

# Annual Reports to the Parish Meeting

29 January 2017



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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# Agenda for Parish Meeting — 29 January 2017

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We welcomed the mature affirmation of faith through Holy Confirmation in 2016 Eirik Wagley	
And co-sponsored with St. Mary's, Martinsville Josephine Whitaker	
We bound into Christ's love through Holy Matrimony in 2016 Mary Catherine Tucker and William Frederick Mathies Megan Abigail Vincent and Jeremy Daniel Kincaid	
We surrendered to God's care through Christian burial in 2016 William Sheets Arthur Jackson Michael Burns Olivia James Betty Goss Elizabeth Mercer	
And gave a proper burial in collaboration with the Masonic Temple using the 1789 burial rite to Peter Buell Allen	
Teller's Report	
Other business	
Motion to Adjourn	

# Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Parish

Submitted by Anne Buchanan, Clerk

The meeting was called to order with an opening prayer by Rector Drew Downs. The first order of business was to appoint Anne Buchanan as Clerk. Drew then called attention to the available packet with meeting agenda and reports.

The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting (in the packet) were reviewed. Diann McKee made a motion to accept the Clerk's report as submitted. Elinor Balensuela seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Craig McKee, representing the vestry nominating committee (outgoing vestry members Craig McKee, Carolyn Steinbaugh, and James Willis), presented the following slate of candidates for Vestry: Ben Bush, Kim Wagley, and Bill Streeter. No nominations were received from the floor. James Campbell moved to close the nominations and instruct the clerk to cast a unanimous vote for the three individuals. Elinor Balensuela seconded the motion. Motion passed. Outgoing members were thanked for their service.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Peggy Allen presented a report of the 2015 and proposed 2016 budget—a “good news/bad news report.” (See attached written report.) The good news is that the budget deficit for 2015 was half of what had been predicted. The bad news was that we still ended the year with a deficit and that 2015 was the first year she had to “raid the savings account to bolster the checking account.” Peggy pointed out that a new restricted fund had been set up for the Sulger/Black trust following the death of Eleanor Black and that funds had been moved from Wells Fargo accounts to diocesan accounts and a First Financial savings account. Cash on hand at the end of the year was \$209,886.10, as

opposed to last year's \$223,000. The annual diocesan assessment was smaller than last year's and will continue to go down as our budget goes down.

A motion to receive the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. All voted in favor of accepting the treasurer's report subject to audit.

## **Senior Warden's Report**

In his final report as Senior Warden, Craig McKee focused first on financial concerns and the future of the parish. His chief concern was that a series of deficit budgets was analogous to “eating your seed corn,” eroding our capacity to take advantage of investments and use those funds to sustain parish. He pointed out that we have been successful in keeping a tight rein on expenses, to the point that there is little more we can do. Therefore our financial focus needs to be on growth.

Craig reminded parishioners that 70 % of money pledged in our parish comes from people 70 years of age and over. And 50% percent of what is pledged comes from 7 donors, 5 of whom are over 70. We must keep this “concentration of risk” in mind as we look toward the future. Even though we saw increases in pledges this year, we can still expect to see deficit budgets in years to come. This is not sustainable over long haul.

Craig finished his report by thanking our “very engaged vestry” and, in particular, the work of outgoing Junior Warden James Willis and the “small group of men who know this place like their own homes”: James, Darrell Roundtree, and Bill Streeter. He thanked the congregation for the opportunity of being Senior Warden and wished the new vestry well.

## Other Reports

Parishioners were mostly referred to the written versions in the meeting packet, though a few additional remarks were made:

- Drew shared some additional thoughts regarding Christian Discovery for Adults in general and Lenten offerings in general. He will endeavor to provide daily meditations during the Lenten season.
- Jane Mangrum put out a plea for more volunteers to help with flower arranging and the garden—with instruction provided. We also need more people to sign up to donate money for Sunday flowers.
- It was pointed out that we hosted Holypalooza this year (it was a big year for hosting) and did a great job in making neighbors feel welcome. We heard from many people how smoothly the service went and how easy it was to worship with us here.
- Drew commended the enormous energy that David and Debbie Nearpass bring to the Outreach ministry. We don't budget much for outreach, but we do a lot with what is budgeted.

## Rector's Report

Drew invited parishioners to read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 12-13 in the following weeks because those passages sum up "what church looks like." The church is Christ's body, we are his members, and our love is the way Christ is known in the world. Drew then suggested that the theme for the coming year is hope.

Drew took a minute to thank Craig McKee for serving two years as Senior Warden: "I am deeply thankful to have someone whose hand is so steady in my transition year and whose faith and love are certain." Drew thanked outgoing vestry members Craig, Carolyn

Steinbaugh, and James Willis for their service. He announced that he had invited Linda Airhart to be Senior Warden for 2016 and that Linda had accepted. He commended Linda's sense of hope and her enthusiasm for evangelism and invited her to she would lead the vestry to "to do what you are called to do and not just what you need to do" and lead the congregation in "welcoming all who come in name of Christ."

Drew announced that the Vestry would meet immediately after the annual meeting in the Skander Nasser meeting room to appoint officers. Then he closed the meeting with a variation on the short review the vestry does at every meeting.

Parishioners were invited to name:

## Seven Things That Give Us Hope for St. Stephen's

- Linda Airhart's leadership
- Drew's blog and Drew in general
- The fact that we have a full house for an annual meeting
- new faces at St. Stephen's
- The fact that people show up to help when asked
- Our newly amped-up homeless ministry
- Our collaboration with other churches for Vacation Bible School, Holypalooza—and hopefully more in 2016

Craig McKee passed on the key to the church to new senior warden Linda Airhart.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion passed. The dismissal was given by Deby Veach at 12:39 p.m.

## Senior Warden's Report submitted by Linda Airhart

As a first time Senior Warden, I have to admit that I had no idea of what I was agreeing to do. That being said, I want to thank all of the "past" senior wardens who have offered words of support and encouragement.

This past year has been an exciting one for the St Stephens Church family. I call it a family because as I look around on Sundays, I see people for all walks of life, generously sharing their love for each other in various ways. You are a testament of the love of Jesus.

This past year new fund raising ventures were embarked and were found them to be quite successful. Thank you to the individuals who put in countless hours on

the Cookbooks and the Mother's Day Brunch. Both deemed successful, not just in monetary returns but in the experiences gained.

We have experienced an increase in the number of new faces in our pews and welcome them with friendliness and acceptance. The creation of an environment that is welcoming is an essential part of the life and continued growth of St Stephens.

St Stephens is blessed with a number of people who are committed to its continued success and for that I thank you. The people of St Stephens are truly the best and I am proud to be part of this family.

## Worship

### Acolytes Submitted by Don Bryan

**Coordinator:** Don Bryan

**Best way to Contact:** 812.877.2333 H;  
812.201.9995 C

We started the year with 4 Acolytes and added two new members. We had only one training completed. As of now we have six with Sarah Bryan (Mike Verdeyen every other weekend) and (Eirik Wagley in emergency only) being the most experienced. The others are Kelsey Bryan, Alexis Fagg and Hudson Bryan.

A booklet for Acolytes is completed with the help of Zack Willis and Eirik Wagley to post on the church website and place in acolytes' vestment room. It is ready for vestry for approval.

The biggest obstacle we had for 2016 is the involvement of soccer for 80% of the acolytes from March to June and September to November. This led to a major problem for scheduling.

Someone can begin training again in February as we have multiple adults and one other youth interested.

So for 2017 we can have up 10 available.

I do suggest that we purchase some new outfits based upon what we currently use.

### **Example of schedule with Details of duties and roles**

8 C (Carries Cross, gathers plate and sacraments when brought up, can help

priests with sacraments) (3 trained to do this)

With three acolytes

10 C (Carries Cross, bible for gospel, takes sacraments from ushers and helps priest with sacraments once presented to altar, leads processions in and out)

tb (Light all candles needed for service 5-10 minutes prior, carry torches up to altar, carry out.

tb Gospel gathers offering plates from ushers and processions out and after Music is done snuff out candles.)

With five acolytes

10 C (Carries Cross in, leads tb out for gospel processions out at end of service)

tb (Light all candles needed for service 5-10 minutes prior, carry torches up to altar, carry out and back for

tb Gospel and processions out and after Music is done snuff out candles.)

S-1 Carries second cross in front of Gospel book in to altar behind the choir, carries cross out for gospel behind tb acolytes, collects sacraments to be given to priest then assists priest, and then processes out in front of bible behind the choir.

S-II Carries gospel behind S-I and places on bible on altar, carries out Gospel behind second cross, collects offering plate from ushers and any other items donated, and carries out gospel at end of service.

**Choir** submitted by Dennis Dieken

**Leader/coordinator:** Dennis Dieken  
officeadmin @ ststephensth.org  
Church phone 812.232.5165  
Dennis cell 812.605.1358

The St. Stephen's Choir is a volunteer group open to all parishioners and friends. The choir's ministry is supporting/leading the congregation in the singing of liturgy. When possible, we sing an anthem. We

rehearse on Sunday mornings before the 10 a.m. service with very occasional weeknight rehearsals, usually just before Christmas and/or Holy Week/Easter.

**Flower Arrangers** submitted by Gene England

**Coordinator:** Jane Mangrum  
217.822.7395; also could contact Gene England, 812.235.3021; 812.201.3042 or by email grengland63 @aol.com

**What is this ministry and who does it serve?** This ministry serves God, the People of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and their guests by creating floral arrangements for the altar and for additional

liturgical needs as they occur (Advent candles, Baptismal font, etc). Arrangements are designed with attention to the liturgical seasons and are inspired by the word of God as heard in the designated readings at services. On many occasions arrangements memorialize or honor designated individuals or groups as requested by

members of the parish as well as by others (at the time of funerals, for example)

**How are we serving this year 2017?**

More volunteers are needed. Learn about floral arrangement in a liturgical setting by attending one of the work sessions, usually

held on Fridays at noon in the parish kitchen. Don't forget to sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Great Hall – to remember loved ones or celebrate life events. You may also contact the church office.

**Holypalooza Worship** submitted by Dennis Dieken

The 2016 Holypalooza worship service was at Centenary United Methodist Church on September 11. The service was planned by the Rev. Melvin Camp (Centenary United Methodist), the Rev. Drew Downs, The Rev. Sharon Samsell (UCM), and Dennis Dieken (St. Stephen's). It was structured much the same as in 2015. The service used a Liturgy of the Word similar to a Methodist or Presbyterian one, with our Prayer Book Eucharistic Prayer C as the main component of the Liturgy of the Table. Dennis Dieken prepared the service booklets. Members of all three congregations actively participated as

Ushers, Communion Ministers, and Choir Singers. The Rev. Melvin Camp was the preacher. Our rector, Drew Downs, was the celebrant. Jim Moles (Central) did a Children's Sermon. The Rev. Sharon Smith (UCM Minister), our deacon Deby Veach, Timothy Ghogle (ISU, UCM, St Stephen's) and the Rev. Scott Paul-Bonham (Central), read scripture and led prayers. Scott Buchanan (Centenary, ISU) directed the choir, and the organist was Bill Cain. The Crossroads Brass Quintet played. Please see Dennis Dieken if you have comments – likes/dislikes – for 2017's service.

**Lectors and Chalicists** Submitted by Curtis A. Winkle

**Name of ministry:** Lectors and Chalicists

**Description:** Lectors and Chalicists are trained to serve in their ministry as Lector and/or Chalicist for the 8 and/or 10 o'clock service.

**How does this ministry contribute to fulfilling St. Stephen's Hopes for the Future as described in the St. Stephen's Brochure?** This ministry contributes directly to the liturgical aspects of St. Stephen's.

**Who leads or coordinates this ministry:** Bill Denton takes the lead in determining, with the Rector, the next cycle of service

and the readings. Bill Denton schedules the lectors and chalicists for the 8 o'clock services and Curt Winkle schedules the lectors and chalicists for the 10 o'clock services.

Bill Denton can be contacted at 812.299.9847 or john.denton@indstate.edu

Curt Winkle can be contacted at 812.242.4854 or curtiswinkle@mac.com

**How organized/conduct ministry?** Bill Denton sets up the readings for each cycle and coordinates the services of the six individuals that now support the eight o'clock services. Bill Denton also assigns

the lectors and chalicists for the special services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and the Christmas Eve Services. Curt Winkle coordinates the services of the fourteen individuals who now serve as lectors and/or chalicists for the ten o'clock services (two individuals also serve at the eight o'clock services).

**How does someone new get involved?**

Individuals desiring to serve as a lector and/or chalicist may contact the rector or Bill Denton for the 8 o'clock service or Curt Winkle for the 10 o'clock service. During the fall volunteers are encouraged sign up for activities either as a new volunteer or to renew their commitment to the activity.

**Sacristy/Altar Guild** Submitted by William Denton

john.denton @ indstate.edu

812.299.9847

Sacristans continue to play an important role in the worship life of St. Stephen's. Our responsibilities include setting up the altar area for Sunday and weekday Eucharists and for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, making preparations associated with the seasons of the church year, caring for altar linens, and cleaning the silver and brass in the church and chapel.

Even though the visible results of our work change frequently, the basic elements of our duties remain the same. Over the past several years we have experienced a number of different priests presiding at our services. Those clergy have made constructive suggestions that have

**For 2016**

Nineteen individuals have faithfully been serving as lectors and/or chalicists for the 8 and 10 o'clock service this past year. Six individuals served the 8 o'clock service and eighteen individuals served the 10 o'clock service and three have served both the 8 and 10 o'clock services.

**How has the Holy Spirit been evident in the work of this ministry?**

Direct participation in the worship service is very meaningful.

**What do you need for 2016?**

Volunteers to serve as a lector and/or chalicist are needed and are always welcome.

enhanced and enriched our services. Adjusting to new sacristy situations has encouraged growth and has infused an element of flexibility in our work.

We believe our ministry enhances our appreciation of the Eucharist as an expression of our corporate worship, thereby deepening our faith. There are presently nine parish members involved in various activities associated with the sacristy and its work. The sacristans of St. Stephen's enjoy this ministry and find it very rewarding and hope that others might wish to join us in this service to our worshiping community. Bill Denton is responsible for the training of sacristans and the overall coordination of the Sacristy. If you are interested in becoming a sacristan, contact him.

# Formation

The Biblical Wild submitted by the Rev. Andrew Downs

**Coordinator:** The Rev. Drew Downs

**Meeting Time:** Thursdays, 5:30 pm

**What is this ministry and who does it serve?** Two years ago, my former bishop, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley offered a resource to the church which would give participants a way to read the Bible over the course of two years. When we launched our weekly Bible Study at the beginning of January, 2015, the plan I offered was simple: we read on our own, gather each week to review the reading, and speak to how the scripture impacts our lives. But I added one twist: that we'd keep telling the big story over and over to help us learn it. While the material was a lot to cover, especially in the first year, as a Bible Study, our gathering was open to everyone and all skill levels.

**What am I most thankful to GOD for in this ministry for this past year [2016]?** I invite you to speak to some our regulars,

who can tell you their personal stories. What I am most thankful to God for is the honesty and integrity of the gatherings, the conversation, and the willingness of everyone to share some pretty intimate thoughts about not only what we read, but about faith and the missio dei. It was a very good group.

**How are we serving this year [2017]?**

The two-year experiment has come to an end, so there are no plans for a Biblical Wild in 2017.

However, in its place several other formation opportunities can grow. A new book group has just launched called Daring Reads in which we gather monthly to discuss a common book which will invite us to explore different parts of our faith.

A monthly Theology on Tap will start this spring.

And if there's interest, a weekly lectionary Bible Study.

Youth Christian Discovery (Sunday School) submitted by Bill Allen

**Coordinators:** Anne Buchanan, Bill Allen  
pegall@iquest.net, Cell: 812.201.1238

**Meets:** Sundays after the 10:00 Service during the normal academic school year

Our Youth Christian Discovery program serves young people from kindergarten through high school (welcoming folks of all ages). Our goal is to develop a feeling of community and personal understanding about our Christian beliefs and heritage while having FUN. The Spark House

Lectionary curriculum gave us guidance in combination with Anne's musical skill and creativity of many support folks. We explored classic Old and New Testament Bible stories, shared individual life stories plus a party thrown in periodically. We were thankful for the joy and enthusiasm shared by all our participants as we learned about the bible and each other. Guide and support staff included: Anne Buchanan, Bill Allen, Orbie Bryan, John Salamone, Kim Wagley, Joanna Benskin and a casts of

others. We expect to continue these efforts into 2017 with a program about Jesus the

man followed by a ***Sheep, Shepherds and Saints*** project.

## Ministry

### Fun with Fiber submitted by Deby Veach

Over the years, members of our congregation have knitted and crocheted scarves and stocking caps for Ministry on the River, lap throws for patients receiving chemotherapy and stocking caps for the homeless. This fall, we started making "knockers."

Knitted (or crochet) Knockers are special handmade breast prosthesis for women who have undergone mastectomies or other procedures to the breast. Traditional breast prosthetics are usually expensive,

heavy, sweaty and uncomfortable. They typically require special bras or camisoles with pockets and can't be worn for weeks after surgery. Knitted Knockers on the other hand are soft, comfortable, beautiful and when placed in a regular bra they take the shape and feel of a real breast.

This project runs through Easter 2017 after which we will be donating our completed knockers to a local surgeon's office. For more information or patterns, please see Deby Veach.

### Holypalooza Food Pantry Drive submitted by David and Debbie Nearpass

Three local food pantries benefitted from the 2016 Holypalooza food drive. Parishioners from the three participating churches donated food over a four-week period and delivered it to the Great Hall following the Holypalooza Service. Three eight foot tables

overflowed with the donations as volunteers from each church sorted and bagged the gifts to be delivered to the Salvation Army, United Campus Ministries and the 14<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut food pantries.

### Ministry to the Homeless submitted by Deby Veach, Deacon

In 2016, St. Stephen's was in charge of Fairbanks Park along the Wabash River for the annual **Point in Time Count** held the last Wednesday in January. Our volunteers served chili, peanut butter sandwiches, fruit and coffee. Ziploc bags containing two pairs of thick socks, gloves, a stocking cap and a \$5.00 McDonald's card were also passed

out. Hamilton Center donated winter clothing and hygiene items. ISU nursing students were on hand to take blood pressures and answer questions about health concerns. Three members of our congregation had participated in training to interview folks who fell under the guidelines as homeless.

Two members of our parish who are retired registered nurses continue to make monthly visits to the local shelters. They take blood pressures, answer medication and health concern questions as well as keep each shelter's emergency supply kits stocked. They also take needs back to the congregation to see if we can help. Last year, a woman was released from prison without clothing options for job interviews. Our parish response to provide her with clothing was overwhelming. When the Lighthouse Mission burned, we supplied clothing and emptied out our storeroom of hygiene supplies.

In November, we started collecting winter clothing, coats, footwear and blankets to distribute in January at the annual Point In Time count. We started collecting socks, insulated gloves, stocking caps and \$5 fast food cards in December. This year, our church neighbor Central Presbyterian Church joined in collecting items for the Ziploc bags and joined us on Sunday, January 15, 2017 to assemble the bags. Afterwards, we enjoyed a pitch in lunch

while Kelli Fuller from Hamilton Center spoke about the Point in Time Count and what the new volunteers could expect that day.

A member of our congregation has teamed up with a retired special forces man to take supplies for the homeless especially veterans down along the river. They have identified where the homeless sleep and place hygiene items along with bivy sacks and sleeping bags where they will be found by the homeless population.

We have in the past, collected funds to pay the \$12 per year insurance premium for homeless folks. Hamilton Center has used most of our donation and we will be having an insurance premium drive in the spring of 2017.

We would like to thank St Stephen's congregation for their generosity in our ministry to the homeless in Vigo County. We could not do it without you! For information please see Sandy Bush or Deby Veach.

## The Order of the Daughters of the King<sup>®</sup>, St. Martha Chapter

Submitted by Peggy Allen, President

Chartered August 8, 1963 – reactivated November 4, 2012

**Active members:** Peggy Allen - President, Karen Rutherford - Vice President, Theresa Jackson - Secretary, Sandy Bush - Treasurer, Joan Bonner - Historian, Deby Veach - Chaplain, Pam Sebura. Rose Downs - Daughter-in-training.

**Contact person:** Peggy Allen (812-239-6826, pegall @ iquest.net)

The Order of Daughters of the King is a national organization that works, in consultation with the Rector, to serve the people of St. Stephen's through the ministry of service, evangelism and prayer.

Activities of 2016 included:

- Funeral Receptions: DOK leads the St. Stephen's Funeral Reception Committee, a large group of parish volunteers that provide & serve food for

family & friends during the viewing or after a funeral. This is St. Stephen's gift to the family & through generous donations, has become self-sustaining. There were 3 receptions this year.

- Lenten and Advent Healing Services – A time for prayer, reflection & an opportunity for individual healing prayers. Open to the parish.
- Westminster Lunches: With the help of Curt Winkle, honorary DOK member, we hosted lunches with Eucharist & conversation. During 2016, lunches

moved from quarterly to monthly and are now back to quarterly. Check bulletin for next date. All are invited, striving to get more parish involvement at this event.

- Parishioner visits: Karen & Joan continue visiting with members of the parish who are shut-in & Karen continues as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor.
- Great thanks to Pam Sebura & Karen Rutherford who continue to represent us to the wider DOK organization, Pam nationally & Karen at the diocesan level.

## Prayer Circle Submitted by Bill Hughes

**Coordinator:** Bill Hughes, circle chair (812-299-9130)

Our parish's prayer circle continues to carry out a quiet but vital ministry of prayer support for parishioners and others in special need and for situations of concern to members of the congregation. The circle currently has 12 members (including our rector and deacon; see the list below), and most of us meet bi-monthly to update our prayer list and to share aspects of prayer and our experiences with a regular prayer discipline. Currently the circle meets at 11 a.m. on the second Thursday of every other month; some of us stay for a noon Eucharist. Our e-mail notification system makes involvement in the circle open to those who would have difficulty attending a daytime meeting. Between meetings our list is updated by e-mail, phone, and US mail. The only requirement for inclusion in the circle is a willingness to commit to the discipline of a daily time of prayer for those

on the prayer list. Members are bound by an agreement to maintain strict confidentiality unless we have specific permission to share a concern with the congregation; as a result the work of this ministry is largely invisible within the parish. However, people for whom we have prayed frequently tell us that knowing we are holding them in prayer gives them strength and encouragement as they weather their trials.

To inquire about joining the work of the circle or to submit a prayer request please contact our rector, deacon, or Dennis Dieken in the parish office (812-232-5165); or speak to one of the circle members: Peggy Allen, Pat Armstrong, Anne Buchanan, Sandy Bush, Bill Denton, Drew Downs, Martha Hafner, Bill Hughes, Ruth Itamura, Pam Sebura, Deby Veach, and Jean Veach.

## Pumpkin Festival submitted by Dennis Dieken

**Coordinator:** Theresa Jackson

Pumpkin Fest was September 17, 2016.  
We set up in the Great Hall due to threat of

rain. Broom corn, gourds, etc. grown by Deby Veach, autumn decorative items, and many pumpkin goodies were offered. We raised \$ 923.55.

## TOYS for TOTS and SALVATION ARMY OUTREACH

submitted by David and Debbie Nearpass, Ruth Itamura, Jean Veach

The St. Stephen's congregation supported several community programs in 2016, including the Salvation Army Food Pantry, Back-to-School drive, Christmas Intake program and the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots drive.

Jean Veach coordinated the scheduling of St. Stephen's volunteers for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Over a period of 48 weeks, twelve parishioners took turns staffing the pantry for two hour shifts on Thursday afternoons, totaling 192 hours of service for the year.

In August, 14 St. Stephen's volunteers donated 28 hours of time screening applicants for the Back-to-School program. Through this program, 538 children from 241 families received 10,578 school items that included backpacks and supplies to help get their school year off to a positive start.

During the holiday season, 25 volunteers helped screen applicants for the Salvation

Army Christmas Intake project, covering 72 hours of service over a two-week period. According to the Salvation Army, 923 families received assistance from the screening process including 3,113 individuals of which 1,912 were children. Again in 2016, St. Stephen's parishioners supported the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots program. Four collection boxes of toys were delivered to the Marine Corps. 966 children from 447 Terre Haute families benefited from this program. In addition, thirty-eight Baesler's Food Market gift certificates totaling \$950.00 were donated by St. Stephen's to the Salvation Army to purchase Christmas dinners for their clients.

Many members of the Terre Haute community benefit from the continued generosity of the St. Stephen's family. On behalf of those whose lives were made better, thank you for your time and generosity.

## United Campus Ministries submitted by Bill Hughes

321 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Terre Haute (two doors north of St. Stephen's)

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm

812.232.0186

<http://www.thunitedcampusministries.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/UCMTERreHaute>

For nearly 30 years St. Stephen's parish has had a strong connection to United Campus Ministries (UCM), an ecumenical ministry. During that time our parish has provided the ministry with board members, officers, and volunteers. During 2016 Dorothy Drummond and Jane Conner served on the board, and Bill Hughes worked in some program areas and served on committees. All three of them will continue working with the ministry in 2016. The current campus minister is Rev. Sharon Samsell, an ordained Presbyterian minister and licensed mental health counselor; she is available for pastoral and mental health counseling.

**What we do.** UCM provides activities and events for students, faculty, and staff of Indiana State, Rose-Hulman, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods as well as for the wider community. For over 70 years, UCM has been a safe and nurturing community where area college students come to wrestle with questions of life, faith, and meaning. UCM is an inclusive and welcoming community that provides an open, safe, and inclusive space for those who want to explore, develop, and live out their faith. We serve students who love God and students who doubt God's existence. We welcome students who have never set foot in church as well as students of strong faith, students who want to ask questions and students who just want to listen.

Members of our St. Stephen's family Tim Ghogle, Daniel Zak, and Josephine

Whitaker are participants in the ministry. During 2016 an exceptionally large number UCM's regulars are international students, and their World Food Festival was held at the center.

Regular student programming includes Table Talks, a weekly home-cooked meal and discussion on Wednesday evenings at 5. During 2015 a Student Food Pantry was established to serve the surprising number of students who are food insecure. There is a chapel for services and meditation. We provide a quiet, safe place for students to study or take a nap between classes. Programming involving students and the wider community includes an annual Economics and Ethics workshop and occasionally a series of Campus and Community meetings on timely topics relating our faith to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Terre Haute chapter of Bread for the World holds monthly meetings at UCM. There are also social events during the academic year. For nearly 30 years Bill Hughes has facilitated a book study group on Friday mornings.

**If you would like to volunteer** to cook or contribute to the weekly meals, to contribute to the food pantry, or to lead a discussion on a topic you would like to share with students, speak with Dorothy, Jane, or Bill. If students get to know people from St. Stephen's, they are more likely to become involved in our parish life. Every year we see evidence of lives changed through involvement in the ministry. We feel

deep concern over the evaporation (at the end of 2009) of substantial financial support from two mainline denominations. We are grateful to report that our diocese has continued its support and is now the largest single denominational supporter. Because of the UCM's financial situation the board has converted both the campus minister and office manager positions to part-time

status. The UCM board and local volunteers help keep this vital ministry running. **Financial support from congregations and individuals is more crucial than ever. We ask for your prayers, your volunteer time, and whatever level of financial support you can manage.**

## Women Dining Out submitted by Deby Veach

Several years ago, the women of St. Stephen's were invited to get together once a month for a "pot luck" dinner and an evening of conversation. We asked that each lady bring a covered dish and a cash donation. The money was to be collected and used for a ministry to benefit women. In 2016, we purchased two bras for each woman living at Deborah's house, a transitional shelter for women and their children in Terre Haute, IN.

While this ministry benefits women in our community, it also offers an opportunity for the women of St Stephen's to come together to share food, tell stories and get to know one another a little better. While there is not a planned topic of conversation, we do not have any trouble finding something to discuss. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the Great Hall from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Please bring a covered dish and if possible, a donation to our fund. Contact Deby Veach at 217.251.7239 for more information.

## Property

*Bill Streeter*

Lay Weeders/Mabley Garden *Drew Downs*

Property Committee *Bill Streeter*

## Lay Weeders/Mabley Garden Submitted by The Rev. Drew Downs

**Coordinator:** TBD

**Meeting Time:** Irregular

**What is this ministry and who does it serve?** The ministry is made up a broad collection of volunteers who give their time and energy throughout the year to maintain our organic grounds and in particular, the Mabley Garden. We serve to keep our church looking well-cared for, naturally beautiful, and inviting to the students, staff, guests, parishioners, and seekers who come onto our campus.

**What am I most thankful to GOD for in this ministry for this past year [2016]?**

I am thankful for the clarity which has come in a time of long transition. The Lay Weeders group was a large and dedicated group over the years but has greatly dwindled over time to a devoted and rag-tag group of very dedicated and skilled

participants. It is currently going through a transition in leadership and the vestry is taking responsibility for seeing it through this year.

Ben Bush and John Salamone have also mapped the locations of those who have been interred in the garden so we may keep a more accurate record.

**How are we serving this year [2017]?**

We have begun a Spring and Fall workday schedule which will allow us to do the bulk of the cleaning and preparing for the seasons twice per year.

We will recruit a coordinator who will help maintain a schedule to make sure the garden will receive attention (weeding, trimming, and watering) each week.

Volunteers for leadership, workdays, and regular gardening are needed.

## Buildings and Grounds Report submitted by Bill Streeter

Thanks to Nearpass family, the Eagle Street and the main church doors were restored and they look magnificent! Thank You David.

We had some concrete work done this past summer at the entrance to the main Church. This allows people in wheel chairs or with mobility issues to easily access the church. Kenneth Zigler Masonry did a great job; He also has a contract to redo the front porch masonry that has deteriorated. This project will hopefully be completed this spring and he has the materials to start when weather cooperates. The great hall

Eagle Street Door had rusted and was in bad shape so it was replaced. I have a list of things we are currently working on:

- Hand rails for readers.
- Hand rails to the Chapel steps
- LED light bulbs. Great Hall & Main Church
- Grab Bars for Restrooms
- Main AC system reinsulate refrigerate lines
- Retile tile in Garden

## Rector's Report Submitted by The Rev. Drew Downs

To the people of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the Terre Haute community, and the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, I give thanks everyday for being with you and serving as your rector. It is a blessing for which I give constant thanks to God.

This year

We gathered to celebrate our principal feasts as directed in the Book of Common Prayer.

We supported the Wabash Valley Homeless Coalition through the annual Point-in-Time Count and through service on the board.

We shared ashes with students and staff in the freezing cold and on campus.

We observed a Holy Lent through simplicity and daily devotions.

We sponsored a lifelong member (Eirik Wagley) and co-sponsored with her home church (Josephine Whitaker) two mature persons of faith to confirmation.

We continue to enrich our relationship with Indiana State University through our relationship with Lamda Chi Fraternity, working with volunteers for Donaghy Days, and hosting the Madrigal Dinner.

We gathered with our 7th Street neighbors for Holypalooza and serve with the wider Christian community through Terre Haute Ministries.

We finished our Basics of Faith classes and our race through the New Testament with the Biblical Wild.

We invited guests to speak to current matters which challenge our faith, including homelessness, gun violence, and capital punishment.

We hosted the Nuns on the Bus for their regional Mend the Gaps workshop on the way to the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

We blessed our pets and all other honored guests who have joined us throughout the year!

We hosted the Farrington Grove Chorale for its annual Community Lessons and Carols.

We have celebrated the lives of those who have died and those celebrating new lives in Christ and together as wedded in Christ.

We have given the grace of Jesus to one another and to countless people in Terre Haute and its neighboring communities.

For us, 2016 was a good, if not hard year. Last year at this time I encouraged us to see this year through the eyes of hope. That we would make that our theme. For me, the image of a light shining in the darkness is our most powerful of images. It fills me with hope. So when our friend Mary Slenski invited us to join with other congregations in the diocese to light a candle before the election, it made sense.

And while we might feel compelled to recycle last year's theme again (who couldn't need a little more hope right now?) we have already begun a different theme for 2017: structure.

Now, I know, "Structure" isn't as sexy as "Hope" but it is ultimately, just as important. For what I've found most missing in my conversations with the congregation is that sense that there is a structure below our feet. That it isn't just up to the Rector, the "one who always does it" or the "ones who are always here."

Of course this isn't framing out a 26-story high-rise when we're used to living in a bungalow. It means building a flexible framework for organization and leadership that can meet the needs of a congregation our present size. And, God-willing one that grows.

By the end of 2017, you can therefore expect more regularity in social and formation events. More attention to our physical campus and building and our virtual home in the website and Facebook page.

And much of this will come through organizing our vestry to serve as leaders within this delicate structure. But it will also require some help from everyone.

We will continue to need your patience and participation as we develop a system and structure which meets our present needs. Come to events! Sign up for the newsletter! Let us know how we can best serve you this year. And how you can best be of service to the community.

May Christ be our light, our guide, our way through the darkness, and may his inspiration guide us in love for and to one another. Amen.