

Senior Warden's Report 2020

Can you believe it's been almost a year since we all have met in the sanctuary together? While this past year has had its challenges it has also had its share of blessings and growth for St. Matthew's. I have been blessed to be one of the individuals that has been at the church building on an almost daily basis, so I am not missing the physical part of church, but I have to tell you every time I walk by the windows that look into the sanctuary I am struck by how much I miss worshipping with my parish family in the sanctuary. The simple pleasure of sharing the peace with your pew family or taking communion at the altar rail together or hearing the little laughter from the children are some of the things I am looking forward to when we all meet again.

For now, let's talk about the blessings of the last year. It all began with Father Tommy, Steve MacFarland, Karen Anderson, and Amanda Livermont setting up in the Coil Chapel to do morning prayer on Facebook, something none of them had ever done. The Audio and Visual team has taken us so from recording the services to live streaming to Zoom services, Zoom Sunday school, and Zoom Book clubs.

Our committee and vestry meetings have continued online, which for a majority have been a blessing because it has been easier to accommodate with our busy personal schedules. We all owe a big Thank you to Steve MacFarland, Amanda Livermont, Jim Stallings, Jay Jones, Mindy Barringer, Father Tommy, and Kyle Osbourne for all their hard work and long hours they have put into this ministry of the parish.

Mother Liz formed an advisory counsel made up of parishioners who work in the medical and hazardous materials fields to advise the vestry on how to keep our members safe. Judith Kimsey, a Vestry member put together a project plan for how we would handle every step of reopening the campus from the purchasing of cleaning supplies to parking spaces and everything in between.

Our gardening guild aka Gardening Angels put in numerous hours keeping up with our parish grounds. They pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, watered plants, spread pine straw, and planted beautiful new plants. It was and still is a labor of love, and for someone like me with a brown thumb, I am truly thankful for them.

The Buildings and Grounds members took care of our physical plant and put in many hours working on quotes to replace our HVAC system in the sanctuary. The final quote for that replacement will be just under \$70,000.00.

I am thankful for the countless number of phone calls, emails and cards that been made or sent during the year checking on each other. I have to say it has been fun to get cards and letters mixed in with the bills! The DOK members that have met in the parking lot to pray to the Brotherhood members who met to work on the pavilion have proven that we do not need a building to practice God's love. It's been fun learning about talents and hobbies that I would not have learned if not for the pandemic.

One committee that we often don't talk about is finance. Chuck Marsh applied for a PPU loan for St. Matthew's at the beginning of the pandemic which helped cover a small portion of our staff costs last year. The committee made recommendations through-out the year to the vestry. As many of you know we finished the year with a deficit of \$44,580.00 and unfortunately in January 2021 we had a deficit of \$8,416.00. As has been said many times before, we have reduced our expenses down as much as we can if we continue in this trend the Vestry will have to make some very hard decisions in 2021.

My nature is to find something positive in everything and so I choose to believe that although our financial situation is grim, I believe we will turn it around. Here is one of my favorite quotes by Zig Ziglar "Positive thinking will let you do everything better than negative thinking".