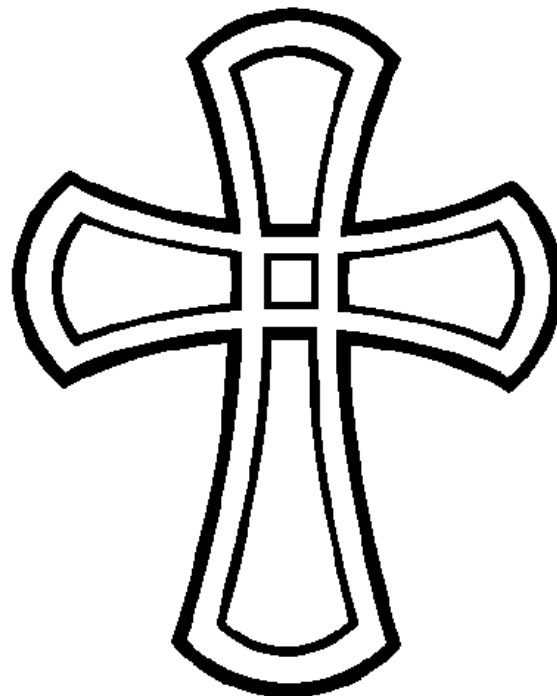


The Annual Report

To the Communicants of

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

January 29, 2012



**Agenda for the 2011 Annual Meeting
Of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chandler, Arizona
January 29, 2012**

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 2011 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

Saint Matthew's is a wonderful part of the Body of Christ. We are Growing As God's Family! We work and pray to be a growing, thriving, welcoming family for the entire East Valley – a community that loves God and each other, and that reaches out in love to those around us, welcoming all into our church.

While the economy continues to challenge Saint Matthew's, the congregation showed its strength in 2011 by digging out of a projected budgetary shortfall to end the year squarely in the black. Despite our need to be very careful financially, Saint Matthew's is currently the third largest financial giver to the Diocese of Arizona. Each Sunday we enjoy strong attendance, averaging 355 worshippers.

Saint Matthew's is blessed by the outstanding ministry of our staff. Debby Hardy and Kathy Bilinski keep the office running like a finely tuned machine with the able help of many volunteers. Mandy Hodges and Kadi Strong coordinate our vibrant ministries with youth and children, and oversee the many volunteer leaders and teachers who make this ministry the standard for the diocese. Our deacons Sue Youngblood and Mike Halle serve well, both here and beyond the walls of our church. Audrey Bennett, Tomoko Gammon, Ashley Bouknight and Katie Beck help provide positive leadership and strong support. This year ended with the loss of our beloved Organist, Edgar Cook. This brought a change in our music program and the wonderful addition to our staff of Rachel Salemi and Emma Whitten. I appreciate each and every member of the Saint Matthew's team more than they will ever know.

Of course, the people of Saint Matthew's are really its heart. 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 Annual Meeting held January 23, 2011

Fr. John Hall opened the meeting with a prayer.

Debby Hardy 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 being 10 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 2010 Annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting as presented in the 2010 Annual Report.

Elections were held.

Ballots were distributed by the Proctors.

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

There were 5 openings on the Vestry: 4 3 year terms and 1 2 year term. The floor was opened for additional nominations. Steve Fair was nominated and seconded, and therefore added to the ballot. There now were 6 names on the ballot. The top 4 vote getters will serve the 3 year term and the 5th will serve the 2 year term. At the end of the meeting the results were Jane Emmons, Brad Strong, Choppie Lewis and Kristy Swan filling the 3 year terms and Steve Fair filling the 2 year term.

For Convention Delegates and Alternates there were 8 names on the ballot. John instructed the Parish to vote for 5, those with the highest totals would be the Delegates and the other 5 would be the alternates. After the votes were tabulated:

Harlie Youngblood, Val Sweig, Mike Hardy, Luis Gonzalez and Luisa Bonillas Gonzalez were elected as Delegates. Ray Bilinski, Betsy Zakowski and Zak Zakowski were to be the Alternates.

Following the elections, Father John addressed the meeting on the state of the church giving the Statistical and Financial Report. In 2010 St. Matthew's average Sunday attendance was 349 people, breaking down to 43 people at the 7:30 service, 133 at 9:00 and 172 at 11:00. Our average Sunday attendance went up by 1 person in 2010. Our numbers have been fairly constant since 2007 because of our physical space.

For 2010 St. Matthew's had a total income of \$467,890 and expenses of \$455,114 resulting in us finishing in the black \$12,776. We had budgeted our income to be \$425,500 and expenses to be \$471,552 which would have resulted in a deficit. At the end of the year the General Fund Checking account balance was \$75,305. In the Savings Account there was an unrestricted fund balance of \$58,894. In addition there were the following restricted fund balances: Building Fund - \$39,961, Memorial Garden - \$34,654, Organ Fund - \$61,548 and \$19,632 for other groups such as the DOK, Mission Trip, etc. In addition there was \$50,000 from a grant from the Neely Foundation.

Father John briefly discussed the Germann Road property, hopefully for the last time. Bishop Smith is planning to sell the entire 30 acres to a company wanting to build a subdivision there. The money from the sale will go to Diocesan causes. Father John has been told Saint Matthew's will receive a part of the money from the sale.

The empty lot across the street was then addressed. That lot is owned by St. Matthew's and we have wanted to pave it for additional parking, but have been unable to do that up to this point. Recently, the East Valley Islamic Center has opened on the other side of that lot and has contacted Father John about purchasing the lot. They are Suni Muslims and have a large Friday afternoon attendance. They want to purchase the lot and turn it in to a parking lot that we will be able to use. The Vestry has approved the sale and it is currently in escrow.

John then addressed the recent survey he had sent out about Saint Matthew's. Insight from the survey told us there is much to be proud of at St. Matthew's:

What is important to you at St. Matthew's:

1. Sunday worship
2. Education for children
3. Youth ministry
4. Pastoral Care
5. Newcomer incorporation

How does St. Matthew's Rate? Lowest grade overall was a B- . The highest were:

1. Preaching
2. Sunday School
3. Youth education and ministry
4. Keeping you informed

5. Sunday music, especially at 11 o'clock service

Dreams for Saint Matthew's: CLEAR TOP 3 Dreams:

1. Larger facility, more space
2. More money
3. Additional Priest

What is interesting about these is numbers 1 and 3 are a direct result of number 2 and in control of the parishioners.

Fr. John then addressed looking ahead to 2011. The operating budget that had been approved by the Vestry for 2011 shows budgeted income of \$ 431,000, expenses of \$463,522 leaving a deficit of \$32,522.

2011 Pledges are coming in about as expected, but still not enough to cover budgeted expenses. "What can you do?" Pledge if you haven't or increase your pledge if you have.

Father John then took time for some Thank Yous. He also gave a special thanks to the Staff for doing everything possible to keep costs down and everything else they do.

Our Seminarian Lauren Lenoski has been approved as a candidate for Ordination scheduled for 6/11/2011 at Trinity Cathedral where she will be ordained as a Deacon.

Outgoing Vestry members Anne Jeff Gentry, Pat Needham, Harlie Youngblood and Zak Zakowski were thanked for their many years of service. As well Ed Dunn was thanked for his service as Jr. Warden.

Lisa Bickley was appointed Senior Warden again for 2011 and was thanked for her service for 2010.

The Necrology Report was read by the Clerk. : Irene Fulton, Dee Kandris, Frederick Miles, Paul Bishop and Woody Clark were the parishioners who entered the nearer presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2010.

Father John gave the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted

Debby Hardy
Clerk of the 2011 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report for 2011

Kathy Bilinski, Treasurer

		YTD	Total
		Actual	Budget
	INCOME		
101	Giving/Identified Pledge	502,338.52	420,000.00
102	Giving/Unidentified Plate	17,358.46	11,000.00
103	Giving/other Income		
104	Giving/Stock		
	TOTAL INCOME	519,696.98	431,000.00
	Personnel Expenses		
201	Education Clergy	492.00	300.00
202	Housing Clergy	32,160.00	31,543.00
203	Insurance Clergy	23,639.00	23,813.00
204	Insurance Worker's Comp	1,013.00	1,000.00
205	Mileage Reimbursement	2,110.89	2,500.00
206	Pension Clergy	20,164.68	20,165.00
207	Pension Lay	3,635.50	3,966.00
208	Salary Clergy	79,866.00	80,483.00
209	Salary Lay **	114,378.68	119,224.00
210	Taxes FICA	9,044.74	9,690.00
211	Check Processing Payroll	477.05	350.00
212	Deacon Class	250.00	250.00
213	ACS Training		800.00
214	Insurance Lay	8,853.00	8,172.00
	Total Personnel	296,084.54	302,256.00
	Facility Expenses		
301	Janitorial Contract **		
302	Landscape Contract **		
303	Landscape Sprinkler**		
304	Maintenance Long Term	582.39	1,000.00
305	Maintenance Outside Vendor	2,295.37	1,500.00
306	Maintenance Air/Heat	3,475.05	2,157.16
307	Maintenance Supplies	1,519.24	1,000.00
308	Fire Extinguisher	292.86	655.00
309	Security Alarm Monitor	1,019.52	750.00

310	Water Delivery (irrigation)		100.62	100.00
311	Utilities Electric		8,503.00	9,600.00
312	Utilities Water/Sewer		3,467.19	3,500.00
313	Utilities Gas		755.29	925.00
314	Utilities Waste Removal		1,677.67	1,500.00
315	Floor Maintenance		1,964.55	2,500.00
316	Alarm Registration		10.00	10.00
317	Alarm Certification		413.08	795.00
	Total Facility		26,075.83	25,992.16
	Administration Expenses			
401	Audit CPA		3,326.37	4,000.00
402	Communication Equipment		2,080.93	1,049.00
403	Communication Land Lines		2,286.97	2,050.00
404	Communication Cell Phone		3,017.84	2,580.00
405	Computer Network Admin		109.25	1,000.00
406	Computer Software Purchase		193.61	500.00
407	Computer Software Supp		695.75	1,920.00
	Data Move Fee*		499.00	499.00
408	Bank Charges		64.64	50.00
409	Credit Card/ACH Fees		2,344.64	1,500.00
410	Copyright License		245.00	250.00
411	Diocesan Convention		430.00	800.00
412	Insurance General		4,787.30	7,500.00
413	Copier Lease		4,908.57	4,645.00
414	Copier Maint/Supplies		1,180.39	1,200.00
415	Office Supply		2,295.23	2,000.00
416	Postage/PO Box rental		1,806.95	1,500.00
417	Corp. Commission Fee			10.00
	Total Administration		30,272.44	33,053.00
	Ministry Expenses			
501	Service Seminarian (StMatt)		5,000.00	6,000.00
502	Service Diocesan Share		84,420.00	72,839.00
503	Service 1%Seminary Dioc.		841.42	728.00
504	Service MDG Dioc.			3,017.00
504a	Service Matthew's Crossing		2,000.00	2,000.00
505	Service Valley Interfaith			350.00

506	Service Rector Directed		1,218.81	1,000.00
507	Worship Altar Supply		2,085.42	1,000.00
508	Worship Books. Hymnal		30.00	60.00
509	Worship Bulletins		155.25	250.00
510	Worship Church Equip.		92.85	150.00
511	Worship Music			200.00
512	Education Adult		158.28	200.00
513	Education Curriculum		1,681.10	1,850.00
514	Education Nursery		103.55	150.00
515	Education Supplies		781.32	700.00
516	Education Teacher Training		232.84	400.00
517	Evangelism Dex Ad		3.52	2,210.00
518	Evangelism Internet		439.45	480.00
519	Evangelism Newcomers			278.95
520	Evangelism Hi I'm new			50.00
521	Pastoral Parish Fellowship		2,712.30	3,000.00
522	Pastoral Parish Picnic		397.99	500.00
523	Pastoral Youth Group		5,079.39	4,800.00
524	Pastoral iParent		159.78	400.00
525	Stewardship Giving		581.10	1,200.00
	Total Ministry		108,174.37	103,812.95
	TOTAL INCOME		519,696.98	431,000.00
	MINUS TOTAL EXPENSES		460,607.18	465,114.11
	Surplus/(Deficit)		59,089.80	(34,114.11)

Ministry Reports:

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. Altar Guild members sign up for times and services they wish to handle. Altar Guild meetings are scheduled as needed. Altar Guild service is a rewarding way to serve God. All members of the congregation are welcome to participate. Training is provided.

Boy Scouts Troop 233

Ray Bilinski

Our Boy Scout Troop 233 continues to do well; we now have 22 Scouts, 10 of whom are Life Scouts and their next step is Eagle.

Care4Kids

The Rev. Sue Youngblood

Care4Kids is an umbrella title which covers all of the programs through which Saint Matthew's carries out its unified commitment to children in our community who need protection, extra support or a hand up. It includes Ministry to Abused Children, The Suitcase Project, Hartford Helpers. An ongoing relationship with the Phoenix Children's Crisis Nursery and Quilts4Kids. Over 150 members of the congregation participated in one way or another in 2011, and we anticipate more growth next year as even more opportunities for service become available.

Circle of Friends

June Zissis

Circle of Friends is a group of active seniors that meet the second and fourth Friday of the month for study, ministry and fellowship. On the second Friday of the month we meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Parish Hall. On the fourth Friday, we have a fun outing to a restaurant or other social events in the community.

Common Grounds

Mandy Hodges

A new fellowship opportunity for adults at Saint Matthew's kicked off this fall, called Common Grounds. Playing off the name itself, it is a weekly time for coffee, conversation, learning, laughing, and simply enjoying the company of new and old friends within the church. In addition to the variety of educational presentations and round table discussions at the center of Common Grounds meetings, every third Sunday brought a new round of team trivia. Common Grounds is lead by a group of 6 volunteers.

The Order of the Daughters of The King

Choppie Lewis

The Saint Matthew's chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King had a group attend the Women of Faith conference last year and we've participated in several Quiet Days at St Barnabus. We celebrated the 90th birthday of Florence West last year and will celebrate the 90th birthday of Dale Fairbanks this month.

We are admitting 3 new members on the 29th of January, bringing our membership total to 34 and making us one of the largest chapters in the Province.

Deacon's Report

The Rev. Sue Youngblood, Deacon

In the Episcopal Church the deacon has many functions in the parish church including liturgy, teaching and pastoral care, but the main, stated purpose of the deacon is to act as a bridge between the church and the marginalized in the world. 2011 has been a wonderful year as I have been privileged to be part of the unfolding of the Care4Kids program at Saint Matthew's through which the congregation is becoming a real force in bringing comfort and support to children in need. I also serve on the Children's Action Alliance Juvenile Justice Advisory committee, serve on two juvenile probation panels for Maricopa County and am active in developing the teaching arm of Young Arts Arizona which is dedicated to providing opportunities for marginalized youth to express themselves through the visual arts.

Disabilities Concerns Team

Charlotte Sheppard

The Disability Concerns Team works to improve accessibility at Saint Matthew's for persons with disabilities. Its scope includes disability awareness programs, architectural accessibility resources, special format materials, and other types of accommodations. During 2011, two team members worked with the diocesan Program Group on Disability Concerns on a disability awareness display at the Children's Ministry Summit, and as leaders for a workshop at a diocesan conference on church accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Girl Scouts

Chris Booth

Girl Scout Troop 439 is well into our second year. We have grown to 19 girls in 4 groups (Daisy's, Brownies, Juniors, & Cadettes.) with 2 Assistant Leaders and 9 adult volunteers. The Troop had two camping trips and several hikes through 2011 with more planned for the following year. Many of the girls are completing their "God & Family" program and the Girl Scout "My Faith, My Promise Award". Our Juniors are working on their Bronze awards and the Cadettes are working on their Silver Awards. This spring, we will be Bridging over half of the Troop into their next Rank Grouping.

We currently meet every other Monday evening at 6:30pm in Rooms #11 & 12.

Habitat for Humanity

Wayne Needham

The outreach ministry of The Episcopal Habitat Coalition is a model for other church groups in the valley. In 2011, we completed our 51st house worldwide, housing about 190 people. Twenty-four of those houses were here in the Phoenix metro area, houses for which St. Matthew's provided funds, labor and food. Thanks to all of you, not only from the coalition, but from the parents and children of the families we have helped provide a safe affordable home.

The New Year begins with a new project in Glendale, where the coalition will refurbish a foreclosed house. In the past, we have shared construction labor and cost with a partner (either a corporation or other churches), but this time we will fully fund the renovation and build it with only coalition members. It will be fun and different.

If you would like to help, contact me for construction information, 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 Team

Audrey Bennett

Following all three services on the first Sunday of each month, the sacrament of the sick is offered by members of the clergy together with healing prayers by the laity to all who come forward to the altar rail. Members of the parish are encouraged to present their needs to God for healing in this manner. If you feel you have a calling to serve as a lay prayer minister for the laying on of hands at these healing services, please speak with a member of the clergy or Audrey Bennett. Faith in the healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only requirement for this ministry of prayer. Please feel free to share your faith and gifts with others on a regular basis by participation in this ministry to those in need within the parish.

Hi! I'm New Around Here

Kathy Bilinski

Hi! I'm new around here is a meet and greet which has in the past meet twice a year. We invite all the new comers to Saint Matthew's to a dessert and chat time. This is an open forum and anyone who wishes to join is invited to attend. Or if you have some ideas about how to make this ministry even better please "let's talk".

Junior Warden

Ed Dunn

Junior Warden tasks are much easier now with the new fluorescent lights, and I also get a lot of help from John Lackie, our sexton.

Church grounds are well taken care of by the Yard Crews and with the extra hours put in by volunteers to trim the trees, shrubs, etc. We do urgently need more volunteers, and if you can volunteer, I would love to hear from you.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors and Acolytes

Harlie Youngblood

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes serve a vital function in leading worship services at Saint Matthews. LEMs and Lectors read scriptures and LEMS lead the congregation in prayers and creeds as well as administer the chalice. Acolytes carry the processional cross and torches and serve at the altar. We are blessed to have 35 LEMs and 28 Acolytes serving at this time.

Meal Ministry

Caroline Maloney

This ministry was started two years ago March. Our mission is to provide meals for the families of Saint Matthew's. Those who are in need of meals due to an illness, loss of a family member, a birth of a child or any other unforeseen event. To give respite care in the form of a meal or two, helping get through the struggles of everyday life. There are approximately 50 volunteers currently and could always use some more. During 2011 we provided meals for several different families; the meals have been as long as a month and as short as 1 night.

Matt's Café

Caroline Maloney

Matt's Cafe is a place to provide fellowship between the 9 o'clock service and the 11 o'clock service. This space also doubles for "Common Grounds" on Sunday nights. Matt's Cafe is in its 2nd year with our kick-off September 26, 2010. Matt's cafe is mostly self serve with regular coffee, decaf coffee, and a variety of "Stash" flavored teas to choose from. We also have a handful of flavored syrups that you can add to your coffee; we have even added sugar

free syrups. We continue to have weekly specialty drinks, some frozen and some hot. Matt's Cafe continues to be self supporting by donations only and we hope for continued growth through support from Saint Matthew's parishioners.

Memorial Garden

June Zissis

Have you taken the time to walk through the Memorial Garden at Saint Matthew's? Designed to be a natural and tranquil place for rest and meditation, the Memorial Garden is located on the north side of the church and is surrounded by walls, plantings, ornamental trees, flowers and shrubs. Entry is through the wrought iron gates at either side of the garden. Ashes are buried in the areas covered by green grass and memorial plaques commemorating departed loved ones have been placed on the church wall that faces into the Memorial Garden.

Men With Cars

Harlie Youngblood

Men (and women) with Cars transports donations and gifts from our congregation to those for whom they are intended. They have made multiple trips to Child Protective Services carrying suitcases and many bags and boxes of donations as part of The Suitcase Project. They have also traveled to the Phoenix Children's Crisis Nursery as a part of the Angel Tree Project.

Ministry to Abused Children (MAC Team)

The Rev. Sue Youngblood, Deacon

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 Arizona Foster and 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 '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. Ten members of our church are actively engaged in this difficult and important work, reviewing records and meeting with case managers, foster parents, birth parents, potential adoptive parents and other interested parties. They ask the hard questions and determine what is 'in the best interest of the child'.

Music Ministry, Choir and Handbells

The Rev. Dr. John C.N. Hall

The Parish Choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist and special services incorporating handbells and guest instrumentalists on occasion. The Choir is always seeking new members who love to sing.

Music Ministry 11:00 a.m. Service: State of Grace *Jean Hall*

Our 11:00 worship band, State of Grace is made up of 9 musicians and singers. We do a wide variety of music from traditional to contemporary to liturgical. I am continually amazed at the wonderful things that happen when God's people get together to share their gifts. I have been truly blessed to work with fine group.

Necrology Report

Debby Hardy

The following members of Saint Matthew's entered the nearer presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the year 2011: Naomi Smith, Robert Anderson, Charlotte Tooke, Shirley Nichols and Edgar Cook

Nursery

Mandy Hodges/Kadi Strong

The Saint Matthew's nursery thrived this past year as many parents stepped up to volunteer in the nursery. There were 3 staff employees who cared and loved on our little ones regularly, as well as made sure the toys stayed clean and germ free. Saint Matthew's continues to bring in young families with precious babies, and as long as this keeps up, our nursery will be waiting with open arms to love and care for these children.

Office Volunteers

Debby Hardy

Our office volunteers assist in the Parish Office every week answering phones, greeting visitors, sorting, proof reading, filing, copying, collating, folding, marking, stapling, inserting, stamping, sealing, calling, counting, tidying, cleaning, moving, checking and re-supplying; just to name a few things they do. On Thursday mornings a special team of bulletin volunteers makes, folds and collates the Sunday bulletins.

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

Both the laity and the clergy have participated in another busy year of meeting the pastoral needs of Saint Matthew's. If you have either a desire to help meet various needs within the parish, or have a need you wish to have addressed, please feel free to contact the church office and you will receive a prompt response. Lay ministry is both encouraged and supported. If you have any questions about the manner in which you might serve or would appreciate some suggestions for service, please contact Fr. John Hall.

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. Prayers are also listed on our website so anyone may join in the praying.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jean Hall

St. Matthew's Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in April of 2006 and is comprised of more than 20 women who share their passion for knitting, crocheting or weaving with others. We meet on the first and third Mondays of most months, and share a time of friendship and laughter while we create our gifts of love. Some women are not able to join us for the meetings, so they just knit or crochet at home. This year we helped with the Crisis Nursery by donating hats and scarves and many other wonderful things to very young children who are in great need. We always welcome newcomers and would love to have you join us.

Quiltz4Kids

Ann Heald

Quiltz4Kidz donates handmade quilts for children to the Suit Case Ministry. In 2011 we donated approximately 24 quilts. Our goal for 2012 is to significantly increase that number - the need is great! I would love to have more working volunteers - if you feel called please contact me!

Seminarian Report***Lauren Lenoski***

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers! I have two exciting pieces of news to share with you. The first is that I will be graduating from Church Divinity of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA on May 18. The second is that God willing and the Bishop and people consenting I will be ordained to the priesthood along with The Rev. Katherine Crawford on May 20, 2012 at Trinity Cathedral. Hope to see you there.

Senior Warden/Vestry***Lisa Bickley***

This past year at Saint Matthew's has been one of healthy growth and new programs. Father John and the Vestry have worked hard for the parish by using creative and innovative ideas to help further the mission of our church. We should be proud of their efforts. It has been both a privilege and honor to work along side Father John. He is a remarkable man who really has a vision for the future of our church and continues to devote his life to serving God and his parish. We will continue growing as God's family and with the leadership of the vestry and clergy move forward in serving Christ at our church and throughout the east valley.

United Thank Offering***Levon Rader***

United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessings of our everyday lives. Twice a year we are asked to bring our thanksgiving for the Ingathering service where it is combined with the hundreds of thousands of other Episcopalians to become the United Thank Offering.

The family of St. Matthew's collected \$60.00 in 2011.

Ushers 9:00 a.m.***Jeff Pavlica***

The 2011 Usher team had another successful year with 100% coverage on a total of 56 services.

There has been a 46% drop in the number of Ushers for the 9:00 service from 2003 to 2011 due to reasons that include: cessation of membership at St. Matthews, relocation to other states, retirement, and death- all of which has reduced our Ministry from 24 members down to 13. In the past year, four ushers served 0-3 Sundays, six ushers served 4-10 Sundays, two ushers served 11-20 Sundays, and one usher served on 23 Sundays. We would welcome any interested members of the St. Matthews congregation who would like to join us in our Ministry. Ushering is a great way to meet and greet fellow members of God's Family along with visitors who are attending for the first time, or for a special event such as baptisms. It is also a good way for Mothers and Fathers to lead their children into future roles within the church, or to spend quiet, quality time with a son, daughter, husband or wife in our choice to serve the Lord. The 9:00 Usher team plans for continued success in 2012 as we continue to welcome God's Family into St. Matthews.

Youth Education/Sunday School***Kadi Strong***

The 2011 Sunday school year was full of fun, engaging activities and games, bible stories told through different voices, and music that makes everyone want to sing along. More than 20 wonderful parishioners took time to prepare and implement active lessons to teach the children of Saint Matthew's about the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ. Children ages pre-school through high schoolers were a part of this wonderful program.

Youth Group*Mandy Hodges*

In 2011 youth group experienced several changes. Although we had 5 youth leaders resign after several years of volunteering, 4 new youth leaders began ministries in both Mission 34 (for 3rd & 4th graders) and in our junior high group. A new meeting schedule took effect in the fall which focused more on small group ministries within youth group, yielding great results in relationship building both among students and with leaders. Also new in 2011, a student-lead outreach to the homeless in Phoenix began. Each first Sunday of the month, high school students stay after church to make nearly 200 sack lunches to distribute to those in need. In addition to food, the students took it upon themselves to recruit winter clothing donations to pass out in winter months.

Youth Mission Trip*Mandy Hodges*

The high school youth group continued a 6 year tradition of summer mission trips by travelling to Las Vegas, Nevada for a week of community service in July. All in all, 26 high school students and 5 youth leaders attended this trip making it the largest mission trip yet for Saint Matthew's youth group. Students spent their time serving in food banks, working with inner-city children, visiting nursing homes, and helping pack boxes at Salvation Army. It was a wonderful, meaningful week.

Vacation Bible School*Kadi Strong*

Vacation Bible School 2011 was Pandemonium. It was full of energy, enthusiasm, and PANDA'S! Over 90 children were in attendance of which a large percentage were not members of Saint Matthew's, but rather children from the community who do not regularly attend church. And Vacation Bible School is a wonderful way to introduce Christ to young children. Much needed parish financial support made this opportunity possible.