

# 2022 Annual Report



Presented at the 147th Annual Parish Meeting  
January 29, 2023



**SAINT MATTHEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## 2022 Annual Report

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### 2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Our Liminal Moment with Faith

1. Opening Prayer/Words of Gratitude
2. Approval of the Minutes for 146th Annual Meeting
3. Special Thanksgivings
4. Report from the Co-Treasurers
5. Election of Officers (page 3)
  - Vestry Officers & Members
  - Trustees of the Endowment
  - Delegation to Annual Diocesan Convention
6. Address by the Outgoing Senior Warden
7. Address by the Incoming Senior Warden
8. Closing Prayer & Dismissal

**Welcoming all in community;  
joyfully doing God's work in the world.**

# Standing for Election

**For Vestry:** Damon Doucet, *Senior Warden (2023)* & Christopher Motogawa, *Junior Warden (2024)*

**1-year term:** Bobby McSweeney (2024)  
**3-year term:** Stephen Carr, Jim Kelly (2026)

*With Thanksgiving for Our Departing Vestry Members:* Melissa Warden, *Senior Warden*, Penelope Boardman, Karen LaBranche, Molly Purse, Steve Steiber (2023)

**For Trustee of the Endowment:** Ann Searles (2026)  
*With Thanksgiving for Our Departing Trustee:* Tim Patenode

**St. Matthew's Delegation to Annual Diocesan Convention November 17-18, 2023**  
*Westin Lombard Townsquare, Lombard, IL*

**Delegates:** Kristin Jacobsen, Stephen Carr, Mary Clark  
**Alternates:** Sally Craige Christensen

*With Thanksgivings for Our Departing Convention Delegates to the 2022 Virtual Diocesan Convention:* Damon Doucet, Sally Craige Christensen, Kristin Jacobsen



**Proposed Vestry<sup>1</sup>**  
Damon Doucet, *Senior Warden*  
Christopher Motogawa, *Junior Warden*

Bobby McSweeney, William Siegfriedt, Penelope Whiteside (2024)  
Curtis Nilsson, William Widmer, Deborah Williams (2025)  
Stephen Carr, Jim Kelly (2026)

**Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment**  
Damon Doucet (2024)      Stephen Carr (2025)      Ann Searles (2026)

**St. Matthew's Lay Delegation to the  
186<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago**  
*Westin, Lombard, IL November 17-18, 2023*

<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Kristin Jacobsen	Sally Craige Christensen
Steve Carr	
Mary Clark	

<sup>1</sup> The positions of Clerk of the Vestry and Treasurer (or Co-Treasurer) are appointed by Vestry. They are not elected positions.

# 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes January 30, 2022

Submitted by: *Deborah Williams*

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Approximately 40 people

## **Opening Prayer and Words of Gratitude**

Fr. Charlie de Kay offered a prayer for a church meeting from *The Book of Common Prayer* (page 818). The St. Matthew's land acknowledgement statement was read. Charlie invited parishioners to courageously live in gratitude and joy, as captured in our mission statement.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the 145th Annual Meeting were approved as submitted. Charlie thanked Jennie Woodring for her three years of service as clerk of the vestry.

## **Activity**

Charlie invited attendees to reflect on what brings them joy and to express their response through the Zoom audio or chat function.

## **Report from the Co-Treasurers**

Allison Zidek and Chris Motogawa reported that the parish is starting 2022 in a strong financial position. Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loans and an increase in

pledge contributions were contributing factors, although income from building use by other organizations decreased as a result of the pandemic. St. Matthew's is managing operating expenses well, in part due to long-term utility contracts. The trust has increased in value over the past year. The \$50,000 projected budget deficit for 2022 is in line with that of prior years' budgets. The cash position is extremely strong thanks to PPP loans.

Charlie expressed thanks to Chris, Allison, and finance team members Jeff Haden and Dustin Vincent. Chris and Allison will continue to serve as co-treasurers. Charlie commented that he had committed to making the parish's finances transparent and that Chris has made this goal happen.

## **Election of Officers**

Charlie introduced the vestry candidates. He thanked departing senior warden Kristin Jacobsen, departing vestry members Connie Conley, Bob Purse, and Rick Worden, and departing endowment trustee Dustin Vincent.

The vestry slate was elected by acclamation:  
Incoming junior warden:

Damon Doucet  
Vestry (1-year term):  
Molly Purse  
Vestry (3-year term):  
Curt Nilsson, Bill Widmer,  
Deborah Williams.

Stephen Carr was elected by unanimous vote to a 3-year term as trustee of the endowment.

The slate of delegates and alternates to the 2022 Diocesan Convention was elected by acclamation:  
Delegates: Damon Doucet, Sandra McPhee, Virginia Voedisch  
Alternates: Sally Craige Christiansen, Kristin Jacobsen, Christopher Motogowa

## **Activity**

Kristin invited attendees to share ideas for becoming a more welcoming community through the Zoom audio or chat function.

## **Address by the Incoming Senior Warden**

Melissa Warden welcomed the new vestry members. After 2 years of discerning its mission, the parish is ready to act through new and exciting initiatives.

## **Closing Prayer and Dismissal**

Charlie offered a prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer* ordination service. Terri Morrissey dismissed the meeting at 2:56 pm.



# Rector's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Charlie de Kay*

## Transparency In All Things

As we enter into a new church governance year (from annual meeting to annual meeting), we find ourselves deeper into the uncharted territory – Sunday attendance is down, there are fewer hands to accomplish the work in front of us, and pledging is down. It's worth noting, though, that while our number of pledging individuals and families is down, our total pledged contribution is quite remarkable given the number of pledgers. All of this, still, leads us to a projected budget shortfall in 2023 of 111 thousand dollars, a figure unprecedented in my tenure. (Others will know better whether we have been here before or not.) During the almost 12 years that I've had the privilege of serving as your rector, I've pledged to be transparent about our finances, and so I have endeavored to be. Now, it seems prudent to be as fully transparent as possible on a deeper level, about the health of our community.

When I arrived, St. Matthew's was deep in a conversation with other area Episcopal churches – St. Luke's, St. Mark's, and St. Augustine's, Wilmette, in what was known as the Four-Church Conversation. Supported by Bishop Lee, this conversation led to annual collaborative vestry retreats for frank discussions of our situations, and then, later, around potential collaborative ministry initiatives (racism in our community was the first; hunger was the projected follow up). Together we discussed national declining trends in church engagement, what made each of our particular churches unique (ironically, we discovered unnamed areas of overlap), and how together we might best meet the future proactively. Ideas ranged from reducing redundancies – could we share a copier? a parish administrator? Our suppliers and vendors? – to selective intentional mergers of congregations – to the ultimate in radical re-imagining: all of us sell our buildings and grounds and together buy a new property and build a single new church (perhaps named All Saints'?). This was a rich and fruitful conversation, but as limited necessity was not generating a motivational sense of urgency, after about four years I was calling meetings and none of the other churches were interested in attending. The churches' leadership turned over, and the congregations appeared to turn inward as they embarked on capital campaigns to fix their buildings. Without conversation partners in the Four-Church Conversation, St. Matthew's finally attended to her own deferred maintenance with our own capital campaign to fix our flat roof, address water intrusion from above, the sides, and below, and redecorate the Parlor.

Since then, we took to heart Bishop Lee's recommendation that we read *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger, which has provided us with something of a roadmap into "adaptive change" as it's known in the change management section of organization development literature. The church (and probably communities of faith of every tradition), frankly, is in a moment that demands what's known as Type II Adaptive Change: change that has no precedent, no model, no map. While Bolsinger's work gives us some guidance, he is very clear that he is offering assistance in going off the map. We are, as I say, deeper in uncharted territory than we were before. If we thought we had a grasp on the lay of the land, the pandemic ripped any maps we had from our hands, and has deposited us deeper into this new landscape.

I've spoken frequently about "liminal spaces." We talk about this in our spiritual lives – thin

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places I'm told is how they're understood in Celtic Christianity, such as All Hallow's Eve, when the veil between the physical world and the spiritual world is thin and perhaps porous. Liminality is a helpful way to think about 21<sup>st</sup> Century post-pandemic (if we have indeed reached a period of "post" anything) Christianity.

A priest friend gave me a book entitled *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season* by Susan Beaumont that seems ever more apt to our moment. She writes:<sup>1</sup>

"Organizational life is full of liminal experiences – seasons where something has ended, but a new thing has not yet begun. Seasons where watching and waiting can be difficult, overplanning can be futile, and it simply isn't helpful to pretend that we understand what happens next.

"Liminal spaces are challenging, disorienting, and unsettling. We strive to move forward with purpose and certainty. Instead, we feel as though we are trudging through mud, moving away from something comfortable and known, toward something that cannot yet be known.

"Liminal seasons are also exciting and innovative. The promise of a new beginning unleashes creative energy, potential, and passion. All truly great innovations are incubated in liminality. *God's greatest work occurs in liminal space.*"

Where does this leave us? Uncomfortable, yes? But with massive potential. Having had the Four-Church Conversations previously, we can certainly pick them up again. In the past year, there have been initial attempts to restart them, only to see the pandemic roar to the headlines, pushing them to the sidelines again. We have begun to re-introduce them, and I suspect that in this new year they will pick up steam.

Moreover, the work that St. Matthew's has done in embracing the vision of *Canoeing the Mountains* has yielded rich groundwork. We have a concrete mission statement that was carefully discerned by members of the congregation committed to seeing it through. The mission statement was then approved by the vestry and has become something of our rallying call. It binds us in a particular vision, which, as we study it and employ it in experiments becomes ever more rich theologically and biblically. Our language, moreover, has taken on characteristics of adaptive change – we talk about experiments, for instance. Experiments are things we try, in which we have an idea, but really we cannot predict the outcome, and whatever happens, fruitful or not, we learn. From our learnings our experiments bloom into greater purpose, with greater intensity, and greater possibility.

From Susan Scott's book *Fierce Conversations* we learned that change happens gradually and then suddenly. That reality – with the pandemic as catalyst – is unfolding before our very eyes. Change is uncomfortable; I don't know anyone who truly loves change. Yet, change is the very definition of a new beginning.

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<sup>1</sup>Susan Beaumont. *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. An Alban Institute Book. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019, p. 2, italics mine.

# Rector's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Charlie de Kay*

I believe that if we embrace our discomfort – remembering that Jesus never promised his followers comfort, in fact it's quite the opposite – we are uniquely positioned by the work St. Matthew's has accomplished not to weather this storm of change, but to be transformed by it. Transformed in our expectations (Jesus is always doing that!). Transformed in our relationships with each other and with God. Transformed in our practices. Transformed in ways that we cannot yet imagine.

Such transformation is not easy. It comes with a cost; the first is sure to be our comfort zone. Christian culture, including and perhaps especially Mainline Protestant Christian culture, has been very comfortable for a very long time. Mark Crayton preached at St. Matthew's a couple of summers ago about the dangers of settling into what he called "Country Club Christians." If we are to become something new, something vibrant, something ever more meaningful and relevant, instead of simply fading away which is the current alternative, we must be brave and insist on "learning how to become comfortable with being uncomfortable" as Melissa Torma reported Bryan Stevenson said at ETHS.

God has given us everything we need to meet this moment. Among us, we are enough – skilled, gifted, imaginative, creative, smart, talented, resourceful, cheerful, hopeful, wealthy, powerful, blessedly enough – to co-create with God the next chapter in the story of our community. All of us together, we have everything we need. And, so, if we wish truly to honor the legacy of generations of St. Mattheans who have left us with this most marvelous church, this exceptional inheritance of earth, stone, timber, glass, and most valuable of all people, people with an ethic of welcoming and hospitality, we have what we need.

I trust that any complacency that might have settled in has been removed. We share in a renewed sense of urgency. As such, we may wish to kick our experiments into high gear. What we did (at times at my insistence) gingerly at first, now we take firmly in hand; what we tried slowly, we will want to move quickly, still with a process of analysis, experiment, analysis, refinement, experiment.

Some experiments, such as our new livestream capability, the refugee ministry, and the welcome team's re-imagining of the back of the church lead themselves to new and deeper experiments. Other experiments are in the works. I'm launching a new One Church, One Book again (as we did with *Canoeing the Mountains*): inviting the entire parish to read Stephanie Speller's groundbreaking book *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation* this year, with a plan to discuss it during Lent. The newly formed 2023 Vestry will be reading and discussing it during meetings throughout the year. As a conversation partner, this book offers a rich vault of resources for how we might take our new mission statement deep, deep into uncharted territory. Experiments to follow!

These are what's already in the pipeline. It's important to recognize that if we are to choose to embrace a new beginning, Everything must be open to change. There can be no sacred cows, whom we are unwilling to re-imagine. We have a short window in which to make a new start, and there is no longer a proverbial bank too big to fail. We must consider all possibilities. We have come so far. Together let us find the joy of our current moment, which as always is

# Rector's Report

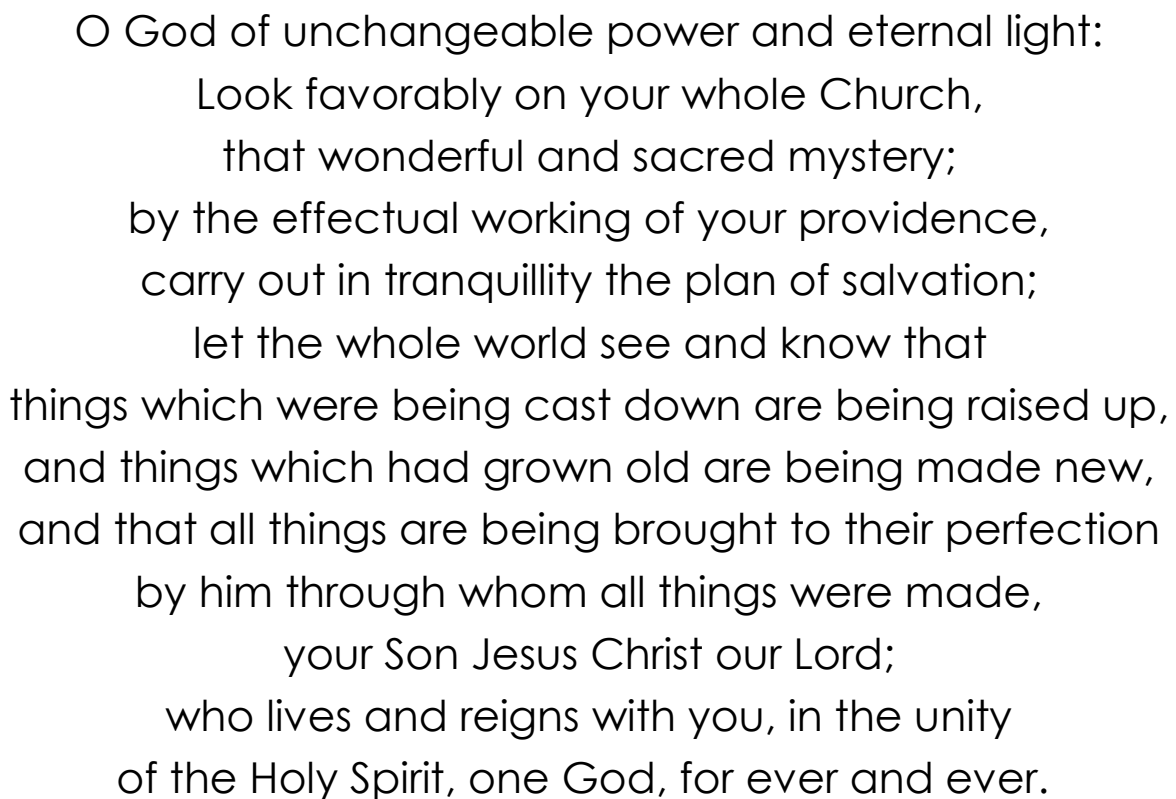
Submitted by: *The Rev. Charlie de Kay*

ripe with possibility. Let us remember that we are not alone. God is with us. God loves us. And, if we are faithful and sincere in our efforts, all of our time and energy will be well spent – meaningful and valuable as faithful disciples (students/followers) of Jesus.

Finally, I remind all of us (myself included) that we are Resurrection People. We trust in the promise of life beyond this one. We also know that in God's hands things that have grown old are being made new.

For this report, I'd like to close with that wonderful prayer for the church that is said in ordination services.

Let us pray.



O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:  
Look favorably on your whole Church,  
that wonderful and sacred mystery;  
by the effectual working of your providence,  
carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation;  
let the whole world see and know that  
things which were being cast down are being raised up,  
and things which had grown old are being made new,  
and that all things are being brought to their perfection  
by him through whom all things were made,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



# Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by: *Melissa Warden*

## **"Welcoming All in Community; Joyfully Doing God's Work in the World"**

### *-St. Matthew's Mission Statement*

In 2022, the Vestry of St. Matthew's dedicated itself to engaging in and supporting our mission statement. It was our guiding light for setting our monthly meeting agendas and making decisions. In addition, each Vestry member committed to actively participate in a welcoming ministry of the church. These activities included ushering/greeting, making "welcome bags" for visitors, creating a more comfortable gathering space in the back of the church, and participating in the partnership with Refugee One/St. Andrew's Pentecost.

In addition, two Vestry members made our church safer by updating our first aid kits and replacing outdated fire extinguishers throughout the building. Another Vestry member spearheaded the stewardship campaign for the third year in a row.

Another hallmark of this year's Vestry is its generosity. The Vestry encourages

anyone from the congregation to submit a proposal to use funds from Trust III, which are limited to support St. Matthew's mission statement. The Trustees determined that the distributable yield from Trust III from April 2022 to 2023 was \$19,000. The Vestry twice approved proposals brought to it from St. Matthew's Anti-Racism Team to use the distributable yield. It approved:

- \$3,000 for Evanston Reparations Fund (May)
- \$1,000 for 1-Year Sponsorship of Mitchell Museum of the American Indian (September)

And in November, Vestry members proposed and approved:

- \$5,000 to St. Andrew's Pentecost to aid in the repair of the church after it suffered damage earlier in the year (November)
- \$2,700 for the creation, printing, and mailing of postcards inviting nearby Skokie residents to hear our choir during Advent and Christmas

Earlier in March, the Vestry approved \$1,100 from the Fran Tennison Angel Fund (Trust II) to make the

sanctuary more welcoming. The "back-of-the-church" team removed pews and added pillows and coffee tables. It also created a portable sign to help visitors find our entrance on Hartrey Street.



The congregation is encouraged to create welcoming ideas/plans, complete a grant application, and submit it to the Vestry to access both Trust II and Trust III funds. As the senior warden, I regret not communicating more to the congregation about the availability of these funds via the grant application. I believe that St. Matthew's

# Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by: *Melissa Warden*

future will be built by fully embracing and acting on our mission, which the Vestry did this year to the best of its ability. However, the entire congregation's commitment is needed in the years to come as we prepare to celebrate our 150th birthday in 2026.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continued, the 2022 Vestry met mostly via Zoom. Working remotely together has benefits; it proved helpful to Vestry members who live far from the church, prefer not to drive at night, or those who work late into the evening. I also want to note that some Vestry members regularly attend church via our livestream on YouTube while others are in the pews. Wherever they were physically on Sundays, their hearts are squarely on God. For that—and for their dedication to St. Matthew's and its mission—I am most grateful.

Thank you to every member of the Vestry, to Ginny Voedisch our clerk who takes wonderful notes, and to Charlie for his steady, optimistic, and Christ-focused leadership.





# Deacon's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

*The candle that we received at our baptism is the abiding sign for us of what a life of faith is meant to be. Sometimes it burns more brightly than others, but we never see very far ahead. I believe God wants it to be like that. However frustrating it may be, God wants us to take these important steps in life, in faith and trust. It can be frightening to step out and put our hand in the hand of God.*

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram,  
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

As I read Br. Geoffrey's reflection on faith, his words seemed to echo my own journey with God. It is a journey that has been guided by the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant and the call to love one another as Christ loved us. My faith journey eventually led me to discern the call to become a deacon. My call has been clear and steadfast throughout years of discernment, study, field education, postulancy, candidacy, and ordination to the diaconate. I am thankful for all who have walked alongside me on my journey of faith.

## **What is the ministry of a deacon?**

Deacons have played a role in the life of the church from the early days of Christianity. In Chapter 6 of Acts (Acts 6:1-6), the twelve called together the whole community of disciples to select "seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom..." There have been many "waves" of deacons since the first seven were called. A renewal of the order of deacons began with the advent of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*\*. The current role of deacons continues to be interpreted and integrated into the life of the church.

Deacons have a number of roles within the church, in the community and in the diocese. One of the most visible roles that a deacon has is within the liturgy. It is the deacon who proclaims the Gospel, preaches on occasion, sets the Eucharistic table, and dismisses the gathered congregation at the end of the service. In all of these roles, the deacon serves as an icon of Christ's diaconal ministry. The deacon also serves as a bridge between the church and the world, and at the dismissal calls the people of God to a life of service in the world.

*Diakonia* is a Greek word that is defined as sacred agency, and points toward the work of deacons among the baptized. One of the roles of a deacon is to lead, equip, empower, encourage, and support Christian people in their ministry. All Christian people are called to serve Christ by virtue of their baptism and have a responsibility to share in the ministry of Christ in the world.

Deacons are also involved in pastoral care and "hold space" for others through their gift of presence, prayer and their willingness to walk alongside others on their journeys. It is a ministry of meeting people where they are, without judging them, or trying to fix them, or to influence the outcomes; recognizing that in all ministry, we are channels of God's abundant grace.

While the ministry of a deacon shines a light on the needs of God's people, it is also important to recognize that a deacon is called to serve in direct relationship to the bishop. Because of this special connection, a deacon reports annually to the bishop and on occasion serves alongside the bishop. The work of a deacon is also non-stipendiary.

# Deacon's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

*\*The Ordination of a Deacon begins on page 537 in The Book of Common Prayer.*

## **Staff and Worship**

Throughout 2022, I served in worship, participated in staff meetings on a weekly basis and have preached somewhat regularly. I look forward to gathering for our weekly staff meetings on Zoom with Charlie, Julie, Gregory, Mark, and James. I am thankful for all of you and all that you share with the community at St. Matthew's. With the help of this talented staff, I have increased my knowledge of liturgy, helped plan worship, and have become comfortable with the use of livestreaming.

I had the privilege of serving as deacon alongside the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago three times in 2022. On May 14, I served alongside Bishop Chilton at Christ Church, Winnetka during a Confirmation Service; and on May 15, served alongside Bp. Chilton at the Evanston Confirmation Service that was held at St. Matthew's.

In October, I once again served alongside Bishop Chilton during the Memorial Service for the Rev. Nancy

Platt, which was held at St. Matthew's. It is customary for a bishop to have a deacon present when making a visitation.

Beyond St. Matthew's, I attended two virtual retreats – A Women's Spiritual Retreat in January and an Advent Retreat with Tyler Mayfield – *Unto Us a Child Is Born – Isaiah, Advent, and Our Jewish Neighbors*. I have attended monthly meetings - both virtual and in person - of the Evanston Interfaith Clergy and Leaders (EICL), the Evanston Deanery, Diocesan Clergy and Leadership calls (Zoom) and Deacons Gatherings (Zoom). During the height of the pandemic, our monthly Deacons Gatherings created an additional layer of support and have deepened our connection to each other. I attended the long-awaited Ordination and Consecration of Paula Clark as Bishop of Chicago took place on Saturday, September 17. It was a glorious celebration! As is customary, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry met with clergy of the Diocese of the Chicago on the preceding day, September 16. I was thankful to have the opportunity to hear Presiding Bishop Curry and to gather with deacon

colleagues in person. I also attended our virtual Diocesan Convention on November 19.

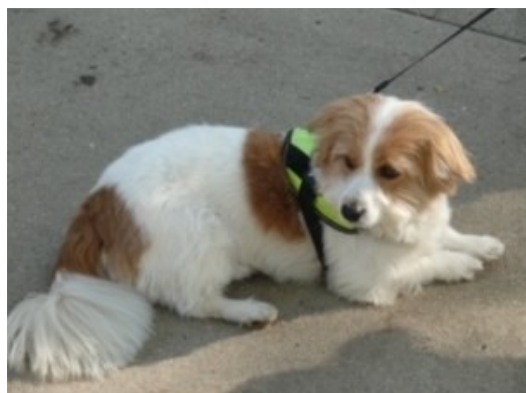
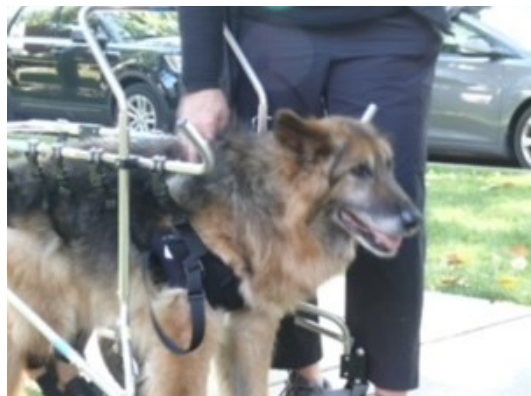
## **Pet Blessing**

On October 9, I led a deferred St. Francis Day Pet Blessing on the Lawn at 3:00pm. Thank you to the Welcome to Church Team for providing fabulous hospitality and treats for our guests – the pets and their human companions. It was wonderful to greet parishioners, and some of St. Matthew's neighbors, and to offer a blessing to their furry companions – mostly dogs, one cat, and one turtle. Thank you to Penelope Boardman and Curt Nilsson for taking pictures again this year!! What a wonderful afternoon at the corner of Lincoln and Hartrey!

## **Pastoral Care**

When the pandemic made it necessary to suspend most in-person gatherings, it did not stop the work of ministry. For more than 20 years, and as a deacon, I have been called to a ministry of pastoral care, which is about building relationships and walking the path of love with others. I have continued this work with parishioners, families, and caregivers - by phone, and

# 2022 Pet Blessing



# Deacon's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

whenever possible, in person. Presiding Bishop Curry would call this "navigating with God's GPS." It's a space filled with God's abundant grace and where transformation can take place.

## **Shared Ministries and Continuing Education**

I continue to lead Stephen Ministry along with Steve Steiber and coordinate our Home Communion Ministry. I am also a member of the St. Andrew's Pentecost - St. Matthew's Partnership Team, the St. Andrew's Pentecost – St. Matthew's Co-Sponsorship Team with RefugeeOne, the Co-Sponsorship Mentor Team, a Co-facilitator for Sacred Ground, a member of the Antiracism Team, and the Gala Team.

Throughout the year, my continuing education efforts have been focused on the social justice issues that have been identified by the St. Andrew's Pentecost – St. Matthew's Partnership Team, specifically immigration and refugees. Our work around immigration, asylum seekers, DACA, recipients, and refugees led us to a Co-Sponsorship with RefugeeOne. (See Cynthia Doucet's Reports about our

Partnership Team and Co-Sponsorship). In the months leading up to the arrival of the refugee family at O'Hare on June 7, 2022, I participated in RefugeeOne training for Mentors and met with Co-Sponsorship Team members to plan for what the family would need. As a member of the Mentor Team, I have taken turns visiting Maua and her family with other team members on a regular basis. A *Prayer of St. Chrysostom* from the Book of Common Prayer states "Almighty God...you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them...". God's love has been in our midst and continues to light the way forward. We have been able to communicate with the help of family members who speak some English and in Swahili with the help of Google Translate. I am thankful for Maua and her beautiful family, our Mentor Team, our Partnership Team, our Co-Sponsorship Team, the amazing team at RefugeeOne led by Kelli Wendt, and by the faith communities at St. Andrew's Pentecost and St. Matthew's. Thanks be to God for all of you!

The Anti-racism Team's work on the St. Matthew's Land Acknowledgement left me wanting to expand my knowledge on the topic and led to my participation in the BexleySeabury Pathways for Baptismal Living course on the Doctrine of Discovery in 2021. It was eye-opening and forever changed my perspective on history. I was also interested in learning more about racial justice on the local level and the movement to fund reparations. All of these experiences led me to Sacred Ground. Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on race and faith that shifts the way that we understand racial identity and history. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry believes that Sacred Ground matters to the Dream of God and is part of the Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to becoming Beloved Community. Sacred Ground is an accessible way for us to engage in difficult conversations while being deeply grounded in love. The *Prayer for the Human Family* (BCP, p. 815) applies directly to Sacred Ground. Our current engagement with Sacred Ground began in January 2022 when Kathleen Murphy and Gaylord Brynolfson of St.



# Deacon's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

Luke's reached out to members of the Antiracism Teams from St. Matthew's, St. Mark's, and St. Augustine's to see if there was interest in working together. Kristin Jacobsen and I were the representatives from St. Matthew's. After a series of virtual meetings, the group decided to pursue launching Sacred Ground and surveyed members of our individual church communities to gauge interest. There was sufficient interest in all four churches to form Sacred Ground Circles and we had eight people who were interested in being facilitators. The facilitators met in-person over the summer to cover the curriculum and to share resources. Sacred Ground Circles began meeting in September - one at each of the four churches. I am co-facilitating a Sacred Ground Circle at St. Augustine's with Brenda Nielson Schumaker. We completed 5 Sessions in the fall of 2022 and beginning in January 2023 will engage with the remaining 6 sessions. I am thankful for the ongoing Sacred Ground Webinars which provide updates and an opportunity to share experiences. Sacred Ground helps us to turn our lives in

the direction of God's love and places us on a path toward healing, wholeness, and hope. Presiding Bishop Curry is an advocate for Sacred Ground and says that it is one God's special gifts to us.

I am thankful for the many rich learning experiences that were offered through the Episcopal Church, Sacred Ground, Episcopal Migration Ministries, RefugeeOne, the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, the Diocesan Sanctuary Task Force, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, Trinity Wall Street, and the Church of the Heavenly Rest.

## ***My Ministry as an Artist***

Before I stepped onto the path toward ordained ministry, I spent more than 34 years as an art teacher and a lifetime as an artist. My diaconal formation left me with little time to nurture my creative spirit and even less time for creating art. Thankfully, that is changing, and I fully recognize my need to be deeply engaged in my own artwork - which includes drawing, painting, designing and making vestments, and iconography. As a deacon, it's important for me to continually discern the gifts

that I bring to my ministry, and to help others do God's creative work in the world. I have long recognized the intersection of art, faith, and prayer - and have been working to develop a number of hands-on workshops that will be accessible to artists and non-artists alike. It is my hope to joyfully share this work in small group settings when it becomes safe to do so.



*2022 Paschal Candle decorated by Deacon Terri.*

# Music Program's Report

Submitted by: *James Janssen and Mark Crayton*

*Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee; and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.*

-George Herbert (1593-1633) (The Hymnal 1982, No. 382)

How wonderful it was at the beginning of the 2021-2022 program year to return to in-person worship with the full choir in attendance! Once we were able to relax our COVID-19 restrictions a bit at the beginning of this current program year, it was even more wonderful! Hearing the choir in full voice again (no more masks), leading our worship in song, was exhilarating and brought joy to many of you according to your comments.

Some music ministry highlights from 2022 were:

- Movies Go to Church Sunday with music from Sister Act (February)
- Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, fully staged with orchestra, presented by Evanston Chamber Opera, our opera company in residence
- Paul Halley's *Agnus Dei* with Clarinet on Palm Sunday
- We brought back, after many years, the quiet, sung, Holy Week service

of Tenebrae Lessons and Psalms (we will keep that service this year, too)

- Charles Wood's *Passion of St. Mark* on Good Friday (a favorite that returns every few years)
- Craig Hella Johnson's stirring *All of Us* (from *Considering Matthew Shepard*) on Easter Day
- Old Time Religion Sunday (May)
- Dolly Parton Sunday with music written by Dolly and arranged for choir and piano
- Evensong for All Saints (November 6)
- Indigenous Peoples Celebration with music using text by Chief Tecumseh (November)
- Advent Lessons and Carols (Third Sunday of Advent)
- Bob Chilcott's *On Christmas Night* as the prelude for our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

At the end of 2022, we said a fond farewell to Jeremiah Strickler, our Choir I bass section leader. Zachary Mendenhall, who has been with us as a Choir II bass staff singer since September is taking Jeremiah's place in Choir I. Also this

month, we welcomed Jack Ellis as our new Choir II bass staff singer. Jack's pronouns are they/them; they are a sophomore at Roosevelt University working toward a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance. We also welcomed Jake Engel to our Choir I bass section. We are so excited for 2023! We have a very rich schedule planned for the music in our worship.

A very special thank you to our amazing musicians in the choir and the parish who help us make this ministry so special for the St. Matthew's community.

Let us continue to make a joyful noise together. Alleluia, alleluia.



# Parish Administrator's Report

Submitted by: Gregory Peebles

*I don't think we need hope.  
I think we need imagination.  
We need to imagine a  
future which can't be  
planned for or controlled. I  
find that people who talk  
about hope are often really  
talking about control...  
Giving up hope, to me,  
means giving up the illusion  
of control and accepting  
that the future is going to be  
improvised, messy, difficult.*

-Paul Kingsnorth in  
conversation with Wen  
Stephenson

In October 2022, when I refreshed my relationship St Matthew's, I entered an office that was cruising on the not-insignificant grace of the former administrator, Julie Hinz, as well as what attention the overwhelmed rector was able to provide the necessities of operation, and finally, the good will of other volunteers in the parish, like Chris Motogawa, with whom I



worked most closely in my training. While it was not a "bumpy" transition, neither was it entirely smooth, nor is it complete. An organism like St. Matthew's church has its own valuable culture, and I continue to learn the "ins and outs." I am thankful for the patience and support of the church as I continue to grow in this role. Perhaps most germane to the conversation of the Annual Meeting is that the role of Parish Administrator has been separated from Communications. Consequently, my role is much more focused practically. I answer the phone with a smile in my voice and open all the mail, making sure that the bills get to the bookkeeper. I manage the supply chain for the parish. When supplies are needed, ministry leaders and lay members alike alert me, and I ensure that those materials are available.

I also oversee day-to-day operations, including managing the parish calendar and keeping the parish data base (OnRealm) updated, including the pledge campaign. I have also been managing the scheduling of the community groups which St. Matthew's gives a home. I work with the leaders of



those groups, ensuring space for their "ministries" to the community, and I provide any necessary liaison between those groups and the staff and clergy of the parish. I also work closely with Jorge, our handyman, to ensure that the physical space is functional and that any issues that parishioners notice are addressed quickly.

Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) – an app that automates schedules for ministry volunteers based on the availability those volunteers provide – remains within the purview of the parish administrator. Ideally, MSP would be a "click it and forget it," but St Matthew's liturgical needs and schedules are a little more complicated, and the pool



# Parish Administrator's Report

Submitted by: *Gregory Peebles*

of volunteers is relatively small. So, I spend more than a little of my time in the office making sure that those whom the app schedules know that they are scheduled, and in helping to fill gaps if a volunteer should suddenly find that they cannot fulfill the obligation.

When invited to take up the Parish Administrator position, it was made clear that one of my primary duties would be in hospitality.

Understanding this, I quickly established regular office hours (M, W, TH 10 AM – 1 PM) with the intent of providing a generous presence for anyone who walks through the doors.

The parish church of St. Matthew in Evanston has verbalized its commitment to Radical Hospitality, and in my role as greeter, I support that collective vocation. It doesn't matter who walks through the door – if they are a service provider or a soul in search of comfort – they will receive RADICAL Christian hospitality. They will be welcomed and seen. They will be treated as if they were Christ in disguise.

As hospitality is high on the list of my responsibilities, one of the ways that I live out the

commitment to Radical Hospitality at St Matt's in conjunction with my obligations to the Building and Grounds. I open the chapel every morning that I am in the office, and I have begun to chant a version of Morning Prayer on those days at 9:30 AM.

Attendance at this service is still quite limited, but it is slowly growing. There are mornings, such as this one, when I chant the Office into an empty chapel, but also mornings when parishioners or clergy join. I agree – at least in this instance – with Augustine of Hippo, who is reported to have said, "The one who sings prays twice." The church's ancient musical tradition lies much neglected, but the psalm tones and ancient canticles provide nourishment to "us postmoderns" no less than they did our ancestors. I encourage anyone interested to join and to learn through repetition of the ancient music of the church's sung prayer.





## SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Ministry Reports

### ACOLYTES

*Submitted by Bob Purse,  
Coordinator*

The acolyte program was impacted heavily by the changes brought about during and after the COVID shutdown. Three years ago, we had what was then the smallest team of acolytes ever, at eleven people. In the years since, the team now has six members. A further significant difference from the past is that four of those six acolytes are adults.

Despite this low number, things are working out well at this time. The COVID alterations to the service are such that one or two people can perform the acolyting tasks currently in place. Everyone takes a turn about once a month. I remain hopeful that more people will join the team, however, and would welcome any young people or adults who are interested in taking part.

### ALTAR BREAD MINISTRY

*Submitted by Deborah Williams, Coordinator*

*The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.*

-Matthew 13:33

As we head into 2023, wafers continue to be used for communion rather than home-baked bread prepared by a member of the altar bread ministry. We look forward to the day when the St. Matthew's community will share the Eucharistic bread and wine as we did before the era of Covid precautions.

Here is our delicious, foolproof communion bread recipe for those who would like to try their hand at bread baking and perhaps join the altar bread team when the ministry resumes:

#### Whole Wheat Altar Bread

7/8 cup very warm (not hot) water  
1/4 cup honey  
1/8 cup (2 tablespoons) vegetable oil  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 package yeast  
2 cups whole wheat flour  
2/3 cup white (all-purpose) flour

In a measuring cup combine 1/2 cup water with the honey, oil, salt, and yeast. Stir until the yeast is dissolved. Check after 5 to 10 minutes to see if the yeast mixture has formed bubbles (the sign that it is active).

In a large bowl, combine the whole wheat flour, white

flour, and yeast mixture. Mix thoroughly, adding water as necessary. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes, until it is smooth and elastic. If necessary, add a small amount of white flour or water.

Form the dough into a ball and place it back into the bowl. Cover with a towel and let it rise in a warm place for about 1-1/2 to 2 hours until it is doubled in size.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 2 to 3 minutes. Form the dough into a ball and place it onto a lightly oiled baking sheet. Pat the dough into a circle about 1 inch thick. With a sharp knife, cut a cross into the center of the loaf.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 18 to 22 minutes. Watch carefully because whole wheat bread doesn't brown significantly. A simple test is to tap the bottom of the loaf in the center with your fingers. If it sounds hollow, it's done. If in doubt, underbake the bread slightly so it isn't crumbly. Allow the bread to cool on a wire rack.



## SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Ministry Reports

### ALTAR GUILD

*Submitted by Jennie Woodring*

Back in full operation after COVID disruptions in 2020 and 2021, the altar guild ministry continues to prepare for Eucharist each Sunday in the chapel and the sanctuary, on the lawn during summer beach church, and on multiple days during the busy seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week. In addition, the team prepares for other special events, including two weddings and about a dozen funerals during 2022.

Historically, altar guild has been led by two people, each serving two-year overlapping terms. Members are organized into teams, with each team having a team leader. While altar guild operated with (at least) five teams of four for the last decades, 2020-2022 has particularly seen a decline in participants. We have operated with one leader for the past two years, and we enter 2023 with three teams, eleven total members, and one overall leader.

We are grateful for the dedicated service of all who have been part of altar

guild in recent years, especially team leaders, whose experience and leadership are crucial for the implementation of this essential work for St. Matthew's.

Altar guild welcomes all, regardless of gender, who are interested in this social, yet contemplative ministry of setting the Lord's table. Contact Jennie Woodring ([jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.

### ANTI-RACISM

*Submitted by Kristin Jacobsen, Leader*

Many antiracism organizations founded in the wake of George Floyd's death in May 2020 have disbanded, and it's easy to see why. It's hard work to break racial habits that have been developing for hundreds of years. The Antiracism Team still exists because a core group of parishioners is committed to this life-long journey, knowing there are no quick fixes. We are spurred on by Jesus' teaching of love for all, expressed in the baptismal vow "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving [our] neighbor as [ourselves]."

Now in our third year, we have continued discerning

our areas of interest and have decided to **focus on African Americans and Native Americans**. As our rector, Father Charlie de Kay put it, our country's "initial sin" is around "the twin Holocausts of the removal and extermination of Native peoples and the enslavement of Africans," so we will start with these groups. Our activities in 2023 will focus on educating ourselves about their history and developing relationships with their communities.

### Antiracism Activities 2022

- **Antiracism Learning** every week in the eblast and the Sunday bulletin.
- **Vestry approval of:**
  - ◊ **Land Acknowledgement** (see below).
  - ◊ **Evanston Reparations Community Fund** donation of \$3,000.
  - ◊ **Mitchell Museum Partner** donation of \$1,000.
- Survey in spring indicated parishioners are more interested in one-time events.
- **Stand Against Racism** in April.
- **Rally** after nooses were hung near Haven Middle School in May.
- **Race Against Hate**, including vestry approval of a \$2,500 sponsorship, bringing food to St.





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Matthew's tent at the event, and agreeing to coordinate it annually.

- **Sacred Ground**, a discussion group focused on race, launched in Fall 2022 with teams from St. Matthew's, St. Mark's, St. Luke's, and St. Augustine's. Kristin Jacobsen and Terri Morrissey are facilitators from St. Matthew's for the year-long program.
- **Indigenous Peoples' Day** service, including help to plan, decorate, and provide snacks.
- **Native American themed Harvest Gala** and silent auction with food from Menominee chef Jessica Pamonicutt of Ketapanen Kitchen and music from Evanston singer/songwriter Mark Cleveland and violinist Jordi Kleiner.
- **Movie Till** discussion cosponsored with the Movie Group.

### St. Matthew's Land Acknowledgement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa nations. This land was also a place of travel and trade to many other tribes, including the

Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Miami tribes. These Native Peoples were forced off their lands with the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829. After a series of land transfers, St. Matthew's acquired its current site within this territory in 1906. Today, Cook County is home to tens of thousands of Native Americans from many tribes. We acknowledge and respect our Indigenous neighbors, as we strive to be good stewards of this Native land.

### Antiracism Ideas for 2023

- Group field trips to ethnic heritage museums or events.
- Education event/program quarterly with a mix of guest speakers, field trips, book discussions and placing antiracism messages in the bulletin.
- Programs tied to special months:
  - ◊ African American Heritage Month (Feb.)
  - ◊ Program for Native American Heritage Month (Nov.)
- Antiracism Lenten program.
- Activities sponsored by communities of color in Evanston.
- Race Against Hate in June (on Father's Day/

Juneteenth).

- Activities with the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

We continue to be inspired by leaders in the Episcopal church, especially Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. In a 2016 video, he talked about the Black Lives Matter movement as "the cry of our young people, a cry of so many who have been crying in silence, and now the silent scream is speaking" (<https://bit.ly/3XITEXI>). The way to defeat racism, Bishop Curry wrote in *The Washington Post*, is with love that is rooted in action: (<https://wapo.st/3HAJFxJ>).

If you are interested in learning about antiracism, join us at our meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Kristin Jacobsen ([kejcat@gmail.com](mailto:kejcat@gmail.com)) for the Zoom link. Also take a look at resources from the Diocese of Chicago's Antiracism Commission at <https://episcopalchicago.org/antiracism/> or the guide put together by the St. Matthew's Antiracism Team (<https://www.stmatthewsevanston.org>, select the Community Resources tab, then select Social Justice).



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### **FORMATION: SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**

*Submitted by Don Scott*

The Bible Study Group remains on Zoom because more participants can be included. The year has been spent studying Second Isaiah (Chapters 40-55 of Isaiah). The attendance varies from 12 to 25.

### **HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY**

*Submitted by Terri Morrissey, Coordinator*

Each Sunday toward the end of our service, Home Communion Ministers are "sent forth" to bring the Eucharist to the homebound and extend the celebration of the gathered congregation. The commissioning of Home Communion Ministers each Sunday – "Go forth with these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go may share with us in Christ's body and blood." reminds us that "We who are many are one Body, because we all share One Bread, One Cup." During visits, Home Communion Ministers follow an abbreviated order of service, which includes prayers, scripture readings from the Sunday service, and the distribution of the Eucharist. Whether for the

short term or over the course of several years, it is a blessing and a privilege to be invited into the lives of our homebound parishioners.

This practice continued until the beginning of March 2020, when the pandemic made it necessary to suspend Home Communion visits. During the months that have followed, I have continued to maintain contact with our homebound parishioners and/or their families by phone and when possible, in-person.

Should it become possible to resume in-person visits, and you know someone who would like to receive a Home Communion visit, please contact Charlie de Kay or Terri Morrissey.

### **HOSPITALITY**

*Submitted by Dorothy Wyandt*

The past few years have certainly effected St. Matthew's hospitality events. This year, as COVID restrictions have finally been lifted, our efforts have been directed toward providing or helping families with receptions following funerals at St. Matthew's. We are a loosely organized group of people who are willing to

help from time to time. There are no meetings or strict schedules.

Let me know if I can add your name to my list.

### **MOVIE GROUP**

*Submitted by Ann Searles*

The St. Matthew's movie group has met almost a half dozen times in 2022. Meetings have mostly been held at St. Matthew's in available rooms and outdoors on the lawn during the good weather. Members brought their own outdoor chairs and refreshments were kept simple. And some meetings have been via Zoom.

The group has partnered with other groups in the church in the past, and in November we partnered with the Antiracism Task Force. The Anti-racism group led the discussion and members of the movie group supplied refreshments. The discussion of Till focused on the important themes of the film and our responses. Other times discussions have been centered on the technical aspects of the films, the film's credibility or the acting performances. All discussions relate the film's messages to our own lives in today's world.



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Some of the other 2022 films we discussed were Top Gun Maverick and Where the Crawdads Sing. Our choices may be Oscar or Golden Globe nominees and some just interesting movies, old and new! There are no requirements to participate but it is necessary for attendees to see the film before the meeting. Notices appear in the St. Matthew's communications and all are welcome to attend.

For many of us the Movie Group has been an easy, fun fellowship activity which has given us an opportunity to become better acquainted with church members whom we might not have otherwise known.

The movie group plans to continue in its current format using Zoom sometimes and meeting at St. Matthew's other times for the year 2023. We will consider returning to meeting in member homes in the future as we did in the past.

New faces are always welcome to participate in this very enjoyable activity.

### **REFUGEEONE CO-SPONSORSHIP**

*Submitted by Cynthia Doucet*

Welcome, walking  
alongside ..... joy!

So many of us who have had the honor of being part of the Co-Sponsorship with RefugeeOne say the same thing: it's been a true blessing. The preparation, airport welcome, and walking alongside Maua and her family through weekly visits have shown us that God's love is definitely in our midst.

We were blessed that RefugeeOne takes on so many of the vital roles for Co-Sponsored families, including immigration paperwork, finding the apartment, financial management/budgeting classes, school registration, social worker contacts, medical/dental, even public transportation passes, training our team and so much more. This allowed our team to focus on the roles of securing funding, creating a comfortable furnished apartment and being there with Maua and the girls as they become comfortable in the community.



Eto (15), Regina (13), Margelitha (9), Roza (4), Kiza (1) and their Mother Maua began their journey after escaping conditions in DR Congo and spending time in a refugee camp in Tanzania. They were among the small percentage of people to be accepted into the global Refugee Resettlement program, and through that program they eventually traveled to the U.S. and were matched with RefugeeOne in Chicago. Meanwhile, our multi-church (and multi-faith, it turned out!) Co-Sponsorship team had been securing grant funding (thank you, St. Matthew's Vestry), receiving training, gathering many items to furnish an apartment (this was a big deal, many thanks to Judy Royal and the team!), and awaiting news of a match...

There is seldom much advance notice in the complex international refugee resettlement process. We got the call from our partner Kelli Wendt at RefugeeOne as soon as they knew -- our team was matched with Maua and her family on Thursday June 2, and their plane would arrive 4 and a half days later on Tuesday, June 7th! RefugeeOne sped to finalize



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the apartment and bunk beds (it's a one-bedroom in Roger's Park, clean and near schools and transportation, tight quarters but as affordable as possible for Maua to manage rent), the Household Furnishings team jumped to get final items and groceries, and the Moving Day team (led by Angela Pennisi and Kathleen Murphy) miraculously finalized movers and helpers with just a few days' notice!

The family's arrival at O'Hare was an amazing experience -- we heard that even after an arduous journey (Tanzania-Quatar-Chicago) everyone arrived in a joyous mood, and were thrilled to be in Chicago! All of the girls loved and asked to keep the Welcome (Karibu, in Swahili) signs that Mary Jo Deysach had made for each, and it was also a happy reunion for Maua, with some relatives who came to Chicago several years ago!

Many thanks and much admiration to the Core Mentor team led by Roberta Buchanan, who have been visiting Maua and the girls every week for the 6+ months since they've arrived: Roberta, Rev. Terri Morrissey, Fr. Emeka Nwachuko, Pat Egan, Sally

Craig Christensen, Sr. Bonnie Boilini, Mary Jo Deysach, Fr. Charlie de Kay, Ngozi Osuji and her wonderful 8-year old daughter Chichi! "Walking alongside" has a lot of facets -- being there with open hearts, sharing in problem-solving, exchanging stories and smiles, singing, learning cultures and languages (English for the family and Swahili or Google Translate for us!), coloring or playing with bubbles together, a trip to the zoo on a sunny afternoon, and so much more.

After these months we're happy to report that Maua is working (at O'Hare airport) and able to pay their share of the bills as they move quickly toward self-sufficiency; the four older girls are enjoying school and RefugeeOne youth programs and their teachers give glowing reports about their diligence, progress and positive attitudes; the family is learning English quickly (most especially 4-year-old Roza, who's like a sponge as she learns, and even teaches others!); everyone is making friends in school and their apartment building, and the family is simply joyful, loving and generous to each other and to our

team.

We have learned and grown and been welcomed by Maua and her family at least as much as we feel we've been able to welcome them. There is so much more to say and so many moving and fun stories -- feel free to call any of us!

Here are a few quick facts to recap the year:

- 41 people were part of the active planning team, in subgroups including Household Items, Moving Day, Airport Greetings, Translators, Communications, Technology, Facilitators and Core Mentors (who are trained and share weekly visits with the family).
- We had Lutheran, Catholic, Muslim and Episcopalian neighbors on the team, as well as friends not associated with a specific church.
- Over 100 people donated furniture, household and personal items, including a new computer.
  - ◊ Many thanks to Gratitude Evangelists Corky Siegfriedt, Mary Jo Deysach, Cynthia Doucet and Penelope Boardman for sending Thank You notes, and





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Chris Motogawa for monetary donation tracking and receipts.

- Many heartfelt items were donated for Maua's family, including a hand-crocheted throw to welcome and warm the family by Sr. Rosemary of Sr. Bonnie's order (Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, whose Mother House is in Donaldson Indiana), and hats/scarves/mittens by Sr. Rosemary and the St. Matthew's Stitchers club.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and cared. We plan to continue our friendship and keep in close touch with Maua and her family into 2023. May your year be filled with God's welcoming love!

To keep the team in the loop and address challenges as they came up, the Core Mentors have had weekly calls. We close this update to you with a prayer that Rev. Terri blessed us with on last week's call:

Adapted from a prayer by Fr. Richard Rohr

*Holy and Gracious God, we thank you for living and loving in and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with*

*you. We ask that you bless our time together, and that you bless and keep Maua and her family. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world and help us each day to stand for love. We offer this prayer in all the holy names of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.*

### ST. MATTHEW'S CONSTITUENTS

*Submitted by Gregory Peebles*

In my role as Parish Administrator, I am the primary contact for all our building users. All groups with an existing relationship with the parish continue to have access to the spaces they borrow at the rate of the donation agreed on. They also continue to maintain St Matthew's provided COVID requirements, including contact tracing as any new cases are discovered; however, as the parish receives any new inquiries for space, those inquiring have been informed that the parish is revisiting its schedule and suggested donations.

In the coming weeks, with the help of Melissa Warden, a committee will be convened to discuss this and to come to some

decision regarding the agreed-upon donation schedule for each room for the time used. Priority will continue to be given to groups directly associated with parishioners, or those who otherwise have some connection to St Matthew's and its community. It is hoped that revisiting the schedule of services and donations will regain some lost revenue.

- AA - have returned to the building on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Groups are smaller and are able to distance. There is no food/drink. AA inquired regarding childcare, and they were provided with the protocols per the Episcopal Church's document "Keeping God's Children Safe." At this time, no additional space for childcare has been requested.
- Boy Scouts - have resumed but are meeting less in person and more on zoom.
- Evanston Chamber Opera Company (EChO) - will be presenting an upcoming production of two one-act operas: Gian Carlo Menotti's classic, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and *Bon Appetit!*, by Lee Hoiberg, which concerns itself with



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- gourmande Julia Child.
- Fairytale Ballet/Lincoln Street Ballet Studio - both have returned to the building and resumed their previous schedule.
- ESIC (Imrov Group) - Peter Civetta continues to use our space for his afterschool improvisation group. During August of 2022 he held 2 weeks of summer camp using our back yard, kitchen, and bathrooms as he had the year before. This program is always a great success. They continue to meet in the Parish Hall and outside as the weather permits.
- OA - overeaters Anonymous continues to meet on Saturday mornings, but also use Zoom, depending on COVID rates and the comfort level of the group members.
- Voice Lessons with Judith Haddon - Judith Haddon from Roosevelt University uses the Assembly Room on Monday afternoons to conduct voice lessons.
- Wiggleworms - Wiggleworms remains our biggest user and one that makes the largest contribution to our operating budget. In 2022, Wiggleworms provided a session on

Wednesdays, but in 2023, the plan is to increase to two sessions, on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

- Yoga Studio - Patrina Dobrish with Jennie Woodring use the Assembly Room for yoga on Fridays; however, another session will be offered on the third Saturday of each month in 2023.

### ST. ANDREW'S PENTECOST / ST. MATTHEW'S PARTNERSHIP


*Submitted by Cynthia Doucet*

As our 6th year in Partnership with St. Andrew's Pentecost begins, we recently took the time to appreciate our friendship and celebrate the work we've put our hearts toward in the Community. In 2022, we:

- Continued our support for DACA ("dreamers")

recipients as they become young adults in America. We learned about aspiring doctors, police officers, students and caregivers who are building their lives here, and our community was able to help with steep processing and renewal fees required of these applicants.

- Led a calendar drive for RefugeeOne families, and contributed backpacks and school supplies to an August effort for refugee children in the Chicago area
- Kicked off the Co-Sponsorship with RefugeeOne, after over a year of planning and training, with the arrival of Maua and her five daughters from DR Congo on June 7th!
- Were invited by Episcopal Migration



PODCAST EPISODE

**Partners in Sponsorship: Local Churches Link Up for Community Sponsorship**

HomeTown

Mar 2022 · 43 min 41 sec

▶ + ...

**Episode Description**

Today's episode features a conversation with with some members of the St. Matthew's & St. Andrews Pentecost Partnership Committee, a joint effort between two parishes in Evanston, IL, who are working with RefugeeOne to do the critical work of welcome within their community.

We speak with Cynthia Doucet, Marta Humphreys, & the Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, who are parishioners & clergy of the two churches in Evanston, along with Kelli Wendt, the Community Engagement Coordinator at RefugeeOne.

This episode highlights what it looks like for organizations to get involved in this critical work of "welcoming all in community, joyfully doing God's work in the world."

[episcopalmigrationministries.org/neighboroneighbor](https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/neighboroneighbor)





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Ministries to discuss our experiences and inspirations in a podcast for their *Hometown* series. Our session is "Partners in Sponsorship: Local Churches Link Up for Community Sponsorship", which is available at:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3JymnJLC3SAwRDnELXGCTY>

Many thanks to team members Ann Searles, Corky Siegfriedt, Sally Craige Christensen, Cynthia Doucet, Marta Humphreys, Rev. Lee Gaede, Rev. Terri Morrissey, Reva Bess, Roberta Buchanan and Victoria Thompson. We welcome friends from both churches if you would like to join our monthly calls and collaborative work in 2023.

### 2022 FALL GALA REFLECTIONS

*Submitted by Charlotte Bishop*

St. Matthews has once again created a unique community experience in the Fall Gala held in October. Our online auction generated more than \$7000 to support our church and the many programs we offer. I am proud to say a special thank you and acknowledgement of the hours of work and many

conversations, emails and meetings among Jennie Woodring, Anne Branning, Ginny Voedisch, Chris Motogawa, Kristen Jacobsen, Melissa Warden, Connie Connelly, Terri Morrissey and our office staff. This team made the gala happen. And, as the gala unfolded, we were proud of the experience afforded to all attendees and guests.



Our gala was unique this year, because we were privileged to enjoy the fine music of singer-songwriter Mark Cleveland who wove together songs and tales from Native American culture and the delicious Native American cuisine prepared by Jessica Pamonicutt, chef and owner of Ketapanen

Kitchen. We celebrated the opening day of the buy in parties and silent auction by hosting our second annual S'Mores party on the front lawn following 10:30 service. The weather provided a perfect autumn day for toasting marshmallows over firepits and enjoying cider and s'mores. Everyone celebrated being together in person, without masks!

The auction experience brought together members of the congregation, local shops and restaurants providing silent auction items and buy-in parties. Many thanks go to the individuals who contributed as well as the various ministries, Vestry, area shop owners and restaurants who made the experience something of which we can be proud. Because of their generosity we reflected our commitment to community and opening our doors to others.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

*Submitted by Terri Morrissey and Steven Steiber*

Stephen Ministry at St. Matthew's, now in its tenth year, has been restrained by the pandemic and ensuing quarantine and the prohibitions on personal gatherings. Prior to this, however, Stephen Ministry has been a way for our



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congregation to provide confidential, high quality, ongoing one-on-one care to people experiencing the difficult times in life. The pandemic that began in 2020 has sidelined most in person activities and forced others to shift to socially-distanced or electronic contact. If you have questions about the Stephen Ministry or feel you or someone you know would benefit from an empathetic ear, please feel free to share, in confidence, with the Stephen Minister who calls. In 2020, we received an inquiry about Stephen Ministry from someone outside the St. Matthew's community. Both Charlie and I met with this individual and determined that providing a Stephen Minister would be an appropriate response. A Stephen Minister was assigned to provide care for a number of months.

Stephen Ministers care for individuals experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, hospitalization, and many other crises. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide Christ-centered care to people in time of need.

In response to discussions within the Spiritual Life Committee, the Pastoral Care Committee and the Crossroadsconversations, the Vestry approved funding to begin a Stephen Ministry at St. Matthew's in 2013. The initial leadership training began in June 2013 when Charlie de Kay and Terri Morrissey took part in Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in Orlando, Florida. After returning, Stephen Ministry at St. Matthew's was launched. Subsequently, Steve Steiber was added to the leadership team following his leadership training.

In October 2013, Terri began training willing members for Stephen Ministry at St. Matthew's. Upon completion of 50 hours of training six members of St. Matthew's were Commissioned as Stephen Ministers. We also have welcomed a new Stephen Minister from another congregation, Penelope Boardman. Every Stephen Minister continues to participate in a Peer Supervision Group and ongoing Continuing Education throughout their time as a Stephen Minister.

### STITCHERS AND KNITTERS

*Submitted by Ginger Carr & Jennie Woodring*

The Stitchers' Group is a social group open to anyone who does needlecrafts of any kind – knitting, crocheting, embroidering, or just plain mending. The group was conceived at a St. Matthew's Super Bowl party in the early 2000's, and traditionally gathers about once a month at members' homes on an irregular schedule to socialize, share stitching tips, and enjoy light snacks. There are roughly 20 members and about 6 to 8 of us come to any given gathering, determined by members' availabilities.

We have embraced St. Matthew's relationship with St. Andrew's Pentecost by inviting their members to our gatherings. Some members created hats and scarves to welcome our refugee family this fall. While we met only a couple times during 2022, we plan to gather more regularly in 2023. The stitchers' group always welcomes new members.

For more information contact Ginger Carr (v-carr@northwestern.edu) or Jennie Woodring (jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net).



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### WEDNESDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

*Submitted by Kati Olsen*



Since February 1, 2015, the faith communities of St. Matthew's and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches of Evanston have served lunch each Wednesday at St. Mark's to anyone who enters our doors. For the most part, our guests are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or those who have lost their jobs. Many of our guests attend weekly, while others attend at the end of the month when money is tight or during a period of financial strain. We serve 35-55 individuals each week, and approximately 300 individuals over the course of the year.

For most of 2022, we were able to offer indoor seating, following safety protocols – open windows, doubled tables, limited seating, mask requirement, sanitizing seats/places before and after they are occupied –

and are pleased with how the system is working.

Since ordering prepackaged meals has become prohibitively expensive, volunteers currently prepare the meal on Wednesday mornings. The coordinator shops for food on Tuesdays and delivers it to the St. Mark's kitchen. We prepare lunches for 50 and are always prepared with additional foodstuffs if the need arises. All meals include sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookie, and beverage, often with extras such as hard-boiled eggs, tossed salad, peanuts-in-the-shell. During the cold months, we offer soup, and during warm months, we offer ice cream (which is always well received.) Most weeks our guests also enjoy donated items from Bennison's bakery.

This fall, with the dishwasher working again, we began to offer a hybrid service, encouraging our guests to remain in Cunningham Hall to eat their meals, but offering "to-go" meals to those who couldn't. In-house meals are served on red trays, using a minimal amount of packaging. Our sandwiches are packed in compostable bags, soups

ladled into ceramic bowls, and volunteers serve sides, fruit, and desserts directly onto the trays, as opposed to using individually packaged servings. Eliminating the packaging from 75% of the meals served has been gratifying.

Last year, we received a grant from the North Shore CROP Hunger Walk. We have also been grateful recipients of in-kind donations such as cases of water, juice boxes/pouches, and homemade cookies.

Many thanks to Joyce Weber, Roberta Buchanan, Deb Williams, and Dorothy Wyandt, who join with members of St. Mark's and other volunteers from the community in their stalwart dedication to this ministry. Thanks also to Nancye Kirk from St. Mark's who is now coordinating meals once a month.

Kudos and extra thanks go to Donna Richardson, Co-Coordinator and St. Mark's parishioner, whose contributions and guidance continue to be invaluable.

If anyone is interested in assisting with this rewarding ministry, either in person or with in-kind donations, please do not hesitate to contact me (kati2219@gmailcom).





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### The Welcoming Team

*Submitted by Melissa Warden*

As the church adjusted to the ongoing pandemic, Corky Siegfriedt formed a welcoming team with Vestry members Penny Whiteside, Molly Purse, and Melissa Warden. At the beginning of 2022 when masks were still required indoors, the team agreed on two goals:

- welcome visitors to the church via "welcome goody bags" and the outdoor Pet Blessing in October
- provide parishioners special opportunities to gather outside after church

### Welcome Goody Bags

The team handed out brightly colored bags to everyone who attended Easter services—visitors and

parishioners alike. The bags for adults contained a card explaining St. Matthew's mission and activities, a bookmark made by Mary Jo Deysach, a candle, and other treats. Bags for children included Easter coloring pages, crayons, bubbles, and treats.

Throughout the year the team updated the bags to include a copy of Forward Day by Day and relevant coloring pages for children. In total, we distributed 62 bags over the year (as counted by the number of bookmarks Mary Jo made), including to our friends from St. Andrew's Pentecost when they worshipped with us. We estimate we handed out 12 bags to children. Many thanks for Mary Jo for lending her talents!

### Opportunities to Socialize

In an effort to keep the congregation safe during the pandemic, we hosted events outside to bring parishioners together. We:

- Successfully solicited the congregation to bake and bundle cookies to offer to our friends from St. Andrew's Pentecost who visited us in the spring; we all enjoyed sweets and coffee on the lawn.
- Organized the potluck,

lawn games, and pickle ball lessons in the street on September 25



- Created the pet blessing postcard with Ginny Voedisch to send to our neighbors in nearby Skokie in October plus provided dog/cat treats, special photo opportunities, and our welcome bag while Deacon Terri provided the blessing.
- With Charlotte Bishop, helped host the second annual s'mores on the lawn gathering on October 30, complete with warm fire pits.

Separately, Penny organized and helped distribute carnations to all mothers who attended church on Mother's Day in May. The two buckets of flowers provided a pop of color and a warm welcome to all who saw them.

If you'd like to join the team, which plans on offering warm beverages and treats after the 10:30 service, please email Melissa Warden.



# *In Memoriam*

Sheila Kaye Churchill

Jane H. Durfee

Emily Dyer

The Rev. Davis Fisher

Roy Tyrone (Terry) Kaimlall Gobin

Terry Ling

Juli A. Magness

Thomas McGurn

The Rev. Canon Nancy Grace (Van Dyke) Platt

Robert Reeves

Lydia (Penny) Alice Tanner

Mildred (Millie) Lozar Thompson

Clarita Ticobay

George W. Walsh III

Harold T. Walsh

Robert Jordan Watts

*We wish to keep our dearest brothers and sisters  
in our hearts and prayers.*



St. Matthew's lay leaders duly elected and appointed at  
The 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish on January 30, 2022

**St. Matthew's Vestry**

Melissa Warden, *Senior Warden*

Damon Doucet, *Junior Warden*

Penelope Boardman, Karen LaBranche, Molly Purse, Steve Steiber (2023)

William Siegfriedt, Penelope Whiteside (2024)

Curtis Nilsson, William Widmer, Deborah Williams (2025)

Virginia Voedisch, *Clerk of the Vestry* (2023)

Christopher Motogawa & Allison Zidek, *Co-Treasurers* (2023)

**Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment**

Tim Patenode (2023)

Damon Doucet (2024)

Stephen Carr (2025)

**St. Matthew's Lay Delegation to the  
185<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago  
Virtual (Zoom), November 19, 2022**

Damon Doucet

Sally Craige Christensen

Kristin Jacobsen

**Clergy and St. Matthew's Staff**

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, *27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*

The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, *Thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Charles A. de Kay, *Rector* | [charlie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:charlie@stmatthewsevanston.org)

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | [terri@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:terri@stmatthewsevanston.org)

James Janssen, *Organist/Associate Choir Director* | [james@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:james@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Mark Crayton, *Choir Director* | [mark@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:mark@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | [julie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:julie@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | [gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*