

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SNELLVILLE, GA



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BUILDING & GROUNDS

Committee Objectives

- **Stewardship of Sacred Spaces:** Maintain and enhance our buildings and grounds as a spiritual act to ensure a safe, beautiful environment for worship and outreach.
- **Hospitality & Engagement:** Foster an inviting atmosphere through intentional beautification, accessibility improvements, and proactive safety for all visitors.
- **Proactive Sustainability:** Implement preventive maintenance and eco-friendly practices to reduce emergencies, save resources, and honor God's creation.

2025 Summary

- In 2025, we revitalized the Buildings & Grounds ministry with two new co-chairs, forming specialized teams for administration, project management, and maintenance.
- Our semiannual and “mini” workdays engaged 30–40 parishioners and community partners (Scouts, Beta Club) in campus-wide upkeep.
- We implemented Click Maint software to track 69+ facility assets and vendors. This system enables data-driven maintenance and better long-term financial planning. Since August, our dedicated team has completed 49 work orders through the new system.

We extend our sincere thanks to the parish; volunteers continue to perform 90% of the labor required to maintain our campus.



BROTHERHOOD

The Oren W. Morris Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew focuses on Bible study, service, and prayer. We meet every other Saturday at 8:00 AM for breakfast, fellowship, and informal, lively scripture discussion.

2025 Highlights & Impact:

- Hosted fish dinners for the Annual Meeting and lunches for Parish Work Days.
- Donated \$200 to the Garden Guild and restored the Meditation Path.
- Provided ongoing support for various parish outreach projects.

As a self-funded ministry, we rely entirely on donations to serve St. Matthew's. If you are looking for deep friendships and an opportunity to serve, we invite men and youth of the parish to join us!

**SCAN TO VIEW
ALL MEETING
RESOURCES!**



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

This ministry organizes and maintains Christian Formation classes for all ages (adults and children), oversees the Youth program, staffs the nursery, and plans seasonal activities including Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Accomplishments

- Secured sufficient volunteers for all classes and Children's Chapel.
- Hired two pre-school staff for the nursery, freeing parents for other roles.
- Successfully executed VBS with 70 children last summer

Plans for 2026

- **Inquirer's Class:** January to May.
- **Confirmation at the Cathedral:** May 31, 2026.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Ministry supports the parish's mission by ensuring clear, consistent, and accessible communication, managing digital and printed media, coordinating audio/visual needs for worship, and facilitating online engagement to keep parishioners and visitors informed and connected.

Accomplishments

The ministry improved both infrastructure and content delivery.

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Resolved major internet and equipment failures with IT support, replacing damaged hardware and installing a battery backup system for a more stable worship and livestream experience. The AV booth was reorganized, a TV installed in the parish hall (part of the Capital Campaign), and additional wireless microphones purchased. Lighting improvements are planned for installation by Easter 2026.
- **Content Delivery Enhancements:** Refined the Event Shepherd process for consistency, updated calendars, and began tracking online attendance. Transitioned bulletin design to Adobe Creative Cloud for sustainability and professional quality. Expanded social media presence on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, increasing parish visibility and outreach.



COUNTING TEAM

The Counting Team was formed to provide consistent financial control over our counting of the incoming funds including the weekly and other offerings. This team is tasked with counting the offering, scanning checks, documenting the accounts for cash offerings, physically depositing the offering at Wells Fargo, and providing a detailed report/documentation to the financial secretary. Additionally, the team has been tasked with confidentiality and a “short memory”.

The counting team has coalesced into a strong group of folks that work in pairs every Sunday (and occasionally at other times) to document and deposit the offering. This has taken a significant load off of what was formerly a Vestry duty. It has also brought a level of consistency to the process that has reduced errors. We are always looking for volunteers!



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Ruth Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a spiritual order dedicated to extending Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Each member follows a Rule of Life involving daily prayer and service to the parish and community.

Accomplishments

- **New Membership:** Conducted the DOK Study over the summer, culminating in the September installation of three new members and one reinstatement.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Integrated the DOK Spiritual Formation Guide into monthly meetings to strengthen collective prayer lives.
- **Prayer Chain:** Maintained an active email prayer chain for parish and community requests.

Plans for 2026

- **Membership Study:** A new study session begins in early summer 2026 for women interested in joining the Order.
- **Ongoing Formation:** Continued study of the Spiritual Formation Guide, focusing on prayer tools and forms.
- **Parish Service:** Hosting congregational breakfasts on Palm Sunday, Father's Day, and during Advent.

Please pray that our Daughters continue to grow in the Spirit, faithfully living out their Rule of Life to serve their families, the parish, and the wider community.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) provides spiritual growth for women through fellowship, service, and education within the Diocese of Atlanta.

Accomplishments

- **Fellowship & Education:** Hosted a Christmas luncheon, attended the Holy Trinity English Tea, and held presentations on the Altar Guild and Bread Ministry.
- **Fundraising:** Raised over \$600 at the Fall Bazaar and sold jams/pickles from three canning workshops led by Dee Dee Craver.
- **Outreach:** Provided gifts for 20 Quinn House seniors and prepared meals for the Gwinnett Co-op in partnership with the Outreach Committee.

Plans for 2026

- **Educational Workshops:** Flower arranging sessions and luncheons featuring guest speakers.
- **Excursions:** A visit to the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers and the annual Holy Trinity English Tea.
- **Missions:** Development of a new mission project and ongoing community outreach.



EUCCHARISTIC BREAD MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Bread Ministry completed its sixteenth year in 2025 with thirteen members.

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 communion read was made for all 8:00, 10:30, Holy Week, and Christmas services. Please note that wafers are used for wedding and funeral Eucharists.

Gluten free wafers are provided by the Altar Guild for those who cannot consume the regular Communion Bread.

This ministry is open to everyone. Training is provided to all new members.



FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee creates opportunities for the community to share togetherness.

There were many gatherings in 2025, including St. Matthew's Day luncheon, Mardi Gras party, July 4 celebration, and Thanksgiving luncheon. Of course, let's not forget about the baseball game!!

We would like to invite new members to come and share their thoughts and ideas.



FLOWER GUILD

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.

Following the liturgical calendar, we create arrangements for most Sundays, and for weddings, funerals, 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 by the offerings.

Everyone is 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!



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee advises the Vestry by monitoring monthly income and expenses and assisting with the annual budget. Our goal is to evaluate past and present data to ensure sustainable future planning.

2025 Financial Summary

- **Fiscal Health:** St. Matthew's concluded 2025 with a modest surplus—transferred to the Buildings and Grounds fund—due to increased pledge income and disciplined spending.
- **Leadership Transition:** Heather Pratt succeeded Mark DiGiovanni as Chair in 2026. We extend our deep gratitude to Mark for over 20 years of dedicated service.

All parishioners are welcome to join; interest is the only requirement. We give thanks for the parish's ongoing generosity and ask for continued guidance in the faithful stewardship of our collective resources.

INREACH/PASTORAL CARE

The Inreach/Pastoral Care Ministry identify parishioners who may be in need of assistance, contact, and prayer. The committee is set up with people with a variety of pastoral care backgrounds.

When a need is identified, the ministry reaches out to see if there is a need for prayers, meals, communion visits, prayers of the people list, prayer shawls, visits, funeral arrangements. After three years, the Grief Support Group decided they were ready to move forward. The group ended in December 2025.

We will continue our reaching out to those in need within our parish. We would love to have interest from new parishioners (new to the church or new to the ministry) in Loaves & Fishes, Eucharistic Visitors, Funeral Shepherd Committee, Visitor Team, Cards to Seniors. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Tim.

The ministry is a confidential committee. If there is a need you or a family member has, please reach out to Fr. Tim.



KNIT, CROCHET, AND PRAY

The Knit, Crochet, and Pray (KCP) Ministry provides handmade items—such as prayer shawls and squares, chemo caps, blankets, and rosaries—to comfort and support local hospitals, nursing homes, missions, and individuals in crisis.

Accomplishments

- **Rosebud Episcopal Mission (SD):** Provided over 500 winter items, including 158 hat/scarf sets and 178 pairs of gloves for children in need.
- **Health & Comfort:** Donated 171 chemo caps to Winship Cancer Institute, 68+ preemie items to Northside Gwinnett Hospital, and prayer shawls to parishioners.
- **Community Outreach:** Created 60 ribbon pins for veterans at Delmar Gardens, 24 baby blankets for the S.E. Co-Op, and distributed 142 Episcopal rosaries.
- **Spiritual Support:** Produced over 115 prayer squares (crocheted and cloth) for those in crisis.

The ministry will sustain all current projects with a goal of increasing donation volumes for each partner organization.

Additional Information

The partnership with the Rosebud Episcopal Mission remains a priority, continuing a 15-year legacy started by Nancy Piechowiak and Karen Morgan. Special thanks to the Outreach Committee, Lilburn Crafters, and individual donors for their essential support.



LONG RANGE PLANNING

This ministry scaled back this year to quarterly meetings. Due to considerable overlap with the newly formed Capital Campaign Committee and reorganization of the Buildings and Grounds Ministry, many of the proposals for immediate and up to 5 year planning by Long Range Planning Ministry are currently being addressed.

The new year will have this ministry focused on growth. We will address future needs to meet the demands of our expanding church family.

MUSIC



This robust program at St. Matt's supports and uplifts the congregation's prayer and praise through music, nurtures participants' musical gifts, and explores the church's musical identity.

Accomplishments

- **Concert Series:** Concluded the inaugural 2024-2025 series with a water-themed hymn festival and Musical Stations of the Cross.
- **New Organ:** Signed the contract for a new Walker digital pipe organ.
- **New Partnerships:** Launched the 2025-2026 concert series and began a partnership with The Choral Foundation to host the Gwinnett Summer Singers in 2026.
- **Choirs:** Maintained superb leadership in the children's and handbell choirs, with the children's choir singing monthly in worship and at special December events.

Plans for 2026

- **February 7:** Cabaret, Cabernet, & Clavier: a St. Matt's Talent Show
- **April 3:** Good Friday: Musical Stations of the Cross
- **April 19:** Hymn Festival and Plant Sale
- **Summer:** Gwinnett Summer Singers performances
- **Fall:** Organ Dedicatory Recital
- **December 13:** Annual Lessons and Carols

Participation Opportunities

- **Sanctuary Choir:** Wednesdays at 7:15 PM (encouraged) & Sundays at 9:40 AM (required).
- **Special Events Choirs:** Wednesdays at 7:15 PM (seasonal commitment).
- **Handbells Choir:** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM (Contact Warren Drury).
- **Children's Choir:** Sundays after the 10:30 AM service (Contact Karen Whitehead or Deb Herron).
- **Talent Sharing:** Individuals wishing to solo or play an instrument should contact music@stMatthew'ssnellville.org.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee supports community needs and elevates dignity by engaging the church family in outreach events and donations.

Accomplishments

- **Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry:** As one of 22 supporting churches, we contributed over 4,000 lbs of food and personal care items through two major food drives and continuous donations. We served three dinners to Co-op clients (total average of 285 clients served each time) and provided 50 “Matthew’s Crate” breakfast boxes during winter break.
- **Mending the Gap:** Supported this non-profit aiding low-income seniors through donations and by sponsoring and participating in their September Superheroes for Seniors 5K event.
- **Miscellaneous Projects:** Participated in the Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk, FODAC Run Walk n Roll, Habitat for Humanity Build, Knit Crochet & Pray’s Rosebud Mission mailing, Annual Council Service Project, Angel Tree (with ECW), and Delmar Gardens Sing-a-longs.

Plans for 2026

The 2026 calendar (posted on the Outreach bulletin board) will feature many similar opportunities for community engagement and support.

Outlook

We thank the parish for their 2025 generosity and ask for continued support in 2026 as we strive to share God’s love through service.

PRESCHOOL

Accomplishments

- **Growth:** Increased enrollment from 80 to 93 students mid-year, expanding to eight classes and adding a second toddler room due to high demand.
- **Staffing:** Retained 70% of staff and successfully hired six new teachers and a new Assistant Director.
- **Facilities:** Refreshed the preschool hallway and door trims with new paint.
- **Programs:** Maintained core enrichment (Music, Tech, Science, Chapel), after-school activities (NZone, Dance, Reptiles), and successful full-capacity summer camps.
- **Fundraising & Events:** Hosted a successful Art Auction, two Scholastic Book Fairs, and an international-themed Thanksgiving Feast.
- **Technology:** Replaced aging tablets and a television through generous parish donations; utilized ClassDojo for parent communication.
- **Family Engagement:** Launched a parent-led program to strengthen teacher relationships and manage fundraising initiatives.

2026 Planned Programs & Events

- **Family Events:** Sweetheart Glow Dance (Feb 6), Donuts with Dad (March 9), Sundaes with Mom (April 20), and the year-end Luau (May 7–8).
- **In-House Field Trips:** Puppet Show (Jan 16) and “8 Legged Scales” Reptile Show (Feb 19–20).
- **Graduation:** Four-year-old Preschool Graduation on May 12, 2026.
- **Summer Camp:** Implementing a new six-week format (Tues–Thurs) across June and July 2026 to better serve community needs.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship at St. Matthew's is a spiritual practice of gratitude, focusing on using God-given gifts to fulfill God's call. Rather than just a budgetary tool, it is an invitation to joyfully share time, talent, and treasure.

2025 Retrospective

- **Increased Giving:** Both pledges and overall contributions rose compared to 2024.
- **Engagement:** A Spring Spiritual Gifts workshop successfully connected parishioners with various ministries.

2026 Campaign: "Tell Out My Soul"

- **Growth & Energy:** The 2026 campaign reflects a revitalized parish, with significant participation from younger families.
- **Pledge Trends:** Nearly 50% of pledging households either increased their commitment or are first-time givers.

Looking Ahead: We will continue hosting events to increase awareness of ministry opportunities and encourage all members to engage their unique talents in the life of the parish.

WELCOME AND BELONG

The Welcome and Belong Committee ensures that St. Matthew's is a welcoming home for all by acknowledging visitors, fostering belonging, and sharing God's love with the community.

Accomplishments

- **Newcomers:** Welcomed 75 new adults and children; 47 have become regular attendees or members, including 8 returning members and 8 families with children.
- **Greeter Team:** Expanded the team size to enhance both church safety and visitor outreach.
- **Fam Jam (Young Families):** Hosted off-site social gatherings and two parish breakfasts. The group meets during Christian Formation to discuss parenting through a Christ-centered lens.
- **Communications:** Promoted church events via street banners and various platforms, including the Snellville Spirit, The Patch, Facebook, and the parish website.
- **Card Ministry:** Sent birthday and pastoral care cards to parishioners to maintain community connection.

Plans for 2026

- **Education:** Inquirers Class (Winter) and St. Matthew's 101 (Fall).
- **Fellowship:** Monthly Fam Jam events and the annual Trunk or Treat event.



WORSHIP

The Worship Committee supports the Rector to ensure liturgical life is meaningful, inclusive, and organized.

Accomplishments

- **Growth:** Achieved 10% growth with an average Sunday attendance of 200.
- **Liturgy:** Hosted robust Advent and Lent seasons; introduced Candlemas and All Saints Crosses.
- **Youth:** Redesigned Children's Chapel and expanded youth leadership in acolyte and passion play roles.
- **Inclusion:** Improved mobility accessibility for readers and oblation bearers.

Plans for 2026

- **New Service:** Launching a monthly, lay-led Wednesday Morning Prayer.
- **Ongoing:** Robust seasonal planning and continued support for music and youth ministries.



YOUTH

St. Matthew's Youth Ministry nurtures the spiritual growth, fellowship, and faith formation of middle and high school youth.

2025 Recap: Renewed Momentum

- Under Mandy Johnson, the role of Youth Minister was revitalized and brought consistent, creative programming, including high school Bible study and increased engagement across youth group, retreats, and special events.
- Signature events—weekly youth gatherings, weekly Bible study, a Camp Mikell retreat, diocesan events such as Happening and New Beginnings, and fellowship opportunities including the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser, Youth/ Graduation Sunday, Blue Gnu, Turkey Hunt, and Barn Night—strengthened community and deepened faith connections.

Looking Ahead to 2026

- Christina Pratt Dedo is serving in an interim leadership role for Youth and events. The Youth Committee will support Father Tim in the search for a new Youth Minister this spring.
- Planned programming includes weekly youth group and Bible study, diocesan retreats, and signature fellowship and service events that continue to anchor young people in the life of the church.

Those interested in volunteering with the Youth Ministry are encouraged to contact Christina Dedo or Kim Schmidt.



2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

2026 Operating Revenue Projections

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	% Chg
Pledges-General Fund	\$346,271	\$350,000	1.1%
Non-Pledges-General Fund	\$99,926	\$90,000	-9.9%
Plate Offerings	\$13,220	\$10,000	-24.4%
Interest Income	\$8,499	\$5,000	-41.2%
	\$467,916	\$455,000	-2.8%

2026 Projected Expenses

	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	% Chg
Outside Disbursements	\$46,613	\$47,929	2.8%
Salaries & Benefits	\$214,274	\$236,665	10.4%
Office Expense	\$31,717	\$33,175	4.6%
Buildings & Grounds	\$96,751	\$109,408	13.1%
Insurance	\$27,522	\$30,000	9.0%
Congregational Life	\$21,045	\$24,500	16.4%
Travel/Continuing Education	\$2,298	\$3,125	36.0%
Total Expenses	\$440,219	\$484,802	10.1%

2026 Budget Summary

Revenues:	\$455,000
Expenses:	\$484,802
Deficit:	\$29,802



SCAN TO VIEW MINISTRIES AT-A-GLANCE



MINISTRIES-AT-A-GLANCE 2026 Updated 1/16/26	
BUILDING & GROUNDS Liaison: Bruce Bowen Chairs: Clay Olson and Scott Fisher <i>Monthly Meeting: as needed</i> Maintaining Building Landscaping GROUPS: • Safety & Security EVENTS: • Parish wide Workdays • Plant Sale	WELCOME & BELONG Liaison: Jan Nakors Chair: Trisha Volles <i>Monthly Meeting: 4th Sun 12:00 as needed</i> Newcomers Church Growth: Community Publications, Mailings Young Family Group – Pam Jam EVENTS: • Newcomers 101, Inquirer's Class
COMMUNICATIONS Liaison: Amanda Livermont Chair: Chris Korlath <i>Monthly Meeting: as needed</i> AV Communication: Weekly Video Recording, Special Service Video Recording Website Maintenance Social Media, E-newsletter, Bulletin, Realm, Constant Contact, Bulletin Boards	WORSHIP Liaison: Susan Jung Chair: Fr. Tim <i>Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday 8:00pm</i> Sanctuary Ministers: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Flower Guild, Ushers & Greeters, Virgins Music: Sanctuary Choir, Handbells Worship Prayer Ministries: Centering Prayer, DOX
FINANCE Liaison: Dave Lott Chair: Heather Pratt <i>Monthly Meeting: 1st Thursday 6:30pm</i> Monthly Reports Budgets Review Expenditures	FELLOWSHIP Liaison: Bernice Waller Chair: Warren Drury <i>Monthly Meeting: 1st Sunday at 12:00</i> GROUPS: • Episcopal Church Women • Brotherhood of St. Andrew Activities: • Men's Trivia • Restaurant Foyers • Breakfast/Coffee Hour • Lunch Bunch EVENTS: • Fish Fry (Brotherhood) • Chili Cook Off (ECW) • St. Matt's Day • Guinness Strippers Baseball Game • Thanksgiving Dinner • Cookies/Wine/Beer for Lessons and Carols • Trips – Gibbs Gardens, Conyers Monastery
LONG-RANGE PLANNING Liaison: Nancy Griner Chair: Bre'Nae <i>Quarterly Meeting</i> Meeting with Committees to delineate projected needs of the physical church and outside environment of St. Matthew's.	YOUTH Liaison: Sarah Korlath Chair: Christina Dedo, Terri Whitebret <i>Monthly Meeting: as needed</i> EVENTS: • Weekly Youth Group Meetings/Events • New Beginnings • Happening • Youth Retreat • Passion Play
INREACH Liaison: Ted Sawyer Chair: Fr. Tim <i>Monthly Meeting: 3rd Tues 1:00</i> GROUPS: • Knit, Crochet, and Pray • Pastoral Care Team • Lovers and Fishes • Home & Hospital Eucharistic Visits	OUTREACH Liaison: Lindsay Isaacs Chair: Cheryl Wheeler <i>Monthly Meeting: 4th Wed 6pm</i> GROUPS: • Knit, Crochet, and Pray EVENTS: • FODAC Walk • Mending the Gap Walk ORGANIZATIONS: • Family Promise • FODAC • Habitat for Humanity • Delmar Gardens Nursing Home • St. Vincent Cooperative • Mending the Gap • St. Vincent / St. Vincent • Preschool • Scouts • Roshard Reservation, SD • Emory Cancer – Chemo Caps
	CHRISTIAN FORMATION Liaison: Diane Eberhart Chair: Carolyn Call <i>Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday 7pm</i> Children's Education: Nursery, Elementary (Pres-5 th), Middle School (6 th -8 th), High School (9 th -12 th), Children's Chapel Adult Education: Adult Bible Study with Clay Olson, Adult Sunday Book Study with Pastor, Catechesis, Inquirer's Class for Newcomers, Pam Jam (parents of young children), Walking with the Word EVENTS: • Fall CE Registration • Confirmation/Receiving/Reaffirmation • Vacation Bible School • Nativity Pageant • Inquirer's Class
	STEWARDSHIP Liaison: Wilhemina Wilson Chair: Terri Hunt <i>Monthly Meeting: as needed</i> Fall Pledge Drive Year-round Pledging (goal) Time & Talent Survey

Up to date information about all St. Matt's ministries!

- Vestry Liaisons
- Committee Chairs
- Meeting times

RECTOR'S REPORT

Grace and Peace,

As we gather for this Annual Meeting and reflect on the past year, we find ourselves at an exciting crossroads in our parish's history and future. This past year at St. Matthew's has not been about maintaining the status quo; it has been about asking, "What is God doing here, now, and how can we join that work?" The state of our parish is strong, not just because the lights are on, but because the Spirit is moving. We have embraced a season of holy curiosity, willing to try new ways of being Church while holding fast to the Episcopal traditions that ground us.

Experiments in Ministry: Faithful Innovation

In 2025, we leaned into the idea that the Church is not a museum, but a laboratory for ministry. We are allowing ourselves to experiment, knowing that even efforts that didn't go perfectly were successful because they taught us what God is doing on our campus and in the community. Curiosity in ministry reflects what the early Church did throughout the Acts of the Apostles – a community rooted in tradition, trying new things, and seeing what works for the spread of the Gospel.

Highlights of some experimentations included:

- "Dinner Theater and Musical": We hosted two productions in August and December: a dinner theater and a musical. These new opportunities not only provided a wonderful fellowship experience but also reached the wider community and invited people to visit the campus.
- "Using Our Campus Space": We have a wonderful campus with designated areas for groups and classes to gather. While we get used to meeting in the same space, what do we do when we outgrow it? The Wednesday Bible Study outgrew the library, so the group moved to the Undercroft, which provided more space and improved acoustics. What other

locations on our campus should we consider using?

- "Musical Stations of the Cross": On Good Friday, the adult choir guided us through the Stations of the Cross with various musical offerings. Experiencing a Holy Week tradition from a new perspective brought liturgy to the community, encouraging fresh engagement and understanding.

We learned that St. Matthew's has many traditions and is resilient and innovative in expressing new forms of traditions and exploring new opportunities. We understand that success isn't measured just by attendance but by the depth of engagement and the willingness to try new things.

Our Open Door

The phrase "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" appears on many signs throughout the diocese and the country, but in 2025, we focused on making sure it is engraved on our hearts. We shifted our focus from simply being "friendly" to practicing belonging for every person.

Steps we took toward a wider welcome:

- Audit of our Welcome: We reviewed and enhanced our greeting practices, inviting new members to serve as ushers. We are updating our bulletin language to make sure that a first-time visitor—regardless of their background, race, orientation, or ability—feels immediately at home during worship.
- Connecting People to the Community: We continue to link individuals with ministries, committees, classes, studies, and outreach programs. We must keep inviting people to become involved in the community to foster a sense of belonging, encourage investment in themselves and others, and harness the transformative power of the Gospel.



RECTOR'S REPORT

- **Inclusivity in Action:** We keep listening to all voices, ensuring that St. Matthew's is a safe space for everyone. I love that our parish embraces our diversity as part of who we are and that it influences how we operate, both on and off campus. There is still much work to do to include more people from different backgrounds at St. Matthew's.

Our goal for the upcoming year: to help visitors and newcomers go from just showing up to building genuine friendships and connections within the community.

Ministry Participation: The Priesthood of All Believers

A church is not a building; it is a body. And a body functions best when every muscle is active. This year, we continue to highlight that ministry is not just for the clergy—it is the baptismal right and responsibility of every person here.

We are moving beyond the “80/20 rule” (where 20% of the people do 80% of the work) and encouraging everyone to discover their unique “Spirit Gift.”

We celebrate these wins in participation:

- **New Lay Leaders:** Both new and returning members are becoming more involved in worship as lectors, greeters, eucharistic ministers, vergers, A/V ministry members, and children's chapel leaders. While I was away last summer, lay leaders led Morning Prayer on several Sundays. Liturgy is “the work of the people,” and we continue to show this every time we gather for worship.
- **Buildings and Grounds Ministry:** Scott Fisher and Clay Olbon serve as the co-chairs of our newly reorganized Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Many new members are participating in this ministry, applying their talents and skills to become better stewards of our campus. We need to involve more people in our ministries and committees.

- **Listening:** We are talking to and listening more to each other and new members of the community. We must keep engaging with one another and learn more about the skills, talents, and gifts God has given our community.

An Invitation to You

If you're currently watching from the sidelines, we need you. Not just to fill a roster spot, but because your unique voice and talents are essential to the fullness of our community. Whether you're an accountant, a gardener, a listener, or a cook, God has a purpose for your gifts at St. Matthew's. We're eager to see what your ministry and talents will be in 2026!

Thank You

Our staff, vestry, and leadership at St. Matthew's continue to demonstrate how amazing and special our Snellville community truly is. Each week, I am reminded of how fortunate we are, and I stand with many great leaders who serve where there is a need and seek to include others in the life of our community. Thank you for making ministry at St. Matthew's the best it can be!

Thank you for your faithfulness, your pledge of support, and your prayers. The Church is not “them”—it is us. And together, with God's help, we are building something beautiful. St. Matthew's continues to be a wonderful, hospitable, and engaging place for everyone to grow in their relationship with God and their neighbor!

I look forward to what God will show us in 2026!

God's Peace,

Father Tim Meyers



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Spiritual Listening and Discernment

This year has been a meaningful and productive season in the life of St. Matthew's. We began with a Vestry retreat led by Sally Ulrey, Canon for Congregational Vitality and Ministry Development. Through spiritual listening, storytelling, and intentional reflection, our leadership team created space to deepen relationships, build trust, and establish thoughtful goals for the year ahead.

Throughout the year, Vestry meetings were grounded in prayer and reflection, including a regular question: "Where have you seen God today?" This practice helped keep our work centered in faith and attentive to God's presence in our parish life.

Capital Campaign Committee

The Capital Campaign Committee met regularly and made significant progress in strengthening and preserving our facilities. Highlights include:

- Organ: A major financial deposit was made, and we look forward to hearing the new instrument by summer.
- Stained Glass: Our beloved stained glass windows above the altar and narthex were repaired and cleaned.
- Steeple Roof: Repairs are currently in progress.
- Theatre at St. Matt's: We welcomed live theatre to our campus twice this year. With the purchase of a stage and the talents of local performers, these productions became successful fundraisers, meaningful fellowship opportunities, and wonderful community outreach events.

Re-Visioning of Buildings & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee was reorganized to better serve the parish. Two co-chairs now lead three focused teams:

- Administrative Team
- Campus Maintenance Team
- Special Projects Management Team

This new structure allows us to address maintenance and repairs more efficiently. In addition, St. Matthew's has begun using ClickMaint, a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) that supports a more proactive and organized approach to caring for our campus.

St. Matthew's — It's the People

Beyond buildings and programs, the heart of St. Matthew's is its people. This year:

- We added two paid nursery staff positions through the end of 2025, with the possibility of expansion based on future budget resources.
- The Vestry unanimously approved advancing Rich Morris in the discernment process.
- The Preschool Board proposed six weeks of summer camps for 2026, creating both a fundraising opportunity and a way to further connect and serve the community.

Closing

As I step out of my role as Senior Warden, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served this remarkable parish. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a faithful, generous, and committed community. My prayer is that St. Matthew's will continue to grow in humility, compassion, and love as we nurture one another and reach out to the wider community. I look forward to what God has in store for us next.

Blessings,

Susan Jung



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Junior Warden this year, learning from and working with Fr. Tim, Senior Warden Susan Jung, and all the vestry members as we strive to carry out the mission of St. Matthew's to be a welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ as we share God's love with the community. It has been a year of growth and excitement in which

I've seen that at St. Matthew's, it truly is the people who make the difference. The vestry started the year with a retreat that introduced us to practices to listen more deeply to God, each other, and our neighbors, and to join what God is already doing in our community. Equipped with that direction, we were encouraged to seek new opportunities and support creative initiatives throughout the congregation.

And, there have been many new initiatives and projects completed by our committees this year, including the restoration of the stained-glass windows and two theatrical performances. We enjoyed new opportunities to connect with each other, such as the strawberry social following Bishop Wright's visit in May and canning sessions in the kitchen this summer. Additions to worship services, such as children's choir performances, hand-decorated crosses on the altar for All Saints Day, and new people serving as choir members, lay readers, acolytes, vergers, and more infused vibrancy into our time together on Sundays. Successful annual events like the Vintage Bazaar and Trunk or Treat continued to invite our neighbors to enjoy our campus, which is maintained so well by the Buildings & Grounds committee and its many volunteers.

It has been encouraging to see how supportive the people of St. Matthew's have been to new ideas as well as to sustained efforts like the Capital Campaign, Vacation Bible School, and outreach activities like food drives for the Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry. Seeing the enthusiasm, creativity, and energy demonstrated by all of our ministries has been truly inspiring.

Through it all, we've kept a close eye on our budget, managing expenses and investing wisely thanks to guidance from the Finance Committee. We enter the new year on strong financial ground and with an optimistic outlook.

As I conclude my time on vestry, I leave grateful for having had the opportunity to serve and to have experienced up close the many ways St. Matthew's is such a wonderful church family. I've witnessed how God is working in our congregation, and I'm excited for what's to come as we continue to build our welcoming home together.

Lindsay Isaacs

