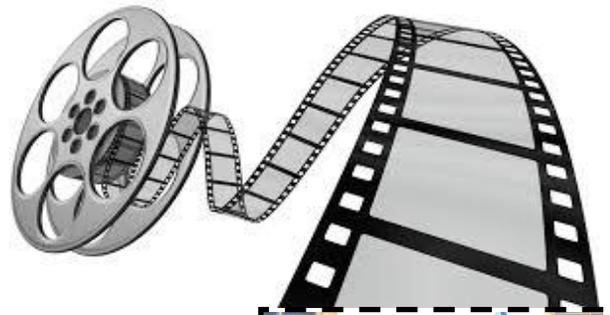




ST. MARY ANNE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
est. 1706



2018 ANNUAL REPORT
January 27th, 2019

**313 YEARS LATER,
OUR "GENERATIONS OF FAITH" STORY
CONTINUES...**



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Prayer for Church Meeting

*Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with those who take counsel in Saint Mary Anne's
for the renewal and mission of your Church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it
and the grace to accomplish it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP 818)*

St. Mary Anne's Mission Statement

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God, to invite all into a community of friendship, love and respect and to nurture and strengthen our faith. We go out to share God's Spirit and to live God's love; to be faithful stewards of God's creation, and to help those in need.

Clergy

The Rev. John R. Schaeffer, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Hartman, Rector Emeritus

Vestry

Bruce England, Senior Warden
Rick Waterhouse, Junior Warden

Term ends 2019

Rich Gilbert
John Stemen
Bruce England

Term ends 2020

George Neureither
John Wilkes
Rick Waterhouse

Term ends 2021

Judy Coudon
Phyllis Doyle
Pat Wagner

Staff

Andrea Pugh, Treasurer
Patricia Wood, Financial Associate
Sande Taylor, Parish Registrar

Joan Gaffney, Parish Administrator
Donne Lewis, Outreach Coordinator

Convention Delegates (March 1 & 2, 2019)

Delegates: Jim & Louise Kamihachi, George Neureither

Alternates: Vonnie & John Stemen (*to be appointed by Vestry*)

**ST. MARY ANNE'S (SMA) EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2018**

Call to Order –Fr. John Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m. and offered an opening prayer.

Quorum and Sign In

Fr. John said he believed we had a quorum based on the number of people present and reminded people to sign in. He said that all present are welcome to participate in discussions but that they must be 18 years of age to vote. He went on to explain that they must also attend church regularly, have taken communion three times during the past year, and be a contributor of record and known to the Treasurer. Contributor of record means you have given money to the church but not necessarily pledged, he explained.

REPORTS

Minutes from the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Carol Weisel clarified that people must be 18 years of age **or older** to vote. Michael Garrity made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Julie Waterhouse seconded it. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Report of the Nominating Committee (NC)

Vestry

- Sr. Warden, Bruce England presented the NC report.
 - He said that Vestry members are elected for three-year terms and can do two terms.
 - Bruce thanked Ruben Argudo for his six years on the Vestry. Fr. John also thanked Ruben and said he has a certificate for him for Vestry service.
 - Phyllis Doyle and Pat Wagner have been filling vacant Vestry terms.
 - Judy Coudon, Phyllis Doyle, and Pat Wagner are nominated for three-year terms.
 - The NC has verified that all the above nominees have met the requirement as outlined in the SMA By-Laws.
 - Delegates to Diocesan Convention were presented.
 - ✓ For the 2018 convention they are Cathy Donley, Miriam McMaster, and Pat Wagner (Vestry appointment).
 - ✓ Alternates for 2018 who will become the 2019 delegates are Jim and Louise Kamihachi and George Neureither (Vestry appointment).
- Melissa Cook-MacKenzie moved the nominations be closed and Rick Waterhouse seconded the motion.
- The slate of Vestry candidates and convention delegates was unanimously accepted by the congregation.
- Marlene Coffey asked if the By Laws address how long someone who fills in for a Vestry term can be on the Vestry. Bruce said he thinks the person is eligible for two terms but said the Vestry will look into it.
- Bruce congratulated new Vestry members.

Highlights of Fr. Schaeffer's Annual Report

- Fr. John said he hopes everyone enjoys the pictures streaming on the screen most of which were taken by Diane Thompson. He said they depict generations of faith—Gibeck, Crouch, England, Swoboda, and Holley, etc. He challenged people to have a revival in 2018 by bringing family together at church at least one time per month which equals 12 times per year. Imagine the profound impact on the church and community, he said.
- On April 19th we will celebrate the 312th anniversary of St. Mary Anne's Church. Fr. John said generations of local families have called SMA their home during our 312-year history. We need to remain vital for future generations. He asked we help be a prayer-centered parish. Each day he asked us to:
 - Thank God for the miracle that SMA is.
 - Thank God for any way in which SMA has changed your life.
 - Commit SMA's future to the Lord.
 - Ask God for help in figuring out what your part in that future is.
- Fr. John used the Parish mission statement in his report. We **gather** in worship. Using social media, our website, and our monitor in the lobby, we **invite** all to join to help expand our community. We go out to **share** God's Spirit and to live God's love through many programs. He cited multiple examples of our reaching out to the community. He said:
 - Seven different groups meet at SMA six nights a week. Our bulletin format, new membership and history brochures also invite people in.
 - We were one of the first churches to send in our Acts study to the bishop.
 - Our 12-Step Recovery Service started in December and will continue on the second Sunday of each month. He invited people to come support it.
 - We care for the churchyard and grave stones, hold an annual Garden Market, sponsor a Book Drive, collect eye glasses for the Lion's Club, and our Mission Committee shares money with various service programs.
- Fr. John reminded us that he and Karen have been here almost two years. He said he could not do it without Karen and her love.
- He said we have learned to embrace our history, tradition and families and to acknowledge generations of faith who have gone before. Now it is our turn. What will we do? There are wonderful things in store, he said. With everyone's help we will move forward to bring God's love to the community outside our doors.

Sr. Warden's Report- Bruce England (Full report is in the Annual Report.)

- Bruce said that the activity and growth in the church are phenomenal. "Tremendous things go on here."
- He thanked the Vestry for their work this year with five new Vestry members and a "one-year-old priest." He said he appreciates experienced members on the Vestry. Past Vestry members also provide a great resource.
- It is important that the congregation gain critical understanding of church finances.
- Bruce urged those present to remember that Monday is Fr. John's day off!

Fr. John called attention to the following:

Jr. Warden's Report

Fr. John praised Rick Waterhouse, Jr. Warden, for the work he has done caring for our worship space and property.

Rick thanked volunteers for their knowledge and help and updated the meeting on current problems and projects.

- Church Cemetery Report

Fr. John explained that Mac Taylor and Joe Williams work with funeral homes to locate grave sites for burials. He thanked Mac and Joe for their work and record keeping.

Remaining Reports

Fr. John asked that we accept other reports by title. Andy Flood made a motion to that effect and Carol Weisel seconded it. The congregation voted unanimously to accept the other reports by title.

Finance Report

- Fr. John thanked Dru Torregrossa, Andrea Pugh-Treasurer, Louise Berg, and the Sunday counters for their help with the finances of the parish.
- The Finance Committee (FC) is made up of the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, Rector, and four parishioners at large. Currently they are Dru Torregrossa, Melissa Cook-MacKenzie, Sandi Lasako, and Jim Kamihachi.
- Dru Torregrossa said that the FC is again submitting a deficit budget. We have been using reserves accumulated during our interim time without full-time employees, but we cannot do this indefinitely. SMA is fortunate to have had endowments and bequests, but they are not readily available for the operating budget. SMA depends on the congregation's donations for day-to-day operations.
- We have the opportunity to do things a bit differently and depend on people's talent, time, and energy, Dru added.
- Andrea Pugh, Treasurer, who is away sent notes to say:
We are...
 - At 94% of our pledge income which is typical.
 - At 100% of budgeted items
 - A bit under budget with salary because Steve McBride, Music Director, was out a few months.We have had...
 - Lots of building maintenance including the church roof and peeling paint
 - Problems with the electric service in the church and Vestry house
 - Work by a new committee fixing and maintaining sites in the churchyard
 - Drain lines cleaned
 - Snow removal and lawn careWe started with an income deficit and carried over \$70,000. We are ending this year with \$53,000 left from the carryover.
- Dru encouraged people to read the consolidated budget.
- A question and answer period revealed the church is pursuing on-line/credit card giving and that numbers on the budget do not always add up because the treasurer has adjusted/simplified the figures to make the report easier to understand.
- Dru suggested we discuss finances at a coffee hour and investigate investments/ restricted funds, etc.
- Fr. John highlighted two new line items on the Balance Sheet:
 - Outreach received a \$20,000 donation from a church family. Outreach will use the income from the fund to further their work.
 - The Scholarship Fund will meet as a committee and review applicants from graduating seniors. Contributions to the fund are welcome. Fr. John thanked the Flood Family for starting this fund.
- Stewardship – Fr. John said we need a Stewardship Program with an educational focus addressing why and how we give to the church. Our pledge/operating income is constantly changing. People come from different church backgrounds so it is important to talk about why we pledge. See Fr. John if you would like to be involved with the committee.

Mission Committee Budget for 2018

- Fr. John called attention to the report of the Mission Committee which talks about the work the committee does. He reviewed how the committee is funded by money from the Sturgeon Fund.
- Linda Gibeck chairs the committee which meets monthly. There are two new members, Ruben Argudo and Gail Proctor. Talk to Linda about who receives grants and why. See Fr. John if you are interested in joining the committee.
- Joanne Veater, committee member, explained that the \$200 Contingency Fund can be used for anything that comes up. This year the committee decided to hold the money.
- George Kaplan moved to accept the Mission budget and Julie Waterhouse seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Worship Ministries

- Altar Guild
 - Fr. John thanked Nancy Ball for serving 30 years on the Altar Guild. Nancy remains active in the parish.
 - Benny Polanco is serving on the Altar Guild with her grandmother.
 - Phyllis Doyle spoke to the Men's Group about being on the Altar Guild.
- Eucharistic Visitors and Ministers
 - Fr. John trained new Eucharistic visitors and ministers.
 - He presented certificates to Rachelan Griffin, Gina Oxley, Melissa Cook-MacKenzie, and Lori Cox, and recognized others trained in the past.
- Music
 - Steve McBride, Music Director, thanked the parish for welcoming him back. He said he has worked in many churches in the past 20 years but never felt more at home than at SMA.
 - The choir has grown. Some people have transferred to SMA to sing.
 - The choir is preparing a mass for Easter with a professional chamber orchestra.
 - Steve explained the patron funding program augmented by concerts.
 - He said the organ needs to be replaced. It is over 50 years old, falling apart and cannot be fixed. It is the single largest investment issue of a church beside the church building itself. He recommends a "marriage"/hybrid approach in which we keep the organ pipes and invest in a digital organ.
 - Steve was complimented on his piano playing.
- George Kaplan made a motion that the additional reports be accepted by title and Dru seconded it. The motion passed.

Educational, Service, and Social Ministries

- Flower Committee for Homebound Parishioners
 - Ginny Roney and Nancy Ball have been taking flowers to parishioners at home. These visits help people feel connected to the church and prove to be a rewarding ministry. Nancy is stepping down and another volunteer is needed to take the bulletin, flowers, "Forward Day-By-Day," and to communicate any messages between the recipient and Fr. John.
- Donne Lewis thanked people for all their help.
- Fr. John held up the blue ribbon and announced that Nancy and Tim Leizear's float won first prize in the "Non-Profits" category in the North East Christmas parade. The Leizear's contributed their \$100 check to the SMA budget.
- Janice Flood motioned that we file remaining reports by title and Michael Garrity seconded the motion. The congregation voted to file the reports by title.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon with a prayer by Fr. John.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra A. Taylor, Registrar

Reports

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of nominations for 2019:

Vestry

Nominated for a three year term:

Bruce England (*incumbent currently completing a two year Vestry appointment*)

Ron Himmel

Dawn Rodenbaugh

Nominated to fill a vacancy for a one year term:

Donna Harrity (*replacing John Wilkes, as he is relocating to Delaware*)

Delegates/ Alternates to Convention

2018 Alternates will become 2019 Delegates

Jim Kamihachi

Louise Kamihachi

George Neureither (*Vestry appointment*)

2019 Alternates

John Stemen

Vonnie Stemen

To be appointed by Vestry

The committee has verified that all the above nominees have met the requirements as outlined in St. Mary Anne's By-Laws. Committee Members: Phyllis Doyle, Linda Gibeck, George Kaplan

RECTOR REPORT

Loved ones, grace and peace to you. It is with joy and hope that I submit my Rector's Report for 2018. The joy I have is not something found or sought out. If God is really the center of one's life and being, joy is inevitable. If we have no joy, we have missed the heart of the Good News that is preached each week. As followers of Christ, "hope" is our bumper sticker. St. Paul tells us that God is the source of hope.

2018 is a turning point for us. It is with joy for today and hope for the future that I tell you that together we have accomplished something that has eluded many mainline denominational churches. We are growing!

We have halted a declining membership and increased average Sunday attendance equaling numbers from 2012. That increase is due to your love, support, attendance and invitation to friends and family to come and be a part of our church family. And to quote the title of a song from the 70's, "We've only just begun"!

The church is first and foremost the people, so thank you to all. I'm especially thankful for the ways this church inspires us to service and living our faith beyond our walls. Your commitment to the work of God gives us—Saint Mary Anne's—vitality.

We have a rich history at Saint Mary Anne's, and many parishioners and visitors enjoy learning about our church building, property and connections to the past. We cherish that heritage but also know that we need to look forward and encourage both current and future generations to find Christ and perhaps, make Saint Mary Anne's their church home.

So in this report, I want to take the opportunity to thank the parishioners who took to heart last year's "Generations of Faith" theme. Many of you reached out to family, friends and neighbors and invited them to attend church. Some of you followed my suggestion that included with the invitation, an offer for breakfast or lunch to follow—a little tasty enticement to pray together and then break bread together. In response, more families now consistently worship together. Some of those newer or returning family members have even begun to actively participate as members. This type of direct outreach to our loved ones is transformative—to our families, friends, neighborhoods and parish.

Yes, we cherish our history and appreciate those who worked hard to make an impact. In June, we asked Bishop Santosh to officially bestow Father Sam Hartman with the title of Rector Emeritus. Fr. Sam was our parish rector from 1990 to 2013; and we are blessed that he and his wife Judy remain parishioners. I rely on Father Sam for his counsel and continued commitment to our parish.

We will review our corporate commitment within the pages of this Annual Report. You will find enclosed in the pages of this Annual Report, are summarizations from different committee chairpersons and our two Wardens, minutes from our last Annual Meeting, budget information, and a comprehensive overview of 2018. I hope you take the time to review this Annual Report. Your Vestry, Committee Chairs and members have all worked hard to provide each parishioner with a comprehensive overview of our work in 2018. My report is more concise this year, since I provided you with a detailed 2018 Year in Review (see addendum) last month. That, in my estimation, categorizes most of our efforts and the "good" that was accomplished.

Our theme for 2019 is on "**Prayer and Discipleship**". Both disciplines are meant to transform and encourage us to grow and nurture subsequent "generations of faith". I believe Robert E. Coleman, a Distinguished Professor of Discipleship and Evangelism, from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary said it best:

Personal transformation inevitably impacts society. Love for Christ overflows in expressions of evangelism and social compassion. So as the Gospel goes forth in word and deed, worldlings begin to take note that men and women have been with Jesus. Sinners are moved to seek the Savior. Restitutions are made. Broken homes are reunited with a new sense of responsibility. People reach out to help the poor and oppressed. Public moral standards improve. Integrity makes its way into business and government. Every aspect of life is affected—politics, economics, the arts, sexuality, the environment—and to the degree the holistic Gospel of the Kingdom takes hold, the world is transformed (Coleman 2005, C. S. Lewis Institute)

Wow—it's a tall order for 2019. But I'm not worried, as "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Let's get equipped—and let's get started.

Blessings,
Fr. John Schaeffer, Rector

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

It has been a pleasure and privilege to be your Senior Warden and collaborate with Fr. John, members of our vestry, SMA committees and members of our parish to advance the mission of Saint Mary Anne's. While our mission will never be complete, our growing and active parish provides evidence that we are making progress.

The Vestry, through its monthly meetings, group emails and ongoing communications in and around the services and activities at SMA, work in concert with Fr. John to do what our parish is called to do and to provide oversight of that work. In 2018, our discussions have included stewardship, worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care, service and more. Much of our work includes ensuring effective organization and planning and managing resources (including property and facilities) and finances. During the course of the year many discussions were had, and well-informed decisions made. Like every vestry before us, our charge is to provide oversight and make decisions that have short and long term impacts.

Much progress continues at SMA. Our membership is growing, facilities continue to improve, missions and outreach are strong, stewardship efforts will fund a larger percentage of our operating budget and our services and activities reflect parishioner and community interests. I'm thankful for the many people that enthusiastically continue to contribute their time, talents and resources to Saint Mary Anne's.

Thank you for supporting St. Mary Anne's mission and our active and growing community.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bruce England, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

The Vestry and congregation of St. Mary Anne's have worked hard to maintain our beautiful property and buildings this year. There have also been some repairs and renovations completed by trades people whom we have hired. The following is a recap of the year's maintenance and special projects.

During February, we began the repainting of the second floor of the Parish Center. Over several months, the work was completed by volunteers, including Karen Schaeffer, Phyllis Doyle, Joanne Veater, NA members, and by DPW Painting, Inc. The project was completed in November.

In March, a wind storm blew down about a third of the tree by the intersection of the driveway and the sidewalk nearest the Parish Center. The tree had to be taken down. Work done by Cecil Tree Service.

Diversified Roofing worked on repairs to the church and Vestry House roofs - new shingles installed, new diverter for rain water over the main church entrance, and work on the bell tower area to prevent water and ice build-up, which may be causing the interior ceiling paint peeling problem.

We had several pest problems on the grounds this year. Mice and a groundhog were dealt with in and around the Vestry House, and bats were eliminated from the attic of the Parish Center (APM Elkton). Termites were treated in the Parish Center garage (Olewine Pest Control). In the spring, we plan to switch our preventative insect treatment service to Olewine Pest Control.

Paul Pudlinski has volunteered his expertise as an architect, assessing a few projects in the Parish Center. He has drawn up plans for a remodeling of the basement to accommodate new space and better traffic flow for the Outreach Office. And he is working on plans to rebuild the closet in the library on the second floor

of the Parish Center to give us a fireproof area to store the historical documents and other irreplaceable records of the church.

In May, we completed the air conditioning of the Parish Center, which was begun with the installation of split system units on the first floor in the summer of 2017. Crouse Brothers installed a central air conditioning unit in the attic and vents throughout the upstairs.

We had to end our cleaning service contract and began a search for a new company. After several weeks of one-time cleaning visits by a few different companies, we met with and hired Bayside Total Cleaning Solutions to do the cleaning of buildings on the property.

Thanks to Tim Leizear, repairs were completed on the accessibility ramp on the north side of the Parish Center. He patched cracks, added cement to anchor the support poles on the railing, and painted the side of the ramp. Tim also reorganized the Parish Center garage and added new shelves.

A leak was noticed in the ceiling of the kitchen to the right end of the stove. Art Reeder was called and he came and made repairs to the vent chimney on the roof. The leakage problem in the Parish Center kitchen ceiling returned at the end of the summer. Art Reeder Home Improvements was contracted to do roof repairs to the Parish Center on the three sides bordering the flat roof section.

In June, Pat Lynch and his workers were on the property to install a drainage pipe and French drain in the churchyard. There is now a clean-out in the square drain pit on the SW corner of the church building, a clean-out by the flagpole and a long pipe extending into the churchyard, toward Church Point Road, that is perforated and ends in the French drain. This is meant to drain water away from the church foundation.

In August, E.P. Howell was hired to make repairs to the wharf area. There had been continuing erosion behind the barrier wall that was installed several years ago. New stone and filter cloth were placed. This has solved the problem for now; the area will need to be monitored over the next few years.

In September, several of us met with Jim Groff (Victorian Heritage, Inc) to survey church shutters and window panes for repair. Some shutters need replacing and some need repair. There are also several window panes that are cracked and need replacing, and there is a lot of reglazing to be done. We also met with Mike Troiani, a cabinet-maker recommended by Rich Gilbert. He is preparing an estimate for shutter repair as well. We switched propane suppliers. We had been using Southern States but contracted with Alger Oil and Propane to get a cheaper price. Also, this month, Vicki Schultheiss and Sandy Taylor reset the gray stone around the Lutz Garden and mulched it.

Thanks to the work of Phyllis Doyle and the Signage Committee new signs were ordered from Alpha Branding Solutions and have been installed around the property.

In October, Janice Flood reported ripples in the linoleum flooring in the largest Church School room. An estimate was obtained from Pro Flooring in Elkton, to replace the floor in that room with tile flooring. The Vestry approved the bid and this work will be scheduled soon.

Ron Himmel volunteered to work on the doors to the Vestry House and the church building. In November, he made repairs to the area around the door knob and lock of the main entrance to the church. The Vestry House door had repairs and a new coat of paint. Ron also primed and painted the two church doors. A second coat of red paint will be applied when the weather warms again.

In December, Tim Leizear began demolition of existing walls in the Outreach Office area. New electric service had been installed by D and D Electric to accommodate refrigerators and freezers in a new area of

the basement. A new wall configuration will be going in, to help the Outreach Office volunteers better serve our clients.

Expected projects for the coming year include:

Church shutter and windowpane repairs and replacements;

Church ceiling repair and repaint;

Reconstruction of Outreach Office area;

Fireproof closet construction in P.C. Library;

Removal of tree overhanging the Church Point Road parking lot; and

Painting and clean-up of the exterior of the Sexton's House.

Once again, I want to thank all of you who have given your ideas and suggestions, expertise, money, and physical labor over the course of the last year. The care of our historic property and buildings can only be accomplished with your assistance.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rick Waterhouse, Junior Warden

CEMETERY REPORT

There were no cemetery plots sold in 2018. There are approximately 331 available plots remaining. There were three burials in the Cemetery. There were two burials of cremated remains in the Christine Cameron Memorial Garden.

St. Mary Anne's Parish participated in the "Wreaths across America" program for a third year. Amanda and Chris Inmon coordinated the event, which took place on Dec.15. Father Schaeffer provided an invocation at the ceremony. Major General Randy S. Taylor, Commander of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds was the primary speaker. The ceremony concluded with placement of wreaths on individual graves, in many cases by family members.

We began an effort to clean and preserve our historic gravestones. John McMaster, Tim Leizear and Bob Berg began to straighten and reset many of our tilted stones. In 2017, we learned how to properly clean the stones and we began this work in earnest this past summer. Helping with this large project was Vickie Schultheiss, Mr. Sandy Taylor, John McMaster, George Balog, Jane and Gary Crouch, and the Coudon family. This preservation project will remain ongoing into the foreseeable future.

The Christine Cameron Memorial Garden had a landscaping makeover this year (see Garden Committee Report below).

Respectfully submitted by,
Malcolm H. Taylor

GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of the SMA Garden Committee---Linda Gibeck, Patty Lemmerman, Karen Schaeffer, Vickie Schultheiss, Ms. Sande Taylor, and Mr. Sandy Taylor---have completed several projects around the churchyard and Parish Center (PC) campuses this year.

Parish Center

With guidance from Patty, an Eagle Scout and his troop prepared the soil and planted six Japanese Holly bushes in front of the PC porch.

After removing several interfering tree branches, Vickie and Mr. Sandy rototilled and planted a shade garden in front of the PC meeting room.

The Mary Lutz Garden in back of the PC was weeded, mulched, and planted with perennials. Landscaping rocks were added to the border.

Chrysanthemums were added in both the front and the back of the building for fall color.

Churchyard

Vickie refurbished the small welcoming garden on the south side of the church as well as the garden bordering the Vestry House.

Linda planted annuals and then chrysanthemums by the Hoopes Court church entrance.

Linda and Karen designed large garden barrels of seasonal plants at two churchyard entrances, and outside the Outreach Office.

Cemetery

Vickie and Mr. Sandy removed old hedges in the Memorial Garden. Turf was replaced and three rose bushes and a dogwood tree planted. Cement planters were also added.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sande Taylor

SACRAMENTAL REPORT

Nearly 125 faithful souls, on average, attend our Sunday worship services. This number continues to grow as you invite family, friends and neighbors to Saint Mary Anne's. We baptized 4 children who were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as one of Christ's own forever!

In June, our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, confirmed two of our young people and the Bishop laid hands another group of 17 people who either reaffirmed their faith or were received into the Episcopal Church.

On Pentecost, we celebrated our first Quinceañera! This is a celebration in the Latin culture of a girl's fifteenth birthday involving a beautiful liturgy followed by a party in our Parish Center. We celebrated three marriages and joined together these couples in the celebration and blessing of marriage.

We laid to rest eleven souls in 2018. Many received a service of Christian Burial in the Church and some, had family members choose to have either a funeral home service or graveside prayers only.

The statistical report indicates that faith is still very much alive and well at Saint Mary Anne's. Many people continue to come to services and receive the Sacraments of the Church. Of course, there is always room for growth and improvement. So, help us evangelize at Saint Mary Anne's. Invite a friend or family member to attend church with you. Our Generations of Faith program remains a part of our worship and an intentional plan for faith development and growth.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fr. John Schaeffer

Administrative

PARISH CENTER USE BY COMMUNITY

Weekly Activities

Monday	Cub Scouts Pack #131 (September through June)
Tuesday	Boy Scouts Troop #131 (all year)
Wednesday	Senior Citizens Luncheon & Meeting (morning & afternoon—all year) Chess Club (evenings—all year)
Thursday	Alcoholics Anonymous (all year)
Friday	NA – Back to Life (all year) Al-Anon (all year)
Saturday	Recovery Yoga (June to August 2018) North Elk Coffee House (once a month) September through May.
Sunday	Narcotics Anonymous (all year) Recovery Services with light dinner (2 nd Sunday every month)

In addition to the Sunday Coffee Hours, the Parish Center is also used for occasional meetings by these groups: ECW, Youth Group, Outreach, and Men's 2:42 Group, Garden Market Committee, and Cemetery Committee.

Monthly Activities

January:	Family Train Day, 4-H project class, All Season Garden Club meeting.
February:	All Seasons Garden Club meeting, NARCAN Training, Valentine's Day Luncheon, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 4-H project class, Lenten Supper Programs.
March:	All Seasons Garden Club meeting, 2 SMA Music Concerts, 4-H project class, Maundy Thursday Parish Supper & Eucharist.
April:	Memorial Service Luncheon, Youth Ministry Cohort meeting, Dinner Vestry meeting, Boy Scout Troop #131 Basket Bingo fundraiser.
June:	Bishop Visit, wedding rehearsal dinner, bridal shower celebration.
August:	All Seasons Garden Club meeting, Cecil County Recovery Group community meeting, Safeguarding God's Children class.
September:	College planning workshop, Safeguarding God's Children class, 4-H project class.
October:	Two financial planning workshops, SMA music concert, ECW meeting, birthday celebration.
November:	Financial Planning workshop, All Seasons Garden Club meeting.
December:	The ECW Christmas Cookie Walk, Giving Tree distribution day.

Respectfully submitted by,
Joan Gaffney, Parish Administrator

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to communicate as a parish in five different ways:

- The weekly Enews sent out each Friday; Fr. John's periodic email messages
- The Sunday bulletin "Happenings Page"
- Frequent Facebook posts on our parish's official Facebook page

- Our website
- Direct mail

Electronic communications (Enews, Facebook notifications, and website updates) provide a cost-effective and timely notification approach, since death notices, meeting changes, and weather advisories that effect services, can be quickly distributed. Currently our ratio for “opened” communications is on average at 52% of approximately 250 recipients; unfortunately, that means that 48% of the people are not informed of parish happenings. As we move to more electronic communication, and less paper communication (to keep down costs), we are concerned that some parishioners will not be reached if they don’t make the effort to “open” their communication. We encourage parishioners to utilize all methods, such as ENews, Facebook, and our websites, to remain informed.

Social media has become a useful tool in our church communication effort. Our official Facebook page remains current with activities and is “liked” by more users each month. Posted activities and events are frequently shared amongst our membership and raise interest and awareness to family and friends outside our walls. Thanks to Janice Flood, our Facebook posts remained current and interesting. Amanda Marr will now be taking over this role in 2019.

The Garden Market has both a Facebook page and a website. Their use by Michael Brown, helped advertise our spring event to thousands of Facebook and web followers. Lisa Simon provided essential publicity content to drive interest in our Garden Market.

Many visitors to our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, Family Train Day, and Wreaths across America, stated that they learned about the events via Facebook. Their feedback supports our intentional effort to incorporate Facebook into our communication plan.

The website had several updates in 2018 and remains current with news, events, and a parish calendar. The website is a vital piece in our communication effort since most newcomers use the site to determine both our service hours, location, and our beliefs. Our website “Pledge” button was utilized more during the Stewardship campaign. This year, we incorporated an Amazon link—one in which users are able to donate a portion of Amazon purchases to St. Mary Anne’s! Also, we have plugged in an online giving capability to provide ease with giving. E giving is a way to make it easy to give. Many churches have this option as people move away from traditional checking accounts.

Our weekly Sunday bulletin gives a hard copy reminder to parishioners and visitors of parish activities. We ask that you take it home for announcements and to pray for those in need of prayer during the week.

A TV monitor in the Parish Center lobby displays a PowerPoint slide presentation on a constant loop. Updated each month, this presentation informs viewers of monthly events, services, and invites visitors to participate. With it, we reach the hundreds of local community members who utilize our Parish Center each week. We utilize the bulletin board in the Parish Center for notices.

Publicity articles in local newspapers, for noteworthy events such as Family Train Day, Wreaths across America, and The Garden Market, and our new Heart & Sole Ministry, continue to help with public awareness.

Our Parish Administrator reports that her direct mail recipients average 13 households during the 2018 year. Mailings have included one or more of the following items: Bulletins, Rector’s messages, Enews, flower offering envelopes, concert flyers, sympathy announcements, and the stewardship slide presentation. We do three parish-wide mailings each year: An Easter letter, a Stewardship letter, and a Christmas letter. Fr. John mails out handwritten Thanksgiving cards to the parish, too.

In 2019, we hope to continue with expanded church communication efforts.

Respectfully submitted by,
Karen Schaeffer

Education

ADULT EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

Throughout the year, interesting Adult Forums engaged parishioners during the early Coffee Hour (9:15AM). Presentations were on: the solar eclipse of 2017, The Chapel of Ease, The Town of North East, the Civil War in Cecil County, the Conowingo Dam, and the Meaning of Advent.

During Lent, we had a four-week program on Max Lucado's video and book discussion on "Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" Following a light soup supper, participants watched the video and talked about reliance on God versus excessive worry and anxiety.

Two young adults, in our Confirmation Class, studied Alpha for Teens—a 12 week program for Christian development.

Seasonal book clubs were formed this year and provided participants the opportunity to explore a book, and its themes, in depth. Videos accompanied the discussions, too. A Summer Book Club met for four evenings this past summer and explored "A Reason for God" by Tim Keller. A Fall/Winter Book Club continues to meet into 2019, for a total of eight sessions, with discussion on Ken Sande's "Resolving Everyday Conflict".

Another EfM class began in the fall of 2018. The EfM class under the leadership of Carol Weisel welcomed eight students! (See the report below)

Jeff Gillespie, representing Crop Walk, visited our parish in late September and offered an educational talk on the Crop Hunger Walk and the good accomplished by Church World Service. He encouraged our participation in the annual walk that raised \$8,300,000 in 2018 to fight hunger.

As Rector, I continue to encourage the study of Scripture from the pulpit and in periodic email messages. A more intentional Bible Study and plan for Prayer and Discipleship is planned for 2019.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fr. John Schaeffer

BREAKFAST WITH BILL

For the past five years, our youth (ages seven and above) can often be found having "Breakfast with Bill" at a local restaurant. On the second Sunday of each month, any and all youth, along with any friends that they want to bring, meet at 9 A.M., in the Parish Hall and together walk to a local restaurant with parishioner Bill Weisel. They eat breakfast together, have good conversation, and enjoy each other's company. No agenda. No program. No cost. This is a totally FREE breakfast. They have such an enjoyable time that even past members, back from college, often return and join in. Encourage your

children and youth to have Breakfast with Bill, so they can socialize with one another, relax, and have a great time.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Weisel

CHURCH SCHOOL

We are so blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers to teach our 4 year olds through 5th graders: Barbara England, Dawn Rodenbaugh, Patricia Wood and Brandy Naughton. We have one classroom with two teachers the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. This meets “Safeguarding our Children” requirements and National Episcopal Church standards.

Our Church School has five to twelve students who attend. On the second Sunday of each month, Jill Holley has Nursery for our littlest ones. Our goal for next year is to have enough teacher and helper volunteers to have Church School and Nursery every week. Please consider helping with these important ministries. We are growing slowly but steadily.

We purchased new curriculum this year, “Hands on Bible Curriculum”. Both the teachers and students are enjoying learning through the new curriculum. Church School starts at 9:45AM; and from 9:45 to 9:55AM we have music and singing lead by Jennifer Swoboda. The lesson time ends at 10:35AM. The children then join their families in church. Thank you to all who volunteer and support our Church School Program.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janice Flood

“DREAM BIG” SCHOLARSHIP

A “Dream Big” Scholarship of \$1800.00 was awarded in June to its first recipient: High school graduate and parishioner, Ethan Kyger. This college scholarship fund was created especially for youth with big dreams who may need financial assistance to attend college. Initially funded by a \$25,000 financial gift from the Flood family in loving memory of Elizabeth Jayne and Harold Arthur Flood, additional contributions are always encouraged. With your help, future generations of our youth can “Dream Big”.

Respectfully submitted by,
Father John Schaeffer

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

Education for Ministry is a four-year program administered by the University of the South – Sewanee. It is not a program designed for those preparing for the ordained ministry but a program for those wishing to fulfill the call for all Christians to MINISTER. During the four years a participant will read and discuss the areas of *New Testament*, *Old Testament*, *Church History and Theology*, *Ethics and Interfaith Encounter*. This is done through Study, Prayer, Reflection and Fun.

The Education for Ministry Group at St. Mary Anne’s of 7 completed the 35-week theme of *Living Faithfully in Your World* in June 2018. Having completed all four years of EfM and waiting patiently for the time of the sessions to allow his participation, Bob Doyle received a Certificate of Completion. The remainder of the group as well as three new members continued in September 2018 into the next year *Living*

Faithfully in a Multicultural World. This year we are looking at other faiths and cultures and how we as Christians are called to minister and reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ in this amazing and complex world.

With Father John's help, past and present EfM members are assisting in prayer services, and are always willing to offer prayer for healing, peace, strength, etc. after services on Sunday. You can find one of us at the altar rail after each service.

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol Weisel

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month from 1-3 PM. This year we added lunch from 12:30PM to 3PM so families didn't have to rush out for food and maybe, not return.

Over the past year, we have participated in the following activities: bowling, laser tag, ropes course, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, summer swimming, bonfire at Flood's, and the CROP Walk. We go off campus about once a month for an activity, and have a lesson once a month. Our current curriculum is from YM360. We have between 4 to 10 youth participate in meetings this year.

This year some of our youth leaders have attended the Diocesan Youth Cohort Training. The Cohorts purpose is to educate our youth leaders and church leaders in sustainable youth ministries. You will be hearing more about our church-wide plans with sustainable youth ministry at St. Mary Anne's in the spring. We have learned that research shows, youth who get to know several adults well at Church will continue to attend after they are confirmed. Our goal is to help make this happen.

Our current leaders and helpers are: Marlene Coffey, Pat Wagner, Cathy Donley, Bill Weisel, Dawn Rodenbaugh, and Janice Flood. Thank you to all who help and support our youth and youth group.

Respectfully submitted by,
Janice Flood

Events

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK (see ECW Report)

FAMILY TRAIN DAY

Family Train Day has been a regular event at St. Mary Anne's for over ten years, supported by the Mission Committee. Volunteers, most of whom are St. Mary Anne's members, set up their model or toy train sets in the Parish Center for one day for the enjoyment of everyone who comes. In the last few years, we have been holding the event on the first full weekend after New Year's Day, which seems to work well both for the exhibitors and our visitors. In 2018, Train Day was held on Saturday, January 6. By the time you read this, Family Train Day 2019 (on January 5) will be over, but the details of that will go in the next annual report.

We set up the train layouts the day before the event. The layouts are displayed on Train Day from 10AM-3PM, and we invite the community in to see them. In 2018, we had ten layouts of various gauges (and ages) displayed. The Mission Committee ran a food concession, which did a brisk business.

The event has several purposes: it's a fundraiser; it brings the community to St. Mary Anne's; and it's fun for both kids and adults. The money that we raise — from contributions at the door, a raffle, and food sales — goes to a mission organization designated by the Mission Committee, and in the last few years that has been St. Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti (within the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti). Last year we raised \$1,552 for St. Vincent's.

Like the Garden Market, Family Train Day relies on the hard work and contributions of many people, including the exhibitors, the Mission Committee, and other volunteers both from within and outside of St. Mary Anne's. The Town of North East supported us by displaying our train day banner across Main Street for several weeks. The prizes for the raffle were generously donated by Just Trains of Delaware (on route 279 between Elkton and Newark), owned by Pete Ferguson, at no cost to us. We also received a \$250 grant, which went mostly to purchase food, from Thrivent Financial. Hopefully the success of Family Train Day will continue in future years.

Respectfully submitted by,
George Kaplan, Dru Torregrossa, Linda Gibeck

THE GARDEN MARKET

Our Annual Garden Market turned 21 this year and continues to be a North East tradition. It's our signature event in the community to let everyone in Cecil County and beyond know what St. Mary Anne's does and means to our neighbors.

We started our planning in the fall of 2017 looking for a logo we could use year after year.

We set a really tight budget for the 2018 Market, but still needed to cover expenses after the anticipated contribution to the SMA General Budget. Karen Schaeffer and Linda Gibeck formed a Sponsorship Committee, assisted by Diane Thompson, that approached local businesses and simply explained what SMA does in the community and why the Garden Market is important. The success was stunning. They raised over \$3,700 from 21 donors and \$1,596 "in-kind" donations (services). We recognized our sponsors on the web, in the gate handouts, and on posters at the entrances. We continue to encourage everyone to patronize them and tell them thanks for supporting the Garden market.

Despite the typical ever changing daily forecasts for early May, we had great weather, which is always a plus! Thanks to Carol Weisel (Greeter Chair) we started using hand held clickers with the Greeters to get a better estimate of attendance than previous attempts using handouts. We estimate well over 4000 people attended over the 2 days.

We have always wondered about how people hear about the Garden Market, but have not had solid answers in the past. We spend a lot on publicity in many ways. This year Lisa Simon designed a survey card. We incentivized participation with a \$50 Visa gift card in a random drawing of summited surveys. We handed out 500 cards over two days and got almost 400 back, an amazing rate (about a 10% survey of people who attended the Garden Market). Amanda Marr tabulated all the results (that was a lot of work!) into Excel which will greatly aid 2019 planning and publicity. 65% of respondents visit the Market every year. The

major reason the others came to the Garden Market: A friend told them about it. So now go tell everyone you meet!

After a couple years of intermittent deluge, the Silent Auction opted to try to stay dry and set up in the Parish Center this year. This allowed the Auction to complete after two days, rather than one day, each day, and the extra space allowed them to showcase all the items at once. Everyone seemed pleased with this new format.

We had music from the North East Middle School Orchestra on Friday afternoon and from Class Act (Steve McBride and friends) on Saturday afternoon. Weather cooperated to allow both performances to be outside and widely enjoyed.

We introduced more signage this year to let everyone know about SMA and what SMA does in the community. We can continue to use these in the future and at other SMA events.

We had 38 profit and non-profit vendors this year and 4 food vendors, not including the SMA groups. New this year, we had a professional security firm (donated services once they learned about what SMA does in the community) on site Thursday and Friday nights.

The market grossed \$22,534.86, including sponsorship from business and community organizations. After expenses of \$ 1,979.86 and disbursement to parish organizations (ECW, Outreach, Missions, Fair Trade, and Youth Group) of \$8,509.99, \$9,000.00 went into the budget operating line item for fundraising, leaving a nice surplus of \$3,045.01. Generous sponsorship and a tight budget made that surplus possible.

The Garden Market is a huge undertaking and doesn't happen without the overwhelming support from the whole parish, plants from gardens, baked goods from our kitchens and lots and lots of time and energy. And especially from the members of the committee for all the meetings and market time to making this event a reality:

Advertising – Lisa Simon
Bake Table (outreach) – Barbro Pollack
Church Tours – Lisa Simon
ECW – Sande Taylor
Finance—Andrea Pugh
Greeters – Carol Weisel
Hot Dog Table—Marion Wells
Maintenance – Rich Gilbert
Signage--Donne Lewis

Music – Steve McBride
Pat Scott's Marigold Ministry – Jill Holley
Security – Melissa Cook-MacKenzie
Silent Auction – Phyllis Doyle
Social Media – Michael Brown
Sponsorship - Linda Gibeck, Karen Schaeffer
Vendors – Dru Torregrossa, Dawn Rodenbaugh,
David Griffin

Respectfully submitted by,
Michael Brown, Chair of the Garden Market Committee 2018

NORTH ELK COFFEE HOUSE

The North Elk Coffee House has continued its efforts to bring together community members and our parishioners to enjoy live folk music and gather donations to aid the work of Meeting Ground, the homeless support group in Cecil County. Throughout the season, folk musicians present their music in the St. Mary Anne's Parish Center on the third Saturdays of the months of September through November and January through May.

The Coffee House is co-managed by Doug Donley, Sande and Mac Taylor, and Julie and Rick Waterhouse. We are fortunate to have a corps of dedicated volunteers from St. Mary Anne's and the community, who assist with publicity, setting up and taking down the room, baking snacks, running the kitchen, and choosing artists for the coming season. Regular volunteers from the congregation are: Nancy and Jim Siglow, Agnes Underwood, Carol and Bill Weisel, Ginny Roney, Diane Thompson, Cathy Donley, Paul Pudlinski and Gail Proctor. Thanks to all of you!

This past June, the Coffee House sent Meeting Ground a check for \$4,000, representing the proceeds from the 2017-2018 season. In August, Sande and Mac Taylor hosted our annual "thank you" picnic for volunteers at their community riverfront pavilion. You can read about the Coffee House on the church website and find links to the websites of the musicians who will perform. There is also a North Elk Coffee House Facebook page. We would be happy to have more volunteer help and more attendees from our parish family. If you would like to volunteer your help, you can contact Sande Taylor.

(The North Elk Coffee House's Financial Report is located in the Financial Report Packet)

Respectfully submitted by,
Rick Waterhouse

PARISH PICNIC (see Fellowship Report)

VALENTINE LUNCHEON (see Fellowship Report)

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (see Cemetery Report)

Fellowship

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary Anne's continues to serve the church and the community by providing help and support to all in need through our outreach and pastoral care programs. It has been a privilege to work with all the dedicated women of the parish.

The ECW served several funeral luncheons and provided refreshments for coffee hour and various meetings. In years past, we have participated in the rotating shelter for the homeless of the county. Because of some organizational issues with the county, the program was suspended last winter. I am pleased to report that the issues have been resolved and we will once again provide meals and partner with the North East Methodist Church for their shelter. Pastoral dinners were provided to parishioners following surgeries, hospitalizations and support for those in need.

Meetings are held four times a year. Breakfast planning meetings in both the spring and fall with announced dates, times and location. Two additional meetings are fellowship events. In June, we gather for a pot luck dinner at the home of Ken and Mary Blomquist reveling in the gardens and glorious sunset provided to us by God. Pier One was the venue for our November Soup Dinner. The menu included four soups, fresh

green salad, rolls and cookies for dessert. We collected shoes and socks for the local school children for our Heart & Sole Ministry, with Pat Wagner graciously volunteering to oversee this endeavor.

The Giving Tree under the direction of Linda Hunt provided 76 families with gifts this past Christmas.

The Garden Market's ECW Plant Table in May is an annual event that requires many hours of planning and organization. Many thanks to all who worked tirelessly to make this event a success each year. We also benefit from Marion Wells' famous hot dog stand. I would be remiss if I didn't include the contributions of the men of the parish who helped with the Garden Market.

The Third Annual Cookie Walk held in December was a huge success. Thanks to Karen Schaeffer, Amy Argudo, Nancy Leizear and all the women of the parish who baked the dozens and dozens of cookies that were available for sale. We will need more bakers next year as we were sold out by 12:30 PM!

I am pleased to report that we have met all of our financial obligations for the year. The ECW donated to the outreach program, the Vestry, the Children's Home Foundation, The Bishop's Guild, and Parish Center kitchen repairs and supplies.

I am proud to be part of the ECW. By working with this organization, I have had the opportunity to learn so much from the established and new members of the Church. I urge all the women of St. Mary Anne's to join us as we help each other, the Church and the community. REMEMBER: Every woman who attends St. Mary Anne's is a member of the ECW.

(The ECW Financial Report is in the Financial Report Packet)

Respectfully submitted by
Kathy Mullen

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee consists of the following dedicated and talented members: Lori Cox, Cathy Donley, Judi Hartman, Pat Holley, Nancy Leizear, Kathi Lichtenstein, Lee Mackie, Joanne Veater and Donne Lewis. We are responsible for several functions during the year and we also assist other church groups with their functions.

In February, we hosted our annual Valentine's Day luncheon. We invite the members of the church and their families to join us for a cooked lunch. It is a great time to get together for fellowship and fun along with good food. Plus by this point in the winter, everyone is ready for some fun. The end of July, we assisted the Schaeffer's' with a parish picnic that was held in the churchyard. It was also Father John's birthday. Besides the picnic food, good conversation under trees, horseshoes, and free kayaking were available. The kayaking was provided by Bay Venture Outfitters.

We also provided the Welcome Bags that are given to people when they worship with us for the first time. The bags contain an ECW pin tray, the history of St. Mary Anne's, a magnet that has a picture of the church on it plus the vital statistics of the church [i.e.: phone number, website address, times of our services]. If you see anyone with a Welcome Bag, introduce yourself and invite them to Coffee Hour with you.

Speaking of Coffee Hours, they are an important part of our fellowship. Cathy Donley and I oversee the sign-ups and always encourage parishioners to participate in hosting.

If you are looking for a committee to join whose main focus is to make people feel welcome here at St. Mary Anne's, here we are.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donne Lewis

MEN'S 2:42 GROUP

A SMA Men's Group called "2:42" is an active Men's ministry in the Parish. This group promotes fellowship, learning and service and is based on Acts 2:42: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." In 2018, the Men's Group was under the leadership of John Wilkes. Late in the year, John relocated to Delaware and regretfully resigned his leadership.

The men assisted with the Churchyard clean-up in the spring and fall, helped during Garden Market, and staked veteran's graves for our Annual Wreaths across America event. Throughout the year, the group met on the last Saturday of the month in the Parish Center for a hearty breakfast and discussion. They were pleased to be joined on a few occasions by men from The Dexter House, a local recovery home.

We look forward to expanding our role in the Parish in 2019, and invite all men of the Parish to our next breakfast. All you need is an appetite for bacon, eggs and the love of God!

Respectfully submitted by,
Fr. John Schaeffer

Outreach

COMMUNITY AND DIOCESAN INVOLVEMENT

Many of us work to keep St. Mary Anne's as a visible presence in North East and the Cecil County community. In 2018, I was invited to offer a blessing at a monthly Cecil County Council Meeting. I serve on the Board of Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services and the Bioethics Committee at Union Hospital. I continue to build relationships with advocates and those active in the Recovery community (Dexter House, The Charlotte House, Ashley Recovery Center, and Voices of Hope).

I established a regular monthly worship service at Victoria Park Senior Apartments and a new semi-monthly one, with the help of Linda Gibeck, at Calvert Manor Healthcare Center. In addition, Andrea Pugh and I met with the Principal at North East Elementary prior to the creation of the Heart & Sole Ministry. I am a member of the North East Ministerium, and meet regularly with pastors from the community.

Father Sam our Rector Emeritus, and Father Bob Smith (retired clergy and parishioner), and I, regularly celebrate worship services with the Episcopal Carmel of St. Theresa in Rising Sun. A few of our parishioners are "Associates" of the Carmel, including Brandy & Stephen Naughton, Patty Lemmerman and Dru Torregrossa.

Our Diocesan involvement continues with representation by me, as a member of the Diocesan Council (3-year term). Andrea Pugh just completed a long stint as Treasurer of the Children's Home Foundation. Karen

Schaeffer is on the Sesquicentennial Book Committee. Jim Kamihachi served as a member of the Commission on Ministry. He is now on the Diversity Awareness Commission; and he and his wife Louise, along with me, are on Diocesan Recovery Ministry. Janice Flood is a Safeguarding God's Children certified diocesan instructor and active with a Diocesan Youth Group cohort.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fr. John Schaeffer

OUTREACH OFFICE (FOOD PANTRY)

Our Food Pantry moves along with its regular office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 9:30AM to Noon. We have over 30 volunteers which includes our dedicated office staff, food delivery teams, loading crews, food room organizers and baggers, and those who come in to help us with special events. One of those events is our annual Thanksgiving Turkey and fixings distribution. In 2018, we gave out over 60 turkey dinners.

Our office was open 138 days this past year serving 1,249 families or 3,440 individuals. We bagged and distributed 6,284 St. Mary Anne's bags and 1,257 federal food bags [TEFAP program or Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program].

We have been very fortunate to be the recipient of several food drives. The North East Rotary Club, The Tome School's Key Club, several churches, the Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts and in December, Walmart included us in their food drive. Plus the fourth Sunday of each month has been designated Pantry Sunday and the asked for items are blessed.

Presently, we are undergoing renovations that will give us more space so our volunteers can help our clients more efficiently. Also, the clients will have more private space to discuss their concerns with the volunteers. Our New to You Shoppe will get a little breathing space too.

As I say constantly, it takes a village to make our program run successfully. Our village is filled with dedicated, talented, and caring volunteers. I am so blessed to have them choose our program to help.

(The Outreach Office's Financial Report is located in the Financial Report Packet)

Respectfully submitted by,
Donne Lewis, Outreach Director

HEART & SOLE MINISTRY

We learned that some local school children are in desperate need of new shoes. Because the need is so critical, the local school principal uses a roll of colored duct tape to repair the soles. So in response, we started a Heart & Sole Ministry.

We now collect new sneakers so they can be distributed by the principal and school counselor, to the neediest children, at North East Elementary School. Sizes needed range from youth 12 to adult size 7, with sneakers being the most requested footwear. We launched this program in November of this year and by the end of December, we collected and distributed 80 pairs of shoes and 258 pairs of socks to the school. We will continue to with program throughout the school year.

Respectfully submitted by, Pat Wagner, Coordinator

GIVING TREE

This year we helped kids from North East Elementary, Charlestown Elementary, and Elk Neck Elementary with Christmas presents. There were a total of 76 kids adopted this year. The expenditure for Giving Tree was \$944. Thank you all for your support, we will do it again next year!

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Hunt, Coordinator

MISSION COMMITTEE

Our Mission Statement: *The Mission Committee, through the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ, endeavors to encourage, educate and stimulate the parish to be Christ's hands and feet in the community, nation and world, not only through the use of our financial resources but also through love and action.*

The members of the committee in 2018 were: Reuben Argudo, Michael Brown, Dana Cain, Paula England, Linda Gibeck, Gail Proctor, Jim Siglow Nancy Siglow, and Joanne Veater. Father John Schaeffer was an ad hoc member providing spiritual support. Randy England was a part of the Mission Committee the first quarter, until he left for personal reasons. He had been the recording secretary. Joanne Veater was the Financial Chairperson and picked up the responsibility of Recording Secretary in Randy's absence. Linda Gibeck was the Chairperson.

This committee has the primary responsibility for drafting an annual budget for the use of the 75% income from the Beulah Sturgeon Fund and over the course of the year, managing that approved budget. Those funds support local and international ministries that provide basic needs of food and clean water, as well as health care and education for children and adults.

The working budget for 2018 was \$33,229.80. The proposed working budget for 2019 is \$33947.28.

We started the year with our Family Train Day under the leadership of George Kaplan and Dru Torregrossa. Funds raised in the amount of \$1552.02 were sent to St. Vincent's School for the Handicapped in Haiti which was destroyed in the earthquake. The Mission Committee will continue to support St. Vincent's as needed.

The always popular Duck Races at the Garden Market, with the leadership of Dana Cain, raised \$746.00. It was manned by Dana and Camp Care volunteers. The \$746.00 was donated to Camp Care, which is a three week camp for children with disabilities who reside in Cecil County.

Fall meetings included reviews and discussions of applications in preparation of the new budget; and planning our next Family Train Day.

The members of the committee would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of the outreach projects sponsored by the Mission Committee. We welcome any new ideas or suggestions from the congregation. The committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Parish House upstairs office. Guests are always welcome. We break for July and August and resume meetings beginning in September.

(The Mission Committee's Financial Report is located in the Financial Report Packet)

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Gibeck

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care encompasses the parish ministries of both clergy and laity, as they respond to the needs of our parishioners in their homes, during hospitalizations, and in extended care residences.

Pastoral care is an integral part of the ministry of Saint Mary Anne's. Each parishioner has a part in pastoral care, and that is to inform the Priest if they know of someone who would like, or needs, a visit. Our Pastoral Care Team meets periodically with the Rector to determine how best we can manage these visits and provide pastoral support.

We endeavor to see all who need a visit, a warm hug or a handwritten note. Some visitors bring flowers, others assist with meals, temporary childcare, or an occasional ride to the doctor. We send out "get-well" cards, make phone calls and try to stay in touch with those needing care. In addition, Pastoral Care extends to the bereaved. Frequently, our ECW graciously hosts funeral receptions for deceased parishioner's families.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

We send out Eucharistic Visitors to bring Communion and fellowship to members who cannot get to church. A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the consecrated elements in a timely manner, following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist, to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration of the Eucharist. A Eucharistic Visitor acts under the direction of the Rector.

Our Eucharistic Visitors are licensed with the diocese: Linda Gibeck, Cathy Donley, Andrea Pugh, Dru Torregrossa, Bill Weisel, Carol Weisel, and Donne Lewis.

If you know of anyone who needs the Eucharist brought to them, or if you wish to be part of this ministry please contact me or the parish office.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fr. John Schaeffer

FLOWER DELIVERY

Members of this committee take flowers from the altar to the ill and homebound. Those who donate flowers know that they are used to glorify God and to remember a loved one or as a thank offering, and then they brighten the life of someone who couldn't attend the Sunday service.

Joan Gaffney, Parish Administrator, contacts the flower donors to determine if they have specific instructions as to who should receive the flowers. She emails Ginny Roney to let her know. If there are no specific instructions, the committee, with Fr. John's input, decides. In 2018, seventy-nine individuals/families received altar flowers/visits. We still need more volunteers to help with this ministry. Ginny Roney and Sue Hocker are now the only "regular" members of this committee. Nancy Leizear helps out when she can, and Dawn Dorsett acts as a substitute. Rachelan Griffin was a great asset for several years but no longer attends St. Mary Anne's.

Respectfully submitted by, Ginny Roney

Worship

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

St. Vincent is the patron saint of all those that serve at the altar. “St. Vincent is remembered for his love of God, his faithfulness to his bishop, and his unswerving loyalty to his responsibilities. These traits—love, faithfulness, and loyalty—are virtues that all who are privileged to serve at the altar cultivate.” – [Dennis G. Michno, A Manual for Acolytes] As Acolytes at St. Mary Anne’s we have our love rooted in the Trinity, our faithfulness to our Rector and Bishop, and our loyalty to carry-on the traditions with care and dignity of those that served before us during SMA’s 300+ year history.

New Acolytes for this year are: Ethan Reynolds, Adam Reynolds, Mackenzie Crawford, Sarah Swoboda, Noah Bungo, Karen Schaeffer and Jim Kamihachi. They have joined: Garrett Dorsett, Caroline Dorsett, Hannah Sadler, Asi Polanco, Kaelyn Kondracki, Claire Kondracki, Clark Kondracki and Andy Flood. This past summer, Joe Flood departed our Acolyte squad when he left for college.

The acolyte ministry is open to all: adults, teen-agers, and children (2nd grade and up). If interested in serving God in this tradition (dating back multiple centuries) please contact Fr. John, Andy Flood, or Marlene Coffey.

Respectfully submitted by,
Andy Flood

ALTAR GUILD

St. Mary Anne’s Altar Guild is a very dedicated group of folks whose purpose is to help Father John by preparing the altar for all services. We have four teams of members with each team serving one week each month (unless there are five Sundays). This means that in addition to Sunday services, if there are other services during the week, the Altar Guild also serves as needed.

During the year several of our members retired. We will miss Patty Lemmerman, Agnes Underwood and Carol Smith but appreciate their years of faithful service to the Altar Guild.

We welcomed several new members this year - Lori Cox, Karen Dryden, Kathy Mullen and Dave Wagner. We now have two gentlemen!

Benigna Polanco has joined us as our first youth member! If you know of any youth who would like to be a part of this important ministry, please let me know.

A Fall Workshop was held and Father John led us in a service that ended with the blessing of our hands. He also gave us a history of altar guilds in the Episcopal Church.

We were pleased to be a part of SMA’s instructed Eucharist service.

I would like to thank the following parishioners who are currently serving on our Altar Guild: Lori Cox Phyllis Doyle, Karen Dryden, Sandy Ferguson, Anne Graybeal, Kathi Lichenstein, Lee Mackie, Kathy Mullen, Benigna Polanco, Nancy Siglow, Vonnie and John Stemen, Pat and Dave Wagner, and Julie Waterhouse.

Respectfully submitted by, Andrea Pugh

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Our Centering Prayer group meets weekly as a support to those practicing Centering Prayer daily at home. We have a 25-minute Centering Prayer time, then we study the written and video work of Thomas Keating, who was the founder of Contemplative Outreach.

We meet Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the church.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kate Burchess

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Eucharistic Ministers are charged with assisting the Celebrant at Eucharistic services and leading the Worship for the Morning or Evening Prayer Services. The Worship Leaders are Randy England, Linda Gibeck, Nancy Leizear, Melissa Cook-Mackenzie, Andrea Pugh, Dru Torregrossa, Carol Weisel, and Donne Lewis. Andrea covers the Wednesday morning services. Linda and Melissa joined our team this year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donne Lewis

FAITH & RECOVERY SERVICE

Our monthly Faith & Recovery Service is both worship and outreach. We celebrated our 12-Step Faith & Recovery Service's first anniversary in December. Held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00PM, this monthly service tries to strengthen those in recovery with the message of hope, redemption, and God's grace. We use a modified Kenyan Celebration Eucharist service that incorporates the 12-Step Program. We have praise music with a guitarist/soloist and personal testimonials from those in recovery.

At the conclusion, a light meal is served in the Parish Center. Attendance varies but averages 30 and peaks to 70. We received a Diocesan Grant for 2500.00 this year to help with the promotion and service music. A grant stipulation prohibited the money to be used for food, so we rely on the donations of attendees and parishioners to help with food expenses. Linda Gibeck, Cathy Donley, and Becky Flood have helped with the meals. Carol Weisel assists with the service.

It should be noted that our Parish Center is the home for four support groups (two NA, AA and Al Anon) which meet every week.

Respectfully submitted by,
Father John Schaeffer

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The St. Mary Anne's Flower Committee, with the generous support of our Church family and friends, decorates the Church for the Christmas and Easter seasons and special occasions. This involves many hours of planning, designing, purchasing and gather greens and materials. We especially appreciate the donations of greens from the gardens of Candy Davis and Bob Gant, Mollie Culbertson and the Coudon and McDaniel families. Laurel Jones donated all the Christmas wreaths. As the costs of flowers increases each year, these donations help lower costs. We regret that Laurel Jones and Patty Lemmerman are leaving our team. We will miss their expertise and the good times we shared together. Fortunately, Mary Clark Confalone has joined us, and we look forward to another year of enhancing the services of our historic Church.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Mary Blomquist, Nancy Leizear, Mary Confalone, Nancy Ball

LECTORS

Twenty-two (22) parishioners serve as lectors at St. Mary Anne's, reading the lessons every Sunday and on holidays as well. Currently we have 8 volunteers for the 8 o'clock services, and 14 for the 10 o'clock services. Lectors are scheduled on a quarterly basis and sent their assigned readings via email at the beginning of every month.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jill Holley

MUSIC

Late in the year, the 2018 Music Ministry at St. Mary Anne's became a year of transition. Unfortunately, our Director of Music Steve McBride left St. Mary Anne's in November due to an employment offer in Virginia. Through the efforts and dedication of the choir, we were able to quickly bring Alex Bi to SMA as the Supply Organist. Alex continues to assist with worship every Sunday and will gladly be with St. Mary Anne's through March.

We have begun the search process to bring on board a new Director of Music Ministry in 2019. Prior to Steve's November departure, the choir assisted with hymns and anthems at each 10:00AM service and continues to do so during this interim period. We thank our choir who are a dedicated group of volunteers. They offer many hours of their time to enhance the worship experience for all of St. Mary Anne's.

Our 8:00AM service is blessed to have Rick Waterhouse sing and play the guitar each week during our Offertory. Our monthly 12-Step recovery service is blessed with praise music by guitarist and vocalist Rob Robinson. He is occasionally accompanied by fellow musicians Paul and Sue Keller. We are also blessed to have in our parish, Jane Crouch, who has filled in as a substitute organist when needed. Her daughter, Jennifer Swoboda, lends her piano talents too—and can often be found in our church school singing and accompanying our children with song.

Special concerts with guest soloists and musicians enhanced our music program this year. In February the parish was treated to a concert of various music styles by Victoria Robertson. In March and early November, with Steve's guidance, singers from several actor's groups in the area treated us to a Cabaret of Broadway music. We had a glorious Requiem concert on Palm Sunday to usher in Holy Week. On Christmas Eve, violinist and guest musician Joel Alarcon, accompanied Alex Bi. That evening, Victoria Robertson was a guest soloist during our 8PM service.

Mary and Ken Blomquist gifted our parish with a baby grand piano. This beautiful instrument now sits in our Parish Center, and is used for special Parish Center performances. We are very appreciative of this generous gift.

We welcome those who lift their voices to God each week to join our choir as part of worship each Sunday. To join, please speak to any choir member or contact Carol Weisel. If you play a musical instrument and would like to assist us with worship, please let us know!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our music ministry this year at St. Mary Anne's!

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol Weisel

USHERS

As of December 31st, 2018 - The Usher Group (TUG) of St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church provided more than 400-Hours of Volunteer Time. The members provided assistance to the Rector during the weekly & special church services. They are the first greeters in welcoming everyone into our church family. Our Ushers provide guidance, answer questions, and handout literature in order to deliver an enjoyable experience to all in attendance. Plus, they get to Ring the Bell announcing our services.

There are (13) Ushers for the 8am service: Diane Thompson, Jeffery Smith, George Coudon, George Balog, John McMaster, Jim Siglow, Michael Garrity, Bob Doyle, Ken Blomquist, Mike Pugh, Steve Blumberg, Ruben Argudo and Ethan Kyger.

There are (11) Ushers dedicated to the 10:00 am service: Melissa Cook-MacKenzie, Larry Gibeck, George Kaplan, Doug Donley, Dave Wagner, Jill Holley and her granddaughter Mackenzie Crawford, Louise Berg, Amanda Summers Marr, Rich Gilbert and Wendy Gilbert.

Our newest ushers for 2019 are Ed Slaughter and Sam Polanco. Men, women and parishioners of all ages are welcome to participate as often as your schedule allows. The Kondracki Children; Claire, Kaelyn & Clark are regulars and, recently, a grand-daughter of Linda Hunt (Presley) helped to ring the Bell and collect funds during the Offertory. If you are new to St. Mary Anne's and would like to get to know our members better, we would more than happy to partner you with an experienced usher. What better way to get to know the rest of your church family.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jim Siglow

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The St. Mary Anne's Worship Committee is comprised of all groups involved in regular Sunday worship. We meet monthly to ensure that each Sunday, and other Church feast days, are celebrated with praise and love for God and the blessings we, at St. Mary Anne's, have received.

We continue to use our traditional Rite I service at our 8:00AM service and Rite II at our 10:00AM. For the third year, our St. Francis Day Service used the Kenyan Celebration Rite II service.

We began our Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. Fr. John administered ashes at three services (6:30AM, 10AM, 7PM) and curbside "Ashes to Go" on South Main Street from 11:30AM to 1:30PM.

Holy Week began with our Procession of Palms on Palm Sunday. That afternoon, a glorious Requiem Concert helped launch our journey through Holy Week. Early that week, we opened the sanctuary for prayer and reflection with Evening Prayer. Our EfM class led prayer and instruction, and Vespers. Once again we had a lovely Maundy Thursday Dinner and Altar Stripping; a noon-time Good Friday Service and an evening Tenebrae Service. An exceptional Easter Vigil Service celebrated by Rev. Pat Drost of St. Mark's in Perryville, Fr. Nicholas Sichangi of Trinity Episcopal in Elkton, and Fr. John, began our "Alleluia, Easter

Celebration”. We continued that Easter worship at the riverfront on Easter morning and returned to the Sanctuary for two additional Easter Morning services.

On the second Sunday of each month from 6-7:30PM, we had a 12-Step Faith and Recovery Service for those in Recovery from the disease of addiction and alcoholism. Participants include those from local recovery support groups including: NA, AA, and Al Anon, along with interested parishioners and family members. A light fellowship meal follows in the Parish Center at the service’s conclusion. A praise band or a guitarist leads the group in worship. We celebrated our 1st Anniversary Service in December of 2018. Together, we help strengthen those in recovery with the message of hope, redemption, and God’s grace.

In 2018, we worked to re-institute a nursery, so parents of young children are now able to enjoy worship. In September of 2018, we started our church school year with instruction on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month; while encouraging more active church participation from children on subsequent weeks—as Acolytes, Lectors and Ushers.

For four weeks during Advent, we had a mid-week Evening Prayer Service on Thursdays at 7PM. Our sweet children gave us of the gift of a Children’s Christmas Pageant during the fourth Sunday of Advent. Our three Christmas Eve Services had record-breaking attendance! Our 5:00PM service, was a Family Service in which children participated by filling the crèche with animals. Our 8:00PM and 11:00PM services were filled with candlelight, beautiful prayers, and music from our choir, a guest organist Alex Bi, violinist Joel Alarcon, and guest soloist Victoria Robertson.

We have been worshipping Christ from our altar for 312 years. God’s Amazing Grace!

Respectfully submitted by
Fr. John R. Schaeffer

Addendum:

A Year in Review at Saint Mary Anne's Episcopal Church, 2018

Many of us put pen to paper and list our goals for the New Year but before we do that, it is usually helpful to review what was recently accomplished. In the Book of Job, we are reminded that *we should choose to follow what is right, but first of all we must define among ourselves what is good (Job 34:4)*. Let's take this opportunity to review and define "good" that was accomplished this year at Saint Mary Anne's toward our continued mission and growth as a parish.

Outreach

- Under the direction of Donne Lewis and with the help of over 30 volunteers, the Outreach Office was open **141** days this year. In the past 12 months, we helped **1,281** families and **3,542** family members. We packed **6,449** bags of SMA food and **1,290** bags of federal food, with 97% of our income was spent on food; 1% on assistance; 2% on supplies/misc. items. (*As of publication in Dec. 2018 these were Nov 2017-Nov 2018 statistics*).
- In November, our Outreach volunteers distributed turkeys and fixings to **61** needy families for Thanksgiving.
- We re-energized our efforts with monthly Outreach Food Drives. On the fourth Sunday of the month, parishioner donations of requested items (such as diapers, cereal, and laundry detergent) are brought to the altar and blessed.
- Collaboration with other churches, the Rotary, Tome's Key Club, and a very new partnership with Walmart's December Food Drive, helps fill our Outreach Office's pantry shelves for food distribution.
- Six days a week, our Parish Center is an active community meeting place. Using our facilities are four support groups (2 NA, AA and Al Anon), two Scout troops, 4-H classes, a chess club, a senior group, and a civic gardening club. During the summer, we hosted a 12-Step Yoga class.
- Our hearts were saddened by the devastation of the California fires this past fall. A parishioner serving in the Air Force, Lucy Burchess, enlisted our aid to help a specific Paradise California family that suffered tremendous losses. In response, we collected \$3,000 from the parish and the Vestry matched \$2,000, enabling us to send \$5,000 via Lucy to help this family in crisis.
- Our Giving Tree Project has brightened the lives of many needy children this year. Our parishioners, led by Linda Hunt, helped **76** local school children in three area schools.
- We began a Heart & Sole Ministry and collect new shoes to be distributed to the neediest children at North East Elementary School. We have collected and distributed **80** pairs of shoes and **258** pairs of socks to the school.
- We continue to collect gently used or new children's books for local school children, and used eyewear for the Lion's Club.

Worship

- Holy Week was a sacred journey with many opportunities to worship and pray including: Evening Prayer, Maundy Thursday Dinner & Table Eucharist; Good Friday noontime service and an evening Tenebrae Service; Easter Vigil on Saturday; and 6:30AM, 8 and 10AM Easter morning services. The Easter Bunny visited that day too!
- Bishop Santosh Marray made his annual visitation in June. While here, he baptized one baby boy, confirmed two teenagers, recognized an EFM graduate, reaffirmed three in faith, and received seventeen members into our parish community.

- The Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Hartman, Rector of St. Mary Anne's from 1990-2013, is now Rector Emeritus. Bishop San and Father John, along with the parish, bestowed this title on Father Sam during the Bishop's visit.
- The ever popular St. Francis Day in October was celebrated in our Parish Center. Lots of furry friends—even a duck and rooster—were blessed that day!
- Our Sacramental Report: 11 funerals; 3 marriages; 5 Baptisms; 2 Confirmations; 17 Receptions
- New to the worship team: Linda Gibeck and Melissa Cook Mackenzie as Eucharistic Ministers. Jim Kamihachi and Karen Schaeffer as adult acolytes.
- At least twice a month, Fr. John, Fr. Sam Hartman, and Fr. Bob Smith (each Monday), visit the Sisters of Episcopal Carmel in Rising Sun to celebrate a Eucharist service.
- Fr. John celebrates a monthly Eucharist service at Victoria Park Senior Apartments in North East.
- This December, Fr. John and Eucharistic Minister Linda Gibeck began a twice monthly Eucharist service at Calvert Manor.

Mission

- Our Mission Committee identified fifteen worthwhile local, national and international charities and distributed \$33,030 this year.
- Proceeds of \$1,552.00 from Train Day were collected for the St. Vincent School for the Handicapped in Haiti.
- Guests at our Garden Market enjoyed our “Duck Races” for Camp Care and raised \$746.00.

Education

- Interesting Adult Forums engaged parishioners during the early Coffee Hour (9:15AM). Presentations were on: the solar eclipse of 2017, The Chapel of Ease, The Town of North East, the Civil War in Cecil County, the Conowingo Dam, and the Meaning of Advent.
- We were “Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World” as we enjoyed a light supper and participated in Max Lucado's video and book discussion for four Sunday evenings during Lent.
- A Summer Book Club met four evenings this past summer and explored “A Reason for God” by Tim Keller.
- A Fall/Winter Book Club is currently meeting for eight sessions to discuss “Resolving Everyday Conflict” by Ken Sande.
- A new EfM class began in September under the continued direction of Carol Weisel.
- A “Dream Big” Scholarship of \$1800.00, initially funded by a financial gift from the Flood family, was awarded in June to its first recipient: High school graduate and parishioner, Ethan Kyger.
- Our sweet parish children participate in the yearly Christmas Pageant (Sunday, December 23rd)
- Church school is held on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month; and a nursery is available on the 2nd Sunday.
- Youth Group meets once a month, and participates in Diocesan youth events too. This year, some members traveled to events in Ocean City, MD and a mission trip to the Niagara Falls, NY area.
- A number of children are training as acolytes under the direction of Andy Flood.
- We participate in a Diocesan Youth Group Leadership Cohort to learn about effective youth engagement in the parish and community.

Evangelism

- On Ash Wednesday, Fr. John and Eucharistic Minister Carol Weisel administered “drive-by ashes” to many on South Main Street.
- Fr. John offered a blessing at a monthly Cecil County Council Meeting.
- Fr. John serves on the Board of Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services and the Bioethics Committee at Union Hospital.
- Fr. John is building relationships with advocates in the Recovery community (Dexter House, The Charlotte House, Ashley Recovery Center, and Voices of Hope).
- Established regular worship services at two local senior communities.

Events

- Our Annual Train Day (Saturday, January 6) had a record-breaking crowd stop by to see an amazing collection of trains and lunch in our “dining car”. Proceeds of \$1,552.00 were collected by the Mission Committee for the St. Vincent School for the Handicapped in Haiti.
- Our 21st Garden Market blossomed in May as 4000+ guests visited our church yard. For two days, vendors from the tristate area sold flowers, plants, food and crafts. This year, we had success with business sponsorships to help underwrite the costs of this burgeoning endeavor.
- Our 3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk (December 8th) was an incredible success! We sold out in 2 hours and 15 minutes—a total of 308 lbs. of cookies! Proceeds benefit The ECW’s charitable projects.
- Rain didn’t keep people away from our 3rd Annual Wreaths across America (December 15). Chris & Amanda Inmon organized a moving tribute ceremony, with special guest Major General Randy S. Taylor, the Commanding General of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Then, wreaths were laid on **83** veterans’ graves in our cemetery.
- For 22 seasons, the North Elk Coffee House has entertained parishioners and the local community with visiting folk singers and performers in our Parish Center. (3rd Saturday evening of the month; Sept-May) Proceeds benefit The Meeting Ground, a local resource center for the homeless.

Fellowship

- Hearts and flowers ushered in another Valentine Luncheon as parishioners enjoyed fellowship with their parish family and friends.
- Pancakes and syrup were poured by our Youth Group at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- The 2:42 Men’s Group is now well-established and meets on the last Saturday of the month from 8-9:30AM for breakfast, conversation, and special church projects.
- Our Annual Parish Picnic was held on a glorious sunny summer day (July 29th). The parish enjoyed fellowship, picnic food, horseshoes, and free kayaking provided by Bay Venture Outfitters.
- The ECW gathered on a beautiful evening at the home of Mary & Ken Blomquist for the Annual ECW Covered Dish Picnic (June 26th). They gathered again at Pier One Restaurant for their Annual Christmas Soirée (November 28th). Shoes and socks were collected for the Heart & Sole Ministry.

Music

- Our music program was enhanced by guest musicians, soloists, and concerts. The glorious Requiem concert on Palm Sunday afternoon prepared us for Holy Week. Two “Broadway on Main” dinner shows were performed in our

Parish Center, with funds to benefit our Music Ministry.

- In November, our Director of Music, Steve McBride, moved to Virginia for his full-time employment. We now have a temporary organist, Alex Bi, who will be with us until early 2019. We are in the search process for a permanent Organist/Choir Director.
- Our choir lend their voices to our weekly 10AM worship under the current direction of Carol Weisel and Dru Torregrossa. Our guitarist/soloist, Rick Waterhouse, plays during our 8:00AM offertory. Rob Robinson is our guitarist/soloist at our monthly Recovery meetings.

Pastoral

- Our gracious and hospitable ECW (Episcopal Church Women) hosted four funeral lunches for bereaved families.
- Our Pastoral Care team visits infirmed parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, and the homebound. They provide companionship, Communion, occasional light meals, and deliver altar flowers.

Recovery Ministry

- A focus on our Recovery Ministry brought a Cecil County Overdose Prevention Coordinator to conduct an educational training program on opioid overdose (Feb. 3rd) and NARCAN training.
- We celebrated our 12-Step Recovery Service's first anniversary in December. Held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00PM, this monthly service tries to strengthen those in recovery with the message of hope, redemption, and God's grace. At the conclusion, a light meal is served in the Parish Center. Attendance varies but averages 30 and peaks to 70.
- Our Parish Center is the home for four support groups (two NA, AA and Al Anon) which meet every week.

Building and Grounds

The Church and Vestry House

- Front doors were repaired, sanded and painted by Ron Himmel.
- Eave and roof repair work was accomplished on both buildings to help with drainage and leaks.
- Spider web eradication on Bell Tower by Vickie Schultheiss and Sandy Taylor

- Estimates are now being obtained for window and shutter repairs, and Sanctuary painting.

Cemetery

- Over 20 historic gravestones were cleaned, and a handful were straightened. We will continue with this preservation work in the spring.
- Our Memorial Garden had a makeover. Old hedges were removed by Vickie Schultheiss and Sandy Taylor. Three rose bushes, turf, a dogwood tree, and cement planters are now in place.
- Garden barrels, filled with seasonal flowers, are now at two entrances.
- Flowerbeds along the Vestry House and near Hoopes Court are rejuvenated with new plantings.
- French drains were dug and installed to help direct water away from the church building.

Parish Center

- All the parish offices, and the front and rear stairwells to the 2nd floor, are freshly painted.
- Air-conditioning was installed in the parish offices.
- New signage around the building. Outside lighting at front sign.
- A significant roof repair was accomplished.
- An Eagle Scout and his troop painted the front porch and landscaped a portion of the frontage.
- Two church yard clean-ups by parishioners, recovery and community members, and Scouts.
- Additional landscaping was done by Vickie Schultheiss, Sande Taylor, Linda Gibeck, and Mr. Sandy Taylor.
- Handicap ramp cement work repairs, with railing reinforcement, by Tim Leizear.
- Paul Pudlinski, a parishioner and architect, evaluated the Outreach Offices and offered recommendations on how to expand and organize the space to better meet the needs of our Outreach clients. Thanks to Paul and Tim Leizear, work has begun!

The Parish Center Garage

- Termite eradication
- Organizational hooks for tools were installed by Tim Leizear

The Rectory

- Sectional fence replacement by Tim Leizear and Sandy Taylor

The Wharf

- Renewed lease for Bay Venture Outfitters (kayak rentals)
- The bulkhead was repaired

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. (BCP 839)