

ANNUAL REPORT

For

St. Matthew's

Episcopal Church

May 15th, 2022



St. Matthew's Annual Meeting

May 15th, 2022

AGENDA

- A. Opening Prayer and Welcome – Mary Ann Loftus, Senior Warden
- B. Senior Warden Annual Meeting Report
- C. Junior Warden Annual Meeting Report
- D. Brief Annual Meeting Oral Reports from Lay Leaders
- E. Election of Vestry Members & Delegates to Diocesan Convention
 - 1. Appoint Tellers
- F. Finance Report - Tom Culver, Treasurer
- G. Adjournment – Senior Warden

The Election Committee will report the results at the close of the meeting.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear friends and fellow parishioners,

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone who makes our Sunday services possible – the Junior Warden and Thurifer, the members of the Altar Guild, the Minister of Music, the Lectors, Ushers, and our church Secretary. Additionally, I would also like to thank the Chairs and members of the various Lay Ministries. No matter what role you have, you have my thanks for your unwavering support and dedication to St. Matthew's!

I never expected to be in this position and was more than content to be just a weekly presence on the altar - worshiping with you all, but only sharing my faith and joining in fellowship in my own quiet and select way. I might have seemed aloof to some, detached by others, or worst case, seemingly uninterested and not fully invested in this wonderful house of God by you all. Unfortunately, these misperceptions are the reality of one having a shy and introverted nature. I have long known that I was never meant for 'center-stage' and accordingly, I have learned to hone the strengths that God has given me – they lie in one-on-one interaction, and active observation.

Keeping that in mind, let me share some of the things I have heard and experienced since *our* collective transition period began...

I have heard many stories from individuals that have a multi-generational past here – but they do not continue to worship here due to the confines of a familial duty or heritage, they choose to be here...I have heard stories from individuals that had attended other houses of worship, but their journey in faith has brought them here, and kept them here...I have heard stories from those that had no experience with an organized religion, until someone asked them to attend a service, and after, they felt like they were called home and stayed...Whatever their backstory was, to me one thing was apparent - they get fulfillment here that they cannot get anywhere else, or from anyone else...

I have experienced the fulfillment of fellowship during the work parties for the ADA/bathroom renovation project. I have shared the feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction upon its completion. I look forward to future work parties, just to have that feeling renewed! And I even learned how to properly dip a peanut butter egg in melted chocolate, thanks to Noelle!

But the most important thing I have heard and experienced firsthand is the unwavering commitment of the vestry, to see us through this transitional time. Each member brings a unique skill set, along with strength of character, to the meeting table. I pledge to you all that I will continue to facilitate our meetings in an open and honest manner and allow all voices and opinions heard.

Please continue to share your concerns and hopes for our future with any vestry member, or myself. And if you have not already done so, kindly complete and return our survey – the results will help us determine the needs and wants of our St. Matthew's family, so we can call, with God's help, the one best suited to meet them. This is OUR house, and together we will not only make it through this, but we will also be better off for the journey in the end!

Respectfully,

Mary Ann Loftus, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

It has been a very busy year for our church facilities. The gardens around the church have never looked so good. Many thanks to everyone who helps to maintain the gardens and lawn-planting, cutting, trimming, mulching, and the yearly clean-up.

Inside the church, there have been many projects completed and many underway. The biggest so far has been the restroom, library/hallway renovation. Both restrooms were renovated and a third ADA compliant family restroom was added. The hallway was raised to provide easy access from the social hall to the sanctuary. Again, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the demo, sanding, painting, staining and the beautiful decorating job.

We are planning on putting new flooring in the social hall (matching the hallway/library). In preparation for the new flooring, the walls and woodwork will be painted/stained. Stand by for work party dates and times!

In the sanctuary, we had an unfortunate incident with one of triangle stained glass windows in the altar area. The frame on the window failed and the window collapsed. Fortunately, only a few pieces of the stained glass broke. It was repaired and reinstalled. Gratefully, our insurance covered a good portion of the repair. It is important that we have all the windows inspected to prevent this from occurring to any others.

A baby grand piano was purchased for the sanctuary and its sound makes a wonderful addition to our services.

The heating system will be serviced and a few minor leaks repaired when the system is shut down for the summer. A few other small projects are in line, including the faucet and water heater in the sacristy, vestibule door handles, and a few regular maintenance jobs.

Some larger projects should be placed on our "in the future" wish list- new flooring in the sanctuary and repaving the parking lot-all in good time!

Again, many thanks to everyone who has donated their time, money, and materials to keep our church functioning and looking great!

In Christ,

Roy Casey
Jr. Warden

ECW Report 2021-22

What can be said about these difficult times we have been living with the last few years except..... Ugh, God can you turn it off? However, the women of this parish are still hard at work trying to keep things as near normal as possible but still following safe guidelines in order to accomplish the work He has given us to do. At times it may appear that we are always doing some kind of "fun" raiser but I'm not sure if we could flourish as a community of Christ without our communities support in these endeavors. They have provided us with valuable time together, crazy as they are at times, reaching out to our community who hunger for what we do(and do well) and provide the funds so badly needed for projects and ministries in our parish.

We held many drive thru meal and soup sales(almost monthly), Spring Auction(plan to attend this years as it is such a fun evening 5/21), St Nicholas Festival, work at some Lynda Culver events, making of Eggs, and a new event held by Sunbury Revitalization, Christmas in July; we had fun gathering making all types of crafts, bird houses, gnomes, garden lanterns and many items, we also sold hot sausage sandwiches and lavender lemonade spritzers. With the proceeds from these events we tithe to our ministries here and to the Rector's discretionary fund, we send a check yearly to Haven Ministries and to the Episcopal World Relief and Development Fund, this year earmarked for the relief of the Ukrainian people. Did you know that the new set of Stations were hand carved, made in the Ukraine, and how lucky we were to get them out before the invasion? Carol Lamparter reached out to the artist to tell them how much we are enjoying their work and praying for them; they are located in the western part of the country and are not experiencing the horror the east is.

With the years of work, we were able to donate \$21,000.00 towards the choir hall project but know our work is hardly ever done, more events will be planned with some new one that will be a focus on our neighbors! Stay tuned!

If you would like to be included in the lengthy text list let me know.... Just a warning, they can go off task very quickly but are entertaining, every time Fred Sauter hears Barbs phone ping he asks, "the church ladies?".

Please consider joining us as we continue to do works in His name. Amen.

Submitted by

Cynthia Reid

FOOD PANTRY



HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY

His Disciples Food Pantry has been providing food and other necessities to those in need, for over twelve years. Along with food, this outreach program allows people who come to the food pantry, to fellowship with other people. The fellowship is an important part of our ministry as many have very little contact with other people.

Over the years our Parish family, along with other organizations in the community, have provided food and financial assistance to the food pantry so that we have been able to continue our outreach efforts. We also assist other organizations at times by providing food for people on an emergency basis.

The food pantry receives no funds from county or state agencies and we do not gather any personal information from those who visit, other than their name.

During the past two years the number of people using the food pantry has declined due to a number of reasons associated with the pandemic. At present we supply food to approximately 30 to 40 families a month. It is anticipated that the numbers will again increase as we return to a more normal environment.

His Disciples Food Pantry has operated on faith for twelve years and please be assured that the support of our church has been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted

His Disciples Food Pantry



COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY ANNUAL REPORT

May, 2022

A little history on our diaper pantry: Initiated in November 2013 serving 12 families, giving about a weeks' worth of diapers each month. It was month to month at that point, but with support of our parish, ECW fundraisers and community support, the pantry became stable. In 2017, we began purchasing diapers "wholesale" in collaboration with Christ Memorial's diaper pantry. We now order from them annually and participate in the unloading of the tractor trailer delivery each year. Last August we placed an order for 55 cases of diapers.

Over the years, we've received 2 Community Aid grants. In 2021 to present, we are covering anywhere from 20 – 35 bottoms monthly. Although these numbers are down from previous years, we are blessed to have been able to keep our doors open (or parking lot) during the pandemic. *We've grown our services by providing diaper wipes and offering pull-ups/training pants as we are able. Also, In March 2022, we've increased the number of diapers from 40 to 80 per child.* The families who come are so appreciative for the help!

Community support- Over the past year, we've received monetary donations or donations of diapers, wipes, pull-ups from: Mountain Presbyterian Church, Dr. Pagana-Defazio office staff, Holy Spirit ANCC, Shikellamy Education Association, Catawissa Avenue United Methodist Church, Geisinger ICU staff.

St Matthew's – The ECW continues to tithe from fundraising, parishioners and their friends continue to donate. Our NA group led by Craig bags the diapers for us. It is truly a parish ministry! We currently have funds of \$5105.

We distribute *The First Saturday of each month from 10 -11:30am*. Volunteers are welcome! It's a nice opportunity to see what we do. Students who want to participate in community outreach are welcome. Please contact myself, Cynthia, or the church office with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your blessings and continued support,

Connie Kistler, 570-847-5156

Cyn Reid, 570-452-1811



The Ministry of
Altar Guild
2022

As I handle holy things, grant that my whole life may be illuminated and blessed by You, in whose honor I prepare them, and grant that the people who shall be blessed by their use, may find their lives drawn closer to Him whose body and blood is our hope and our strength, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Altar Guild is a ministry – a ministry of service. The members (women and men) of the Altar Guild serve the Church under the direction of the Rector and are responsible for setting up and caring for the furnishings in the nave, sanctuary and sacristy as well as any other area of the church where special worship may take place. It is a “behind the scenes” ministry, but a critical act of service to the church. Preparing the altar each week for worship is a way of expressing our faith.

We are blessed to have many women and men serving in this ministry of altar guild (six different teams) who setup each week in preparation for the weekly service. We recently welcomed two new Altar Guild members, Justina Newton and Dana Kelly and we have committed individuals who iron all the linens, order the supplies (communion supplies, oil for the candles, etc.) and many others who assist with the brass cleaning that occurs twice a year.

We welcome any one who may be interested in serving in this ministry. Please contact Mitzie Kerstetter at 570-847-8629 or talk with any Altar Guild Member.

Blessings,
Mitzie Kerstetter

PRAYER CHAIN OF ST. MATTHEW'S

Intercessory



Ministry

We welcome anyone interested in praying for people who request our prayers throughout the year. If you are interested in the Prayer Chain please contact Elaine Schlegel at 570-286-2811 or email her at elaines6@gmail.com or call the Church Secretary at 570-286-7002 or email stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com

The Meaning of Prayer:

A breath of prayer in the morning means a day of blessing sure;

A breath of prayer in the evening means a night of rest secure.

A breath of prayer in our weakness means the clasp of a mighty hand;

A breath of prayer when we're lonely means someone to understand;

A breath of prayer in our sorrows means comfort and peace and rest;

A breath of prayer in rejoicing gives joy and added delight, for they that remember God's goodness go singing far into the night.

There's never a year nor a season that prayer may not bless every hour,
and never a soul need be helpless when linked with God's infinite power.

-Frances McKinnon Morton

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR

CALENDAR YEAR 2021

For calendar 2021, St. Matthews ended the year with a \$1,987 gain/profit, with total operating revenue of \$102,097 exceeding total operating expense of \$100,110. This is a significant improvement over last year's operating loss of (\$5,536). Prior to the current year profit we had experienced four straight years of operating losses.

Our parishioner giving increased \$880 from 2020, and income from investments increased \$7,620, while income from outside groups decreased \$1,350. Operating expenses were down \$1,952.

Although the budget for 2022 was held flat for clergy expenses, we did have inflationary salary increases for our secretary, sextant, and organist.

As we move forward into the new year, and years ahead, please remember that the current budget includes a part-time priest and excluding health insurance expenses. In the future if we wish to have a full-time priest or additional hours, we must grow our income significantly. In addition, donations to the building fund will help us address other building deficiencies, such as flooring, lighting, and kitchen improvements.

As noted above, expenses ultimately continue their inflationary increases, requiring higher parishioner giving. Therefore, we ask that you consider an inflationary increase to your giving.

Thank you. Respectfully submitted by,

Tom Culver, Treasurer

Significant Expense Drivers:

\$53,229 Priest

\$6,585 Property Insurance

\$7,548 Natural Gas

\$2,121 Electric

\$16,254

\$2,744 Custodian

\$7,894 Secretary

\$2,750 Organist

\$13,388

\$2,200 Copier

\$2,735 Phone/Internet

\$4,935

\$6,264 Diocese

\$94,070 (these items drove 94% of the annual expense)