

ALTAR GUILD

Vestry Liaison:

Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair:

Joan Kengla/jk2ridge@comcast.net

Number of Active Participants on this Committee: 13

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1400 Actual - \$1571

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$4028.57 Income - \$190 Expense - \$2625.46 End of Yr - \$1593.11

The Altar Guild is the Priest's partner in making the Worship life of our church run smoothly. We set the Altar for all Eucharist celebrations during the church year. We also assist with Weddings and Funerals.

The members of the Altar Guild also care for all our communion vessels, linens, vestments and seasonal accessories. We meet every Saturday to prepare the church for Sunday services.

I am honored to serve with these ladies. Diane Croft-Doane, Muttie Dixon, Vicki Conway, Susan Adkins, Susan Savage, Wilhelmina Wilson, Mary Vore, Cheryl Wheeler, Nancy New, Judith Kimsey, Jan Nabors and Ava Kay Champion. Many of these ladies also serve on many other ministries within St Matthew's.

We welcome all who are interested in learning and serving on our Altar Guild. Please feel free to ask any member about us.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Kengla

BREAD MINISTRY

Vestry Liaison

Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair

Sylvia Cambell/soupab@comcast.net

The Eucharistic Bread Ministry completed its fourteenth year with ten members and Susan Jung as our Vestry Liaison and Tim Meyers as our Worship Chair.

This ministry does not require budget funds from the church as each member is responsible for obtaining the required ingredients of whole wheat flour, yeast, salt, clover honey, oil, and water for making the Bread during their appointed month.

The members of this ministry are Michael Chapman, Nancy Charron, Muttu Dixon, Frieda Marsh, Terri Hurst, Jessie Hurst, Vicki Conway, Oscar DeLeon, Karen Wilson, and Sylvia Campbell. I am pleased to announce that this ministry will have two new members joining us in 2024, Whitney Meyers and Juliet Ohnemus.

Our new Rector, Fr. Tim Meyers, made the decision to start using the home-made Communion Bread the second week after he arrived at St. Matthews. The Bread was used throughout the year including Lent and Advent.

This Ministry is open to men and women of St. Matthews. Training is provided to all new members. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a member of the Bread Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Campbell, Chair

BREAKFAST MINISTRY

Vestry Liaison

Clay Olbon / olbonc@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Trisha Voiles / tvoiles@att.net

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$0 Actual - \$0

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$642.05 Income - \$2379.56 Expense - \$2206.41 End of Yr - \$815.20

Number of Active Members:

22 families and groups

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

THANK YOU! I would like to thank those who have hosted and those who have participated in the between services ministry of feeding our people and providing a space to make relationships with other members. We had 22 different families or groups volunteer to help create a welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ, as we share God's Love with the community.

Did you know there is a Breakfast Host Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office and a link to the Sign Up Genius on-line which is posted every week in the newsletter?

The Breakfast Fellowship began approximately 30 years ago to provide for those two missions of feeding and fellowship. We still talk today about how Nicole Hallmark, the Fellowship Liaison at the time, convinced my mom, Nancy Piechowiak, to continue what had begun. Then after almost 20 years of Nancy P's service, the torch was passed to the Drury's and the Fellowship committee.

When the doors opened back up after the Covid shutdown, I knew we needed to open up this Fellowship time to bring people back together. We have moved from Fall 2021/Winter 2022 with everything individually pre-packaged to Spring 2022 when we were given the go ahead to offer our delicious casseroles, meats, fruits, baked goods, and the coffee back to the normal buffet style.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

The Love Donations in the Reserved Balance have provided the Kitchen with new one touch coffee pots like the ones we rented preCovid. Another change has been the name change in the designated funds from Breakfast Fund to Kitchen Fund. These funds help purchase coffee, paper goods, etc in the kitchen not just for breakfast, but for all kitchen use. We have returned to using the "real" kitchenware as well.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

We welcome you to join in the Breakfast Fellowship every Sunday between services, approx 9-9:30. If you are interested in hosting as a family or a group you can sign up on the monthly sign up genius in the newsletter or contact me, Trisha Voiles. If you have never hosted and would like to shadow someone just let me know. "What Sunday is Best For You?"

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Trisha Voiles

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Vestry Liaison

Clay Olbon/olbonc@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Gregory Andrews/ctigregory@aol.com

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$1290.10 Income - \$1815.00 Expense - \$2359.50 End of Yr - \$745.60

Number of Active Participants 20

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

Bible Study, Service and Prayer are the focus of the Oren W. Morris Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Meeting every other Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., men and youth of the parish enjoy fellowship, wonderful food and an informal Bible study. Conversation is likely, practical, personal and often hilarious! The Brotherhood enjoys fellowship gained through service projects within the Parish, frequently centering on our well-deserved reputation for good cooking! If you are looking for close friendships, warm fellowship, a wide-ranging discussion of the Bible and an opportunity to serve St. Matthew, come and be a part of the Brotherhood.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- Provided fish dinners for the Annual Meeting in January
- Purchased new Gospel Book for the church
- Donated funds for the purchase of a computer for the Preschool
- Provided lunch for the spring and fall Parish Work Day
- Supported the Atlanta Annual Fund Drive for ALS
- Provided \$650 to Brodie McCluggage's Eagle Project for the Preschool
- Donated \$200 to the Garden Guild to help beautify the church grounds
- Repaired and cleaned the Meditation Path that Josh Hurst had created as an Eagle project
- Continue to support the many outgoing projects of the church

What have been your biggest challenges?

Dealing with the ongoing issue of an aging membership, continuing to recruit those younger men of the church.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We hope to have our Annual Fish Fry and continue to provide a sound foundation for the men of the church. Supporting the church in everything that we can,

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Gregory Andrews

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Vestry Liaison

Bruce Bowen/bbowen@gmail.com

Committee Chair

Steve Charron/scharron@comcast.net

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$111,408 Actual - \$87,344

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$56454.27 Income - \$6891.48 Expense - \$19,016.51 End of Yr - \$44,329.24

Building and Grounds committee wants to reach out and say thank you to all those people who have helped with various projects throughout the year. A very special thank you to Steve Charron and John Eberhart whose help and advice have been invaluable. Without their help, many of these projects would not have been accomplished.

Completed Projects:

- Flag Pole installation and raising ceremony February
- Security cameras and lighting installation
- Keypad door system updated and maintained regularly
- Repaired leaking water pipe in the undercroft
- Added WiFi access points in the undercroft and pavilion
- Identified end-of-life for equipment that is used for Internet and WiFi with long range planning
- Added semi-annual cleaning of the kitchen ice maker and appliances
- Updated electrical breaker boxes to limit access to breakers for the fire alarm breakers
- Replaced water heater for the crying room bathroom and repainted bathroom ceiling
- Boy Scout's Eagle Project created a fence around the trash bin to limit "neighbor" use of our bin
- New cleaning service added
- Walkthroughs with Wardens and Tim prior to 2 Workdays - Spring and Fall
- Rose bushes were replaced due to fungal infection
- Pinestraw and Mulch in Grounds beds around the campus
- Weeding and Watering Teams set up for Grounds
- Boy Scout's Eagle Project created a storage shed for preschool outdoor toys
- New pest control company started
- Sanctuary AC units repaired
- Updated Preschool wing to a digital thermostat
- Organ repaired
- Fire Alarm system repaired
- Altar stain glass window repaired, longer repair needed
- Kitchen refrigerator and freezer repaired
- Columbarium records updated

Future and ongoing projects

- Crying room windows repair
- Door access codes are an ongoing issue, especially the preschool playground door
- Kitchen disposal replacement
- Organ replacement

Reserve Study Project with long range planning for creating a budget for ongoing building and grounds maintenance (examples: knowing how long parking lot maintenance has to be done and planning budget for it, window repair and replacement)

CAFÉ THEOLOGY

Vestry Liaison

Carolyn Coil / ccoil@comcast.net

Committee Chairs

Tim Meyers rector@stmatthewssnellville.net

Vicki Conway vgconway@comcast.net

Cafe Theology is off to a fine start this year! Father Tim is leading us through a study and discussion of the book, *What is the Bible*, by Rob Bell. The book takes a look at some of the words and ideas that may be surprising to most of us. What do some of the stranger Bible phrases really mean? Was that what we learned in Sunday School years ago? Was that something that no one ever tried to teach about?

All this and more is presented in an amusing way that makes the reading a delight.

We meet next on **January 20th from 10:00 am till 11:30** in the church library. During most months we meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. A light breakfast is provided.

Please feel free to try the group out. You do not have to buy the book if you're not sure it is for you. Just come and listen.

If you want to keep up with the group, read from the **Introduction through Section 3: "Stoners and Swingers"**.

Vicki Conway

CENTERING PRAYER

Vestry Liaison

Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair

Vicki Conway/vgconway@comcast.net

Centering Prayer is a meditation and prayer group focusing on quiet connection to the Holy Spirit of God through Christian meditation, and the exploration of spirit inspired writing. With God's help we share and discuss books that lead to a deeper understanding of the Spirit of God within us.

At present we have between 10-12 regularly attending members each Tuesday evening. We have just started reading Henri Nouwen's book Life of the Beloved and selected poems from Love Poems From God, which is a collection of Sacred voices from the Eastern and Western religions.

We meet each Tuesday evening via Zoom from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The meeting is opened with a reading, usually the Psalm of the day, a 20-minute time of silent meditation which ends with the Lord's Prayer. Next we begin a shared time of reading and discussion of our book selections.

All are welcome and can get the Zoom link from the church office.

Respectfully

Vicki

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Vestry Liaison

Carolyn Coil / ccoil@comcast.net

Committee Chair

Mona Livermont / monalivermont@gmail.com

YTD Budget Balance

Budget: \$3000 Actual: \$2356 Restricted Balance: Jan 2023 \$912 Income \$0 Expense \$0 EOY 2023 \$912

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

To plan and execute all of Christian Formation from Infants through adulthood.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- Establishing a Nursery
- Sunday School classes for Pre K through Adults
- "The Chosen" Study
- Vacation Bible School
- Christmas Pageant
- St Matts 101 in conjunction with Newcomers
- Establishing and building on events that paused during Covid:
- Easter Egg hunt, Registration Sunday, St Nick visit, backpack blessing, Sundae Sunday ,
- Intergenerational Sunday events like Advent Wreath event and Burying Alleluias

What have been your biggest challenges?

- Attendance on Sunday Mornings
- Having enough teachers

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

- Refine and improve all the ministries functioning in 2023
- Remain open to any other ideas that present themselves

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Mona Livermont

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Christian formation is the backbone of all we do at St. Matthews. All ministries come out of our understanding of where God has been at work and where He continues to work in our lives. If we don't keep being involved with the Spiritual growth of ourselves and others then we will not be effective in spreading the Good News of Christ at St Matthews.

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

As we look toward 2024, we would like prayers for more teachers and for more involvement from all levels of the parish.

CHURCH GROWTH

Vestry Liaison

Trisha Voiles/tvoiles@att.net

Committee Members: Trisha Voiles, Diane Eberhart, Mindy Barringer, Susan Carson

Marketing YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1000 Actual - \$716

Marketing Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$1261.71 Income - \$0 Expense - \$1139.97 End of Yr - \$121.74

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The purpose of this ministry is to reach out to the community to invite them to be part of St. Matthews. We would like to extend our new mission statement to be a welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ, as we share God's Love with the community.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Banners – We purchased a new Lessons & Carols Banner that can be patched to change the date for next year. The Christmas banner did not need editing so a new banner was not needed!

Publications – Lessons & Carols was put in the local "Patch" online publications. Advent and Christmas times are posted in the Snellville Spirit. They will be posted in the Patch as well.

Birthday cards – These are continued to be sent out each week. I have plenty to continue for next year as well. We are trying to find out a way to get newcomers' information and directory up to date so they are added to the birthday lists as well.

Newcomers – Although Newcomers is currently under Inreach, Diane E and I have discussed how it should possibly be under Church Growth. The Newcomers will be invited to join the Inquirers class beginning Jan 7.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We would like to include Newcomers in the Church Growth Ministry. We would like to expand further than The Patch posting and Snellville Spirit. We will be looking into getting an updated directory on realm and printed version.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Trisha Voiles

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

Prayer request for our continued church growth at St. Matthew's to include returning members and new community members.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vestry Liaison

Mindy Barringer/mindybarringer@gmail.com

Committee Chair

Amanda Livermont/alivermont81@gmail.com

Active Committee Members: 7

Communications YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1500 Actual - \$0

AV YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$500 Actual - \$523

AV Equipment Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$290 Income - \$50 Expense - \$0 End of Yr - \$340.

AV HIGHLIGHTS

- Live-streamed services:
 - 52 Sundays
 - Several special services
 - 4 weddings
 - 3 funerals
- Streamlined the AV process via Restream
- Replaced both computers and the switcher because of the power surge
- Added to our team strength, and we have a core group of 9 volunteers

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed the Event Shepherds process
- Refined our website events calendar
- Used Google docs as an internal communications tool
- Kept our content fresh with AV announcements, sliders, photo albums – also helps with consistent look and feel
- Streamlined the Annual Report process by use of templates, Google docs, and web links
- Coordinated our first “Flat St. Matt” project

2024 GOALS/BUDGET REQUESTS

- Parish Hall Projector: update-submitted for 2024
- Closed Circuit TV: Monitors- plan to submit for Summer 2024
- Lighting Update in the Sanctuary
- AV Booth Design Update to improve service and functionality

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair: Cecilia Billingsley/cebill58@gmail.com

Active Members: 31 Daughters

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The Ruth Chapter of the Daughters of the King is part of a national order whose mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth through prayer, service and evangelism. Every Daughter undertakes a Rule of Life, incorporating daily prayer "to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world; and through service vow to participate regularly in the worship, study and work of the church and assist the clergy in whatever way possible for the spiritual growth of the parish. Each Daughter chooses their own ministry to participate in at St. Matthew's church or in the wider community so you will see the cross we wear in many places. We come together in monthly meetings for fellowship, study and support.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- At the request of Father Tim, the Daughters prepared for Advent by writing a form of the Prayers of the People from their viewpoint and read them to the congregation during the 8am and 10:30am services in Advent.
- Starting with Lent, undertook our Study Guide for becoming a Daughter. The purpose of this study is to come closer to Christ and reflect upon a Rule of Life which all Daughters are called to develop for themselves.
- Welcomed two new Daughters (Kim Beasley and Lindsay Isaacs) at an installation in June during the 10:30am service after they had completed the Study.
- To strengthen our prayer life, started using sections of the DOK Spiritual Formation Guide during regular meetings, which was also emailed to Daughters who could not attend in person.
- Continued using a group email prayer chain for those requesting prayers through the Sunday request listing or direct requests made known.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Keeping Daughters engaged in monthly meetings for fellowship and support since individual Daughters are very active in all aspects of church life.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

- Plan to hold our Study Guide for becoming a Daughter of the King starting in mid March. We encourage all women who are interested in looking into becoming a Daughter to join us at this time. You do not have to commit until you have gone through the study.
- Continue during regular meetings using the Spiritual Formation Guide covering Chapter 4-Forms of Prayer and Chapter 5-Tools in Prayer.
- Continue providing Sunday breakfast for the congregation on Fathers Day in June and a Sunday in Advent.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Cecilia Billingsley – President

Gail Sawyer – Secretary

Peggy Isaacs – Treasurer

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Meetings are held at the church on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30am.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

That the Daughters continue to hear and grow in the Spirit so they will be able to live their Rule of Life and serve the needs of their family, our St Matthew's family and the community that we all live in.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Vestry Liaison

Clay Olbon/ olbonc@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Rebecca Bowen/ ribowen@yahoo.com

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$0 Actual - \$0

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$506.98 Income - \$0 Expense - \$0 End of Yr - \$506.98

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The purpose of this ministry is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth through fellowship, service, and education to all women in the Diocese of Atlanta and Middle Georgia.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Scheduling events at a time that will work for most of the ladies. Planning events that will entice people to come and fellowship together.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We are hoping to plan a High Tea for St. Matthews women.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Rebecca Bowen and Kim Beasley

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

We hope to have more programs and events in 2024.

FELLOWSHIP

Vestry Liaison

Clay Olbon / olbonc@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Warren Drury / wnc@comcast.net

Budget Balance

BOY \$3300 EOY \$2273

Restricted Funds

BOY \$1782.21 EOY \$881.98

Income \$3322 Expense \$4222.23

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The Fellowship Committee is dedicated to providing opportunities for St. Matthews to gather together to share fun, food, and friendship while also sharing our love for our Lord.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Month	Event Details
February	Fr. Tim Installation Celebration: Narnia-themed party that wowed the parish and all our visitors (including Bishop Wright) with the amazing decorations, wonderful food, and fantastic fun and fellowship
March	Gibb's Garden Visit: Carpool from St. Matt's up to visit the beautiful garden in early springtime
April	Gwinnett Stripers Matinee Game: 20 parishioners attended a fun afternoon of baseball at Coolray Field
May	Derby Day Party: Fun celebration and watch party in the parish hall with food, games, and more great decorations
July	Fourth of July Picnic: Our annual picnic moved inside to beat the heat this year, but was still a blast with great food and a patriotic theme in the parish hall
August	Gwinnett Stripers Game & Fireworks: We rented out the 3d Base Dock and a Suite to host 60 parishioners for food, baseball, and a great fireworks show at the end
September	Dia de San Mateo (St. Matthew's Day) Luncheon: We added a Hispanic Heritage month flavor to the annual lunch this year, with themed decorations and a taco bar
November	Thanksgiving Luncheon: Another annual tradition that went well again this year with fellowship providing the main course and parishioners bringing great sides and desserts to share
December	Cookies and Wassail: What would Lessons and Carols be without the traditional Cookies and Wassail after? We did it right this year with this fun event

We have had great participation in the recurring activities that are attended by a diverse group of parishioners. And each of these has a leader that you can reach out to for more information!

- Restaurant Foyers (Rebecca Bowen / Warren): We meet monthly on a Friday night to share dinner and to support local businesses in Gwinnett County such as Taco Mac, The Diner, Chapo's, Fratelli's, Universal Joint, and others. We typically have between 10-20 attendees.
- Lunch Bunch (Joan Kengla): Meets monthly on the third Thursday to share lunch, again supporting many local businesses such as Always's Fresh, Three Blind Mice, McCray's and others. Typically has 14-18 attendees.
- Men's Trivia (Levi Livermont / Jay Jones): So in demand that once a month wasn't enough: moved to bi-monthly every first and third Wednesday night! Trivia at McCray's in Lawrenceville. This isn't just for the men though! Typically has around 5-10, and when we have more we have a better shot at winning!

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We sincerely hope that St. Matthews enjoyed the amazing year of fellowship opportunities offered by this committee! We are planning another great group of events for 2024. If you want to help going forward, reach out to Warren (staying on as committee chair) or Clay, or just show up for a meeting!

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Warren Drury

FLOWER GUILD

Vestry Member: Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair: Janis Williams/jhw16@comcast.net

Number of Active Participants on this Committee: 9

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$200 Actual - \$376

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$1998.65 Income - \$5804.00 Expense - \$3495.41 End of Yr -\$4,307.24

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

Our Flower Guild is a “Blooming Ministry” that was established in 2014. Our group strives to enhance our worship space by adding flowers and other elements of God’s bounty and beauty to the altar and other areas. Every flower is a miracle, testifying to the wonders of God’s magnificence.

What were your Ministry’s most significant accomplishments this year?

Following the liturgical calendar, we create arrangements for most Sundays, and for Weddings, Celebrations of Life, Lent, Advent, Pentecost, Christmas and other Special occasions as called for. We hope that in addition to adding beauty to our spaces, your prayers and meditations will be holy inspired. We added new and returning flower guild members.

What have been your biggest challenges?

We are occasionally challenged in our arrangements if supplies are limited due to extremes of weather, transportation, etc. We try to get creative in those times, and our gardens at St. Matthew’s have been planted with these needs in mind.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Janis Williams will continue as the Lead, God willing.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

All men and women are invited to join us in our endeavors. We will train you in easy mechanics, and there is a wealth of creative ideas available online and residing in your imagination. Flower arranging is a pleasure and fun to do. Everyone can make beautiful arrangements with beautiful flowers!

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Please pray for additional members to increase our significance and skills. Some of us love to work solo, some with partners.

INREACH

Vestry Liaison

Sharon Hansen/ed1claudia@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Tim Meyers/rector@stmatthewssnellville.org

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The Pastoral Care Committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:00 pm. We continually keep track of parishioners who may need assistance from meals to transportation, prayer and visits. The committee is made up of representatives of ministries that assist with Pastoral Care.

Vicki Conway has taken the lead on arranging non-Eucharistic visitation to our homebound parishioners. Vicki also took the lead with making some goody bags to be delivered from St. Matthews for the holiday season. Loaves and Fishes is led by Vicki Conway and continues to monitor needs for meals. Church members who want to help but have lots of obligations are encouraged to donate gift cards from restaurants/grocery stores/meal delivery services.

Knit, Purl and Pray is led by Beth DiGiovanni and continues to provide prayer squares, prayer shawls for sick parishioners as well as working on gloves and hats for the Rosebud Reservation. Beth is diligently working to get another shipment ready (after Christmas) and needs to find someone in charge to ship to as the reservation has been without a priest for some months now.

Diane Eberhart leads the Newcomers and Greeters of Inreach. She is very faithful to organize and hand out visitor information along with the red St. Matt's bags at the services. She also worked on a Newcomer's class which started October 8th after church and held for 4 weeks. The class started their first meeting with lunch with the vestry. The class was well attended with good feedback and will be held again in the spring.

KNIT, CROCHET, AND PRAY

Vestry Liaison: Sharon Hansen/ed1claudia@yahoo.com

Committee Chair: Beth DiGiovanni/bethdigiovanni@comcast.net

Number of Active Participants: 14-15

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$141.41 Income - \$325. Expense - \$343.91 End of Yr - \$122.50

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

We try to help needy people; for example:

- Prayer shawls/squares to comfort and support people dealing with some crisis
- Chemo caps for Emory's Winship Cancer Institute (specifically-Hope Lodge)
- Birthday place mats for Delmar Gardens Nursing Home
- Hats/scarves/gloves or mittens at Rosebud Episcopal Mission in SD with over 4,000 needy children between the ages of 4-18 yrs
- Premie hats and blankets for Northside Gwinnett Hospital
- Episcopal rosaries for those needing them
- Starting in December-baby blankets for the S.E. Co-Op.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Prayer Shawls-at least 50

- Prayer Squares-100+
- Rosebud Episcopal Mission received from us:
 - o 288 hat/scarf sets
 - o 17 hat/scarf/gloves or mittens sets
 - o 59 extra hats for ages 4-18 years
 - o 26 extra hats for infants and toddlers
 - o 300 pairs of ski gloves
 - o 52 extra glove or mitten sets for ages 4-18 years
 - o 6 infant/toddler mitten sets
 - o 10 headbands
 - o 7 pairs of socks
 - o 3 sets of wrist warmers
 - o 1 extra scarf
 - o 1 pair panties
 - o 2 activity kits
 - o 3 afghans/1 pillow

What have been your biggest challenges?

Getting the money for mailing items to Rosebud Episcopal Mission in Mission, SD.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We plan to continue the listed projects and to do more with each group

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

The members will decide!

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

We hope to help do more each year.

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

Please pray that we continue to have the members who donate their time, treasure, and talents and that we have enough funds to make and get items to the people in need.

LOAVES & FISHES

Vestry Liaison

Sharon Hansen/ed1claudia@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Vicki Conway/vgconway@comcast.net

I am the only 'real' member because it is an *as needed ministry* therefore each time I send out a request for food to be taken to a family, different members of the parish respond. I have regulars, of course but this isn't really a membership ministry I guess.

The purpose of the Loaves and Fishes ministry is to supply short time food needs to families due to illness or accident.

We have supplied food to 2 St. Matt's families this year.

This has been a very rewarding ministry for me to manage, however it is time for me to step down and allow someone else to take over. I appreciate this experience and hope someone else will feel the same about this service ministry.

Respectfully,

Vicki Conway

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Vestry Liaison

Nancy Griner/grinerb@bellsouth.net

Committee Chair

Katherine Reynolds/katherine.f.reynolds@comcast.net

Committee Members

Judith Kimsey, Carol Walsh, Rich Morris, Sybil Johns, Mara DiGiovanni, Nicole Hallmark, Tommy Hallmark, Lori Bean

Long Range Planning ministry is the “crystal ball” of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church. Our members strive to identify future needs of St. Matthew’s. We interface with other church ministries, including Building and Grounds, Finance and Stewardship. We prioritize needs as immediate-1year, 2-4 years and >5 years. Our most pressing need for the immediate future is to determine a realistic amount for money required to fund a Capital Reserve Account, as outlined by a church sponsored seminar, many of us attended, through a formal Reserve Study. This study catalogs the churches hard assets, anticipated longevity of these assets and replacement cost of all items listed. It is an attempt to be good stewards of what God has given to St. Matthew’s and to guarantee we won’t mimic the parable of those waiting for the bridegroom but not planning on enough oil to light their lamps through the wait. Currently, we are obtaining bids from companies who specialize in reserve studies specific to churches.

A long-term project is to explore means to raise funds for replacement of our current organ. Matthew Edwards is assisting the committee in this. The organ will need to be replaced in the next 3-5 years. We are recognizing this need early to begin fund raising and potentially avert the need for a loan to pay for the organ.

Thank you,

Nancy Griner

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Name of Ministry: Music (sanctuary choir, handbell choir, youth musicians, etc.)

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung/susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair: Matthew Edwards/music@stmatthewssnellville.org

Active participants: ~25

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$3500 Actual - \$1645

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$50 Income - \$2350 Expense - \$1492.66 End of Yr - \$907.34

What is the purpose of this ministry?

To support and uplift the congregation's and worshippers' prayer and praise through music, nurture participants' musical gifts, and explore and expand the church's musical identity.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

This year's Lessons and Carols included several members from the congregation who do not normally sing in the choir plus two guest singers from outside the church, leading to use every row of the choir loft. Warren continued his superb leadership of the handbell choir and led the purchase of new lights. Our new choir robes finished arriving and we use the various colored stoles to match the liturgical colors of each Sunday.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Our biggest challenge this year occurred in the summer when the organ's power supply went out. The first consultation resulted in a recommendation for a complete replacement. However, a second opinion resulted in a repair that cost significantly less than a full replacement.

As everyone's lives have returned to pre-pandemic fullness and busyness, it has been a challenge to have consistency in choir attendance. One of the ways we're overcoming this is having flexibility for choir members to come on Sundays even if they are unable to make Wednesday evening rehearsals. We practice most on Wednesday to establish a core sound, then additional choir members join on Sunday and are able to learn music more quickly thanks to the core established on Wednesdays.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2023?

We'll plan to do our annual Lessons and Carols in December. We will start exploring additional possibilities, which may include a concert series starting in the fall and other collaborative opportunities with other churches and musicians.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and Ministry?

At the 2022 ministry fair and in conversations with a few people, there's some interest in restarting a "folk choir." This can be accomplished this year if there's interest from anyone in the congregation in leading that ensemble, perhaps in collaboration with the sanctuary choir. While the youth are frequently serving as acolytes, some of them occasionally bring their instruments to play in the service. Anyone who is interested in singing or playing their instrument in worship is invited to get in touch with Matthew Edwards, and anyone interested in playing handbells is invited to get in touch with Warren Drury or Matthew, or even getting in touch with anyone actively participating in the music ministry!

NEWCOMERS & GREETERS

Vestry Liaison

Sharon Hansen / ed1claudia@yahoo.com

Committee Chair

Diane Eberhart / dleberhart@comcast.net

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1000 Actual - \$377

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

We greet people as they enter the church and identify visitors. We give them a visitors pkg. which is a red bag, clip, pen and visitor card. We encourage them to fill out the card so we have their info and can follow up with them. We follow up with them to make sure they are getting connected to groups and people in the church.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

We held out first St. Matt's 101 in Oct. which is a 4 week class held to introduce them to the church and all of the ministries and groups and activities they can be a part of. We had a light lunch for the first class and a full dinner after the last class. We feel that this first class was a success. We had 20 people attend at least 1 class and 13 attended all 4 classes!

What have been your biggest challenges?

We have been challenged with having enough good greeters. We need people at the door every service every week. We will be recruiting people to be greeters for 2024. It is important that we identify new people and welcome them. Then follow up with them to make sure they are getting connected to the church. It is difficult to know when to offer them a membership form. We are working on a plan for this for 2024.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

We would like to offer St. Matt's 101 two times in 2024. One in March and one in Oct.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Diane Eberhart

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

We are working to develop a plan that would guide us in Church Growth. Trisha Voiles is going to work with us to accomplish this.

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

Please pray that we find more people to be greeters. Also pray that we do our best to welcome all visitors with a smiling face and a helpful attitude.

OUTREACH

Vestry Liaison

Lindsay Isaacs / lindsayatl@gmail.com

Committee Chair

Cheryl Wheeler / cherly756@yahoo.com

Number of Active Committee Members

5 mighty members!

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$3000 Actual - \$3000

Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$8273.85 Income - \$11,691.70 Expense - \$14,976.81 End of Yr - \$4988.74

The Outreach committee strives to meet the needs in our community, participating in events that will elevate dignity for as many people as possible by engaging our church family as participants in events and donations.

There are two prominent days for 2023 that are top of mind. The first was June 3rd when St Matt's was represented in three locations that day. We had representation at the **Mending the Gap** 5K as a sponsor and runner participation. We had someone attending the dedication of Brubaker's **Habitat for Humanity** home, of which we participated in a build day the previous month. And finally, we had several people at the **SE Gwinnett Co-op** sorting and stocking the shelves with items collected during our May food drive. Phew, what a busy day.

The second was September 30, when our parish hall hosted, and we helped with the **Mending the Gap Senior** Awareness Fundraising event. The parish hall was jumping with over 90 guests.

Youth involvement was greatly appreciated this year. They filled 200 individual containers with coleslaw for a co-op dinner, filled the Blessing Bags for the co-op with many items and wrote uplifting notes for each bag, and they bundled 800 trash bags into bundles of 10 for Mending the Gap seniors.

For the **SE Gwinnett Co-op**, we served an average of 225 meals three times during the year. Because of your generous donations, we provided over 2,100 pounds of items during the year and \$2,400 for the Christmas Light Project along with the 25 Blessing Bags.

For **Mending the Gap**, as previously mentioned, we sponsored the 5K, participated in the race, donated laundry detergent and trash bags and hosted the Senior Awareness Fundraiser at St Matts.

There were several **Miscellaneous Projects**. We made donations and/or participated in the **Hunger Walk, FODAC Run Walk n Roll, Church of the Common Ground, Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, Special Kneads & Treats, First Night Foster Care Bags Council Project, Everybody Wins Reading Program, Delmar Gardens Sing-a-longs**, and a laptop for the **Preschool**.

We continued to help Ukrainian refugees with items they need to make their families comfortable and whole.

You will find that our 2024 calendar, which will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board, is filled with many of the same events and opportunities to help the community.

We thank you for all your participation and donations in 2023. For 2024, we ask for your continued support and participation in any outreach opportunities that interest you. With your help, we can do even more to share God's love with the community.

Cheryl Wheeler

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Director: Dalex Sullivan 770-978-1323

Enrollment: 97 students

Spots filled: 99

Spots available: 2

Ministry Purpose: Educating our communities' children

Ministry Accomplishments:

- 2023-24 SY – Began the school year at full enrollment (with 8 classes)
- All other programs: Music, Technology and Chapel continued as usual
- Resumed Science classes after a few years without
- Continued holding Summer Camp in Summer 2023 with full enrollment in the July session
- Started a new afterschool program, Reptile School. Students have the opportunity to see various animals & reptiles up close and learn about their habitats, eating habits, and touch them– only the ones that are safe!
- In-house field trips: Magic show, Firefighters and Police Officer with his K9 Officer.
- Held Scholastic book fair in the Fall.
- Spring 2023 semester fundraiser event, Art Auction, was a successful fundraiser. Church parishioners donated many auction items as well as participated in the auction.
- Fall 2023 semester events:
 - Thanksgiving Feast: We brought back the feast this year, with an international theme. We asked families to bring in their cultural favorites. This was a delicious success!
 - Breakfast with Santa: We were able to bring this exciting event back again this year. Students enjoyed breakfast with their families, gave Santa their Christmas lists and took pictures with him.
 - Christmas Festivities: These festivities continued to be held in sessions in place of the Christmas program so we could continue to invite parents to this in person event. Students performed, then utilized set up photo backdrops.
- 2022-23 SY Graduations were held outside in the gardens and in sanctuary. It was such a beautiful space on the church grounds to use and provided space between families that we plan to do so again for the 2023-24 SY.
- Outreach and Brotherhood ministries donated funds for us to purchase a new laptop for the preschool.

Ministry Challenges:

Retaining and hiring excellent, nurturing staff members as budgeted

Scheduling substitutes during teacher absences

Family Involved Programs planned for 2024:

- Donuts with Dad: Scheduled for the week March 11, 2024
- Sundaes with Mom: Scheduled for the week of April 15, 2024
- Luau: May 1-2, 2024
- Ballet Recital: May 10, 2024
- Kindergarten Graduation: May 13, 2024 at 6:30pm
- Four year olds Preschool Graduation: May 14, 2024 at 6:30pm
- Summer camps: June 10-14, 2024; July 22-26, 2024 School In-house Field Trips planned for 2024:
- Puppet Show: currently scheduled for January 19, 2024
- 8 legged Scales (Reptile show): February 22-23, 2024 Technologies Currently Used:
- Televisions are utilized for educational purposes in the classrooms.
- Tablets are used by the children (each child once a week for a maximum time limit of 15 minutes). Staff use their personal cell phones to take pictures to upload for parents to Homeroom sites and Class Dojo. This allows parents to see photos of their children active in class and at school.

Prayers Needed:

- That the preschool continues to be surrounded by God's hedge of protection.
- That this outreach ministry touches many lives in the community.
- For continued good health for all staff, the children and their families.
- That we continue to retain and hire excellent, nurturing staff members as one school year ends and we plan for the next

STEWARDSHIP

Vestry Liaison

Oscar DeLeon / odeleon86@hotmail.com

Committee Chair

Terri Hurst / hurst10@bellsouth.net

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$500 Actual - \$149

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

To encourage parishioners to prayerfully and joyfully contribute to St. Matthew's their spiritual gifts, time, talent and treasure.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Increases in both pledges and overall giving in 2023 compared to 2022. The theme of our pledge campaign for 2024 is "Rooted in Abundance," created by the Episcopal Network on Stewardship. As of 12/31/23, we see increases in both the number of pledges and the amounts pledged. As our parish membership grows, we will continue to offer parishioners opportunities to use their Time, Talent and Treasure at St. Matt's.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Reduced attendance in person has resulted in decreased engagement. The challenge is to shift the general perception of Stewardship as being "just about money."

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

Stewardship campaign, hopefully some more events to increase awareness of and engagement with the various ministry opportunities within St. Matt's. Continued education about Spiritual Gifts.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Terri Hurst, looking for a Co-Chair

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Stewardship is not about balancing the parish budget. Rather, it's using the gifts that God has given us, to do the work to which God has called us. We give out of gratitude for all the blessings we receive.

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

Please pray that people will view Stewardship as a spiritual exercise, and be encouraged to generously share the gifts God has given them.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vestry Liaison

Carolyn Coil / ccoil@comcast.net

Committee Chair

Terri Hurst / hurst10@bellsouth.net

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

To share the love of God and the joy of the gospel with the children of St. Matthew's and the community at large through a week-long VBS program.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Growing the VBS program in both volunteers and campers.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Reaching out to families who have not returned to in-person worship since the pandemic.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

VBS in July, specific program TBD.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Terri Hurst

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Although it can be an exhausting week, VBS is one of our greatest evangelism opportunities every year. Being able to share the gospel with children in a fun, energetic and joyful environment is a blessing for all involved. There are many ways to serve, even if only for one day.

Please list specific prayers for your Ministry throughout the year.

Please pray that people will be led by the Holy Spirit to serve through VBS; that families in the community will be drawn to God through our VBS program, and that all involved will feel the love of Jesus through this ministry. Pray that St. Matthew's as a community will shine the light of Christ into the community and that we will experience God's perfect provision.

WORSHIP

Vestry Liaison

Susan Jung / susanjung@earthlink.net

Committee Chair

Father Tim Meyers / rector@stmatthewssnellville.org

Committee Members

Matthew Edwards – Music

Warren Drury

Joan Kengla – Altar Guild

Janis Williams – Flower Guild

Greg Andrews – Lay Readers, Vergers, Ushers

Crystal Furman – Acolytes

Mona Livermont – Christian Formation

Purpose of the Ministry

Father Tim's intent is for parishioners to grow closer to God and neighbor through self-examination and participation in community. Each month the committee works on detailed planning for the next upcoming liturgical season. Details include worship resources, logistical issues, and themes for aesthetic benefits.

In addition, the committee reviews and assesses each previous season to determine what is working well in the service and how some things can be modified or enhanced to better meet the needs of the parishioners.

Significant Accomplishments

- Returning to the altar rail after Covid
- Returning to the Bread Ministry
- Training for Lay Readers
- Acolyte Ministry revision and recruitment of PALS (Parent Acolyte Leaders)
- Adults recruited and trained as acolytes especially at 8:00 service
- DOK wrote and spoke the Prayers of the People for Advent
- Psalm format for singing/speaking was placed on a schedule to allow for variation.
- Ministry heads were invited to the August Vestry meeting to help in forecasting the 2024 budget.
- Continued assessment and discussion of both services will be on the monthly agendas for 2024

Biggest Challenges

Although the committee recognizes that “you can't please everyone all of the time,” the members listen for feedback from parishioners and bring concerns to the meetings. Those concerns as well as suggestions are taken seriously, and sometimes hard decisions must be made.

Specific Prayer Requests

Please pray that we continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our work, and that our decisions will reflect St. Matthews as a “welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ, as we share God's Love with the community.”

YOUTH

Vestry Liaison/email: Jay Jones, dockjones@gmail.com

Committee Chair: Amanda Livermont, alivermont81@gmail.com

Number of Active Participants on this Committee: 1

YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1000 Actual - \$1222

Youth Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$5350.02 Income - \$3821. Expense - \$4597.80 End of Yr - \$4573.22

Youth Scholarship Reserved Balance: Jan 2023 - \$733.53 Income - \$676. Expense - \$750. End of Yr - \$659.53

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The youth ministry is where our middle and high school students can connect, have fun, and build their faith in Jesus.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- New Beginnings (diocesan retreat for middle school youth)
- Happening (diocesan retreat for high school youth)
- Youth retreat (annually in August)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (youth fundraising event)
- Youth Sunday (worship service organized by the youth)
- Christmas play
- Easter Passion play

What have been your biggest challenges?

Our biggest challenge is communicating with the families to coordinate meals for Sunday youth group programs and to become more engaged with the ministry through volunteer opportunities.

Amanda and Fr. Tim hosted a parent's gathering on Jan. 7 to inform everyone of this year's ministry outlook and the schedule of the remaining events.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

The most significant event of this year will be the creation of a youth minister position at St. Matthew's. Funding for the position will begin on July 1, when we hope to have someone hired to begin planning for the annual youth retreat in August and youth group programming in the fall.

The youth ministry will have regular Sunday night programs through May 5. Highlighted events include:

- Feb. 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 1-3: New Beginnings at Camp Mikell
- March 17: Confirmation Trip to the Cathedral and Dinner at Fellini's Pizza
- March 31: Easter Egg Hunt (Youth Hide Eggs)
- April 28: Youth Sunday, Parents of Youth Make Breakfast
- May 19: Graduation Sunday, Cake Reception Between Services, and End of Year Pool Party

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Amanda Livermont will return as chair of the youth ministry.

Amanda, Fr. Tim, and I have discussed the need to have 2 to 3 parents serve on a youth ministry committee to help Amanda with the essential planning and operations of the ministry.

Amanda will pull away from the youth ministry to focus on her work with Communications, which is also planning for a busy year, and have the youth committee assist the new part-time youth minister.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

As the youth group continues to grow and move past the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vestry has decided to fund a part-time position for youth ministry. The ministry team will begin work soon toward developing a job description and establishing a process for the candidate search for the position.

As Jessie Hurst and Caroline Bowen complete their tenure as youth ministry interns in July, we want to express our gratitude for their commendable work in developing and executing programming for our youth.

We eagerly await the arrival of the new youth minister in the fall and look forward to working with them.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Pray for patience and wisdom to guide us as we progress into this year of change. Ask for blessings for those who have worked in ministering to and supporting our youth as they develop their walk with Christ.