much.

The Christmas brunch was successful and enjoyable this year.

Art Show:Bedford had a tremendous turnout for the preview party and is entering its final weekend.

We anticipate having a generous amount to donate to the twenty charities we support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Convery
CHECKING ACCOUNT:
Balance as of 1/1/17: $50,764.98

Income:
- Art Show Bedford 2016 $30,000.00
- Christmas Brunch 2016 $40.00
- Christmas Brunch 2017 $2,777.00
- Annual Dues $4,275.00
Total Credits: $37,092.00

Debits:
- Art Show Bedford Prize $125.00
- Christmas Brunch 2017
  Note: caterer’s bill paid 1/18
  Waitstaff, setup help $880.00
- Mailing Permit $48.48
- Office Supplies/ Postage $215.00
- Printing - Katonah Publishing $375.00
Outreach:
- A-Home $1,500.00
- A-Home (Emergency boiler fund) $1,000.00
- Abbot House $1,500.00
- Boys and Girls Club $2,000.00
- Bridge Fund $2,750.00
- Caring Circle of Hospice Care $1,250.00
- Chaplaincy of N. Westchester $750.00
- Community Center of N. Westchester $1,000.00
- Endeavor Therapeutic Riding $500.00
- Hope’s Door $2,000.00
- Hope’s Door Star Program $1,250.00
- Hospice Care of Westchester/Putnam $2,000.00
- Hour Children $2,000.00
- Making Headway $500.00
- Midnight Run $500.00
- Mt. Kisco Child Care Center $1,000.00
- Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry $1,000.00
- My Second Home $1,500.00
- Neighbor’s Link $500.00
- Part of the Solution (P.O.T.S.) $500.00
- Pegasus Project $500.00
- Rector’s Discretionary Fund $3,000.00
- S.P.C.A. $500.00
- Waterside School [scholarship] $500.00
- Westchester Exceptional Children’s School $500.00
- Cliff O’Donnell retirement gift $1,000.00
- Pike baby shower $300.00
- St. Matthew’s - Terry’s Retirement Gift $1,000.00
Total Debits: $33,943.48

Balance as of 12/31/17: $53,913.50

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:
Balance as of 1/1/17: $28,113.35
Balance as of 12/31/17: $28,113.35

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Meyer, Treasurer
The 44th annual Art Show Bedford was held in Fellowship Hall and began with a beautiful Preview Party that was underwritten by a member of the church who wished to be anonymous. Bedford Gourmet catered and staffed the party and Mark Wiegel and his band Dogbone provided the music for this festive evening. (Please note attendance and proceeds from the Preview Party in the Treasurer’s Report attached.) Since the previous year a massive snowstorm prevented the show from opening to the public on Saturday, we extended ASB to a second week-end, the committee decided to continue with this format. The amount of work and time expended to create this outreach project made us realize that one week-end in January—with variable weather—was not enough to enable us to raise the amount of money we have traditionally donated to the local charities that we support. This year’s exhibition was done in collaboration with Uprise Art and chashama, (a non-profit that provides housing and studio space for artists) as well as local artists that were selected by Cynthia Brennan, Leslie Henshaw and Dorothy Lanier.

Once we had planned for the extension of the show in 2017, we were able to offer some additional programs: On Thursday, January 26th, the three organizations that make up Cultural Katonah: Caramoor, John Jay Homestead and the Katonah Museum of Art sent representatives/materials on Thursday January 26th. On Saturday January 28th we held a Young Collector's Evening and invited three experts to talk about how to build a collection as well as their own experiences in the field. We were very fortunate to have Michael Klein who judged the exhibition and was responsible for curating the Microsoft Art Collection, Kipton Cronkite of "artstager" and a fellow St. Matthew's member, Mike McGinnis, former CEO and president of Phillips Auction house and presently a partner in a major NYC gallery. All three men provided valuable and interesting advice that was very entertaining as well as informative. The presentation was followed by a lovely reception enjoyed by those who attended. At both the Preview Party and the Collector's Evening there were performance artists provided by and underwritten by chashama. We were treated to "The Snow King and Queen" at the Preview Party and Mister and Misses Clown for the Saturday night event.

We were especially fortunate to have exceptional publicity coverage for the show this year. The Record Review gave us three weeks of publicity including the front page of the paper the week before the show opened. Also, Ganett/The Journal News sent a reporter and photographer that featured ASB both in print and on line. Nancy Dexter did a wonderful job with both publicity and social media. Sales and attendance during the exhibition were consistent with prior years and we were able to make the same amount of donations to the non-profits. (See attached report)

As always, the ASB committee did a stellar job in creating the exhibition. This outreach project of the Women of St. Matthew's is our church's face in the community and I am grateful for the dedication of the women who give their valuable time and effort to ensure the quality of the legacy that continues after four decades.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Blau, Chair

Art Show Committee:
Katherine Bang, Cynthia Brennan, Claire Christ, Nancy Dexter, Mary Farley, April Foley, Leslie Henshaw, Carolyn John, Dorothy Lanier, Robyn McCree, Betsy Meyer, Laurie Sturz, Suannah Swanson, and Caroline Walker.
Laura Blau
ART SHOW BEDFORD 2017
Financial Report

Balance on Hand 1/1/17: $11,003.13

Income:
Preview Party (2017) $17,191.60
Art sales $44,855.00
Art prizes donated $425.00
Preview Party (2018) $3,950.00

Total Income: $66,421.60

Expenses:
Preview Party
Wine $661.92
Rental of glassware, tables, etc. $499.00
Bedford Gourmet catering (donated) $1,000.00
Waitstaff, helpers and band $862.00
Panel rental from Historical Hall $1,000.00
Printing $1,240.00
Postage $273.92
Supplies $431.84
Credit card fees $754.46
Bank svc. charges $12.00
Artist payments $28,598.50
Art prizes $525.00
Chashama donation $500.00
Outreach - Women of St. Matthew's $30,000.00

Total Expenses: $65,358.64

Balance on Hand 12/31/17: $12,066.09

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Meyer, Treasurer
December 2017 marked the nineteenth anniversary of the formation of the Volunteer Receptionists of St. Matthew's Church. This is an important and rewarding task, for by manning the Reception Center in the Parish House and responding to and directing telephone calls; greeting visitors; answering questions, and taking messages; and carrying out routine administrative tasks they relieve the Clergy and the small administrative staff, from a constant flow of interruptions, thus allowing them to best manage their time.

This important service to St. Matthew's and support for the Clergy and staff is carried out at no cost to the Parish. The Volunteers time is freely given, and the office supplies are donated. It is estimated that if Volunteers did not carry out this service it would cost the Church a minimum of $22,000 to replace them.

We desperately need new volunteers to step forward to help

The morning shift is from 9:00am - 12:30pm with an afternoon shift 12:30pm - 2:00pm. We need a minimum number of eight regulars supported by sixteen substitute volunteers. The tasks are not onerous, and the service is rewarding. If you could spare four hours a week, a month, a quarter, or even once a year to help, please contact me at 203-938-2579.

A huge thank-you to the all the men and women who are our volunteer team - you make a difference. We remember fondly Mary Seaman who gave so many years as a Reception Volunteer.

Respectfully submitted by,

Constance M. Lindsay Stewart
Annual Report of
The Welcome Commission
St. Matthew's Church

2017

The Welcome Commission has the delightful charge of greeting newcomers and introducing them to the life of the Parish. Current members of the Commission are Jean Donlon, Catherine Eshoo, Mary Farley, Leigh Garten, Barbara Gatfield, Meredith Kent, Sophie Kernan, Susan Kroege, Sally Kroll, John Pinckney, Mary Ann Robinson, Anita Stockbridge, and Marilen Tilt. We telephoned our personal welcomes and delivered bread and a copy of Key Notes to 18 new families in 2017. Vestry members complement our work with their own welcoming calls.

Martha Spofford continues as our baker extraordinaire, making delicious banana bread for all newcomers. This is but one example of the many unseen and unsung contributions which parishioners make to the life of St. Matthew’s. Be sure to thank Martha when you see her, for continuing to bake for us.

We continued our usual traditions in 2017: staffing a table at Coffee Hour to greet new people; sending greetings to newborns; hosting a festive cocktail party, again at the lovely home of John and Caroline Walker; and scheduling two Orientation sessions for newcomers—one in the spring and one in the fall.

In spring 2017 we continued the new Fellowship dinners that began at the end of 2016. These gatherings, held at the homes of willing parishioners, are intended to encourage more connections among all parishioners in fun and relaxed settings. Though not exclusively for newcomers, it is hoped that they might think to attend . . . or that long time parishioners who are attending will invite a newcomer to join them. Word-of-mouth did its magic and in the fall, the number of new sign-ups for the dinners grew. Thanks to Pierce’s generosity, the fall and winter dinners were held in the Rectory, which was a special treat. In addition, several dinner groups invited newcomers to join them. It is hoped that this momentum of fun, feasting and fellowship will continue into the next round (spring and fall, 2018) and that those who have not joined a group in the past will want to do so in 2018.

Members of the Commission also spent time in the fall of 2017 updating and revising both written materials and website information to more accurately present St. Matthew’s and to clarify the process for membership.

Here’s what we need: a second male member of the Commission, to join John Pinckney (friendly women also needed)! Please consider joining us—the tasks are not onerous and the group is a delight to work with.

Finally, many thanks to the faithful Commission members and to the Clergy and parishioners who assist us in presenting St. Matthew’s friendly face.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Schloat, Chair
January 31, 2018

In 2017, the Woodlands continued to provide peace, quiet and enjoyment to many walkers, equestrians (with the intertwined and overlapping trails of our friends of the Bedford Riding Lanes Association), dog lovers and those seeking a leisurely stroll or a light hike in the woods. Use of the Glebe Trail and the trails of the Ketchum Sanctuary is steady. Our log at the trail head has recorded visits from locals and those from further afield, many expressing sincere appreciation to St. Matthew’s for this splendid gift. The use of the trails and the satisfaction with them expressed by the St. Matthew’s family and friends truly shows that the Woodlands are a valued resource that the Church is providing to the community.

St. Matthew’s continues to enjoy its partnership and close relationship with the BRLA. We thank the BRLA members for their significant help in maintaining the trails that overlap with ours. We also enjoy continuing our ties with The Nature Conservancy, which generously conveyed The Ketchum Sanctuary to the Church several years ago.

While the trails remain in overall good to excellent condition, there is work needed in some areas, particularly on the outer reaches of the North Loop in the Ketchum Sanctuary and on trail marking. Recognizing the need for some maintenance in the deeper reaches of the Woodlands, on three occasions commissioners worked on the trails independently or led volunteers, who offered their time, energy and enthusiasm to maintain and improve this lovely resource. On at least two occasions in 2017, commissioners added trail markers and cleared fallen trees and branches. Most recently, this autumn commissioners led a small but cheerful band of volunteers – adults and children - who began the work of clearing the overgrown trail areas on the northern end of the North Loop.

The two goals of the Commission for 2018 are to complete the clearing of the North Loop and to revise the existing trail map to coincide with the existing and modernized trail marking system. The latter goal will include installing additional trail markers consistent with modern trail marking protocols and making the trail map more easily found on the parish’s website and available at the trailhead. We will resume this work in the spring of 2018, continuing as needed into the year. Some of the trail work (costs of trail markers) and the drawing and printing of a revised trail map may require a modest request for Church resources. At this time, no need for non-volunteer manual labor help is anticipated.

All members of the St. Matthew’s family are invited to join us in our trail work; for anyone who enjoys a walk in the woods and lending a hand there is something to do to help maintain the trails. Moreover, it’s a great opportunity for fellowship and family bonding and does not entail a significant time commitment. We plan on announcing three or four volunteer trail maintenance events in the course of 2018 – a couple of hours each on a few Saturdays.

And we invite all to enjoy the trails – we truly are blessed to have them. Take a stroll and find out for yourself. You’ll be glad you did. We welcome your comments. Please send us an e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Burdick
chriswburdick@gmail.com

Ian W. MacLean
iwm.smc@gmail.com
Worship Commission Report
2017

The role of the Worship Commission involves all aspects of church services “behind the altar rail”. Pierce and Rik have the ultimate say in all aspects of the services; the hymns, the lessons (although we do follow the standard lectionary), and tweaks that might be necessary for all three services. Tina Foster works with the acolytes, both at 8 and 10. Those wonderful young people act as crucifers, collect the offering, set up the communion table, etc.

Candy Borner heads up the Altar Guild; her ladies polish the brass and silver, set up and remove the communion vessels for each Eucharist; make sure that there are candles as needed; set up for baptisms; make sure the linens are all clean and ironed; take care of the clergy vestments; and far too many duties to enumerate.

Connie Lindsay-Stewart is in charge of all those gorgeous flowers. Her ladies pick up and arrange the altar flowers, the side window, the vestibule, the chapel and now the children’s chapel flowers each week. They arrange for the memorials and figure out the finances of same. They decorate the church for all of the special occasions, and do it magnificently.

Tina Foster heads up the Lay Readers. The scheduling is done through the Parish office, luckily. There is a lot of training that goes into being a Lay Reader, and lots of weekly nudges....

James Garten and Bill Fagan are in charge of the ushers. They train them, the Parish office schedules them.

Roger Blanc and Mark Weigel have joined us representing the Vestry and the Music Committee; any service without our beloved Tony Newman and choir just isn’t the same.

Member-at-large is Andrew Heath.

Christian Ed is represented by Noriko Akinla. She works closely with Sophie Kernan to try to educate all of our little darlings.

The Worship Commission tries to meet two-three times a year.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine P. Foster
St. Matthew’s Church Altar Guild

Annual Report 2017

The Altar Guild continues to be an active group of ladies who support the regular Sunday services at 8 am, 10 am and 5 pm, the Wednesday Eucharist service at 10 am, and all special services, as well as help with weddings, baptisms and funerals, as necessary in the Church building and also the Children’s Chapel. It is our pleasure to be of service to the clergy and our St. Matthew’s families, and I am very grateful to all the Guild members who cheerfully give their time and talents to meet the increasing needs of our parish.

The Altar Guild supplies the wine, wafers, candles and candle oil used during the services, and maintains the altar linens, the vestments used by the clergy, lay readers and acolytes, and the hangings used in the church. The Flower Committee arranges the memorial flowers placed in the church and flowers for the Children’s Chapel for all services. Guild members regularly polish all brass and silver items. Members also deliver flowers from the church to parishioners who are sick or homebound. The Guild consists of over 40 ladies who work tirelessly and quietly “behind the scenes” on one or more of the following committees.

- Flower Committee, including special Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter decorating groups.
- Eucharist Committee
- Brass Committee
- Silver Committee
- Fair Linen Committee
- Small Linens and Vestments Committee
- Sewing Committee
- Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals Committee

This year, a longtime member, Aimee Whitman retired from the Altar Guild after many years of devoted service at the 8 am Holy Eucharist. I thank her for her large contribution to our Guild. We also thank, Bobbie D’Avanzo for her many years laundering the small linens.
Bonnie MacDonald and Marilen Tilt joined the Guild’s Eucharist Committee. Welcome and many thanks !!!!

I am very grateful to all the members for their continued dedication to beautifying our church at all times, including Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and special events. I am especially appreciative for the support of our Treasurer, Connie Combes, and the Flower Committee Chairman, Connie Lindsay-Stewart. Also, many thanks to Betsy Meyer who always pitches in to help out in many ways.

We feel fortunate to have been able to work closely with Terry, Rik, Tina and George and now, Pierce, our Interim Rector. Many thanks as well to Barbara, Sam and Kelly, whose constant help is invaluable. We are appreciative for the help from Cliff and Maud before they left us for other endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,
Candy Borner, Directress
St. Matthew's Church Altar Guild  
Treasurer's Report 2017

January 1 - December 31, 2017

Designated Memorial Savings  7,130.70
Interest Income  3.57
Total  7,134.27

Operating Account

Receipts

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<td>Easter</td>
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<td>Children's Chapel Flower Gifts</td>
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Expenses

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<td>21,526.79</td>
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Balance 12/31/17  3,439.38

Respectfully submitted,
Constance W. Combes, Treasurer
Palm Sunday and Easter. The palms we use are sustainable plants from an eco-friendly farm. Azalea trees, lilies, hyacinths and ivy decorate the church for Easter. The 'Children's Garden' in the vestibule was created by Poppy Cummings and Mimi Lines in memory of Ada B. Combes and Charles P. Barratt-Brown. The "Children's Chapel" was decorated with spring flowers. The flowers from the Easter services were not wasted. They were 'sold' for a donation towards El Hogar.

Confirmation Sunday. The parents and sponsors of the confirmands donated towards the cost of the traditional red and white flower for the Bishop's visit.

The Feast Day of St. Francis. The donations given to the "Pet Memorial" allowed us to make a donation of $800 to Huston Animal Rescue. We welcome any suggests for a charity for the 2017 Pet Memorial.

Children's Chapel Flowers for the Children's Chapel are provided through anonymous donations from "Friends of the Children's Chapel". If you would like to be a "BFF" please contact Connie Lindsay Stewart. The flowers in this Chapel are not memorials but instead glorify God and "celebrate an event" (Birth, birthday, confirmation, graduation).

Thanks. Our thanks to Lauren of "The Bedford Village Florist", who continues to be of enormous assistance by donating flowers for the Chapel and the greenery for the flower arrangements each Sunday. My thanks go to all the members of the Flower Committee, especially to our treasurer Connie Combes. Any person who is interested in joining this committee and help decorate our church should contact me at 203-938-2579.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Lindsay Stewart
We are blessed with a loyal, conscientious cadre of Lay Readers. Not only are they reliable, but they step in to help with whatever part of the service needs attention. At the 8am service, we have acolytes from the current confirmation class; the Lay Readers act as teachers and prompters! Of course, it is a real pleasure to work with Pierce and Rik. May 2018 bring everyone peace and health.

Christine P. Foster

Scott Brown
Cha Fagan
Tina Foster
Ginger Getz
Andrew Heath
Michael Jackson
Doug Kim
Kim Morella
Lorraine Reeder
Twig Stickney
John Stockbridge
Pat Thompson
Bonnie Tisi
Jane Wood
Music Committee Annual Meeting Report for 2017

At Sunday services, our musical director, Anthony Newman, continues to provide both new works and extraordinary performers and his choir continues to provide music from the great composers. The choir now has six professional singers: Catherine Webber and Julie Dolphin, soprano; Trish Hussey, mezzo-soprano; Chance Jonas-O’Toole and Matthew Pearce, tenor; and Thomas West, bass. The volunteer choir members are: April Foley, soprano, Connie Combes, Deanna Maclean and Jill Hamilton, alto; and Roger Blanc and Luther Peacock, bass. At the 5:00 services, Tony and Mark Weigel present traditional music as well as more contemporary offerings to match the theme of each service

In the Bedford Chamber Concert series, Dr. Newman offers classical music from the great composers. Our concerts enjoy strong audience appeal and attendance. The 2017-2018 season features Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Mozart and Schubert, as well as works by Dr. Newman. The October concert was an all-Schubert concert; November was all Mozart; and December was devoted to Handel’s Messiah. A special February concert will feature works for piano four hands performed by the renowned husband and wife duo pianists, Misha and Cipa Dichter, who also played for us last year. The March concert will feature Vladimir Feltsman, playing piano works by Bach and Brahms. The April concert will present a Brahms piano quintet, a Mozart piano quartet and a concerto for trumpet and strings composed by Dr. Newman. The May concert will present Beethoven’s Kreutzer sonata for violin and piano and a special chamber concert arrangement by Dr. Newman of Beethoven’s Eroica Symphony.

As is true of virtually all classical music series, ticket sales pay only part of the cost of putting on the programs, in our case about half the cost. Generous donor contributions make up the rest.

We also particularly wish to commend the following for their help on the Committee:

- Connie Combes: Hall set-up, decorations and intermission snacks
- Fred John: Author of program notes; musical expertise, publicity and press releases
- Bill Fagan: Posters and concert programs
- Amoret Jorgenson: Intermission snacks
- Deanna Maclean: Season schedule mailer
- Bonnie Tisi: Musician food order, intermission snacks
- Jill Hamilton: Final Program and Key articles editor
- Luther Peacock: Phone ticket orders, wine order, intermission snacks
- Had Talbot: Musician food order
- Chuck & Sari Singer: Intermission snacks
- Jane Wood: Ticket desk
- April Foley: Intermission snacks

Anthony Newman, who has spent over two decades of his extraordinary and productive life here, continues to be a real treasure for our music program. We could not do without him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Blanc and Mark Weigel, Co-Chairs
Usher Report 2017

We had approximately 48 ushers in 2017 volunteering at our 8am and 10am services.

We were able to temporarily transition and manage services in the Fellowship Hall and the Children’s Chapel with assistance and input from all and I believe we will be able to manage this well when we move again during church renovation.

We are always grateful to find any member of St. Matthew’s willing to contribute their time and support our church by joining our ranks for this rewarding volunteer opportunity, so please step forward if you are interested.

It is a pleasure to participate and assist in the services at our church and our usher volunteers are notable for their dedication to St. Matthew’s.

Respectfully,

J Garten