

Senior Warden Annual Report

2019

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden during 2019. As in Advent, I believe that we have been in a “waiting period” during the first part of 2019. Now that we are fully staffed, I believe that we are “ready to launch.” I anticipate an exciting 2020. However, even though we were “waiting,” we still accomplished a great deal in 2019. Here is a brief summary of what happened around St. Matthews during the past year.

2019 marked 40 years from the founding of St. Matthew’s. We celebrated throughout the year, but had a special celebration on Sunday, September 22 with Father Coil preaching. Many memories were shared!

On June 9th, we were honored to have The Right Reverend Bishop Robert Wright visit St. Matthew’s. He preached, celebrated, confirmed, reaffirmed, and received members of our congregation. He also attended the monthly Vestry meeting providing us with guidance in many areas.

With Sally’s Ulrey’s departure in August of 2018 due to a reorganization of church staff, a Search Committee was established in order to discern and call candidates for an Associate Rector position at St. Matthew’s. The Search Committee reviewed many resumes and conducted phone interviews with numerous candidates. While it was the decision of the Rector on whom to call, the candidate had to be approved by the Bishop first. Consequently, we had a process that took time and patience.

During the fall of 2018 to the fall of 2019, we turned to volunteers to shore up the Youth and Christian formation programs. Fortunately, we had several individuals who stepped up and kept us on track. We are forever grateful to those individuals who spent countless hours developing programs and working with the youth. In the summer, Mara DiGiovani became an interim Youth Director on Staff until the arrival of a full-time Associate Priest.

With the good work of the search committee Father Tommy Mathews was called to be Associate Priest at St. Matthew’s. He accepted the call and came on board on October 1, 2019.

With Father Tommy's arrival, it was decided to make the Vesting Room his office. In order to find room for the Vestments, closets were built in the Canterbury Room which will be both a vesting room and classroom. Thanks go to members of the Brotherhood who built the closets!

The 9th Annual Car Show was held on September 12th. It was the most successful to date with over \$18,000 raised and 90 cars registered. As in the past, there were craft booths as well as a food truck and other goodies. There was also a play area for the children. It is a wonderful event with fun for the whole family. If you haven't attended in the past, plan to attend this fall.

We have a new roof! And, the good news is that due to hail and wind damage in the past, insurance paid for the entire roof including installation. While the roof was being installed, the sanctuary was unavailable. Consequently, we held our Sunday service outside in the new Pavilion that was built and paid for by the Brotherhood. The Pavilion houses the picnic tables that were an Eagle Scout project. Kudos to the Scouts and the Brotherhood.

Finally, the Youth area in the Undercroft has been transformed into a welcoming space for everyone thanks to the hard work of the Youth and the Youth Committee. If you have not been downstairs in some time, take the time to see what a difference the youth have made in their area. The Youth also held a first time Toy fund raiser for Children's Hospital of Atlanta during Halloween. The event was very successful providing many toys to the children confined in Children's Hospital.

The Vestry always welcomes your comments and suggestions. Thank you again for the honor to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Renfro
Sr. Warden