

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN for 2016**

In preparing for this report I reviewed the Vestry Meeting Minutes for the year, and looked back on the events our Vestry participated in for 2016. I am delighted to convey that there is nothing difficult, traumatic, or otherwise unpleasant to report. Thanks to the work of our exceedingly dedicated Clergy, the work and efforts of the Vestry (past and present), and the ever-present faith, generosity and dedication of our Congregation, I am pleased to report that Saint Andrew's remains in good health financially, functionally, and spiritually, and in fellowship, stewardship and outreach.

For the record, the Vestry held 12 meetings since our last annual meeting. The officers met twelve times in preparation for those meetings. Additionally, many members of the Vestry participated in the Northwest Connecticut Regional Convocation of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). Vestry members also represented Saint Andrew's at the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). Vestry members are active at all levels at Saint Andrew's, including Chalcists, Lay Readers, Fellowship Commission, Stewardship Commission, Property Commission, Mission and Outreach, Altar Guild, Choir and Music in the Nave, Church School and Greeting. Vestry members also serve for our Tag Sale, the Christmas Bazaar, Christmas tree sale, fall and spring clean-up, and engage in all manner of other special events at our Church. It should come as no surprise to us all that this Congregation is comprised of remarkable, talented, caring, and giving people who love Saint Andrew's and this community.

We are blessed to be part of this remarkable organization. Foremost among our blessings is our Rector. Roger continues to amaze by his dedication and tireless devotion to Saint Andrew's and to us. Among his many remarkable accomplishments is his collaboration with the Rev. Dr. David McIntosh, who has taken on so much for our lives together. He has worked this year to survey families, conduct meetings, and develop a curriculum and schedule for the Church School and for the older pre-teen and teenagers in our Congregation. David also teaches this group. He is the Chair of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut's (ECCT) Commission on Ministry. As Priest Associate, David serves in every capacity at Saint Andrew's, and he continues in private medical practice. *Crux*, the publication of the ECCT, recently featured a profile of David and his remarkable journey.

Our Clergy continued to support and mentor Brett Figlewski, our Seminarian Assistant, who is an excellent addition to Saint Andrew's. Brett could perhaps define over commitment. He is a very active member of Saint Andrew's, an attorney and a Seminary student, and he leads the Environmental Ministry Network of ECCT's Northwest Region in his "spare time." We are blessed.

One of the many remarkable events I had the privilege to attend in the Parish House this year was the excellent presentation by Zahir Muhammad Manan, the Director of Outreach and Education for the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Meridan, CT. An informative and gentle voice for the Muslim Community, Zahir and his wife gave their Sunday in order to hang out with the Episcopalians of Kent. This is another of many of mind and spirit expanding opportunities arranged by the clergy of our parish for the enrichment of our community.

Our church building, the parish house, and our grounds are in excellent condition due to the diligence of our Properties Commission. Headed by Charmian Place, the Commission includes Wes Wyrick, Michael Hallows and Michael Ward. The Commission insures that our place of worship is in good working condition for our many worship services, and for the many special events and music programs that Saint Andrew's brings to the community. This year the church building was equipped with a working restroom in the Undercroft. A storage shed was added to

the north side of the rectory, and drainage was installed on the cemetery side of the parish house parking lot.

Saint Andrew's Annual Tag Sale is clearly a Kent tradition. I think we have people camping out to get in first. The proceeds contribute to the Capital fund of the Church. Our Christmas Bazaar once again provided significant proceeds which go to the Mission and Outreach activities. In addition to the many local charities that Mission and Outreach supports, M&O also sponsors Sister Mary Lanning's ministry for the homeless in New York. Our Christmas Tree Sale is also developing a nice following in our area. Many families were repeat customers this year in support of Saint Andrew's. I can only echo the words of our previous Senior Warden Lynn Perry: "Our commissions and organizations do so many things so well that it can be easy not to realize how much is accomplished, because it seems as if it were effortless."

Saint Andrew's helps Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon., and the Kent Food Bank; members serve at the Soup Kitchen in Torrington, and many other important civic causes.

Saint Andrew's is in sound financial health. We ended the year with a surplus, which will help manage through the projected deficit for 2017. Saint Andrew's is very fortunate. At a time when several Churches (some neighboring) are closing their doors, we are managing our affairs well. Thanks be to God and thanks be to the congregation that is Saint Andrew's.

Our thanks also to Wes Wyrick, Andie Sehl and Jean DiMartino as their three year term of service on Vestry comes to an end. This group has given their time and energy, their wisdom and faith in service to the Vestry. Andie Sehl is to continue to serve, but as the Assistant Treasurer. The slate for the Vestry Class of 2020 will be presented the Annual Meeting. Thank you, and with God's grace we will continue!

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicholas Downes

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMISSION FOR 2016**

April 2016	
<b>Local</b>	
Community Garden	200
Housatonic Youth Serv.	200
KCSSF	200
Kent Affordable Housing	200
Kent Community Fund	1000
Kent Food Bank	500
Kent Village Housing for the Elderly	250
Kent Volunteer Fire Department	500
Literacy Volunteers	250
Loaves and Fishes	250
New Milford VNA	250
Northwest Chore Service	250
Prime Time House	250
Torrington Soup Kitchen	2000
Women's Support Services	250
Yes! Solutions	1000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7,550</b>
<b>Diocesan</b>	
Camp Washington	500
Donation to seminarian assistant	500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>International</b>	
Episcopal Relief & Development	1600
Mekele School for Blind	300
Mercy Corps	1600
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,050</b>

During 2016, the Mission and Outreach Commission supported local, diocesan and international organizations. St. Andrew's Parish continued to support the Kent Food Bank with monthly food donations. Jane Hanley coordinated St. Andrew's volunteers in preparing and serving meals at the Torrington Soup Kitchen. St. Andrew's continued its support of Sister Mary Lanning's New York City based organization, Yes! Solutions.

Mission and Outreach Commission members are Irene Connors, William Dillon, Jean DiMartino, Janet Downs, George-Ann Gowan, Jane Hanley, Margaret Inman, Emily McWhinney, George Potts, Barbara Psarakis, Cynthia Stubbs Hill, and Rebecca Trautmann.

At its April meeting, Mission and Outreach Commission members approved donations of \$12,050 to a combination of local, regional, diocesan, and international organizations. Proceeds from Lenten mite boxes were donated to Episcopal Relief and Development and Bethania Kids in India. In addition, in June a \$1000 donation was made to St. James's Episcopal Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia for flood relief in Greenbrier County. In October, a contribution of \$250 was made to Hispaniola Health Partners to help pay for cholera vaccines following Hurricane Matthew. In December a check for \$1000 was given to Sister Mary Lanning, following her visit to St. Andrew's. Also in December, the commission made a \$300 contribution in response to a request from the Kent Director of Social Services to assist a Kent resident in need.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dillon

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION FOR 2016**

The Every Member Canvass began with a letter sent out in November and follow-up phone calls and emails followed into December. As the Canvass draws to a close, the good news is that the average pledge is higher than in past years. This certainly shows the commitment so many have toward the health of St. Andrew's and the devotion they have to the work of this lovely parish. However, the number of total pledge households is lower than the number we had last year ago at this time and continues a downward trend of the last 5 years. This year's "Campaign" is still some \$17,300 short of our goal needed to cover all operating expenses of the Parish. We have done very well in past years in making up the shortfall as the year progresses. However, to rely on a late "surge" at the end of each fiscal year is not prudent. More work is needed to examine membership and pledging trends, and the Stewardship Committee will work with the Vestry in 2017 in exploring and recommending actions to address these trends..

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Reade, Stewardship Chair

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR 2016**

A highlight of the year was the visit in October of the Imam Zahir Manan, from the Ammadiyah Muslim Community in Meriden. Zahir spoke of basic tenets of Islam as he and his community understand them, emphasizing the role of women, strangers, hospitality, and peaceful relations in that faith. An audience of some seventy-five people, including several who are not members of the parish, listened attentively and received Zahir and his family warmly.

The enthusiasm that the members of the Book Discussion Group have shown for the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Reformation period is truly astonishing. At the beginning of 2016 we finished working our way through Diarmaid MacCulloch's massive biography and Henry VIII's second and favorite Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer – *Thomas Cranmer: A Life* – and then had a respite with a discussion of a more slender volume, also by MacCulloch, *The Later Reformation in England: 1547-1603*. In the autumn we embarked in discussion of another door-stop of a book, the acclaimed and gracefully written *Reformations: The Early Modern World Europe 1450-1650*, by Carlos M.N. Eire. The group is committed to trying to understand often perplexing subjects and the discussions are lively indeed, and it is a joy to be part of them.

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR CHURCH SCHOOL FOR 2016**

2016 was a challenging year for the Church School. A number of children had grown beyond leaving the 10.30 liturgy for the undercroft and so, thanks to David McIntosh and his energies, we were able to organize a Tween & Teen Group who meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at Noon in the Parish Library. We discuss the Scriptures, the Sacraments, Church History, etc. Lunch (usually pizza, sometimes accompanied by chicken tenders) is served. Fr David is a gifted teacher, and so the discussions are lively and the young people are strikingly engaged. We will offer to present these children for Confirmation in April when Bishop Douglas will be our Visitor.

The children who continue to leave the 10:30 liturgy for the undercroft are a small number – at most 13 – and attendance varies with sometimes none arriving, sometimes 2-9. The clergy – The Rector, Fr David, and our Seminarian Assistant Brett Fuglewski – have been very much involved with the assistance of the parents, and we continue to struggle with inconsistent attendance because of competing programs, most particularly sports.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD FOR 2016**

We had a wonderful year.

I'm sorry to report that we have lost still more members of our Guild, mostly to retirement. We say a farewell to Emily McWinney, Jon Bryant (who moved), and Mary Dingee; Edith Altvater would like to retire, and will do her duties until Bob McDowell returns to Kent. Bob is anxious to return to the Altar Guild. We have a new member, Erica Craft. She is doing a great job already.

Candace Conard has done wonderful job with the coverings on the crosses during Lent ... able to leap tall ladders in a single bound! Thank you for your good works Candace!

Eric & Elise Cieplik, were terrific with setting up the poinsettias for Christmas, as was Candace with her expert greenery designs; and did, you all see the wonderful trees she placed out front this year ...? Again, great job and thank you.

Once more, Lennie's Flower Shop has done an outstanding job with our Christmas & Easter floral arrangements; and the poinsettias from the Kent Greenhouse were especially beautiful this year.

The flower guild has given us another beautiful year with their own arrangements, and we have welcomed Christine Beer as a new member.

I wish to give all members of the guild a big THANK YOU for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Fricker

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADULT MUSIC PROGRAM FOR 2016**

The writer continues to enjoy serving what he considers to be a wonderful group of people – our parish community –, led by a priest whose many gifts – including among other things a unique musical sensibility – contribute to making his service here a special pleasure. His vocation, of course, is to provide a rich and diverse diet of liturgically appropriate music, which in its high quality is uplifting and spiritually nourishing. If it has been generally entertaining at times that is a good thing, but of course its real purpose is much more than mere entertainment: it is to adorn the divine worship of the church with a sense of dignity and depth. Whether he has succeeded in accomplishing this is best left to others to judge!

Anyway, this past year has been a good one, thanks in large part to an able group of singers in the Choir: their faithfulness to the church and its music program has been admirable, and they are a pleasure for their director to work with. What a privilege! Just recently, too, they have been joined by three new people – Anne Everett, Karen LeSieur, and now Rob Ross -, whose contribution continues to be much appreciated.

The good folks out in the congregation are a blessing, too: they sing well on the hymns and service music, and it is a pleasure for the organist to accompany them. One can't help wonder if some of them should be urged to volunteer for the Choir!

To be singled out for their special contributions are Margie O'Brien, Rebecca Trautmann, and – of course! – Marty Holcombe, without whom a number of nice things would just not be possible. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holcomb

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMISSION FOR 2016**

We began 2016 regretfully accepting the resignation of Music Commission chairman, Rebecca Trautmann. Margie O'Brien and Karen Chase offered to serve as Co-chairs.

This year, the Commission offered a smaller number of 'Music in the Nave' concerts but with five Sherman Chamber Ensemble concerts, the Kent Singers Christmas concert (both of whom perform in conjunction with the "Music in the Nave" concert series) and Evensong services, we were able to offer a busy concert season.

The 'Music in the Nave' scheduled four concerts for the season beginning with a recital by pianist Jonathan Moyer in September, a Benefit Concert by the Kent School Music Instructors in October and in December we held our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Messiah Sing-in. We have one more concert scheduled: the Wykeham Consort, on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm, will present a program of Renaissance and Sephardic music. This concert was well attended last year and we had numerous requests to have them return.

Our first two concerts had small but enthusiastic audiences and The Messiah Sing-in saw its largest audience yet (close to 100 participants) and we came close to breaking even on the cost of putting on this wonderful program. We had people come from as far away as Long Island to participate.

We joined Eventbrite this year in an effort to expand our audience. Eventbrite gives us an online presence through their website and on Facebook, and provides us with additional options for selling tickets. Concert-goers can now pre-purchase discounted and regular priced tickets and/or make a donation on-line using a credit card. Eventbrite also collects contact information for us and will send personalized reminders about upcoming concerts to our contact list. So far the results have been encouraging.

We are in the beginning stages of planning for next year and look forward to bringing an exciting 2017-18 season of music to St Andrew's 'Music in the Nave' Concert Series. We welcome your input as to what kinds of program you are interested in, possible performers and suggestions on ways to increase our audiences.

The St. Andrews Music Commission includes the following members: Pat Campbell, Karen Chase, Irene Conners, Tom Holcombe, Judy Messer, Susan Mullins, Margie O'Brien, Lynn Perry, Maggie Stearns and Jeff West.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Chase and Margie O'Brien, Co-Chairs

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR 2016**

2016 afforded us the time to focus more on the exterior of our properties versus interior renovation and improvements. Our most visible improvement was the addition of a shed next to the Rectory garage. Our objective was to return the garage to the Rectory for automobile and household storage. The new shed is intended for lawn mowers and small equipment used on the grounds. It will also house large exterior signs used to announce events at the church. And the shed matches beautifully with the garage and Rectory!!

Probably not as noticeable, but needed for safety, was the repair and restoration of the walk from the church to the Parish House. The bluestone was removed and reset on the walkway and also at the handicap ramp leading into the Parish House. The stoop of the main entrance to the building by the ramp was also repaired as needed. These repairs should make our walkways safe for the future, particularly in the cold months.

Also provided by excellent masonry craftsmen was a new bluestone walkway to the children's playground area. There has never been a proper walk leading to the fenced in area and in the winter the path would become a dangerous muddy mess. It is now safe and a visual enhancement.

Another not so noticed repair, at least not in the warm months but noticed in rainy, icy ones, is the drainage in the northwest corner of the parking lot. A catch basin and drywells were installed to prevent water collecting and subsequently freezing in frigid weather.

Lastly and with little fanfare is the lovely long awaited renovation of the powder room in the undercroft. This has caused us problems for years due to roots and concrete fouling our plumbing lines. We had to do more than just replace the toilet and now the little bathroom has a brand new life with a beautiful tiled floor and bead board wainscoting. Thank you Wes!

As for Properties in 2017, we are looking at a few more exterior projects to enhance and make safer our grounds. These items include lighting the walk from the Parish House to the Church, repairing the walkway, which has buckled, from the Parish House to the street and adding a railing at the exterior stairs to the sacristy. We will also continue some landscape pruning/planting work.

We would like to thank our parish volunteers who help with fall and spring clean-up. It's a wonderful time to get together with fellow parishioners. "You never really get to know someone until you work with them."

And as always, heartfelt thanks to Nick Downs, Michael Hallows, Michael Ward, and Wes Wyrick.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charmian Place

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION FOR 2016**

Events:

Sunday, January 24	Annual Meeting Reception
Thursday, March 24	Maundy Thursday, Pot Luck Supper
Sunday, March 27	Easter Day Reception
Sunday, December 18	Children's Christmas Service Reception

We are grateful to the parishioners who served on the Fellowship Commission, assisting with all the annual events. They include Irene Connors, Louisa LaFontan, Barbara Psarakis and Melissa Schipul, among others. What a warm, inviting and talented team!

Special thanks to Janet Downes, Sue Edgerly, Sabine Gibson, Eileen Holihan, and Rebecca Trautmann; their helping hands eased the year adding warmth and friendship.

The Annual Meeting Reception, provided by Elissa Potts and the Fife and Drum is always delicious. In addition, the Fellowship Commission wishes to thank the many other parishioners who provided their specialty foods for each and every event.

Personally, it was our pleasure and honor to work with everyone who makes our work light hearted and enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Ellegard  
Chair, 2016