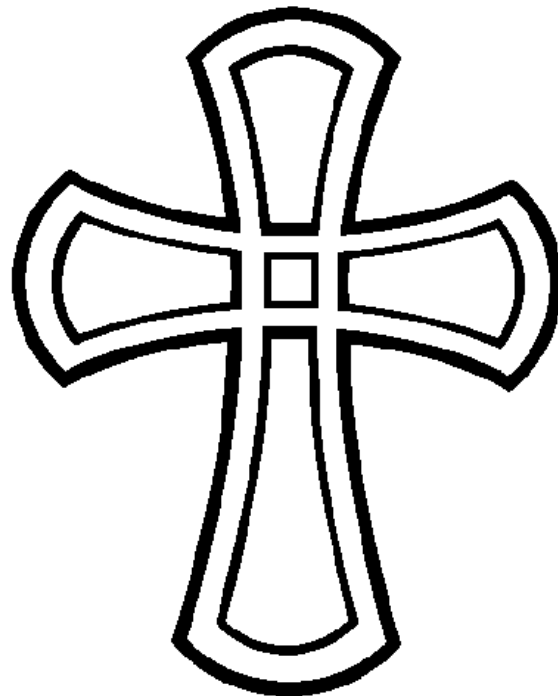


The Annual Report

To the Communicants of

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church
Growing As God's Family

January 24, 2010



**Agenda for the 2010 Annual Meeting
of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler, Arizona
January 24, 2010**

Invocation	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall
Appointment of the Clerk	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall
Order for the Day	Debby Hardy
Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting	Debby Hardy
Elections	The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall
Junior Warden	
Vestry Members	
Diocesan Convention Representatives	
Statistical and Financial Report	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall Ms. Kathy Bilinski
Giving Thanks and Outgoing Vestry Recognition	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall
Announcement of Senior Warden	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall
Reports	Debby Hardy
Elections Report	
Necrology Report	
Benediction	The Rev. Dr. John C. N. Hall

Rector's Report

The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall

Growing As God's Family! These four simple words are not only our motto at Saint Matthew's. They define us. These words are central to our life together as the people of God. Saint Matthew's vision is to be a growing, thriving, welcoming family for the entire East Valley. It's a vision that speaks of who God calls us to be; a community that loves God and each other, and that reaches out in love to those around us, welcoming all into our church.

The current global economic downturn proved to be very challenging for Saint Matthew's in 2009. While enjoying strong average attendance on Sunday morning, the church's financial underpinning was greatly strained as pledged giving fell by 20%, due to members of the congregation suffering financial and job losses. This, in turn, compelled church leadership to drastically scale back the normal one-half-million-dollar cost of parish operation. Through the focused efforts of our talented people, an already lean budget was trimmed beyond the bare bone, balancing our budget by the grace of God.

Our congregation continued to benefit from the outstanding ministry of our staff in 2009. Karen Larson, our long-time Parish Coordinator, retired in May and will be sorely missed. Debby Hardy joined the staff early in the year. Debby's excellent efforts support Saint Matthew's in her position as the Office Assistant. Levon Rader, or "Nana Von" as she was lovingly called in the Church Nursery, retired from her long term of service caring for our littlest members. Audrey Bennett signed on as Pastoral Care Coordinator to shepherd our members who require focused pastoral ministry. Fr. Bill Forrest, Deacon Sue Youngblood, Mandy Hodges, Kathy Bilinski, Edgar Cook, Kadi Strong, Jean Fogarty, Tomoko Gammon, and Melissa Lerma continued to provide positive leadership and strong support. I appreciate each of them more than they will ever know.

Of course, our parishioners once again proved their commitment to serving. It was calculated that it takes about 120 people to complete all the "jobs" needed for a week's work at Saint Matthew's. In managing the office tasks, caring for the shrubbery and lawns, preparing and cleaning the altar for worship, leading the congregation in song, teaching the faith to the children, providing meals and snacks for fellowship, caring for the poor and the marginalized, and countless other acts of ministry, the people of Saint Matthew's gave of their heart and soul. I am overwhelmed by the grace of God shining in the lives of our parishioners.

Saint Matthew's is Growing As God's Family. With Jesus Christ as our Shepherd, we will meet the challenges before us and continue to move into a bright future. Please join me in continuing to pray that we always keep our Lord in sight, and fearlessly follow where he leads.

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting held January 25, 2009

Fr. John Hall opened the meeting with prayer.

Karen J. Larson was appointed as Clerk.

The Clerk presented the Order for the Annual Meeting.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect a Junior Warden, members of the Vestry, and Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention.

A quorum was established. A quorum is ten percent of the membership qualified to vote. The Clerk certified that a quorum was present.

The Clerk addressed the meeting regarding who may have a voice and vote at the meeting. Canon Law and Parish By-laws specify that those who may speak and vote at the meeting must be communicant members in good standing who are at least 16 years of age. Therefore, those eligible are members of record of Saint Matthew's (by Baptism, Confirmation, Reception or Transfer from another Episcopal Church Parish), who are regular in attendance, have made a pledge for the current year and are faithful in giving. Individuals not meeting the criteria should refrain from speaking and voting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2008 Annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting as presented in the 2009 Annual Report.

Elections were held.

Ed Dunn was nominated to the position of Junior Warden and there being no additional nominations for Junior Warden, a motion was made, seconded and approved that Ed be elected by acclamation.

Four Vestry members were elected by acclamation to become the four members of the Class of 2011. They are George Brown, Mike Gammon, Lauren Lenoski and June Zissis.

Five Delegates to the Diocesan Convention were elected by acclamation. Delegates elected were Glenn Case, Jim McCracken, Harlie Youngblood, Betsy Zakowski and Bob Zakowski.

Five Alternates to the Diocesan Convention were elected by acclamation. Alternates elected were Ray Bilinski, Sharon Knappe, Daisy Rusywick, Roberta Sisk and June Zissis.

Following the elections, Fr. John addressed the meeting on the state of the church giving the Statistical and Financial Reports for the 2008 Calendar Year. In 2008, the average Sunday attendance was 347, making Saint Matthew's one of the larger churches in the Diocese of Arizona and the United States.

For 2008, Saint Matthew's had a total income of \$494,749.87 and expenses of \$510,412.93, resulting in a deficit of \$15,663.06. At the end of the year there was a balance of \$32,374.12 in the General Fund or Checking Account. In the Savings Account there was an unrestricted fund balance of \$26,331.64. In addition there were the following restricted fund balances: Building Fund - \$38,340.88, Memorial Garden - \$36,368.53, Organ - \$59,257, and Handbells - \$8,600.00. Finally, Saint Matthew's was holding \$9999.40 for others, such as Episcopal Habitat Coalition, UTO, etc.

Fr. John then briefly discussed the land on Germann Road. Given the current economic conditions, the Diocese has not yet found a buyer for the land and the land has most certainly decreased in value since last year. Although the Vestry has worked diligently to stay in touch with the situation, the land is owned by the Diocese. The Bishop has recently been in touch with the Vestry and has assured the Vestry that the Diocese is "working on it."

Fr. John pointed out that in 2007 and 2008, Saint Matthew's had to dip into its savings account to meet expenses. Given the state of the economy and the depletion of Saint Matthew's savings account, that is no longer an option, so a balanced budget of \$433,000 was approved by the Vestry. This is a "bare bones" budget and presents an opportunity for all of us to contribute "sweat equity" instead of paying for all services. He asked all to "work, pray and give." It's not too late to make or to increase your financial commitment to Saint Matthew's for 2009.

Fr. John thanked a number of people he called his "super heroes" who have provided outstanding service to Saint Matthew's during 2008. They were Linda Brill, Ed Dunn, Lee Ewert, Robert Fogarty, Jean Hall, John Lackie, Wendy Lackie, Jim McCracken, Pat Needham, Wayne Needham, Sheri Smith, Val Sweig, Chuck Williams, and June Zissis.

Outgoing Vestry members Jim McCracken, Sheri Smith, and Olinda Willis were recognized and thanked for their years of service.

Ed Dunn was thanked for his service as Junior Warden.

Jean Fogarty was thanked for her service as Senior Warden.

Karen Larson was thanked for her service as Clerk for the past ten Annual Meetings.

Fr. John announced that he has appointed Lisa Bickley as Senior Warden for 2009.

The Necrology Report was called to the meeting's attention. Donald Frederick Hunt, Randy Guy Jerdee, and Richard Eldridge Stevens were the parishioners who entered the nearer presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2008.

Fr. John gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Larson
Clerk of the 2009 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report for 2009*Kathy Bilinski, Treasurer***Saint Matthew's 2009**

State of Operating Fund

Line		YTD Actual
<u>Income</u>		
101	Giving/Identified	455,755.99
102	Giving/Unidentified	14,349.92
103	Giving/Stock	
104	Interest	1,297.75
105	Other Income	150.00
	Total Income	<u>471,553.66</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>Personnel Expenses</u>		
201	Education/Continuing/Clergy	1,754.16
202	Housing/Clergy	32,160.00
203	Insurance/Active Clergy	19,686.00
204	Insurance/Retired Clergy	12,288.00
205	Insurance/Lay	10,565.00
206	Insurance/Worker's Comp.	789.00
207	Mileage Reimbursement	2,915.15
208	Pension/Clergy	19,085.40
209	Pension/Lay	899.75
210	Salary/Clergy	73,867.92
211	Salary/Lay	103,706.36
212	Taxes/FICA	8,026.53
213	Check Processing/Payroll	413.60
	Total Personnel Expenses	<u>286,156.87</u>
<u>Facility Expenses</u>		
301	Janitorial Contract	6,404.10
302	Landscape Contract	1,159.00
303	Landscape Sprinkler Repair	
304	Maintenance Long Term	2,000.00
305	Maintenance Outside Vendor	1,836.67
306	Maintenance Chrisman's Air/Heat	2,605.54
307	Replace AC/Heat	
308	Maintenance Supplies	574.77
309	Fire Alarm Cert/Cintas	1,946.04
310	Security Alarm Monit. Bond	749.80
311	Repair Alarm	
312	SRP Water Delivery	97.59
313	Utilities APS Electric	11,577.00
314	Utilities Chandler Water & Sewer	3,767.49
315	Utilities Southwest Gas	739.66
316	Utilities Allied Waste	1,714.92
	Total Facility	<u>35,172.58</u>

Administration Expenses		
401	Accounting CPA Audit	3,460.98
402	Communication Avaya Equip	1,048.68
403	Communication Qwest	2,631.94
404	Communication A T & T	2,129.54
405	Computer Network Administration	107.00
406	Computer Software Purchase	118.52
407	Computer Software Support	1,089.00
408	Fee/Bank Charges	50.00
409	Credit Card/ACH Charges	1,683.19
410	Fee/Copyright License	230.00
411	Fee Diocesan Convention	430.00
412	Insurance General	8,319.10
413	Canon Copier Lease	3,902.64
414	Copier Maint/Supplies	1,268.01
415	Office Supply Copier Paper	676.32
416	Office Supply General	1,666.51
417	Postage	1,513.30
	Total Administration	<u>30,324.73</u>

Ministry Expenses		
500	Service Seminarian (Saint Matts)	1,665.25
501a	Service Diocesan Contribution	79,420.20
501b	Service 1% Seminarian Assistance	794.20
501c	Service Millennium Development Goals	3,289.59
502	Service Valley Interfaith	750.00
503	Service Rector Directed (renamed)	925.48
504	Worship Altar Supply	1,027.88
505	Worship Books Prayer & Hymnal	116.78
506	Worship Bulletins	275.08
507	Worship Church Equipment	250.00
508	Worship Music	99.60
509	Education Adult	65.87
510	Education Curriculum	1,740.26
511	Education Nursery	53.42
512	Education Supplies	173.34
513	Education Teacher Training	
514	Education Confirmation Program	209.86
515	Evangelism Dex Ad	2,207.12
516	Evangelism Internet	479.40
517	Evangelism Newcomers	130.20
518	Pastoral Parish Fellowship	2,175.35
519	Pastoral Parish Picnic	1,397.94
520	Pastoral Youth Group Program	2,836.97
521	Stewardship Mailing	418.00
522	Stewardship Giving	717.16
	Total Ministry Expense	<u>101,218.95</u>

Total Expenses	452,873.13
Total Income	<u>471,553.66</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	18,680.53

2010 Budget*Katby Bilinski, Treasurer*

Budget Operating Fund 2010

Line	Income	Total Budget
	<hr/>	
101	Giving/Identified Pledge plus	415,500.00
102	Giving/Unidentified Plate	10,000.00
103	Giving/other income	
104	Interest Income	1,100.00
105	Giving/Stock	
	Total Income	<u>426,600.00</u>
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	Expenses	
	<hr/>	
	Personnel Expenses	
	<hr/>	
201	Education/Continuing/Clergy	2,250.00
202	Housing/Clergy	32,160.00
203	Insurance/Active Clergy	21,648.00
204	Insurance/Retired Clergy thru May *	5,120.00
205	Insurance/Lay	7,800.00
206	Insurance/Worker's Comp.	1,000.00
207	Mileage Reimbursement	3,500.00
208	Pension/Clergy	19,882.00
209	Pension/Lay	3,888.00
210	Salary/Clergy	78,300.00
211	Salary/Lay	103,139.50
212	Taxes/FICA	9,500.00
213	Check Processing/Payroll	500.00
	Total Personnel Expenses	<u>288,687.50</u>
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	<i>*Supply Priest line incorporated here.</i>	
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	Facility Expenses	
	<hr/>	
301	Janitorial Contract	5,520.00
302	Landscape Contract	2,052.00
303	Landscape Sprinkler Repair	500.00
304	Maintenance Long Term	1,000.00
305	Maintenance Outside Vendor	1,000.00

306	Maintenance Chrisman's Air/Heat	3,200.00
307	Maintenance Supplies	800.00
308	Fire Alarm Cert/Cintas	1,450.00
309	Security Alarm Monit Bond	750.00
310	SRP Water Delivery	100.00
311	Utilities APS Electric	11,676.00
312	Utilities Chandler Water & Sewer	3,200.00
313	Utilities Southwest Gas	925.00
314	Utilities Allied Waste	1,272.00
315	New Line Floor Maint.	2,000.00
Total Facility Expense		35,445.00

Administration Expenses

401	Accounting CPA Audit	4,000.00
402	Communication Avaya Equip	1,049.00
403	Communication Qwest Land lines	3,000.00
404	Communication A T & T Clergy Access	2,580.00
405	Computer Network Administration	1,000.00
406	Computer Software Purchase	500.00
407	Computer Software Support	1,200.00
408	Fee/Bank Charges	100.00
409	Credit Card/ACH Charges (Automatics)	2,000.00
410	Fee/Copyright License	250.00
411	Fee Diocesan Convention	800.00
412	Insurance General	7,500.00
413	Canon Copier Lease	4,645.00
414	Copier Maint/Supplies	1,200.00
415	Office Supply General	2,000.00
416	Postage / PO Box rental	1,500.00
Total Administration Expenses		33,324.00

Ministry Expenses

501	Service Seminarian (St.Matts)	6,000.00
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502	Service Diocesan Contribution	84,141.89
503	Service 1% Seminarian Assistance	841.42
504	Service Millennium Development Goals	3,485.17
505	Service Valley Interfaith	900.00
506	Service Rector Directed	1,000.00
507	Worship Altar Supply	1,000.00
508	Worship Books Prayer & Hymnal	100.00
509	Worship Bulletins	150.00
510	Worship Church Equipment	250.00
511	Worship Music	150.00
512	Worship Healing Ministry	100.00
513	Education Adult	250.00
514	Education Curriculum	1,705.00
515	Education Nursery	100.00
516	Education Supplies	700.00
517	Education Teacher Training	250.00
518	Education Confirmation Program	300.00
519	Evangelism Dex Ad	2,210.00
520	Evangelism Internet	480.00
521	Evangelism Newcomers	783.00
522	Evangelism Hi I'm new around here	100.00
523	Pastoral Parish Fellowship	2,500.00
524	Pastoral Parish Picnic	500.00
525	Pastoral Youth Group Program	4,500.00
526	Pastoral iparent	400.00
527	Stewardship Giving	1,200.00
	Total Ministry Expenses	114,096.48

Total Income	426,600.00
Minus Total Expense	471,552.98
Surplus/(Deficit)	(44,952.98)

Ministry Reports

Acolytes

The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall

Twenty-four boys and girls regularly assist in the leadership of our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services as Acolytes. At 7:30 a.m. one faithful adult serves as Acolyte in Residence. All Saint Matthew's acolytes know and follow the Saint Matthew's Acolyte motto, "Walk Slowly, Look Holy."

Adult Forum

The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall

In 2009, twenty to fifty people participated in the Adult Forum each week in the Parish Hall. The classes, led primarily by Father John Hall, covered a variety of topics including current Church events, Church history, the Bible, and the Creeds.

Altar Guild

Elenor Smith

The Altar Guild serves as "God's housekeepers". We prepare the altar for services and clean up after services. The co-directors, Mary Jane Williams and Elenor Smith, serve under the direction of Father John. Each is responsible for specific duties. Altar Guild members sign up for times and services they wish to handle. Meetings are held several times a year, as needed. One new member was added this year.

Altar Guild service is a rewarding way to serve God. All members of the congregation are welcome to participate. Training is provided.

Boy Scout Troop 233

Ed Dunn and Ray Bilinski

2009 was an exciting year of growth, learning, and adjustment for everyone, boys and adults. In January 2009, we were blessed with the addition of 13 new scouts. That more than doubled the size of the troop in a day. John Lackie and Ed Dunn did a magnificent job of restructuring the troop organization as well as restructuring the troop's scouting program. Also in January 2009, at the District Awards Dinner, Ed Dunn received the **2008 San Tan District Award of Merit** and John Lackie received the **Scoutmaster of the Year** award.

Our current roster has 19 young men. These scouts participated in 11 campouts during the year; have had over 14 day outings; spent a summer week at Camp Geronimo, in the Payson area of Arizona, completed several hundred hours of service, as a troop and as individuals; marched in the Tempe Veterans Day Parade, have earned almost fifty merit badges and ten rank advancements to Second Class, First Class, and most recently three to Star Scout.

Our program could not be as successful without the support of the church and its members. Our current troop committee is made up of most of the parents of the boys. Ed Dunn is the Committee Chair, Kathy Bilinski is the COR (Charter Organization Representative). John Lackie is the Scoutmaster. Our troop leaders who have direct contact with the boys are John Lackie, Jonathan Cowan, Mike Reeves, and Kevin Simpson. We invite you to look at the east wall of the Parish Hall, our "Scout Wall", to see what our boys are doing.

Children's Chapel

Kadi Strong

Children's Chapel provides a fun, engaging learning opportunity for children between the ages of 4 and 8 to sing and learn about Christ. It is offered during the 11 a.m. church service from 11-11:40 a.m. Parents drop their children off in the Jungle Room (room 9), and their children meet back with them in the sanctuary just before the offering.

In the past, Children's Chapel was offered during both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. service; however, due to a lack of volunteers, it has only been offered at 11 a.m. this year. There have been as many as 20 children in Children's Chapel on a given Sunday.

Coffee Hour

Bonnie Hecker

Saint Matthews Coffee Hour is a volunteer support that is an important ministry of fellowship. The teams are volunteering their time, effort and snacks to help with an hour of fellowship that the church members look forward to and appreciate immensely. Though our generosity is greatly appreciated, our welcoming smiles and words are even more so. At the coffee hour, we are the face of the church and giving our attention to make sure everyone is welcomed and served and show what a wonderful family we have at St. Matthews. What is also very important is the support the team members give to each other and that is fundamental for this ministry to stay alive.

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK)

Choppie Lewis

DOK has a registered membership of 31 as of January 1, 2010. In July 2009 we sent a delegate and an alternate to the 2009 Triennial in Anaheim, CA. While we acquired no new members last year, we anticipate growth in 2010. As is customary, we reaffirmed our commitment on All Saints Sunday in a Ceremony of Rededication.

Deacon

The Rev. Susan Youngblood

A vocational deacon is an ordained clergy person who not only serves within the parish, but also has an active ministry in the larger community. The deacon acts as a bridge, bringing the church to the world and the world to the church. As a part of that ministry, I organized the Saint Matthew's Ministry to Abused Children (MAC) team, a group of dedicated, very, very hardworking people who act as advocates for abused, neglected and abandoned children. I'm also a member of the Executive Board of the Valley Interfaith Project, a coalition of 48 faith-based institutions dedicated to working in the community for children and families in our part of Arizona. The agenda includes respite care for full-time caregivers, a workforce training program, stable housing and a constructive approach to the state budget. My special pleasure is serving on Maricopa County juvenile probation panels with a goal of implementing restorative justice.

Disability Concerns Team

Charlotte Shepard

The Disability Concerns Team continues to work to improve accessibility at Saint Matthews for persons with disabilities. It is concerned with removing attitudinal, programmatic and communication barriers, as well barriers of architecture. One communication barrier addressed this year was the lack of large print versions of the publication *Forward Day by Day*. Team members obtained copies of these for every individual who had responded to our congregational survey last year indicating they would use the large print publication if they had it. Members mailed a copy quarterly to the home of each of these individuals.

The team's main focus this year, however, has been on attitudinal accessibility. On May 24th, the team gave a Disability Awareness presentation during the Adult Forum, where attendees viewed a DVD, had a short question and answer session and took home a handout about communication and etiquette with persons with disabilities. On October 4th, a Disability Awareness program was held with Sunday School children in pre-school through 4th grade. Included in the program was the viewing of an award-winning film emphasizing

the similarities children with disabilities have with non-disabled children. The key event of the program was a talk by James, a disabled Vietnam vet working with the American Service Animal Society, whose service dog Lizard showed off its skills and visited with the children. Take home papers included coloring pages and puzzles about children who have disabilities.

Greeter/Guest Ministry

Marie Mitchell

The Guest Ministry at Saint Matthew's is committed to making sure that everyone is greeted before and after each service. Whether families are one-time visitors or are seeking a new parish home they are greeted with a smile. Each family is given a packet of information to take home and they are encouraged to call the church if they have questions. Even if you are not part of the Guest Ministry, you can still show the warmth our parish family has to offer by introducing yourself to someone you do not know. Please contact the church office if you would like more information on Guest Ministry.

Habitat for Humanity (Episcopal Habitat Coalition)

Wayne Needham

In 2009 we constructed 2 homes in the Oro Vista subdivision in south Phoenix. We also funded houses in Guatemala and Slidell Louisiana. In January, the Episcopal Habitat Coalition will start construction of our 21st house in the valley of the sun. Later in the year, a group will head to Brazil for our 9th international trip. This outreach has provided clean decent and affordable housing for over 150 people in 43 houses world wide.

For the past 12 years, St. Matthew's has been an active participant in the Coalition by supplying labor, food and money. If you would like to help, contact me for times of construction, or ways to help with food for the workers. Donations are always welcome, just place a check in the offering basin with Habitat on the memo line.

Healing Ministry

The Rev. William C. Forrest

The Healing Ministry of the church continues Jesus' ministry of making whole what is broken in the human condition in mind, body, or spirit. Currently, Saint Matthew's offers the ministry of healing (anointing with oil and laying on of hands) on the first Sunday of each month. This ministry is available at any other time by request. We will gladly come to your home, hospital room, or to wherever the ministry is needed. Should you desire this ministry, please contact Fr. Bill Forrest through the Parish Office, 480-899-7386, or by email at frbillaz@yahoo.com.

Junior Warden

Ed Dunn

Many, many thanks to the volunteer Yard Crews who are doing all the cleaning, raking, sweeping, mowing and blowing around the property! They save Saint Matthew's something over \$3,000 each year in lawn maintenance costs.

Thanks to all the generous contributions for fountain repair, the main fountain has been completely refurbished and a new drinking fountain has been installed in the Parish Hall.

Our parking lot is seriously in need of re-surfacing and re-marking. We must schedule that for sometime in 2010.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors*The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall*

In 2009, Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) assisted at most worship services by reading portions of the service and assisting the clergy with the distribution of the elements at the Eucharist. Some EMs also assisted the clergy by bringing the blessed bread and wine to shut-ins following Sunday services. In addition, Lectors also assisted by reading lessons from the Scripture in Sunday services.

Ministry to Abused Children (MAC Team)*The Rev. Susan Youngblood*

By the time an abused, neglected or abandoned child is taken into state custody, he has suffered damage and may spend years in foster homes, shelters or group homes before, prayerfully, finding a permanent, safe and loving home. It is the function of the Arizona Foster Care Review Board, an agent of the Supreme Court of Arizona, to review and investigate each child's case on a regular basis. Board members are "the eyes and ears of the court" and assure that no child "falls through the cracks" and that unmet needs are brought before the judges. Eleven members of our church are actively engaged in or are in the process of being trained to do this difficult and important work, reviewing records and meeting with case managers, foster parents, birth parents, potential adoptive parents, group home managers and other interested parties. They ask the hard questions and determine what is "in the best interest of the child." Besides serving on a FCRB, one team member, Fr. John, also serves on a "Removal Team," the first responders when a child is to be removed from the home, ensuring that the initial removal is warranted.

Music Ministry, Choir and Handbells*Edgar Cook*

Members of the choir and handbell choir are volunteers from the congregation. Members give of their time and talent to this ministry. A special thank you to all who support this ministry.

Music Ministry, 11 a.m. Service*Jean Hall*

Our 11am worship band is thriving. There are some Sundays when we have 11 members. We are blessed to be able to share our gifts with the people of Saint Matthew's. We rehearse on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 6:30-8:00 in the sanctuary.

Necrology Report*Debby Hardy*

The following members of Saint Matthew's entered the nearer presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2009:

John Kendall McCain
Josephine Anee Bristol
Loraine J. Webb
Eloise Margaret Zuhl
Andrew LeRoy Harland
William Vernon Jenson
Theresa Mary Hunt

Nursery*Mandy Hodges*

The Saint Matthew's nursery is available for infants through age 3. It is a co-op nursery with 2 paid staff and also includes a rotational schedule for parent volunteers. Sunday mornings report an average of 10 children per service (9:00 & 11:00).

Office Volunteers*Debby Hardy*

Many cheerful and dedicated people assist in the Parish Office every week answering phones, greeting visitors, sorting mail, proof reading, filing, copying, collating, folding, marking, stapling, inserting, stamping, sealing, making phone calls, counting the offering, tidying up the kitchen, cleaning out the refrigerator and freezer, moving chairs and tables, checking and re-supplying pew pockets, pew racks, children's worship bags, tract racks and kitchen supplies. On Thursday mornings a special team of bulletin volunteers marks, folds and collates the Sunday bulletins.

All the office volunteers cheerfully lend their time, hands, minds and hearts doing whatever is needed in the office to further the mission and ministry of Saint Matthew's. If you have a few hours free on a weekday morning and would like to help out, please let me know by either calling the church office or by email at debby@saintmatthewschurch.org.

Pastoral Care*Audrey Bennett*

Saint Matthew's is a parish aglow with life in all of its many manifestations. God continues to be present to each one of us on a collective as well as an individual basis through ongoing pastoral support from our clergy as well as our laity. Please consider exercising your own spiritual gifts in the new year within the body of Christ at Saint Matthew's by looking for ways to serve your brothers and sisters here in this place. Becoming actively involved in the life of the parish is the surest way of serving Christ. Remember the words of our Lord as recorded by Saint Matthew (25:40), "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me."

Prayer Chain*The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall*

The Saint Matthew's Prayer Team is a group of dedicated pray-ers who regularly lift up the needs and concerns of the congregation in prayer. The team is comprised of many members of the congregation, including the church staff and clergy. When a request for prayer is received in the church office, it is circulated (using first names only) to all prayer team members via email, asking them to remember the concern in their prayers throughout the month.

Prayer Shawl Ministry*Jean Hall*

St. Matthew's Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to bless many people with gifts created lovingly by our members. We knit and crochet prayer shawls, blankets and baby hats for those in need of a tangible sign of God's love. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 2. All are welcome.

Senior Warden/Vestry*Lisa Bickley*

As we look back at our past year and ahead to a new one, I want to thank all of you for your service and loyalty to Saint Matthew's and wish each and every member of our parish family a happy, healthy new year.

This past year, we at Saint Matthew's worked together to the glory of God in many different ways. Some of us used our physical gifts to beautify the grounds at our church, some of us used a multitude of talents to provide an extraordinary Vacation Bible School for the youth of Saint Matthew's and still others found ways to form new groups to educate and share God's love with those in need. I am constantly amazed at the energy and dedication

that is shown throughout the year and am confident that it will continue as we look toward 2010.

I also want to show my gratitude for the dedication and commitment of our Vestry. They are a tireless group of people who work for the parish using creative and innovative ideas. We should be proud of their efforts.

It has been my privilege and honor to work along side Father John Hall. This is a man who is both a visionary and a scholar. He serves the Lord with his whole heart and has dedicated himself to the people of our parish.

Saint Matthews continues to grow as God's family and with the leadership of God, our clergy and the people of our parish, we will move forward ready to begin a new year full of hope and encouragement.

United Thank Offering

Levon Rader

UTO is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessings in our everyday lives. Twice a year we are asked to bring the amount of our daily thanksgiving to the Ingathering service where it is combined with the offerings of hundreds of thousands of other Episcopalians to become the United Thank Offering. The family of Saint Matthew's collected \$1620.43 in 2009.

Ushers, 9:00 a.m.

Jeff Pavlica

The Ushers for the 9:00 a.m. service can report another successful year of services with 100% coverage for every service throughout 2009. Our team has 11 active members and welcomes any new additions to our group. We intend to continue our ministry by providing a welcome smile and a kind word to our parish family each Sunday.

Ushers, 11:00 a.m.

Sandi Brandau

Saint Matthew's is truly blessed with loyal ushers at the eleven o'clock service. The volunteer ushers assist the clergy and church members during the services in a friendly and efficient manner. Each usher works once a month, or more when asked. We are always seeking new volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the office for more information.

Youth Education

Kadi Strong

Sunday school encompasses Discipleship, Fellowship, Growing, and Learning about Christ. Children's ministry at Saint Matthew's offers Sunday School for children in pre-school through grade 6, and Remix for kids in 7th-12th grade. Both programs offer age appropriate, fun activities, discussions, and projects to help kids connect and grow in their faith. There are approximately 85 kids enrolled in the two programs. There is a fun day once a month where kids get to perform fun experiments or projects that help connect and credit everyday wonders to God.

Youth Group

Mandy Hodges

This year's theme is "Thrive". And thriving is what's happening on Sunday nights! We currently have 9 volunteer leaders that lead weekly and 3 additional volunteers who lead the charge for Mission 34 group (the 3rd and 4th grade starter program). Weekly attendance to youth group is between 35 and 50 students, and once a month adding 25 additional Mission 34 students. Snack suppers have been generously provided by youth group parents and

members of the parish. The addition of the new youth room and stage has tremendously upped the energy of weekly meetings!

Youth Group/Mission Trip

Mandy Hodges

In July of 2009, 11 students and 3 leaders packed up and drove to Cortez, Colorado for a week of manual labor, joining in a local summer activity program for children, and learning more about God. It was a challenging and wonderful experience for all.

In preparation for next summer's mission trip, 19 students are working hard to fundraise and spiritually prepare for what God has planned in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Kadi Strong

2009 Vacation Bible School snatched children up from the desert, and sent them romping through the murky, gator-infested swamplands of the Louisiana Bayou. The church was completely taken over by alligators, crawfish, blue heron, and children soaking up the wonders of Jesus Christ. There were over 80 children enrolled in VBS, of which half were not members of Saint Matthew's and may have been hearing about Jesus for the first time. Additionally, over 40 adult and youth volunteers generously gave their time both prior to and during the week of VBS to make it the huge success it was.