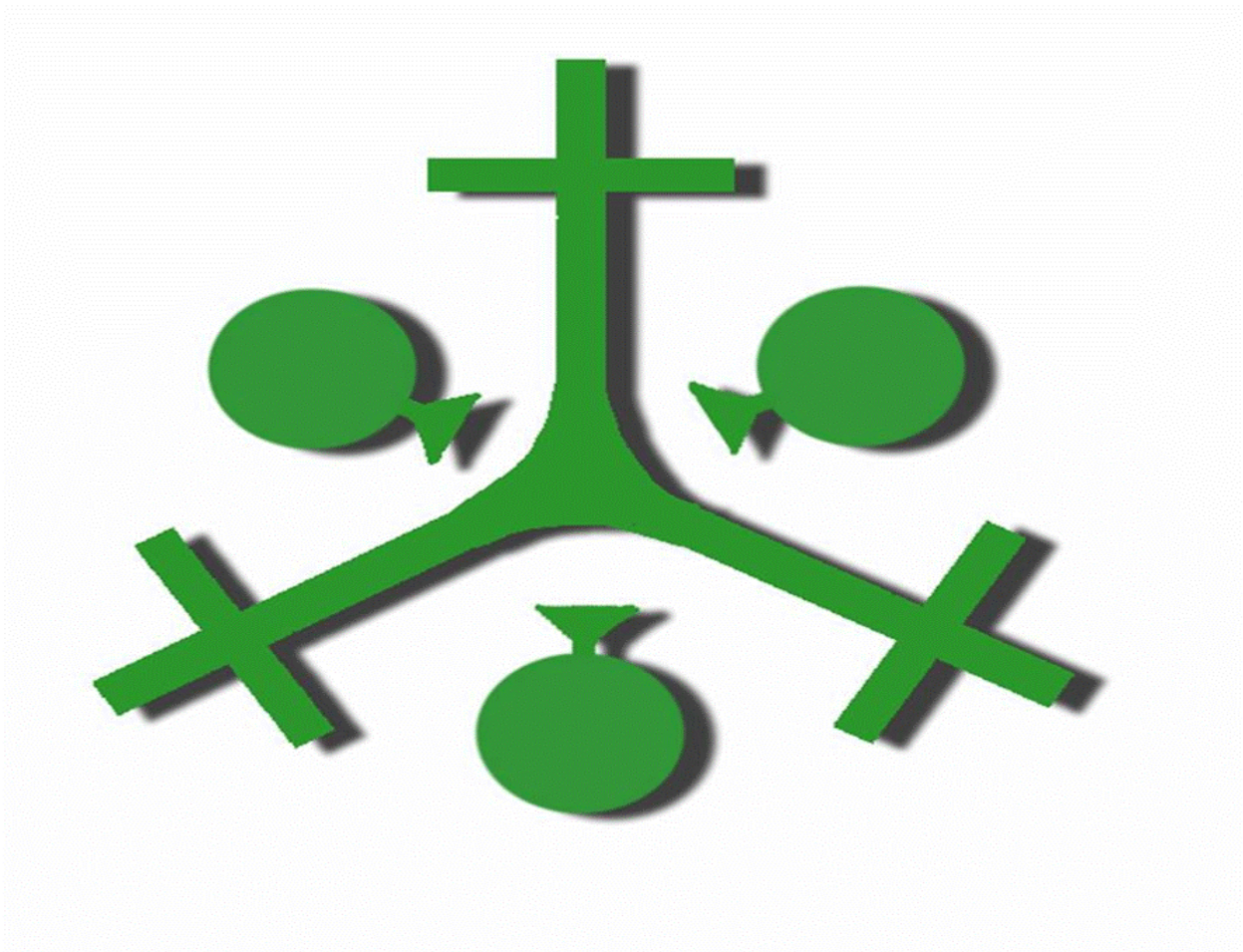


St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

2010 Annual Reports



RECTOR – Annual Report 2010

The year 2010 marked the beginning of “A Bold New Adventure” in the life of St. Matthew’s. The adventure for us was one of stepping off the train of church-as-church-has-always-been at St. Matthew’s and stopping to contemplate where God would have us go and what he would have us be. In short, the adventure was to study what God is doing and how we might fit into his plan the way God would have us fit. The phrase we used for that fit was our “mission ethos.”

Our major challenge in meeting our goal of defining St. Matthew’s mission ethos was to discern how we would bring together our Spirit-given gifts and a spiritual need in the world so that God’s redeeming love might be made known. To meet that challenge, a task group of 9 parishioners spent most of 2010 ascertaining who we are as a God-centered congregation by studying our history and present circumstances and gifts as a community. Their findings were reported to the Vestry in September and the congregation as a part of our St. Matthew’s Day celebration. They defined our mission ethos as being in the area of teaching/educating/training (that is, discipling). Our specific mission at this time was articulated as actively “making Christ known.” The task group made the following recommendations:

- That the Vestry create a standing Mission Committee with its own funding;
- That St. Matthew’s embark on a parish-wide mission training and education emphasis;
- That each member of St. Matthew’s participate in a mission training event by September 2011; and
- That each member of St. Matthew’s participate in a hands-on mission activity by September 2011.

The Vestry accepted and has acted upon these recommendations.

The future of mission in and through St. Matthew’s looks bright, as does the future of St. Matthew’s. Please continue to pray –

Lord Jesus, give to us, the people of St. Matthew’s, the eyes to be able to see you and the ears to be able to hear you so that we can follow you according to your way. Through the guidance of your Holy Spirit, direct us to your perfect will for us. We desire to know how and what you would have us do for the spread of your kingdom in the world. Empower us to be what you would have us be and do what you would have us do so that we might glorify you and love our neighbors. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck+

ASSISTANT RECTOR—Annual Report 2010

2010 was my sixth year at St. Matthew's, and Barbara and I both continue to find it a source of life and blessing. I am particularly excited at the new things God has been doing in our midst in connection with St. Matthew's mission emphasis. I was privileged to be on hand as the Mission Task Group struggled through to identify the parish's signature mission ethos, which turned out to be centered in teaching and training. With Chuck and its members, it's my privilege to attend meetings of the newly-formed Mission Committee. I'm sure the members of the Committee join me in feeling very gratified at the strong interest in our first mission training opportunity, "Epiphany Perspectives," taught on Wednesday nights. I am convinced that God has great things in store for St. Matthew's as we more closely and intentionally focus our ministry as a congregation on making Christ known.

In addition to preaching and leading worship, my principal ministry responsibilities are in the area of pastoral care, much of which involves visiting the sick and homebound. I am assisted in this important ministry by a dedicated group of lay people. I also counsel folks from time to time. I look forward having our new Marriage Mentors trained using the new Prepare/Enrich assessment tool in the near future

Together Barbara and I have convened and led our Homebuilders ministry for families, in which both singles and couples participate. We schedule our sessions for Sunday afternoons to coincide with Children's Choir, and follow with a potluck dinner. In 2010 our groups averaged around 18 adults and 20 children. In the spring, we explored ways of equipping children to enter into worship in a meaningful ways.

Consistent with St. Matthew's mission emphasis, in the fall Homebuilders began studying how God intends the family to be his basic unit of ministry and mission in the world. Our resource has been *The Family God Uses*, by Tom and Kim Blackaby. As part of their family ministry, Homebuilders families are beginning intentional relationships with a group of older parishioners. By regular visits and spending time together across the generations, we hope to glorify God and strengthen the bonds of Christ's love among the members of our congregation.

I'm privileged to oversee training and recruiting of group of excellent Lay Liturgical Leaders. Ramona Neifeld's invaluable help in scheduling.

Chuck and I are part of an informal group of orthodox clergy called by God to hold forth biblical Christianity in the Diocese of Virginia. About 20 clergy are involved. We meet from time to time for prayer, fellowship and to discuss issues in the Diocese. Along with our lay delegates Doug LeBlanc and John White, I continue to represent St. Matthew's in meetings of the Region XII Council (the subunit of the Diocese to which St. Matthew's belongs).

I've been privileged to be part of this unique and thriving parish. St. Matthews' commitment to biblical Christianity and mission, along with its healthy history of warm and caring relationships among its members, makes it a light for Christ in the West End and beyond.

Yours in Christ,
Mario

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT. - Annual Report 2010

Abundance and thankfulness were reoccurring themes throughout 2010. Everyone was generous, as many parishioners volunteered for the first time with Children's Education. Attendance in Sunday School has consistently grown. But the best blessing is atmosphere of community that is evident as families care for each other in joy and difficulty.

The Children's Christian Education Committee (CCE) is committed to serving all the children, infant through 5th grade, and their families. This has led to different members developing and taking leadership of a variety of new and renewed ministry offerings. The committee members are January Britt (co-chair), Megan Lloyd (co-chair), Michael Hagerty (Vestry liaison), John Spadea, Andrew Thompson, Leslie Harris, Debbye Silva, and Robin Hagerty. Chuck Alley and Jill Rich served as staff liaisons.

We continue to strive to provide Godly and Biblical teaching throughout the year. The Children Desiring God curriculum was taught again this year with Toddlers and Preschoolers working through the Old Testament. Kindergarteners and 1st graders are following up with a New Testament survey. 2nd through 5th grade are focusing on the life of Jesus with age appropriate curriculum for each class. This year saw seven parishioners bravely step up to teach Sunday School for the first time, one of the many blessings to CCE this year.

The Lenten series has always been interesting with irregular attendance and a struggle to find volunteers for the weekly lessons. Add to the mix the late timing and tired children from a long day at school. This year we tried something new with much success. For the younger children, childcare was hired through River City Sitters. The older children (Kindergarten through 5th grade) all grabbed pillows and got comfy on the carpet to listen to C. S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Each week we covered a chapter or two and reviewed the following week's reading, drawing correlations with Jesus, God and scripture.

VBS got the summer off to a great start by "Gathering under the Baobab Tree." Throughout the week over 70 children and 45 volunteers sang, crafted, played and fellowshiped around themes of trusting God, love for God and others and God's love for us, following God, caring for each other, and sharing with others. Like last year, St. Matthew's shared decorations with other churches in the Richmond area. Volunteers from all the churches gathered throughout the spring to paint backdrops and create decorations. This effort emphasized our commitment to fiscal and environment responsibility. Plus it was fun to fellowship with other members of the Universal church. Thanks are given to January Britt for leading this adventure, the MANY wonderful volunteers for their time and service, and Gabriel Mayer and the youth group for lending a hand.

Children's Church has made a return to St. Matthew's on Holy Eucharist Sundays. Megan Lloyd is leading with January Britt assisting. The lesson taught corresponds with the scripture on which Chuck or Mario is preaching. Megan also includes time for prayer and is instructing the children on the different aspect of the liturgical service giving the children the "why" for the "what" we do in our worship. Children's Church is designated for the Kindergarten and 1st graders attending worship with the adults at 10:30.

Despite the threat of snow, the Christmas Pageant occurred without a hitch. Virginia Witmer met with our 2nd through 5th grade participants throughout Advent to study what scripture says about Christ's birth. After weeks of preparation, the children beautifully delivered the story to the congregation with the help of the younger children as angels, shepherds, and animals.

Another priority of CCE (and St. Matthew's) is to care for all its members as they grow in Christ's love. Five main routes we achieve this are the Gamers, greeting cards, and seasonal babysitting, pew bags, and childcare during the 10:30 service.

The Gamers is a fellowship group for children 3rd through 5th grade that meets once a month. The mission is to offer an activity that retains the attendance of this age group while introducing the children to a youth group atmosphere. The Gamers meet after church to have lunch and play games. Andrew Thompson is leading the group.

The children continue to minister to the sick and shut in of St. Matthew's through creating greeting cards during Sunday school. Over a hundred cards are sent out yearly, all covered in prayer.

Birthday cards and notes of encouragement are sent to all the children. Just as they show love and concern through their notes, love and concern is given to them by St. Matthew's.

A returning favorite is free childcare during the Christmas season. On December 5th, eight children came for the afternoon and played outside, watched Veggie Tales, made nativity scenes and Christmas decorations and ate pizza. The goal is to provide a fun afternoon for the children while ministering to their parents during a very busy season.

Pew bags continue to be maintained to help the younger children as they transition into "big church." Next to the pew bags are child-friendly versions of the Book of Common Prayer. Through easy to understand vocabulary and pictures, children can follow the service alongside their parents.

During the 10:30 service, around 16 children, infant through preschool, are cared for in the Education wing, allowing parents a few quiet minutes to worship each week. Over 50 parishioners volunteer to care for our littlest members.

We also have a crew of 19 supervisors who readily jump in for tardy or sick volunteers. Most importantly, they deliver cookies during the 10:30 service, an essential ministry.

To minister for others outside of St. Matthew's the children continue to send their weekly offerings to Gerald and Parimila. Gerald, at 22 yrs old, has graduated and starting in 2011, we will adopt a new child through Compassion International. Parimila continues to do well through our assistance and Child Fund.

In September, the whole Parish focused on missions in teaching and action. The children packed 25 boxes for Operation Christmas Child that ended up with children in Peru. They also helped clean the church campus on our annual clean-up day.

This coming Easter we will reintroduce a mite box collection on Easter Sunday. The children will take home mite boxes at the beginning of Lent. On Easter Sunday, two crosses will be present, one to receive the mite boxes, the other for flowering. The donations will be given to an outreach organization yet to be determined. Both crosses have been repainted and will be gilded as Easter approaches. Debbye Silva is responsible for heading up this new endeavor.

“Trunk or Treat” served our greater community by offering a safe and fun alternative to Halloween trick or treating. Over a hundred children attended on a beautiful fall day. Games were played, cookies decorated, and pizza eaten. Fun and fellowship abounded. Many thanks to Bethany Piersol for organizing the event and to Gabriel Mayer and the youth group for helping out.

Without good communication, all our efforts would be useless. Norm Hyde and Bethany Piersol get the word out via the St. Matthew’s website and calendar. Dan Escalera maintains and installs all our banners announcing to the community at large our activities. The Kiddie Link also provides monthly updates on what is going on (available via the website, hard copies in the Narthex and Education wing, or join the email list by emailing jillatstmatts@hotmail.com with “Kiddie Link” on the subject line)

Looking back on 2010, I am thankful for the abundance of children that are part of the St. Matthew’s family and the multitude of volunteers who serve them. Please join in praying that those precious little hearts will receive Christ as their Lord and they will forever hunger for Him. They are gift and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rich, Director of Christian Education.

YOUTH—Annual Report 2010

As I look back on this last year, I am encouraged to see the Lord's hand at work. He *does* love and care for his people. This last year, we have done a number of different things-- weekly dinners, combined middle/high school youth groups, Modgnik retreats, pie baking, missions trip, and parties... to name a few! Throughout it all though, I have seen students grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus, and in service to their neighbor— this is the Lord's doing! Last April, we attended “Modgnik” for the first time. Modgnik is a retreat made possible by the collaboration of a number of churches in Virginia. Our High Schoolers had a blast, encouraging each other on the high ropes course, worshipping with 400 other students, and learning about God’s Kingdom from our speaker. After that first retreat, I joined the leadership team for Modgnik. Together with a number of other youth ministers from Virginia, we planned the Middle School retreat in October. It has been encouraging to see a common vision among leaders who love Jesus and love youth. When our Middle School students got their first chance to go to Modgnik, they also enjoyed the fellowship, teaching, and controlled chaos! This is a truly excellent retreat, and we are looking forward to going back with our High Schoolers this April. During youth group last spring, the High School and Middle School students met separately, to share a meal and study the examples of faith listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. This summer, we met together in various families’ homes to fellowship and study Paul’s letter to the Galatians. This study helped ground our knowledge of salvation by grace alone in the scriptures. Then in the fall, we looked at prayer with our High Schoolers, asking why is it so hard and what does it really do. We saw that in Jesus, prayer is a chance to come to our heavenly Father, who delights to give good things to His children. With the Middle Schoolers, we took a critical look at idolatry, asking what is an idol and what does our idolatry cause. Our idols are often good things that we just care about more than our heavenly Father. While we might not be able to merely remove an idol, we can replace it with the one true God, by seeing what Jesus has done for us and following him!

Last July, St. Matthew’s partnered with All Saints Presbyterian Church for a missions trip to Fairmont, West Virginia. St. Matthew’s sent 5 high school students and 4 adults on this trip. Together, we were able to serve several folks with our construction skills. We replaced the garage roof and built a roof for the deck of Rick and Kay Ford. We helped with some other minor repairs for Lavota Linear, and we were able to patch a large hole in the roof of Lessie Williams. The work we were able to do was a huge blessing for these people, and it was encouraging to see our efforts bring praise for Jesus’ name. I was also encouraged to see our students grow in fellowship with each other and the adults. This trip helped our students develop an understanding of missions and service, grow in their knowledge of grace, and forge deeper stronger fellowship. We are looking forward to partnering with All Saints Presbyterian again, to serve the people of Belize this July.

Youth Ministry: Gabriel Mayer

MUSIC MINISTRY - Annual Report 2010

Music Ministry at St. Matthew's during this past year has grown by leaps and bounds and God has truly blessed us.

Several new ensembles were formed during 2010. One of the most exciting and most promising new groups to begin was the Youth Instrumental Ensemble. This group meets on Sunday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall and is directed by Jimmy Pennington. This group played for the first time at the Christmas Pageant. Enthusiasm is high and they will be playing again this spring.

The Middle School Choir took shape and these eight middle school singers sang for the first time at the December 19, Service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Rehearsals take place on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our hope with this choir is that it will become a strong foundation for an active and involved Youth Choir here at St. Matthew's.

Children's Choirs at St. Matthew's are bursting with children ages 4-5th grade. Three choirs rehearse on Sunday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The Cherub Choir (4 year olds), the Carol Choir (Kindergarten-first grade) and the Treble Choir (second grade-fifth grade) meet weekly and learn about music and worship skills. Currently we have 32 children actively participating. These choirs are led with the help of a team of volunteers dedicated to providing a positive and supportive experience in worship and music.

Bell ringers, young and old, have come together to form the Handbell Choir. There are eleven ringers of various ages meeting weekly on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. to rehearse and learn sacred music to play in worship. There are now several substitute ringers who are willing and able to help out when needed also. One of our goals has been to take part in a Handbell Festival and that goal will become reality when we attend the Wilson Church Musician's Guild Handbell Festival on February 19, 2011 in Wilson, North Carolina.

The Chancel Choir seems to be seeing growth in the same way the other choirs have this year. We are now 23 strong and continue to identify new recruits and extend the invitation to others to join choir. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The addition of child care during rehearsals has given several couples the opportunity to sing in choir and has resulted in very positive feedback. The annual Service of Lessons and Carols was well received, as well as the "Grand Night for Singing" event held on St. Matthew's weekend.

All choirs have been seeking ways to do their part in reaching out to others in need. During the month of November all choirs participated in a canned food drive and as a result 412 pounds of food was taken to the Food Bank. The Chancel Choir adopted two families during the holidays and provided clothing and toys to those families.

The year 2011 will bring with it "Concerts with a Cause", a series of musical events presented by parish and community musicians. Each event will raise money for various causes throughout the community and the world.

Thank you to St. Matthew's for supporting this vibrant, energetic, and growing music program.

Grace and Peace,

Susan Wilson

ENDOWMENT FUND—Annual Report 2010

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, Inc.

2010 Board of Directors:

President – Nancy Knight

Vice President – Art Hunt

Treasurer – Calvin Easter

Secretary – Tim Lough

Director – Bill Davidson

The St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund was established by the Vestry in 1990 for the purpose of enhancing the ministry of St. Matthew's Church and to meet emergency or unusual needs within the parish. The value of the Fund as of Dec. 31, 2010 was \$758,794.

The Endowment Fund annually distributes 4% of the Fund balance as of June 30 of each calendar year – 50% for work outside the parish and 50% for work inside the parish. In December, 2010 the Board of Directors allocated its 2010 annual distribution (\$30,336) as follows:

\$15,168 for work outside the parish

\$10,000 to Anglican Frontier Missions (AFM)

\$1,620 to St. Matthew's Preschool for a scholarship

\$1,500 to Called to Serve Ministries –missionaries in Tanzania

\$2,048 to The Shepherd's Center of Richmond

\$15,168 for work inside the parish

\$15,168 to St. Matthew's Building & Grounds Committee for renovation of the breezeway

In addition, the Board of Directors in February, 2010 granted \$15,642 to St. Matthew's Building & Grounds Committee for renovation of the church pews. These funds were the undistributed allocation for work inside the parish from 2009.

Important activities this year included revising the Endowment Fund investment plan and By-laws, and appointing the firm of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to manage Fund investments.

In November, 2010 the Vestry elected Matt McDonald and Kathy Robertson to fill the positions which will be vacated by Calvin Easter and Nancy Knight when they rotate off the Endowment Fund Board of Directors in January, 2011.

Election of 2011 officers of the Board of Directors will occur at the Endowment Board of Director's Annual Meeting on January 25, 2011.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM—ANNUAL REPORT 2010

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman- Norm Hyde

All of our activities are directly related to Goal 4 in the Long Range Plan – to make visible the mission and ministries of St. Matthew's

Three issues of the Quarterly Link were published in 2010, with a fourth in production in January 2011. All were posted on the parish website as well as duplicated in-house for parishioners. Norm Hyde is acting editor of the Q-link right now, would welcome any assistance. If a parishioner has any writing or editing experience, this is a great way to serve the Lord.

New content is added to our website daily, and the Life at St. Matthew's page lists numerous parish activities and ceremonies for the public and our members. With Ken Roach's retirement and move to Florida last summer, Norm Hyde has taken over as webmaster, with the able assistance of Bethany Piersol and Virginia Witmer. Mark Hopkins is doing a great job of keeping the calendar up to date as well. As always, more computer-savvy volunteers would be welcome to join us! The website and the Week Link are now our principal communication tools.

A copy of the December analytics for the website is attached. Note the spike as we got closer to Christmas! Also, as before, the Home Page is the top destination, probably due to search engines. But the Life at St. Matthew's page and the calendar pages are our top landing sites. Two minutes per visit is also very good.

Chuck's daily devotions are now posted on the website as well as a Facebook group. As of the week of Jan. 2, his devotionals have 71 monthly followers (get a posting on their wall every time a new devotional goes up.) The number of Facebook users that "like" his page has remained pretty constant since we started this experiment last fall. If you use Facebook, we encourage you to visit St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Daily Devotions and "like" us! There have been a few comments as well, which is very encouraging.

Audio files of the weekly 10:30 sermon also are posted each week on the website, thanks to the work of the Audio Guild. Again, we could use more volunteers (Norm's chairman of both committees)

There was some interest in creating a Constant Contact account last year, to allow better email communication with members of the parish and parish committees. While that was not pursued this year, we can try for that improvement in 2011. Cost is only about \$150 a year.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Endowment has distributed \$15,168 for Work inside the Parish. It was designated to be used for repairs to the Breezeway. Another \$15,168 has been distributed for Work outside the Parish.

The designations there were (1) Pre-school, (2) Called to Serve, (3) Shepherd's Center, and (4) Anglican Frontier Missions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance has been meeting regularly and has dealt with the standard issues that come before it every year. It approved a budget for 2011 and sent that on to Vestry for final approval. Current issues are dealing with the damage caused by the storm of several weeks ago and the controller that regulates heating and cooling for the sanctuary.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

LRP pretty much wrapped up for the year following our Vestry Retreat and refinement of the goals. Led and supported a successful retreat.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

I talked to Sue Rickman and the Personnel Committee has nothing significant to report since the last summary. One thing I note is there seems to be very little involvement of this committee in personnel matters. Maybe that's because not much is going on. I don't think they were consulted on evaluations this year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The budget committee commenced the process for building the budget for 2011 starting in September of 2010. We solicited and gathered requests for funds and attempted to allocate funding based on a forecast from the Stewardship Committee. We provided a draft budget to the Finance Committee, and incorporated their feedback prior to presenting a proposed budget to the Vestry.

The budget committee worked closely with the Treasurer, Administrator and the Finance and Stewardship Committees. The committee members included Anna Hanback, Jeff Britt, Jacob Peirsol, Patrick deFur, John Rickman, David Houser and Christine Hopkins. I would like to thank everyone for their assistance in building the budget for 2011.

Submitted by Glen Knowles

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

2010 Year End Report

In the last several months, the Buildings and Grounds Committee has made progress in several highly visible and some not-so-visible areas of the church and grounds:

Using predominantly endowment funds, the pews in the sanctuary were refurbished to even out the color and hide scratches. In the process, the kneelers were cleaned and repaired.

The telephone and data lines for the church offices were replaced and rerouted.

The vanity in the ladies' restroom was replaced and new faucets installed.

Repairs and improvements were made to the Rectory:

Structural reinforcement of framing under walls.

Replacement of the guest bathroom floor.

Replacement of bathroom vanities and fixtures.

Tiling of the kitchen and utility room floors.

Installation of a new stove and over-the-counter microwave.

A culvert pipe below the sidewalk at the Rectory mailbox was replaced where local flooding had been an issue, and the brick sidewalk was widened and repaired for access by the mail truck.

The controller for the heating and air-conditioning system in the Sanctuary was replaced. The new system can be set and operated from the administrator's desktop computer and also remotely by other authorized personnel. This system should regulate the temperature more consistently, than the system it replaced.

Exterior lighting damaged by the July storm was repaired, funded by insurance. Additional site lighting was installed at the same time.

Sidewalk repairs were made around the church.

The pavement was marked to discourage parking in drive lanes.

The combined budget for major and minor repairs was exceeded by approximately \$1,500. However, overall the budget for building costs was \$7,800 under budget.

Among the items Buildings and Grounds will be addressing in the near future are the following:

Repair of the roof over the breezeway connecting the Sanctuary with the Parish Hall, which leaks and does not drain properly.

Installation of new signs for the church and the nursery school.

Repainting the walls of the children's education wing.

Alternatives for installing new handicap-accessible bathrooms.

Boyd Brown
Chairman

ALTAR GUILD—Annual Report 2010

The Altar Guild continues its work of preparing for all church services, Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer, Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals. There are four teams of workers who take turns preparing for services, about once a month. Carol Grainger has taken over as the Assistant Chairman. Mary-Meade Lee is Past Chairman; Jean Ray, Treasurer; Margaret Vachet, Flower Chairman; Marlene Schue, Assistant Flower Chairman; and Jane Malone, Linen Chairman. We gained two new members, Gail Manolescu, Team IV and Ann Harper Pittman, Team I this calendar year. Lynda Jenkins continues to provide training for new and current members.

The Altar flowers are donated by parishioners as thank offerings or memorials. They are arranged by our flower committee. We welcome new members.

Help serve the Lord and your Church and enjoy the fellowship of Altar Guild and Flower Guild members. Please join us at our next Altar Guild Meeting on February 20, 2011 after the 10:30 AM church service. Let one of us know that you can attend, Mary Katharine Easter mkheaster@gmail.com 740-3167 or Carol Grainger grainger.cm@gmail.com 282-3731.

Special thanks to all of our members for their dedication to this rewarding job.

Altar Guild
Mary Katharine Easter, Chairman

FEED MY SHEEP—Annual Report 2010

In February 2007, Feed My Sheep started its new life at St. Matthew's. This is a ministry designed to help our fellow parishioners by providing a meal in times of illness, grieving or perhaps following the birth or adoption of a new child. This is a great way to get involved at your church in loving one another as Jesus commanded; how kind it is to take away the worry of shopping, planning and preparing a meal for someone during stressful times! You can help Feed My Sheep by cooking a part of a meal, delivering the meal, or both. We typically feed 40 to 50 meals per year. There are about 60 participants comprised of 18 teams of 3 to a team. We are always looking for new members to help feed our sheep.

If you haven't already signed up, or if you know of someone at St. Matthew's who is in need of this service, please call Jean Ray (360-3575) or Paula Butz (273-0381) or the church office at 288-1911.

ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL -2010 Annual Report

St. Matthew's Preschool serves children, ages one through five, of the parish and community. This outreach ministry of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church provides an early childhood program, Monday through Thursday, in the Children's Education classrooms. The current enrollment is 100 children. The Preschool has a staff of 11. The Preschool Board is comprised of members of the parish and parents from the community. Scholarships are available thanks to gifts from individuals, groups, and the St. Matthew's Endowment Fund. During 2010, a new playground was constructed and the existing playground completely refurbished following a generous donation and fundraising by the church and community. One of the 2011 goals of the preschool is to raise funds to purchase new books for the children's section of the St. Matthew's Library. Many, many thanks to all that participated in supporting St. Matthew's Preschool this year!

Sue Rickman and Laura Allin

STEWARDSHIP—Annual Report 2010

The Stewardship team in 2010 has refocused from a yearly event of asking for pledges, to a quarterly format of events. This year included 4 events on Sunday Mornings after church. The programs ranged from a Sunday morning Brunch to Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Each program offered a time of fellowship and an opportunity for the Clergy to communicate what was happening at St. Matthew's as well as answer questions about the affairs of the Church.

The day to day work of the committee began in the fall in communicating with the parishioners of St. Matthew's the need to develop a personal level of giving of time, talent and treasure to St. Matthew's.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE— Annual Report 2010

Sandra Holland, Chair

There are three members on the library committee at this time. Thank you to the committee members for their work. Additional members are needed to help on a rotating basis to reshelv books and straighten up the library. Over the summer seventy donated gently used children's books were added to the shelves.

ACOLYTE—Annual Report 2010

The St. Matthews Acolyte ministry is doing well. We have 24 youth involved in the ministry this year. There are 5 crucifers, 8 banner bearers, and 11 torch bearers. The youth range from 6th to 12th grade. Rev. Alley conducted a training session this year in September. We appreciate the dedicated service the youth provide to St. Matthews. It is an important ministry, please thank the youth for their service throughout the year.

HOSPITALITY—Annual Report 2010

Hospitality consists of six teams which serve coffee/lemonade after Sunday morning services, Lenten Suppers, the Choir breakfast at Easter, Lessons and Carols, and any special events that require their participation. Each team serves only twice a year. There are no meetings as communication among members is through telephone, email, letters and personal contact. Anyone interested in helping please call Anne Simpson @ 288-9200.

PRIME TIMERS is a senior group which meets in the Parish Hall on the 3rd Monday of the month, from September through June, at 12:00 noon. Those attending bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided. Programs are presented by clergy, staff, and outside speakers from the community. Everyone is welcome.

ECW Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of women's ministries. These include Altar Guild, Library, 3 Circles, Flower Guild, Children's Christian Education, Pre-School, Wedding Guild, Hospitality, Funeral Guild, Region 12 ECW, Youth Advisory, Parish Life, and other ministries that women participate as leaders. The committee meets with the Rector on the 2nd Tuesday of September, November, January, March, and May.

SHRINE MONT—Annual Report for 2010

Chairperson: Jeff Jagger

Liaison: Mario Gonzalez

Committee Members: Robin Kelly, Jeff Jagger, Lissa Power deFur, Patrick deFur, Betty Alcorn, Jean Ray, Victoria Fox, Virginia Witmer, Norm Hyde. Staff members Jill Rich, Gabriel Mayer, Mark Hopkins, Marion Gonzalez, Susan Wilson and Chuck Alley also have varying roles in the planning and implementation of each retreat.

The 2010 parish retreat focused on our annual theme, "Come, Follow Me." We had 61 participants visit Shrine Mont on the weekend of April 30 to May 1, including several from Christ the King Episcopal Church in Harrisonburg. Our speaker was the Rev. Geoff Gwynne, vicar of Christ the King, who shared his own testimony of how he was the last person you would have thought would go into ministry. As always, we have tons of fun. Family Game night on Friday turned into play on the lawn night, and the children had a solid Christian education program.

During Sat. afternoon, many of us helped with a service project at Shrine Mont in addition to just relaxing, playing kickball and cruising for antiques. One of the highlights of the weekend was a bonfire, complete with s'mores! Everyone came back refreshed and inspired in their Christian walk.

Currently we plan to return to Shrine Mont in 2012. Watch for fundraising events and more details in the year ahead.