
AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- 2018 Minutes
 - Approval of
- 2019 Budget
 - Vote
- Reports
 - Priest
 - Wardens
 - Mission
- 2019 Vestry
 - Floor Nominations
 - Vote
- Thoughts on Faith Formation
 - Deepen your Faith
- Other Business
- Closing Prayer

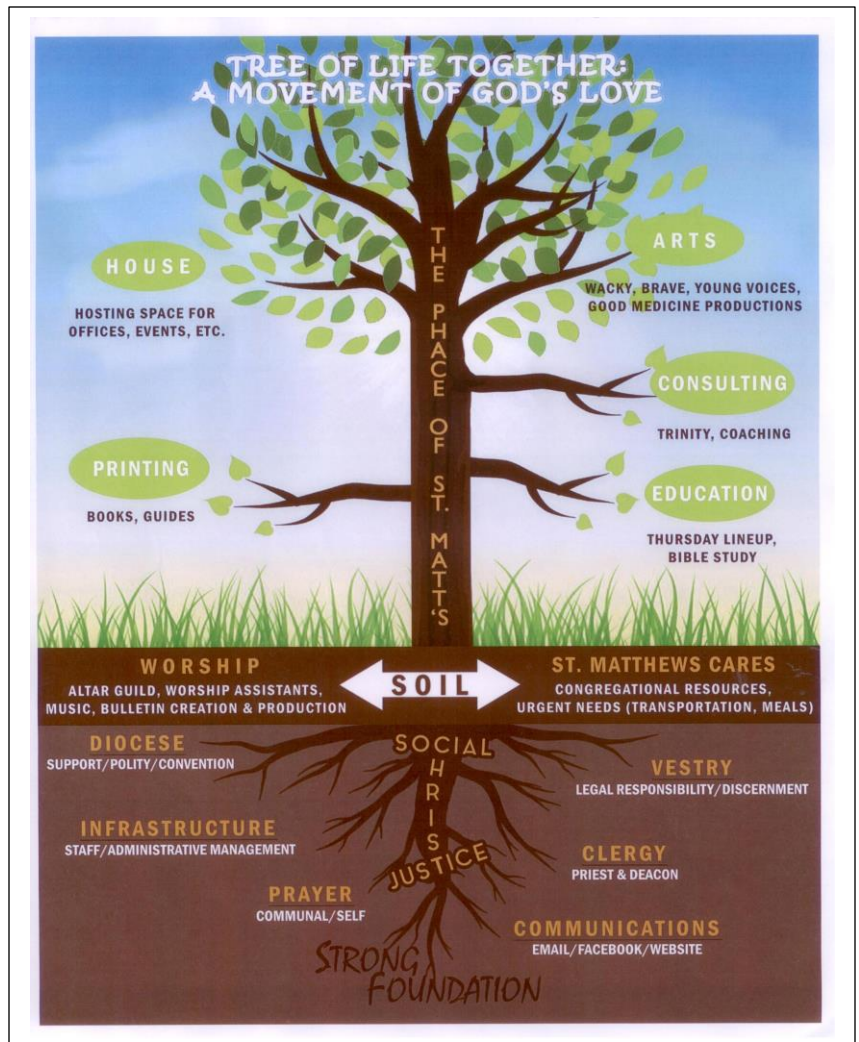
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**SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL MEETING - February 3, 2019



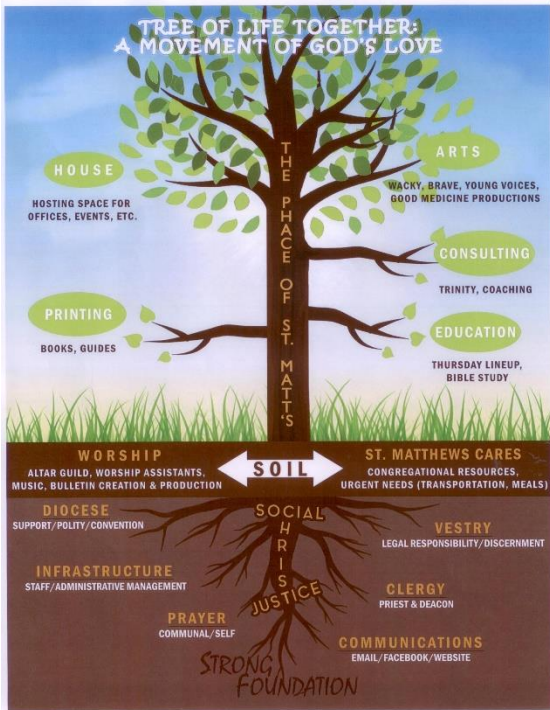
2018 – A YEAR OF RE-IMAGINING IN ACTION

2019 – A YEAR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Priest's Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This has been quite a year for laying the groundwork for St. Matthew's identity and mission. We strengthened the ties that bind us together as both congregation and community under an umbrella of Life Together that is represented as a deeply rooted tree.



You can see that the entire tree is rooted in Jesus Christ and in the rich soil that is our Episcopal identity and congregational relationships. As the tree grows into the world, the branches and fruits of our roots produce the “Phace” of St. Matthew’s in relationship to our Westerville family. “Phace” is a compiled from the first letters of five missional objectives: Printing, House, Arts, Consulting, and Education. Our identity is a complete “eco-system” of relationship, for a congregation cannot exist without the whole. I will go as far as adding the atmosphere surrounding and feeding the tree is the Holy Spirit. I celebrate that now more than ever, St. Matthew’s is recognized in Westerville as a strong partner in the movement for the common good. Our Pray Think Love Episcopal House is utilized as a welcoming space for the arts, community meetings and gatherings, and a valued mission in the growth of the Uptown. In

relation to consulting during 2018, we worked with Trinity Episcopal in Newark during their painful demolition of their building and the reimagining of their mission to the community. This opportunity to serve not only gave us an opportunity to support another congregation in transition but gave us needed experience and income to support our growing mission. In light of this, we are becoming more recognized in the diocese as a congregation reimagining the Church and community partnerships. This experience is giving birth to other opportunities for Father Joseph and St. Matthew’s to serve not only the diocese but also Bexley Seabury Episcopal Seminary in Chicago and a number of new national Episcopal initiatives. The hope is that through our “Phaces,” we will not only continue being a fresh expression of the Episcopal Church in the 21st century but also discover creative ways to fund our mission by investing more of our offerings into mission while

TREE OF LIFE TOGETHER: A MOVEMENT OF GOD'S LOVE

PSALM 1:3 (NRSV)
THEY ARE LIKE TREES
 PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER,
 WHICH YIELD THEIR FRUIT IN ITS SEASON,
 AND THEIR LEAVES DO NOT WITHER,
 IN ALL THAT THEY DO, THEY PROSPER.

JEREMIAH 17:8 (NRSV)
THEY SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY WATER,
 SENDING OUT ITS ROOTS BY THE STREAM.
 IT SHALL NOT FEAR WHEN HEAT COMES,
 AND ITS LEAVES SHALL STAY GREEN;
 IN THE YEAR OF DROUGHT IT IS NOT ANXIOUS,
 AND IT DOES NOT CEASE TO BEAR FRUIT.

OUR TAP ROOT AS METAPHOR AND ANALOGY - CHRIST AS OUR TAP ROOT*

- A tap root is unseen - Faith is "unseen" but witnessed
- A tap root is strong - God is our stronghold
- It is a common trait of all plants - All Christians claim Christ
- It distributes water and nutrients - Scripture, Tradition, and Reason
- It anchors the plant - Christ is the anchor (Hebrews 8:13)
- It re-sprouts; nearly impossible to destroy - Resurrection and rebirth!

OTHER ROOTS - THE FOUNDATION OF THE TREE COMING OFF THE TAP ROOT
 THE TAP SENDS OUT OTHER ROOTS TO STRENGTHEN AND SECURE THE TREE IN ITS PLACE. THE ST. MATT'S ROOT SYSTEM IS MADE UP OF:

- Diocese (Support/polyty/convention)
- Clergy (Priest and Deacon)
- Vestry (Legal representation/discernment)
- Infrastructure (Staff - sexton, office, musicians; administrative management - ChurchTrac)
- Prayer (Corporate and individual)
- Communications (Email, Facebook, website)

THE THRIVING TREE OF LIFE TOGETHER - THE "PHACE OF ST. MATTHEW'S"

- Publishing (Books, devotionals, etc.)
- House (Hosting space for offices, events, meetings, movies, etc)
- Arts (WACKY, Brave Young Voices, Good Medicine Productions, etc)
- Consulting (Trinity Newark, Coaching)
- Education (Thursday lineup: Pub Theology, Lectio, Read & Feed, Storytelling, Early/AfterWORKS)

THE SOIL THAT PROTECTS AND BINDS THE TREE ABOVE AND THE ROOTS BELOW

- Corporate Worship (Altar Guild, worship assistants, music, bulletin creation and production)
- St. Matthew's Cares (Congregational resources, immediate needs - meals and transportation)

***EMBODIED IN THE TAP ROOT IS SOCIAL JUSTICE - THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE; AND IT PERMEATES ALL WE DO TO BRING ABOUT OUR MISSIONAL ASPIRATIONS TO BE IN THE COMMUNITY.**

maintaining a full time priest and part time staff. Needless to say, 2018 was an amazing witness to the growth in mission that we are determined to maintain and being a church that holds to the best of our Episcopal identity while also evolving every day into reimagined vistas. Thank you, St. Matthew's community, for being the amazing followers of Jesus that you are!

Now, on to 2019! I look forward with anticipation as construction begins on making our Episcopal House more able to serve not only our greater community but our spiritual needs as well. Most importantly, I am committing this coming year as the year of Faith Formation. As more of our St. Matthew's community serve the common good of Westerville in the name of Christ, I want to invest my energies and priestly mission into equipping the saints for the work of the Gospel. I value the 115 folks who call St. Matthew's their spiritual home, and it is now time for us to aid each of you in the deepening of our faith and life in Jesus Christ. As you pray, think, and love as a wonderful inclusive and welcoming Episcopal community of Jesus Christ, let us commit to **grow in learning/applying scripture, refine our ability to use our intellect, learn our tradition, and share our experiences.** See below for my invitation to join the Faith Formation Movement in 2019:

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St. Matthew's call to the deep work of faith:

FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THEIR DAILY LIFE AND WORK
A Faith Formation Movement: For our Families, Friends, and Neighbors
2019

My Brothers and Sisters of St. Matthew's,

How is your faith these days? When you pray, worship, and follow Jesus in your daily life, how equipped do you feel? These questions relate to our Christian Formation, and it is imperative to grow in our knowledge of God and the witness to Jesus Christ through deepening prayer, expansive thought, and total love. So, let's have 2019 be a year of Christian Formation. We have already shared the St. Matthew's Bible Challenge for those who have the desire to join together and read the entire Bible in a year. Yet each of us learn and grow in different ways, and it will be important to offer various ways to encounter the living Christ. Borrowing from the three-legged stool (plus one addition from John Wesley), our spiritual formation will commence in four quadrants: Scripture, Reason, Tradition, and Experience.

Throughout 2019, there will be opportunities both personal and group related that will seek to encourage and challenge each of us to a deeper walk with Jesus Christ. Within each Formation experience we will incorporate three movements coinciding with our Pray, Think, Love rhythm as Church. Thus, our Formation may look like this:

Quadrant One: Scripture: One Word to inspire them all

Holy Scriptures of the OT and NT, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, containing all things necessary to salvation.

The OT reveals God's mighty acts in creation, the deliverance of the people of Israel from bondage in Egypt, and the making of the old covenant with the chosen people. God's saving will for his people is made known in the OT through the gift of the Law in the Ten Commandments and through the witness of the prophets. The OT is also known as the "Hebrew Scriptures." The NT describes the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, whose coming was foretold in the OT. It also tells the story of the creation of the Christian church through the gift of the Holy Spirit and presents the new covenant, based on love, which is the new relationship with God given by Jesus Christ to all who believe in him. (BCP, pp. 850-851).

Q2: Reason - Bringing together varied perspectives into coherence, revelation, and culture

Each one of us, with God's help, makes a decision about how we use tradition and Scripture in our lives. A personal relationship with God allows us to realize and celebrate our lives to the fullest. The gift of reason, as a complement to Scripture and tradition, leads us to seek answers to our own questions and to grow spiritually. Being active in a community of faith strengthens us to carry our faith into the world. Weaving Scripture, tradition and reason together, we strengthen our faith and grow as children of God. (Connections, August 28, 2017)

Q3: Tradition - In Church, Word, and Sacrament

We are not Christians in isolation but are part of a living faith that spans 2000 years. Tradition is the embodiment of our experience as Christians throughout the centuries. The heart of our tradition is expressed through the Bible, the Creeds (statements of faith, written in the first centuries of the Church's existence), the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism and the ordained ministry passed on by Christ to his Church.

Our tradition is expressed with many voices, among which are a variety of worship styles, languages, cultures, architecture and music. Our tradition encourages this diversity. We seek to value the life and story each person brings to the community of faith. As in a multi-textured tapestry, each person's offering is woven into the life of the whole, making it stronger and more beautiful. (Connections, August 28, 2017)

Q4: Experience - This is realized in community - lived in relationship through radical hospitality

As Irenaeus wrote, "the glory of God is *humanity* fully alive," and it is here we invite a perspective from John Wesley who was assured of both justification and sanctification because he had **experienced** them in his own life. Although traditional proof is complex, experience is simple: "One thing I know; I was blind, but now I see." Although tradition establishes the evidence a long way off, experience makes it present to all persons. As for the proof of justification and sanctification Wesley states that Christianity is an experience of holiness and

happiness, the image of God impressed on a created spirit, a fountain of peace and love springing up into everlasting life. (Wiki)

The goal of our Spiritual Formation is to connect our worship, prayer, study, and life into deeper love for God, our neighbor, and self. I encourage all of us to grow in faith, hope, and love so that we can pray, think, and love our way to a courageous and confident Church life. As priest of St. Matthew's, and in partnership with Mother Abby and Deacon Douglas, we commit to invest our spiritual leadership in these quadrants as St. Matthew's grows into a new chapter of faith.

In Christ,

Father Joseph Kovitch

Assisting Priest's Report

Highlights of Ministry - 2018

My ministry was driven by two factors envisioned by the Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Dr. Joseph G. Kovitch: 1. "Giving ourselves away" and 2. "All in with Fr. Joseph".

"Giving ourselves away" was in solidarity with our sister congregation of Trinity, Newark who was in transition in ministry with the demolition of their 125 year-old building because it was costly to repair and unsafe for worship. I became part of the ministry of St Matthew's in "giving ourselves away" to Trinity. For about a year, I served the congregation that is now worshipping in the parish hall. The experience was spiritually rewarding. The opportunity bonded me further in relationship, worship, love and fellowship with the congregation that I already knew. The members, in turn, participated in activities of St. Matthew's including supporting PIMIL in the annual July fundraising by donating a "basket" for the Silent Auction sale. Consequently Cynthia Johnson became PIMIL's contact of the congregation, for which we are grateful.

"All in with Fr. Joseph" allowed me to a continuous commitment with the ministry at St. Matthew's under the leadership of Fr. Joseph, who renewed his contract with the congregation. My ministry at St. Matthew's includes sacramental, educational, spiritual and administrative activities in the of the church: I participated in the celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, baptism duties

. I assisted in the preparation of the candidates for Holy Confirmation in November. I participated in the program of reflection of the "Word" I am a member of the Prayer Team, and I participate in the outreach ministry of In His Place. Finally, I am the Director of PIMIL - Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia, the annual fundraising in July, which takes place at St. Philip Episcopal Church, Columbus. The annual event raises funds to assist the children that include Ebola orphans to attend school. PIMIL is a long time St. Matthew's outreach ministry.

In conclusion, my grateful thanks to God for the community of St. Matthew's that gives me the opportunity to serve Him and humanity, locally and globally. I pray for the strengthening power of God and His wisdom that I might continue to do His will through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to God's glory alone!

Mother (Abby) Abeoseh Flemister
Volunteer Assisting Priest (Retired)

Deacon's Report
St. Matthew's Episcopal House and Congregation
2018 Annual Report

I have been able to serve more regularly at St. Matthew's and have been preaching more as well. Together with Fa. Joseph, I collaborated on creating an Advent liturgy that honored the Mystery of God and invited the congregation into more of a reflective attitude than the usual "expectation" attitude of the typical Episcopal season.

As of this report, I have contributed to a Lenten exercise for the Stations of the Cross that will include formation discussion for Afterwards through Lent.

I continue to build more substantial relationships with the congregation and look forward to more of that in 2019.

My other diaconal work continues to include:

- being the Managing Director at COHHIO
- teaching prayer practices to deacon students for the DSO
- president for the Association for Episcopal Deacons
- providing spiritual direction
- teaching prayer practices for Wellstreams, a spiritual direction training program in Columbus

Submitted by Deacon Douglas Argue

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Westerville OH
January 28, 2018

Present: The Rev. Dr. Joseph Kovitch, Priest-In-Charge; The Rev. Deacon Douglas Argue; Clifton Flemister, Sr. Warden; Robert Zust & Jerrilynn Kaiser, Jr. Wardens; Donna Johnston, Secretary to the Vestry; Rebecca Wright, Robert Hayes, Harold Patrick, Bryan Swift, Mary Beth Ingram, Vestry members; Doug McCann, Suzanne Studer, Joyce Grimes, Glenn Myres, Angie French, Debbie Wiedwald, Betsy Kintz, Emily Savors, Marsha Adkins, Marti Heyman, Jeralyn Felts, Lindsay Smith, Tom Wright, Mark Hopper, Lori Nesser, Jeanne Tolford, George Tolford, Sandra Young, Sandra Weismer, parish members; Jim Murray, Diocesan Commission On Congregational Life member.

The annual meeting of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was called to order at 12:05 PM, in our worship space on the third floor of the Old Bag of Nails Restaurant. Fr. Joseph offered opening prayer. Donna Johnston was appointed secretary for the Annual Meeting.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were moved/seconded by Mary Beth Ingram/Jerrilynn Kaiser for approval. Motion carried.

2017 Treasurer's Report: It was moved / seconded by Harold Patrick / Becca Wright to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. It was noted that Doug McCann and John Zajac would be performing the financial audit for 2017. Following discussion and some clarification, the motion carried.

2018 Proposed Budget (Doug McCann): It was moved/seconded by Marsha Adkins / Emily Savors that the 2018 Proposed Budget be approved for 2018. During discussion it was noted that pledged income figure was result of increase showing on pledge cards; Diocesan funding for remodel of The Pray-Think-Love House will allow for usage income and that policies for use of the meeting space in The House were being developed; Fr. Joseph's pension has been caught up through 2017; the COCL grant will decrease by 20% beginning in 2019; Fr. Joseph continues to work as consultant with Trinity-Newark. Following discussion, motion carried.

Annual Reports:

- **Priest's Report:** Fr. Joseph expressed his joy of the many blessings, unique experience, opportunities, and warmth of St Matthew's. The Annual Report was commended to the parishioners for information on group and committee activities within St. Matthew's.

- **Warden's Report:**
 - o Clifton Flemister wants to start printing press business to bring income to St. Matthew's, with plans in place. He is both happy and enthusiastic about the progress St. Matthew's has made toward stability.
 - o Robert Zust, speaking for Jerrilynn Kaiser and himself, thanked the congregation for the many gifts and talents shared, commended the congregation to all be leaders.
- **Mission:** Bob Hayes, who lead the Process Team/Re-Imaging group thanked the participants and briefly explained the process of how the group arrived at five areas of parish interest listed in the Annual Report, adding that better definition of these areas and a plan of implementation were being developed and would be in place by the end of 2018.
- Jim Murray commented on the many blessings at St. Matthew's, the welcoming atmosphere, and the unbelievable level of energy in the parish, and that we had the full support of the Diocese in the work we were doing; he commended St. Matt's to continue with its outreach and support to other parishes struggling as we had with our innovative and creative approaches to many issues.

2018 Vestry & Convention Delegates:

- **Vestry:** Doug McCann was nominated from the floor for a three year Vestry term. There being no further nominations, it was moved/seconded by Marsha Adkins/Betsy Kintz that Doug be elected to the Vestry. Motion carried. Beginning in 2019, a rotation of staggered one, two, and three year terms will be used to rotate off the Vestry members who have been serving extended terms with the permission of the Bishop. Those current Vestry members include Sr. Warden Clifton Flemister, Jr. Wardens Robert Zust and Jerrilynn Kaiser, Mary Beth Ingram, Charlene Gregory, Robert Hayes, Harold Patrick, Rebecca Wright, and Bryan Swift. Donna Johnston will continue as Secretary, with the Vestry's approval.
- **The Delegates to Convention** nominees were Clifton Flemister & Harold Patrick for one year terms, Mary Beth Ingram and Kevin Aldridge for two year terms, Tom & Rebecca Wright as alternates. During discussion it was noted that anyone could go and be seated at convention, but only the delegates would have voting power. It was moved / seconded by Betsy Kintz / Angie French that the slate of delegates and alternates be elected as presented. Motion carried.

Life Together Presentation: Glenn Myres gave a presentation on the "Life Together" program, which will be used to continue building on the relationships that held St. Matthew's together during its journey, through social interaction, fellowship and sharing our stories and history with one another.

There being no further business to come before the parish members, it was moved / seconded by Marsha Adkins / Betsy Kintz that the Annual Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, and was adjourned following closing prayer offered by Deacon Douglas Argue.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Johnston, Secretary to the Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report for 2018

Pledged and Plate income at the end of the year was about 19% lower than budgeted. Downstairs office space leasing income from Uptown Westerville produced 36% of our budgeted House revenue. The PTL House renovation work was delayed and did not start in 2018. The renovation delay prevented our leasing of the two remaining upstairs offices.

Repair work on the air conditioning and furnace equipment totaling \$ 1,500 was not a budgeted expense. The PTL House HVAC equipment is less than five years old and is not likely to require ongoing repairs.

Our PTL House Insurance and the Gas & Electric utility bills were 41% higher than budgeted. The increased insurance cost is driven by square footage and anticipated use. With 2018 behind us, we have a better feel for what these costs will be going forward.

In anticipation of the increased utilization of the PTL House as a worship space and as a community even space, an alarm system was installed. Additionally, 75 stackable chairs were purchased to make better use of the PTL House floor space. Both the alarm system and the stackable chair costs were subsidized by designated gifts.

Our ongoing refugee family support continues. We purchased a replacement used car for Shina and 50% of the replacement car cost was paid for through designated gifts.

The goods news is that despite the reduced income and despite the unanticipated expenses, we ended the year in the black. (Just barely)

Hat's off to our staff, volunteers and parish membership for making this a successful year.

The 2017 Parish Financial Audit using the new questionnaire format was completed and submitted to the DSO on time at the end August. The Diocese was quite impressed with the level of detail we submitted.

Submitted by:
Doug McCann

Financial Reports

ST MATTHEW'S EOY 2018		Income	ST. MATT'S ESTIMATED 2019 EXPENSES		Operational
		Operational			2019
2018 Other Support Income (Inactive)	\$30,225		Monthly Service Fee		-\$744
COCL Grant Income	\$65,000		Square Transaction Fee		-\$50
Offerings Income	\$89,406		Life Together Expense		-\$100
2018 Rental Income Category	\$3,600		Misc Expenses		-\$557
			Mission Share Expense		-\$7,966
			Music Fund Expenses		-\$1,000
INCOME received in 2018	\$188,231		Office Supplies Expense		-\$1,162
			Office Supplies-Copier Expense		-\$5,529
			Pastor's Education Expense		-\$1,500
			PAYROLL Expenses Rector Salary		-\$30,800
			PAYROLL Expenses Rector's Housing		-\$33,000
			PAYROLL Expenses- Rector's phone		-\$641
			PAYROLL Expenses-Rector FICA Reim		-\$4,000
			PAYROLL Expenses-Rector Medical		-\$28,024
			PAYROLL Expenses-Rector's Pension		-\$9,251
			Pension Related Loan (2018)		-\$4,650
			PAYROLL Expenses - Musical Staff		-\$16,500
			PAYROLL Expenses - Clerical/Administrative		-\$13,000
			PAYROLL Expenses- Sexton Compensation		-\$10,000
			PAYROLL Expenses-Employer Taxes		-\$2,779
			Community House Mktg-Expense		-\$1,200
			Community House-Insurance Expense		-\$2,064
			Community House Upkeep Expense		-\$6,902
			Postage Expenses		-\$87
			Storage Expenses		-\$1,164
			Utilities-Electric,Gas,Telephone,TV		-\$5,461
			Workers Comp Expenses		-\$151
			Worship Supplies-Expenses		-\$1,536
			Construction Loan repayment		-\$3,600
			ST. MATT'S ESTIMATED 2019 EXPENSES		-\$193,418

Note for 2019 Financials:

Estimated Income	\$186,060
Estimated Expenses	<u>-\$193,418</u>
Estimated Balance	-\$7,358

Balance Sheet 2018

REVENUE			
	PLEDGE		89,631
	PLATE		
	COCL		65,000
	BISHOP 2016/TRINITY 2018		30,000
	TRINITY 2017		
	HOUSE REVENUE		3,600
TOTAL REVENUE			188,231
EXPENSE			
	SALARIES & BENEFITS		
		Rector	106,547
		Rector Pension	
		Pension repayment	
		Office Staff / Sexton	38,805
		Musician Sunday	1,457
		Musician Community	
		PR Tax & WC	
		Discretionary Expenses	1,294
		Workers Comp	151
	PROPERTY, PLANT, & EQUIP		
		Rent/House Exp.	6,839
		Insurance	2,064
		Utilities	5,663
		IT / Copier / Phones	5,532
	SUPPLIES		
		Printing	
		Office Supplies & Misc	1,178
		Postage	
		Worship Supplies	1,535
	OUTREACH & FORMATION		
	LIFE TOGETHER		654
	MISCELLANEOUS		
		Bank Fees / Audit	744
		Other (contingency)	4,739
		Storage	1,164
	MISSION SHARE		7,470
TOTAL EXPENSE			185,836
NET INCOME (LOSS)			2,395

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings!

Once again great things were done at St. Matthew's during the year. The Year of Growth.

- During 2018 we consolidated our Uptown Activities through the Pray.Think.Love House.
- The House has become a fixture in Uptown.
- We defined the St. Matt's ministries.
- We went out into the community to take part in Social Justice programs.
- Once again, we stepped up our Music Program.
- We gained more exposure throughout the Diocese of Southern Ohio and other Dioceses for our excursion into reimagining what the new church will look like.
- Father Joseph and members of the Consulting team worked with Trinity, Newark in helping them through the loss of their building. They have started the process, under his guidance, to find ways to reimagining their life in the Newark community. More work will be done this year.
- Besides our Life Together here at St. Matthew's, the five areas our outreach ministry have been commissioned. These were developed over the last 3 years by the Reimagining Team lead by Bob Hayes. They are known as our PHACE Ministries. The five areas started operation in 2018.

The five areas are:

- Printing
 - House
 - Arts
 - Consulting
 - Education.
- A contract was signed for the renovation of the PTL House. A little over 50% of the renovation cost is being provided by the Church Foundation of the Diocese. The remainder will be funded by St. Matt's through a long-term loan. Details will be provided in another section of the annual report.
 - His Place at St. John's Town Street continues to provide meals for the needy. St. Matt's is a major part of that program, providing, what some say, are the best meals of any participating churches.
 - Partner-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL) out did itself in 2018. It grew by 20% in 2018.

What do we do in 2019? We continue to grow the programs from 2018. Also, we introduce new programs that are built on the foundation mentioned above.

Most importantly, we will develop St. Matt's Christian Formation programs. As defined by the National Episcopal Church, "Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation."

Let us make this is our challenge, and direction of growth, in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clifton L. Flemister

Internal Ministries

St. Matthew's Music Ministry Annual Report 2018

This past year has been a year of major changes and transitions for our music and worship life. Right around the 80th birthday celebration of our music director, Sondra Young, we found out that Sondra would be making a transition to move to London, Ohio to be near her children and grandchildren. We are so grateful for the years that Sondra led our music and shared her gifts with our choir and our worshipping community! We celebrated a wonderful servant and her 80th birthday and bid her farewell in July of this past year.

On the first Sunday of August, Lindsay Smith began his work playing for weekly 10:30 worship and in September our choir got to work rehearsing at 56 Gibson Place (the home of JoAnn and Lindsay Smith) on Thursday evenings! I enjoy sharing and teaching new music to our choir and try to balance those challenges with music that is a part of our choir's heritage and experience. We have been blessed by the continued dedication of our choir and several new choir members who have joined our fellowship!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the folks who helped us on Christmas Eve 2018 with our Christmas Gift to St. Matt's and the community. Mary Beth Ingram, Phil Richcreek, Patrick Park, (cellist) Tim Smith and April Smith (flute) all came together to share their gifts and set the scene for Christmas Eve worship that was standing room only!

As we look forward to 2019 and the weekly opportunities to encourage others in worship, and to express our faith through music, our God (the 3 in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit), continues to inspire us through the Word and the poetic texts we find to illuminate the Gospel.

Something that many of you have not heard much about is on the horizon at St. Matt's! Father Joseph is our leader and we are very excited about a new "*dinner church*" concept worship that a small team of St. Matt's folks have been envisioning and working on. We are going to be calling it "**THE TABLE**". The concept of "a dinner church" has been taking hold around the country and has been reaching people that either have never darkened the door of the church or who have become disillusioned with the trappings or conflicts they experienced between their own understandings of what it means to be the church and the experiences they have had in the church. Everyone is welcome to *come to THE TABLE!* We will be asking for help especially with inviting folks and bringing them with you to *THE TABLE!* To get started we will be meeting once a month on the third Sunday of the month! First date is February 17th with a 5:00 prep/set-up start time and dinner and worship begins at 5:30 (done by 6:30)! I hope you will pray for this new beginning and also pray who God may be calling you to invite into our fellowship by inviting them to **THE TABLE!**

My thanks to all of the people who have helped me as I began my work among all of you. Special thanks to Bill Phythyon who is always willing and at the ready and sets up for worship every week, Clifton Flemister, whose patience with me and careful preparation of all the liturgy and music we sing each week as a congregation inspires me! Mother Abeoseh, whose passion

for Christ and commitment to PIMIL and our church is a HUGE bright light, and last but not least, Father Joseph Kovitch, whose gracious, thoughtful and gentle guidance means the world to me and all of us! **We are all so blessed in our community with many gifts and servant leaders that God's love has brought together. If I can help you share your gifts among us, please contact me!**

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Smith

Prayer Partners

Prayer partners got off to a great start on September 23 with 18 people – 10 women and eight men! We were concerned about how to establish the pairs, so we put names in two hats and let the Holy Spirit guide the pairings as we pulled the names. We were AMAZED how the Spirit worked in establishing the pairs.

Four of the pairs have had very little connection for various reasons. But the other five pairs have been thrilled with the communication and rapport that have been built. Among these five pairs, relationships are being built and trust is growing as they share with each other.

At the outset, we agreed to try the pairings for six months. At the end of the six months, people can stay with the partner they have, ask for another partner, or opt out. We plan to make this assessment in March. And of course, new people are always welcome.

Submitted by,
Glenn Myres

Prayer Team

A Prayer Team was established during the summer to oversee all the aspects of prayer opportunities at St. Matthew's. Team members include Sandra Weisner, Glenn Myres, Rebecca Wright, Rick Kohut, Bryan Swift, Mother Abby Flemister, Jerrilynn Kaiser, Gerrie Zust, and Marie Kovitch.

We began a Prayer Partner program in September and several pairings were formed. Glenn will keep communicating with the partners, and we will tweak as necessary in the Spring 2019.

Prayer request forms are now available each Sunday for people to fill out with space for their request and whether it should be public or kept confidential to the clergy who presiding on that given Sunday.

We now have 4 prayer intercessors who volunteer for people to approach after communion each Sunday to pray with them - Gerrie Zust, Bryan Swift, Sandra Weisner, and Angie French – usually with one or two of them available each week.

Prayer retreats will be formed from this Team. An Advent retreat scheduled did not get enough response to hold, and we realized we needed to advertise in a different way for the next one to be held in Lent 2019.

The details of a Prayer Space at the Pray Think Love House has been discussed at our meetings, and we await construction plan information before adding the space in Father Joe's office.

The Prayer Chain continues to be updated and emailed on a routine basis to those people on the Prayer Chain Team (there is some overlap of Prayer Team members; not everyone is on both teams). Debbie Wiedwald and Marie Kovitch update the bulletin and Eblast each week with new prayer requests.

Sandra Weisner weekly informs 3 Westerville leaders, businesses, and churches that St. Matthew's will pray for them publicly on the following Sunday.

We welcome anyone to join us with their ideas and support!

Submitted by:

Marie Kovitch and Sandra Weisner, facilitators

External Ministries

Including the PHACE Ministries:

- Printing
- House (Pray.Think.Love House)
- Arts
- Consulting
- Education

2018 PIMIL Council Report

The Ministry of Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL) is entering its 14th year of operation in 2019 and the 10th year of the Annual Fundraising. The mission of the ministry is the following:

- Demonstrating Jesus' Love
- Restoring Hope
- Transforming Lives
- Enabling Dreams
- Building Liberia
- Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (expanded from the original MDGs) of the United Nations

Leadership – Oversight of the ministry is provided by the PIMIL Council of 14 volunteers from area congregations presided over by a Chair. After a decade of the leadership of Harold Patrick, as Chair, the Council unanimously elected Jerrilynn Kaiser as the next Chair, both of St. Matthew's. The PIMIL Council filled positions that had gone unfulfilled for a considerable length of time: Secretary, Rachel Friend of Trinity Columbus and Treasurer, Debbie Wiedwald, Associate Member of St. Matthew's. Looking ahead for the financial sustainability of PIMIL the Council established the Endowment Fund of PIMIL of which Harold Patrick graciously consented to be the Chair. A couple of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Dublin donated \$2000 toward the PIMIL'S Mission Trip as their contribution toward the Trip because of family matters they could not make the trip as anticipated. With their consent, the funds will be used as the seed money toward the Endowment Funds We are grateful to all for the service demonstrated toward the progress of PIMIL.

Other Highlights of the year were the following:

The first Mission Trip to Liberia in April from the 10th – 20th - The theme was "*Building Relationships*". The delegation, of five, which included a Muslim couple, visited four of the thirteen locations of the PIMIL'S ministry. The delegation was greeted enthusiastically and was presented gifts. The delegation conducted workshops whereby the students, the parents, guardians and community leaders ask questions of the ministry and they interacted with the delegation. The delegation had the opportunity to observe the students in their learning environments. As an outcome of the trip, the organization, Association of PIMIL – Liberia has been established. The mission of the organization is "To Share Jesus' Love of PIMIL in Liberia". The goal is to be the leadership counterpart to the PIMIL Council, the governing body of PIMIL in the United States.

Sponsorship of students - One hundred and fifty students were sponsored in the 2017 /2018 academic year. Seventy-one- (71) students were Ebola affected. The theme of this year's annual fundraising was "*Stewards of God's Abundance*" culled from **The Prayers of the People** on page 329 of the Book of Common Prayer. Representatives of the mission trip were

the Speakers at the fundraising. The event was held for the first time at St. Philip Episcopal Church, Columbus, the new venue of the July event that was held on the 21st. We welcome the generosity of the Rev. Charles E. Wilson, Jr., Rector and the members of St. Philip Episcopal Church, Columbus as the new home of the annual PIMIL event. The fundraising was very successful. The fundraising goal for the year was \$10,000. The amount realized was over \$12,000.

The previous venue of the fundraising for the last three years (2015-2017) was St. John's Episcopal Church, Worthington. Because the attendance exceeded the capacity (95) persons of the building code, PIMIL sought another venue. PIMIL expresses grateful thanks to the Rev. Philip A. College, Rector, and the members of St. John's, Worthington for the hospitality toward PIMIL.

Grants –

The Liberian Episcopalian Community in the United States (LECUSA) has committed a three year annual grant of \$700 for the support of the Ebola orphans in Mbaloma, a rural Episcopal mission station. This is the second year of PIMIL receiving the funds for which we are grateful. Your humble servants, Clifton and Mother Abby belong to this organization.

A donation of \$200 was received from the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis Province of the Americas with headquarter in California. The Order heard of our ministry through a PIMIL's article submitted to the Diocesan Newspaper, Connections and became interested in our mission; they having supported ministry in Liberia before.

A very generous grant of \$1500 from the Sisters of Saint Gregory, nation-wide, through the initiative of a Sister of St. Gregory in the Diocese was received. The grant will allow 30 more Ebola affected students to attend school in the 2018/2019 academic year.

A Grant application of \$7000 was submitted to the National & World Mission Commission of the Diocese was submitted to the Bishop's office for 2019. We are hopeful that the grant will be granted.

The Chair of the PIMIL Council and of PIMIL is donating proceeds from her JP Candies business toward the support of PIMIL. PIMIL is grateful for this and other levels of interest toward the ministry.

The PIMIL Council Annual Christmas Fellowship Party – The PIMIL Council 2nd Annual Christmas Fellowship Party was held at the home of member, Caroline Fraker in Westerville. Grateful thanks and appreciation to Caroline and her husband, Tim for hosting the event in their lovely home. The evening was relaxing and fun from the business-like atmosphere of meetings.

The Annual Appreciation Gifts – The following persons were awarded the annual PIMIL'S Appreciation Gifts at the July Fundraising. They received a frame of the Mission of PIMIL:

- Harold Patrick – outgoing Chair of PIMIL
- Deryck Richardson – host of the annual event
- Clifton Flemister – Coordinator of the Mission trip to Liberia
- Mother Abby Flemister – Leader of the Mission Trip
- Lubna & Mohammed Ahmad – Member Mission Trip
- Jerrilynn Kaiser – Member, Mission Trip
- Madeleine Trichel – Member, Mission Trip
- Kerry Wimsatt – Provider of Tickets for the PIMIL’S Annual Fundraising
- Nikki Wimsatt & Family – Provider of American Menu for the Annual Luncheon at the Fundraising

The PIMIL Council presented The Sisters of Saint Gregory gifts for their generous donation to the PIMIL. Each of the six Sisters received the DVD, *“Pray the Devil Back to Hell”*, a liberation document of the women in Liberia’s initiative in ending the Civil War of 1989 to 2004.

Communication – The quarterly Newsletter and the Website (still needing assistance) continue to be our connections with the PIMIL family and publicity for which we are grateful.

2019 Plans – 2019 is PIMIL’S 10th year in hosting the fundraising. We look forward to the 10th event being special in having the Coordinator of the Ebola orphans’ program in Liberia, the Rev. John W. Sackie, Sr. as the guest speaker. The theme of the 2019 fundraising year is *“Bloom Where You Are Planted”* based on Jesus’s Parable of the *Five Talents* (Matthew 25:14-30). The fundraising goal is \$15,000. The date of the July Fundraising is Saturday, July 20th, 2019 from 12:30 -3:30 p.m. at St. Philip Episcopal Church, Columbus, Ohio.

Conclusion – In conclusion PIMIL expresses thanks and appreciation to the Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew’s, the Rev. Dr. Joseph G. Kovitch for his continue support of PIMIL, the vestry and members of the congregation, the sponsors and supporters of PIMIL in the United States and in Liberia. Because of their dedicated commitment of the ministry, PIMIL continues to contribute to the educational needs of the students in Liberia.

Submitted by:

Jerrilynn Kaiser, PIMIL Chair &
Rev. Abeoseh (Abby) Flemister, PIMIL Director

Becoming Beloved Community

The diocesan-wide Becoming Beloved Community invitation for us to grow together as people who love God and love the image of God that we find in one another and in creation was officially endorsed by resolution on November 3, 2018. The resolution was preceded by a year-long period of planning by members of the Becoming Beloved Community Task Force.

On the other hand, St. Matthew's has continued our unofficial Becoming Beloved Community work of expressing radical love and hospitality in Uptown Westerville. St. Matthew's also continues its relationship with our refugee family by offering various forms of support. This relationship has resulted in the creation of a welcoming environment and place of safety for the family. In conversations with Shina, the father, he refers to St. Matthew's as his "church family" and he finds comfort in the welcoming space when he and the children visit the Pray-Think-Love house. The family has been in the U.S. for approximately four and a half years. During this time, the oldest child has graduated from high school and is attending Otterbein University on a full scholarship. The two younger children are both in high school and on track for graduating with intentions to attend college.

St. Matthew's has been blessed with a wonderful richness as a result of our growing relationship and is excited to continue our journey toward Becoming Beloved Community.

Submitted by:

Cherie Patrick

HIS PLACE Ministry in 2018

HIS PLACE is an Episcopal ministry serving home cooked dinners to homeless and low income people on the near west side of Columbus. St. Matthews continues to be a part of this ministry, located at St. John Episcopal Church on West Town Street in Columbus. We serve family style dinners to approximately 120 guests four times a year. St. Matthews has participated in this ministry for many, many years.

The meals we provide include barbeque chicken, pork tenderloin, lemon chicken breast and roast turkey at Thanksgiving, as well as delicious, healthy side dishes, including au gratin potatoes, chopped salad, green bean casserole and dessert. I try to keep our budget for food purchases at \$250. Of course, for our Thanksgiving dinner offering, the folks of St. Matthews generously provide turkeys and pumpkin pies.

I have been told that we are a favorite at St. Johns because we always provide milk to go with our dinners. It is gratifying to see all the different members of St. Matthews who sign up to help prepare and serve these dinners. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other better. I kept our commitment at 4 times a year for 2019, but there are certainly opportunities to increase our participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Adkins

St. Matthew's Press Report in 2018

Printing PHACE

During 2018 the printing PHACE moved from the development and planning stage to the operational stage.

The first order of business was to procure equipment and supplies. My mid-year, most of the equipment was in place. It was set up at the Pray.Think.Love House, in an unused room. The set up used less space than was originally expected. While the space is only temporary, it did give us time to practice and learn about the printing process.

The printing process we use is known as "Perfect Printing". This is the type of printing used in paperback books. It can also be used in a form of hardback books.

Since going into actual production in September, we have completed 5 publication projects. Two of the publications actually generated some income. Projects underway include a journal that St. Matthew's will publish on a semi-annual basis dedicated to our journey along the Re-imagining the Church path.

Once the PTL House is renovated, St. Matthew's Press will have to find a new home. It will need about 200 square feet to house equipment and supplies.

Submitted by:

Kevin Aldridge and Clifton Flemister

PTL House in 2018 **House PHACE**

It has been 23 months since we moved to 30 East College Avenue. During this time our PTL House has been transformed into a safe and accessible gathering space for Spiritual Growth and Wellness programs, Poetry readings, and drawing/sketching space for kid's art, rehearsal spaces for a children's community choir, and for the performance arts.

Highlights of 2018 PTL House activities:

❖ Wellness & Spiritual Growth:

- Soto Zen Meditation Wednesday nights
- Grief Therapy Method – Ten week Program - Scheduled by announcement
- Qi gong stretching exercises – Saturday Mornings
- Poetry Reading & Meditation – Saturday Mornings

❖ Drawing and Painting Art & the Performance Arts:

- WackyArts for Kids (Westerville Arts Council) - Published schedule
- Good Medicine Productions – Uptown Scrooge Nov/Dec.
- Braving Young Voices – Youth Theater Performance training – by annual invitation.
- Westerville Community Choir rehearsal space - Monday nights

❖ Community Activities:

- Uptown Cookie Walk – (Uptown Westerville Inc) In February each year
- Westerville **Tapestry of our town Tour** - Westerville Visitors Bureau. By announcement.
- Movie Night – Saturday nights by announcement
- Fourth Fridays – April thru Sept 6 PM – 9 PM.
- Uptown Westerville Inc moved their HQ to our PTL House
- N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor) meets monthly at the PTL House

Last but not least:

- ❖ Keeping the PTL House open to our Uptown Community Monday through Friday (9 am – 1 pm)
 - Three volunteers currently make this important commitment possible.
 - We need two more volunteers to take the load off our regular crew.

Submitted by:

Doug McCann

Arts Report for 2018

ARTS PHACE

This past year has been a year of deepening our commitment to the Cultural Arts not only as a congregation but also as a community center.

As one of our PHACE(s) to Westerville, the Arts is a key component of our identity as a church. We have continued our representation on the Westerville Arts Council which gives us an opportunity to build relationships by celebrating artists and to support the greater vision of the arts in Westerville.

We established an Artist in Residence initiative through a generous gift from a member that not only paid for our poet, Julia Baker, for 2018, but also an artist, Maggie Ervin, in 2019.

We are a proud sponsor of the Brave Young Voices drama program for young people, under the direction of Carmel Avegnon Sanders.

We have continued to be a support for Good Medicine Productions and their “Uptown Scrooge” event.

Our house will be constructed to offer space for art events, opportunities for classes, and other artistic endeavors. We have also been invited to utilize the side of our back building facing the Haywood Alley as an art space to support a mural, and our Artist in Residence will lead the work on that invitation.

With Lynn Miller’s leadership (who is the leader of our Art Phace), we began a Culinary Conversation that will offer gourmet food events to foster deep conversation on important issues of our community. We have also begun creating a “Dinner Church” pilot event for the third Sunday evenings of January through March at 5pm (Old Bag of Nails Pub). We are calling this “The Table,” and it will be offered as a creative worship experience for all ages for our community, utilizing radical welcome, food, art, music, and communion. The hope with The Table is to move it to the Pray Think Love Episcopal House when construction is complete.

So, stay tuned for a wonderful 2019 in the Arts to the glory of God. Come and join the movement.

Submitted by:

Lynn Miller & Father Joseph

CONSULTING REPORT

Consulting PHACE

In an era of deep spiritual questioning and traditional mainline Churches failing to adapt to an ever-changing social landscape, St. Matthew's finds itself living into what it means to be a community of Jesus of radical love and innovative mission. So, our story has meaning to not only our Westerville brothers and sisters, but also to the greater diocese, and many other congregations who desire to live out the teachings of Jesus and share the way of God's love in fresh and creative ways. Thus, our journey has meaning and the question arises, "Can we capture our work in ways that support other congregations and communities facing the desire to live and reimagine new ways to use the assets they already have to serve their community?" Consulting is a way for St. Matthew's to not only share our knowledge with other communities but also financially support the growing mission of St. Matthew's. This past year, Father Joseph and some leaders of St. Matthew's consulted with Trinity Episcopal in Newark, and that experience will give birth to other opportunities in both the diocese and community in 2019. The goal is for St. Matthew's is to not only have a full-time priest in Father Joseph but also become a Church that gives itself away as an innovative Church always serving. This is one example of what it means to be an 80/20 Church, a Church that serves the core Episcopal community but desires to give 80% of itself away to a world hungry for a Church that joins the world. Stay tuned for a growing offering in 2019!

Submitted by:

Father Joseph

Education Report - 2018

Education PHACE

During the 2018 calendar year, the Education branch of the St. Matthew's Tree of Life Together Movement yielded its first fruits. Parishioner Erin Rasche was selected as the initial Education initiative lead in collaboration with Vestry member MaryBeth Ingram. Among the various events and programs conducted under the auspices of this program, the most successful of these saw St. Matthew's partnering with the local community and seeking external buy-in to engage in topics related to social justice.

Lenten Series – The 2018 Lenten Series revolved around Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. The weekly discussion was regularly well attended and inspired additional Education events centered on the themes of racial tensions and equality, including the November symposium and upcoming 2019 coffee klatches.

Diversity Goes to the Movies – Over the summer months, St. Matthew's held screenings of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Get Out" followed by critical discussion and reflection ahead of the "Diversity Goes to the Movies – Community Conversation" hosted at Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM).

Finding Comfort in Discomfort: A Cross-Racial Dialogue on Race and Racism – Featuring prominent keynote speakers, Jim Mulholland and Cherie Bridges Patrick, along with Westerville's very own Pastor Vaughn Bell and Dr. Margaret Koehler, the November 17, 2018 symposium hosted at Otterbein University was a raving success by all measures! Over 60 individuals attended over the course of the day and proceeds benefited the MLK Legacy Project. In January, the conversation continues via Coffee Klatches at Old Bag of Nails. A very special "thank you!" to MaryBeth Ingram and James Prysock for their tireless efforts.

Ask A Muslim – In November, Douglas Argue arranged for approximately 10 members of the St. Matthew's congregation to attend a night of observation and inclusivity at the Majid Omar in Columbus. Through this collaboration, participants were able to witness evening prayers and engage one another in a wide variety of topics and questions designed to challenge preconceived notions and foster cultural sensitivity and appreciation for our Muslim brethren.

Campus Ministry Collaborative – St. Matthew's received a \$3,340 grant from the Campus Ministry Collaborative to launch **Promise to Learn**, a multipronged tutoring and food insecurity initiative in partnership with Promise House and Otterbein University. Erin Rasche served as St. Matthew's Collaborative representative to help coordinate and attend the Holy Hike-themed Fall Retreat in Columbus for a weekend full of ministry and fun with college youth from around Ohio. Promise to Learn is set to launch in 2019.

Promise House – The same conversations which led to the creation of the Promise to Learn program also inspired further collaboration with Promise House by means of monthly donations

of in-demand items to stock their pantry. Many boxes of exceptionally popular cereal brands were contributed.

Game Night – While not an Education initiative per se, Erin Rasche began hosting monthly game nights in September at the House. The upcoming January event will feature a special potluck celebration in honor of guest Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart.

In addition to the above listed events, conversations about how to inform the congregation of upcoming offerings, or to send timely reminders and announcements has become an area of increasing focus for the Education branch, with the implementation of a congregation-wide listserv to begin shortly. The momentum started in 2018 boldly propels St Matthew's into the new year, as January sees the continuation of events stemming from collaborations and partnerships forged in the previous annum. New initiatives in the first quarter alone include, but are not limited to:

- Read the Bible in a Year Challenge
- MLK Legacy Project's MLK Breakfast
- Coffee Klatches
- Good Neighbor Training at Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)
- St. Matthew's Communication Guide
- Fostering a Learning Community – A St. Matthew's Education Survey

Submitted by:

Erin Rasche

2018 VESTRY

Clifton Flemister, Sr. Warden

Bob Zust Jr. Co Warden

Jerrilynn Kaiser, Jr. Co Warden

Mary Beth Ingram

Charlene Gregory

Robert Hayes

Donna Johnston - Secretary

Doug McCann (completed term of Charlene Gregory)

Harold Patrick

Rebecca Wright

Bryan Swift

DELEGATES TO THE 2018 CONVENTION

Clergy:

The Rev. Dr. Joseph G. Kovitch

The Rev. Abeoseh

The Rev. Douglas Argue

Lay Delegates:

Clifton Flemister

Harold Patrick

Mary Beth Ingram

Alternates:

Rebecca Wright

Tom Wright

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