

# **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2022**



## **St. Matthew's Core Values**

When it comes to God,

our Sunday worship is at the heart of our life together  
we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit in our personal lives and in our life together  
we seek quality Christian education and spiritual formation at all age levels.

When it comes to our church,

we embrace everyone with loving pastoral care in whatever situation or stage of life they find themselves  
we bring together all generations for fellowship

When it comes to our community,

we open our doors and our arms to all who come  
we are intentional in sharing our faith with others  
we reach out in loving and substantive way

## **St. Matthew's Mission Statement**

St. Matthew's, where all are invited, and welcome to celebrate faith, community and friendship.

## **St. Matthew's Vision Statement**

God is calling us at St. Matthew's to a season of both growth and renewal. To deep faith along with reaching out to God's people. This reaching out is to those in need and to those who need God. This call is to go beyond our welcome here, where it is comfortable, and to find ways to meet God's people where they live. We do this now, in part, with our shuttle. We now operate on two levels: one is for those who are willing to drive onto our parking lot and walk through our doors, and the other is for folks who cannot manage their lives well, for whatever reason, and are shuttled by us in the van. But there are other people for whom we would be their church if they could but walk through the doors. These folks have jobs and kids or are retired; they are not without pain. We have within us the ability to reach them and be their church.

This begins by going deep: increasing further our efforts toward adult studies, spiritual and prayer retreats and similar events. And taking seriously the faith of our children. Introducing some sort of teen or pre-teen curriculum, similar to the confirmation classes of old -- in seriousness. Identifying those in every generation with particularly deep faith and bringing them into training for leadership.

Training and recognition of the great value of our Sunday School teachers, who bring faith to our youngest members, and also sustain the faith of the family, at least in part.

We continue by emphasizing the outreach team. As our faith deepens we look for ways to share this faith. And to act on it. Means, perhaps simple at first, to speak of our faith. Outreach efforts that bring together the generations and that also include children. Enhanced mission efforts and mission trips.

We see older folks as part of St. Matthew's, even when they cannot attend church due to illness or weakness. We minister to them. We care about them. We do not leave them behind.

At our center is our worship, and we do not neglect this, but rather celebrate our history, our liturgy and our God. This vision includes worship in the sanctuary, but also worship at alternative locations.

## Veni Cicator

Come Holy Spirit, our souls inspire  
And lighten with eternal fire.  
**Implant in us your grace from above,  
Enter our minds and hearts with love.**

O come anointing Spirit of peace  
Well-spring of life and gentleness.  
**Past ages called you the Paraclete  
To us you bring your sevenfold gifts.**

You are the Power of God's right hand  
Promise of God to the waiting church  
**Words of true life on human lips.  
Illumine now our hearts anew.**

Come pour your love into our souls  
Refresh our weak frame with incoming strength  
**Give grace and courage to endure  
Cast away our deadly foe.**

Grant us your peace for evermore.  
With you as Guide upon the way  
**Evil shall no more harm our souls.  
We shall know as we are known.**

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The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas	Bishop - Diocese of Colorado
The Rev. Stephen D. Hood	Rector
The Rev. Rich Paul	Deacon
The Reverends	Assisting/Retired Clergy
Emil Belsky, Bob Engels, Jan Head, Nick Mayer, Judy Schneider	

Ann Hayes	Senior Warden
Jason Vroman	Junior Warden, Bldgs. & Grounds
Janette Deagle	Junior Warden, Community Life
Casey Wren	Junior Warden, Technology
Bruce Noble	Treasurer
Mary Midgett	Clerk of the Vestry
Beth Fisher	Executive Operations Officer
Desiree Bougeaux	Administrative Assistant
Becky Vroman	Director of Children's Ministry
Richard Morgan	Music Director
Jamie Galbasini	Youth Ministry

**Vestry**

*Continued Appointment of Sr. Warden to be confirmed*

<i>Term expires January 2022 (retiring today)</i> Ken Brownlee Jamie Galbasini Kelly Carpenter	<i>Term expires January 2023</i> Suzanne Foster-Porter Marcus Cheney Richard Emerson	<i>Term expires January 2024</i> Kevin Bouwhuis Janette Deagle Rebekah Feigh
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*Three new Vestry members to be elected - Terms expire January 2025*

**Stewardship Committee**

Janet Gallenstein  
Virginia Settle

**Finance Committee**

Bruce Noble  
Sharon Conrad  
Beverly Lampley  
Janet Gallenstein

**St. Matthew's Foundation Board**

Chuck Breaux  
Ann Hayes  
Ed Groenert

**Convention Delegates**

Current Senior Warden  
Past Senior Warden  
Alternate  
Jamie Galbasini (*term ends 2023*)  
Rebekah Feigh (*term ends 2024*)  
To be elected (*term ends January 2025*)

# BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

## *Baptisms*

Norah Ann Hoff  
Ocie Katherine Phelps  
Ryann Renee Phelps  
Georgia Elenora Strom

## *Confirmations*

Kevin Bouwhuis  
Suzanne Foster-Porter  
Annette Raley  
Allycia Tydings  
Jason Vroman

*We bless thy holy name for all thy servants  
departed this life in thy faith and fear;  
beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service;  
and to give us grace so to follow the good examples of all Thy Saints,  
that with them we may be partakers of thy Heavenly Kingdom.  
Grant this our prayer, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake,  
our only Mediator and Advocate.  
Amen*

Marjorie Ebright  
Larry Joe McDonald  
Richard L. Watson

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**JANUARY 30, 2022**

**Agenda**

Parish Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM

- A Reports of the Rector and Senior Warden during the 8:00 AM and 10 AM services.
- B Report of the Treasurer including 2021 Finances and 2022 Budget from 9:00-9:50 AM

Parish Business Meeting Convenes – 11:00 a.m. January 31, 2021

1. Opening Prayer – Gabriel Gordon
2. Approval of Minutes for January 2021 Annual Meeting
3. Appoint Clerk for the Annual Meeting
4. Appoint Father Steve as presider over the meeting
5. Voting Instructions for Vestry and Convention Delegates
6. Voting (in-person voting will be included)
  - Incoming Vestry Slate
  - Extension of Senior Warden for an additional term
  - Affirm the appointment of the Junior Wardens
  - Delegates to Diocesan Convention
7. Brief Recess
8. Meeting Reconvenes
  - Prayers for those who died in 2021 – Deacon Rich
  - Thanksgivings for Baptisms – Deacon Rich
  - Thanks for outgoing members of the Vestry – Ann Hayes, Budget
  - Report for College Ministry – Gabe Gordon
  - Report for Children and Youth – Becky Vroman
  - Report for Mission and Outreach – Deacon Rich
  - Election Results – Father Steve
  - Commissioning of Incoming Vestry, Wardens, and Convention Delegates – Father Steve
9. Closing Remarks from Senior Warden, Deacon Rich, and Father Steve
10. Benediction and Adjourn



# VESTRY CANDIDATES



Blake Bickham

My name is Blake Bickham. My wife, Allison Morris, our two sons, Cade and Owen, and I have been members of St. Matt's since 2008. We have been 10am attendees and have tried to stay active in our church home. The boys and I have served as acolytes for many years; Allison and I both completed Education For Ministry here; and Allison has been a member of the handbell choir for several years. I am a Professor and the Department Head for Teacher Education at CMU, while Allison is an Instructor of English. I am honored to be a member of the Vestry for the first time and am excited to serve St. Matt's and its mission in this capacity

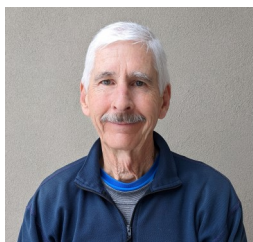


LaReina Kalenian

My name is LaReina Kalenian, and I attend St. Matthew's with my two children, Thomas, who is 8, and Ruby, who is 5. I was raised in Grand Junction and while we didn't attend church regularly when I was a child, my father often bribed me with donuts to attend Mass with him at St. Joseph's Catholic church. After I graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder, I felt an emptiness I sensed could only be filled spiritually. I started attending different churches in Boulder and fell in love with St. John's Episcopal church in downtown Boulder. It had the liturgy I loved from the Catholic church and the acceptance and love that is foundational to my Christian faith. It was there I was baptized and confirmed.

After my husband Noel and I married and had Thomas, we moved home to be closer to his parents and my mother. I had attended St. Matthew's one Christmas when I was home and decided to pay it a visit after we moved back. St. Matt's is my church home in Grand Junction, a place I feel served by and called to serve. I love helping with Stone Soup and learned a great deal from my time on the Altar Guild. Both Ruby and Thomas were baptized here at St. Matthew's, and I am deeply grateful for the spiritual education they receive in the Children's Ministry here.

I have been an elementary school teacher for over 20 years and I currently teach 2nd grade at Chipeta Elementary. My husband is a reference librarian at the Central Branch of the public library. I cherish time with my family, and I am also an obsessive reader. I look forward to serving our church on the vestry. I know I have a lot to learn!



Terry McDanel

My wife Marty and I have been a members of St. Matt's for 5 years and typically attend the 10:00 Sunday service. Prior to retiring, I worked 30+ years for computer/peripherals manufacturers in a variety of roles from data communications system programming to product marketing/account management. At St. Matt's, you'll see me singing in the choir, acting as a Greeter for the Welcome Ministry, and pitching in on building & grounds projects. Outside interests include hiking, backpacking, kayaking, travel, birding, and homebrewing. I look forward to contributing to St. Matt's future by serving on the Vestry.

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

2021 was another busy year for St. Matthews ! As your Senior Warden I am so blessed to have such amazing Vestry members who work so hard to care for our Church home. There have been several times this past year that they have stepped up to do more to protect the health and well being of St. Matthews and to make the decisions needed to bring you quality on line services and healthy indoor worship.

Volunteers assist with our live streaming during our Sunday services, our Monday through Friday Morning Prayer has brought new members to us, and our careful masking at live services has attracted new congregants also. Sunday School and Youth Group are flourishing.

There are three Vestry members rolling off this year. They are Ken Brownlee, Kelly Carpenter and Jamie Galbasini. We will welcome LaReina Kalenian, Terry McDanel and Blake Bickham. 2022 will bring us new challenges as we move forward in this time of COVID, as we will continue to have to adapt to new ways of doing ministry both in and out of St. Matthews.

Our Outreach team has worked hard throughout 2021 to care for those in the community that still need help. The pandemic has not made the needs any less, if anything, has made it more so. Many thanks go to our Stewardship team, who achieved the goal that had been set for them that will enable Father Steve to promote the new College Ministry and to support some part time clergy assistance.

In anticipation of being able to meet and break bread together at some point in 2022, we will be looking for a new range for the kitchen. The current one is over 20 years old, and needs replacing, so that the amazing cooks in our congregation will have a safe range to provide some tasty dishes. The ash trees are being treated, parking lot lights and entry lights repaired, replaced, air handlers upgraded, etc. Sounds just like maintaining a house doesn't it.

I look forward to this new year with a positive and upbeat attitude. May the love of this congregation continue to bring the amazing spirit of God within our walls.

Peace and blessings  
Ann Hayes, Senior Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - BLDG & GROUNDS**

As the Jr. Warden of Building and Grounds for St. Matthew's it is my responsibility to oversee the property and buildings of St. Matthew's. I am extremely grateful for the volunteers who have shown up to help with the cleaning of the grounds and the many other events where members jump in-always ready to lend a hand. No one could do this job without the support and assistance from the congregation. This year we have installed a new playground to include expanding the perimeter fencing, swing set, and shade sails. We removed a lot of debris and shrubbery from around the church grounds, treated our trees, removed old branches, and removed some trees to name a few items. Future plans include building some shade for the summer concerts, monkey bars in the playground, and upgrading our exterior lighting. I would like to thank our clergy for reaching me spiritually. Thank you to our vestry and staff for putting in those long hours behind the scenes. Anyone who has an idea, opinion, or comment about the building and grounds of St. Matthew's is always welcome to contact me, write a note, text, or email me with how you think we could improve St. Matthew's. Thank you all for your continued support.

Jason Vroman, Jr. Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - COMMUNITY LIFE**

After a year of inactivity because of Covid, the Community Life team was able to host a few events, which seemed to brighten everyone's spirits. On May 23 a barbeque picnic was held in the pavilion. It was the first social gathering in a long time, so we planned for 80 people. We were pleasantly surprised to have over 100 in attendance. Marcus Cheney generously donated and prepared pork shoulders for the main course. Precautions were taken to limit handling of food. Several people commented that they would like to see this become an annual event.

There were two book signing receptions this year. On August 1 parishioner Gabriel Gordon was celebrated for his book God Speaks. Approximately 30 people attended. On October 3 Roy Pollina, author of Justified by Her Children, gave a presentation. In both events, appetizers prepared by Kevin and Sarah Bouhwuis, were served at the reception. Several volunteers also contributed food.

The annual Fall Kickoff, which is normally the beginning of the pledge campaign, was once again combined with a Chili Cookoff and was held on October 17. It was well attended and nice to see this tradition resume. Several parishioners prepared chili and donated desserts and cornbread.

The centerpieces on the tables in the gathering space continue to be an on-going project. These reflect the church seasons and provide a sense of welcoming for those who walk in our doors. They are changed out approximately 10 times each year.

The Junior Warden would like to thank the volunteers who contribute time and talents to all of the social happenings at St. Matthew's. To put on a successful event, it is essential to have help in setting up, serving, cleaning up, and preparing food. Fortunately, the congregation of St. Matthew's steps up time and time again. We look forward to overseeing next year's celebrations. Thanks to all, and special thanks to Sue and Dave Emerson for all of your help and support.

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - TECHNOLOGY**

We are finding that it's continuously necessary to provide avenues for worship opportunities and communication online. As many suspected, this is now a permanent fixture. We seem to have found a successful balance of reaching most people in an impactful and secure manner online. In 2021 we added more technology to our services in order to accomplish this. In 2022 we will continue to refine our methods and adapt as needed.

Casey Wren, Jr. Warden

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Not surprisingly, my Treasurer's Report last year talked a great deal about COVID-19. What surprised me greatly is that we are still immersed in dealing with a COVID a year later. I suspect many of you are surprised as well.

Despite the fact that the pandemic is continuing to linger, St. Matt's did quite well financially in 2021. We did particularly well in November and December of 2021 with the final result being that we brought in \$14,000 more than we spent over the course of the year. Because that money will roll over into 2022, that means we began the New Year with a head start as far as church finances are concerned.

Why did we do so well? My guess is that there are several reasons. One reason would be that we were able to meet in person pretty much throughout the year and being in church makes it easier to give. Another reason is that having Father Steve for the entire year provided an element of security and stability. His selection as our Rector near the end of the year added an even higher level of comfort as we look toward the future. Last but certainly not least, we did well with our church finances in 2021 thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. For that, we cannot thank you enough!

As would be expected, the big ticket items in our budget are paying our excellent church staff and providing their benefits. Not surprisingly, other large budget items involve maintaining our building and grounds and paying all of our various utility bills. Office supplies, worship supplies, running our nursery, music, and continuing education for the staff are among many other areas where we spend money needed to keep the church going.

Although our finances were strong in 2021, we were frugal with our spending. A major role of the Finance Committee is to have another set of eyes looking at the church budget to confirm that all the numbers add up and that we are not exceeding our approved budget. I can assure you that the Finance Committee takes this responsibility very seriously. We do not spend any money that does not help us serve God and advance the purposes of St. Matthew's.

As mentioned previously, we were blessed to have roll over money from 2021 that will help us get off to a good start in 2022. We also just completed a very successful Stewardship Campaign that gives us another reason to be confident about our finances in the year to come. That said, there will continue to be an element of caution that must be maintained as we await any future twists and turns that may result from the pandemic. I do hope that 2022 will witness fewer impacts from COVID-19, but I am confident that, come what may, the grace of God and the great support from the people of St. Matthew's will carry us through the year in strong financial fashion. Thank you!

Bruce Noble, Treasurer

## OUTREACH & MISSION REPORT - 2021

2021 Outreach & Mission	
Discretionary Fund - assist to needy	13,355
Southwest Region-Diocese of Colorado	5,229
Junction Shuttle - all costs	5,347
Outreach School Shoe Ministry	2,668
Grand Junction VHCS (Spirit of the Valley 5k)	2,784
WWJD – The Joseph Center	500
WWJD – Catholic Outreach	1,000
Stone Soup	1,992
Latimer House	4,130
Matthew’s House	4,434
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,439</b>

\*\*both budgeted and unbudgeted

### Additional 2021 Outreach

Angel tree United Thank Offering  
Summer vegetable donations  
School materials donated for Chipeta Elementary School  
District 51 student donations of clothing

## 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>OPERATING FUND INCOME</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pledged Giving	\$ 354,600	371,687
Open Plate Giving	1,500	2,608
Givers of Record Giving	32,000	44,063
<b>Total General Fund Giving</b>	<b>388,100</b>	<b>418,358</b>
Other Revenues (Interest, Facility Use, Special General Fund Gifts)	7,270	6,165
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 395,370</b>	<b>424,523</b>
 <b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>		
Diocese Assessment	\$ 38,810	41,836
Property & Liability Insurance	5,575	6,412
Maintenance/Repair	18,155	28,078
Utilities	20,056	21,198
Technology/Subscriptions	1,586	812
Advertising	400	10
Convention/Conferences	3,550	921
Christian Formation	2,350	2,772
Worship	1,600	4,284
Music	2,340	2,528
Office	9,900	11,565
Parish Life	2,200	1,704
Employer taxes, Health Ins, Pensions	69,360	68,047
Staff Salaries	190,300	189,251
Staff Travel	4,000	5,105
Nursery, Supply Priest & Music.	14,550	13,174
Miscellaneous (Bank and membership)	1,925	1,956
Outreach	8,676	10,575
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 395,333</b>	<b>\$ 410,228</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14,295</b>

# 2021 BALANCE SHEET

## Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church - Grand Junction CO Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

### *Assets*

Alpine Bank Checking	174,746
Fidelity Investments	77,016
St. Matthews Foundation - CEF	316,906
St. Matthews Foundation - ANB	7,987
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>576,656</u></b>

### *Liabilities*

FIT Withheld/Payable	1,615
SIT Withheld/Payable	622
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>2,237</u></b>

### *Fund Balance*

General Fund	124,590
Columbarium Fund	963
Flower Fund	715
Memorial Fund	2,490
Men of St Matts Fund	941
Music Fund	6,651
Outreach Pass-thru Fund	1,046
Discretionary Fund	6,596
Reimbursement Fund	39
Prepaid Pledges Fund	1,200
St Matts Foundation Fund	324,894
Special Projects Fund	588
Stone Soup Fund	2,627
Youth Ministries Fund	4,861
EFM Fund	375
Mission Fund	1,840
Camp Fund	520
College Ministry Fund	1,881
Matthew's House Fund	743
Bible Fund	1,568
Reception Fund	244
WWJD Fund	241
Spirit of the Valley 5k Fund	3,992
Children's Ministry Fund	1,726
Outreach School Ministry Fund	3,333
Deacon Cont Ed Fund	100
Ligon Fund	79,655
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>574,419</u></b>

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balance** **576,656**

## 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

<u>Operating Fund Income</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Pledged Giving	\$ 401,350
Givers of Record Giving	39,810
Open Plate Giving	2,500
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>443,660</b>
Other Revenues	7,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 450,660</b>
<u>Operating Fund Expense</u>	
Diocese Assessment	\$ 44,366
Property & Liability Insurance	6,500
Maintenance/Repair	18,355
Utilities	22,410
Technology/Subscriptions	2,385
Convention/Conferences	3,550
Christian Formation	2,900
Worship	2,300
Music	2,700
Office	9,900
Parish Life	2,100
Employer taxes, Health Ins., Pensions	73,853
Staff Salaries	223,758
Staff Travel	6,400
Nursery, Supply Priest & Misc.	15,800
Miscellaneous (Membership and bank fees)	1,925
Outreach	10,585
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 449,787</b>



## **ACOLYTES**

Acolytes, or servers, assist the celebrant at the altar during the Eucharist. This ministry provides a meaningful expression of ministry, especially for youth, as well as a learning opportunity. The goals of this ministry are to include youth and adults so that they can serve together as equals and to prepare youth to serve in other lay positions such as altar LEMs. Serving as an acolyte is meant to be spiritual, educational, and fun. A progressive training program is in place that pairs less experienced acolytes with mentors for on the job training. Currently the acolytes assist both at the altar and at the distribution of the sacraments.

James V. Sidwell, Acolyte Master

## **ALTAR GUILD (ST. MARTHA'S)**

Twenty twenty-one was a very interesting year. Because of the ups and downs of COVID there were many variations in the way we practiced our worship. Many thanks to the members of the guild who did their best with all the changes that were made, sometimes changes were made weekly.

We lost some members to retirement, illness and other life changes so we have room for a few new members. We have four teams who do one week per month and one extra per year when we have a five Sundays in the month. In particularly busy weeks we all chip in so that a team will not be overloaded. We have males as well as females in the guild, so if you would like to learn more about the way we can enhance worship feel free to contact us with any questions.

Many thanks to those who gave faithful service. We wish them many blessings in their retirement. Dorothy Stevenson has taken over as directress as Marjorie retires from that position.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Suedekum.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

We were pleased to be back in person in 2021. The weather cooperated with us, and we were able to hold Sunday school outside for the majority of the year. The kids loved spending time playing and learning and were overjoyed with the new playground equipment that was installed. During Advent, the colder weather forced us inside, but thankfully children (5-12) were able to have received their first, and some even their second vaccination, by that time.

We spent the year in Godly Play and received a huge donation of materials from the Diocese. Thankfully, we are seeing great attendance each week and have been blessed with new families. Children who are unable to attend in person Sunday school are able to view each week's lesson on our website.

After having our first ever virtual VBS in 2020, we were once again able to meet in person for a Star Wars themed VBS where we learned from the lives of great Civil Rights leaders. We had over 30 children in attendance and more than 20 amazing volunteers.

We had over 20 children participate in our Nativity Play this year, not including the youth who generously supported the cast at rehearsals and during the performance.

In July of 2022, we are looking forward to sending children and youth to camp! Camp provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to unplug and experience God and community in a nonchurch setting. Our kids are excited (and a little nervous) about experiencing camp for the first time. For me, I have had the privilege of seeing each week how our kids support, comfort, and care for one another. I know that the relationships they have forged at St. Matthew's will go with them to camp where they will have the opportunity to connect with even more children from all over Colorado.

Becky Vroman, Director of Children's Ministry

## COLLEGE MINISTRY

At the beginning of 2021 Saint Matthew's had no College Ministry of which to speak. Beginning to intuit and discern the need for such ministry, Father Steve asked me if I was interested in building such a ministry from the ground up. I officially came on staff as the college missionary this past August of 2021. Launching my work this fall semester involved a four month long partnership with the long established college ministry called Young Life. While building anything from the ground up is slow going I am happy to report there is some traction. Around mid-October a small group of students began meeting in my house for local pizza, fellowship, scripture reading, and good conversation about life and what it means to follow Jesus. In addition, I met with a number of college students throughout the semester and have begun discipling a couple of them. And maybe what I'm most excited to share about is the creation of a University Speaking Series called *Voices of the Christian Faith*. Starting this March we will have our first event featuring theologian and philosopher Thomas Jay Oord who will engage both the university and our church on the topic of the problem of evil. My goal is that once a semester Saint Matt's College Ministry can bring in a great Christian speaker to engage with students on campus as well as the broader community. And my hope is that this university speaking series will serve as an outreach to the university, reaching students who for whatever reason may not connect well with already established ministries on campus.

Gabriel Gordon, College Ministry

## COFFEE HOUR

### Coffee Hour - 8:00 AM.

The gracious volunteers for the 8 AM Service Coffee Hour who serve on a rotational basis are: Marge Brown, Ken & Susan Brownlee, Tanya Davis, Deb McLaughlin, Laura Mockler, Rita Paronto, Peggy Pretti, Judy Schneider and Lucia Webster. Thanks to all for faithful service in this ministry. A 6 month assignment roster is posted on the church kitchen freezer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Schneider / Coordinator

### Coffee Hour 10:00 Service

Coffee hour is held weekly immediately after the service. Coffee and lemonade are served along with pastries. The third Sunday of every month is designated as Ice Cream Sunday and the children look forward to this monthly treat. On this day ice cream and toppings are served along with the usual fare.

It has sometimes been a struggle to find volunteers to bring food to share. Recently, the hosts of coffee hour decided to place a poster (thanks to Irene Paul) and sign-up sheet in the gathering space to encourage people to choose a week to bring a treat. This attempt was successful - enough people signed up to cover the winter months. We will continue this practice into the next year and hope that

parishioners will help out. It's as simple as bringing a package or plate of cookies. Of course if you would like to volunteer to set up, serve, and clean up, that would be great, too!

Thanks to all who have chosen to keep coffee hour going by contributing pastries. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing more of you sign up in the coming year.

Janet Deagle, Jr. Warden

## **DEACON'S REPORT**

2021, like the year before it, required us all to be flexible in all things. COVID continues to dominate the headlines and still is a major consideration in how we worship and reach into our communities. But we being a people of faith, hope, and resilience continue to find ways to love each other, worship with each other, and care for each other.

It continues to be an incredible blessing for me to serve the people of St Matt's and the greater community. You have such wonderful hearts and such giving spirits to help those in need or who are marginalized.

We have not restarted our Eucharistic Visitor Program as COVID infection rates still seem a bit high. We do not want to risk anyone's health so we try to limit potential exposure especially to those who are most vulnerable. To ensure our home and facility bound folks feel they are still included we have implemented "Brown Bag Communion". A short communion service, a bulletin, and the consecrated elements are taken by any member of the congregation to those who are shut in, injured, or sick. The benefits of Brown Bag Communion is that it allows more members of the congregation to participate in taking communion out to those who cannot worship at the church, it has increased the number of times our shut-ins receive communion in the month, and has hopefully reduced COVID spread.

I continue to organize daily morning prayer on zoom (Monday - Friday). We now have four folks who regularly lead. It continues to be a great way to start the day and it has taught me the importance of a spiritual rhythm. Morning Prayer Started has been a wonderful opportunity for me to spend time with you all in prayer. On a typical morning we have 5-8 folks joining us in Zoom and 2-7 on FaceBook.

Our Outreach and Pastoral Care committees continue to reach out to those who are sick or in need. They continue to feed the hungry, provide shoes and clothing to the needy, send cards, call, email, and pray for those who need comfort and support.

At the diocesan level I continue to serve on the Board of Examining Chaplains and assist in the formation of deacons in Colorado.

My goals for 2022 are:

- To continue to discern and pray where God is calling me.

- To better identify those who are sick and shut-in so no one is forgotten.

- To engage with St Matthew's House (and other Karis facilities) in a more meaningful way.

- To look for ways that we at St Matthew's can connect with other churches, organizations, and programs to have a more synergistic impact on those who need help in our community.

- To assist the priest in adult education opportunities.

Rich Paul, Deacon

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN / ST. MARGARET'S**

ECW/St. Margaret's Guild includes all women of St. Matthew's and typically meets for friendship and fellowship on the third Thursday of each month, September - May, at 1:00 PM. All women are invited to attend for an interesting presentation and to enjoy a selection of tasty desserts. Funds are raised by collecting \$2 per person for dessert and donations from members for their birthdays and anniversaries. We donate to a selected local charitable nonprofit group at Christmas, and provide food and kitchen help for requested receptions.

Ministry officers are Lucia Webster, Peggy Pretti, Tanya Davis, and Judy Schneider. For more information, contact Lucia Webster. [luciawebster33@gmail.com](mailto:luciawebster33@gmail.com)

## **LIBRARY MINISTRY**

I wish to thank the library committee, consisting of Judy S., Marty M., Annette F., Lois B., and Gretchen L., for all their hard work cleaning, organizing, labeling and weeding the library collection. Due to limited space, our first task was to relocate non-library equipment and materials. The second task was to write a mission statement, which is displayed on both doors. The third task was to make sure every book was in good, clean condition, up to date and/or been checked out. The main adult sections are reference (use in library only), circulating (for check out) and children's (all for checkout).

Some of the subject areas for checkout include: prayer, devotion, Christian life, spirituality, biographies, men and women of the Bible, picture books, etc. Come in and check them out.

After going through multiple boxes of book donations, a select few were added. At this time the library is only accepting monetary donations for new material purchases, but not used books. To donate funds, write in memo area of your check: library. If you have specific title suggestion's we are open to those also. The library is totally dependent on donations earmarked for library. Thanks to Marty M. and Anna D. for purchasing books on our wish list.

We also have some empty cabinet space we can offer to church organizations for storing small amounts. Please contact me at [deb@debrart.com](mailto:deb@debrart.com)

The following is a wish list of children's books created by Becky Vroman. Please contact her if you wish to purchase and donate these books.

Alleluia! Amen \$8, New Life \$8, Go tell it on the mountain \$30, Risen with Christ \$21, I love Christmas \$16.50

Deborah Robinson, Chair of Library Committee

## **MEN OF ST. MATT'S**

Men of St. Matts (MOSM) normally meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month in the gathering space, October thru May except for the months of "Bro Night." Social hour at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:00, followed by a guest speaker. Member donations go to the El Hogar ministry for education of poor children in Honduras. Members available to assist parishioners as requested. Average attendance at the three meetings (September, October & November) in 2021 was 11.

Contact Don Schneider - (970)623-6236.

"Bro Night" normally meets once each quarter, October thru-May at an off-site location. The format is an informal Friday evening gathering at 7:00 PM at a local restaurant. Attendance at the December meeting in 2021 at the Ale House was 6.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

What an eventful couple of years! Confronted by the vicissitudes of the COVID pandemic, we have had to learn to roll with the punches, something for which our Episcopalian practice has not prepared us. We have learned to worship in unfamiliar ways. As I write this, I am reminded of the passage in Hosea (6:6) where GOD speaks through the prophet: “For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of GOD rather than burnt-offerings.” For us, in this time, mercy is learning to do things differently, mercy is wearing masks, mercy is learning to experience the presence of GOD through those little plastic cups rather than our beloved common cup. And yes, sadly, mercy is learning to worship sometimes without singing, and the forms of musical expression to which we’ve become accustomed.

As the past two years have progressed, we have moved from no music to only instrumental music from our inestimably treasured Sandy Moore and Robbie Breaux. From only instrumental music to soloists recording the hymns, and eventually to choir members recording hymns at home (singing with Robbie and Sandy’s pre-recorded organ or piano), then emailing recordings to me, when I then edit and synchronize everything into one product that we can use in Sunday services. All this recording and editing is a time-consuming process for us that, strangely enough, helps us to learn our common hymns much better than the limited time we can spend on them during our former in-person rehearsals.

We have a small cadre of faithful singers who are comfortable enough with the necessary technology and willing to spend the extra time making individual recordings. I treasure their contributions more than they will ever know. These people are indeed showing mercy and expressing GOD’s love to our St. Matthew’s family. I look forward to the day when more of our singers can join us again, in person, but that day is not yet here.

Singing masked is not a very satisfying experience, as many of you know from singing hymns in worship. Imagine singing masked chorally where we are trying to project 10 times more sound than sitting in the congregation, working to overcome the muffling of the mask, and taking deep enough breaths (through a mask!) to accomplish the task. Whew! As I said, not a very satisfying experience. Not only is choral singing through a mask challenging, it is also much more risky from a virus-spreading perspective.

I am constantly following the scientific understanding of this virus. As new information becomes available, I evaluate it and consider the implications for our musicians and for St. Matthew’s.

Not only has COVID affected our singing, but it has also had an impact on our Handbell Choir. We tried to resume handbell rehearsals in the fall, but discovered that, even before we had to discontinue because of a COVID surge, attendance was affected by symptoms, even if not a positive COVID test. Just before this most recent (even larger) spike, we were considering resuming rehearsals, but several members have chosen to wait until the current surge is over. We’ll resume when it is safer to do so.

The mercy I offer St. Matthew’s and our musicians is to keep them as safe as possible when it is in my control, and to seek ways to nurture them musically and spiritually. I ask your prayers for us all in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Richard S. Morgan, Music Director

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

After a Covid hiatus the Outreach Team reconvened in August 2021. Our mission is to serve those in need with dignity, love, kindness, and compassion, and our focus has been the homeless, youth, and the elderly in assisted living facilities. Thanks to our supportive and generous congregation, we were able to make a difference in the lives of many through the following projects:

**Clothing give-away:** In September we started the school year off with a clothing give-away at Chipeta Elementary, which is our church-sponsored school. We loaded our signature black and yellow bins with bags of clothes collected from other schools' "lost and found". On the day of the event, we also took specific requests from the shoppers for things that weren't available, such as boys' pants in specific sizes, shoes, etc. and delivered the orders at a later date.

**Share the Warmth drive:** Directly after the clothing give-away, we set up our empty bins in the gathering space to collect items for those facing the snowy winter without shelter. Once again, the congregation stepped up to the task and donated men's and women's clothing, coats, gloves, hats, socks, boots, hand warmers, sleeping bags, blankets, and camping items. We will continue this project throughout the winter season.

We also provide personal care products to the houseless community on a weekly basis. Thanks to funding received from the Southwest Regional Grant obtained in 2020 and St. Matthew's Outreach funds, we were able to continue this work in 2021, distributing personal care items and items vital to the health and safety of our houseless neighbors. We distributed the following: 648 candles, 348 pairs of gloves, 880 handwarmers, 84 travel packs of insect repellent, 160 tubes of lip balm, and 136 pairs of socks. We also continue to collect donations from the community and occasional purchases of travel-sized shampoo and soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hospitality-sized sewing kits, razors, deodorant, sunscreen, and over the counter medical supplies consisting of ibuprofen, antibiotic and hydrocortisone ointments, band-aids, gauze, and wraps.

**Thanksgiving dinners:** This year we recognized a tremendous need for assistance with Thanksgiving dinners. We were able to provide 30 complete dinners for Chipeta families that fed over 130 people. The Outreach Team purchased turkeys and pies, and members of the congregation donated the non-perishable items. The project was a huge success and much appreciated. Furthermore, the members of the Team supplied dinners for three of the Karis-sponsored houses (St. Matthew's, Bonnie's and Bennie's).

**Christmas giving:** In an attempt to reach somewhat overlooked populations, the tags on our Angel tree were primarily for teenage and young adult residents of the houses sponsored by Karis. We also served individual families for a total of 37 individuals (including 13 young children) in all. Additionally, we gave a pair of nicely wrapped socks accompanied by a card signed by members of the congregation to each of 76 residents at Bookcliff Manor and the Retreat.

**Soles for Souls:** Because of this ministry St. Matthew's has become known as the "shoe people". We began with elementary schools, but our program has moved into the middle schools and some high schools. The administrators call us when they see a need, and we provide each child with a new pair of shoes. We have purchased approximately 100 pairs of shoes since the start of the school year.

**St. Matthew's House:** St. Matthew's House is currently being remodeled, and the residents are being housed in a temporary location. Most of the remodel was covered by federal and state grants for transitional living facilities. Karis reached out to St. Matthews to see if we, who sponsor this home, would be able and willing to cover the short fall. The cost was quickly covered by an anonymous individual donor with matching funds from the congregation.

**Donations:**

- Since the Outreach Team was not active at the time, the collection from the summer concert series amounting to \$1563 was divided equally among three entities: Latimer House, Stone Soup, and St. Matthew's House.
- Recently a \$500 donation was made to the Diocese' fund for the fire victims in Boulder County.
- A \$400 donation was made to the Chipeta Elementary snack program. Due to the need for social distancing, the lunch times have been extended. Snacks are available for children eating later in the day, if needed.

**Funding:** The Outreach Team relies solely on contributions from various sources, such as the summer concert series collections, special collections throughout the year, and donations from individual donors.

During the Easter season, we will conduct our traditional Robes and Slippers drive for assisted-living residents and possibly a food drive in July to celebrate the visit of Bishop Kym who will be installing Fr. Steve as our rector. In the spring and summer, we will start the cycle over with a clothing drive to prepare for the next clothing give-away in the fall. We hope to add more projects as needs arise.

Lastly, the 17 members of your Outreach Team are motivated and enthusiastic about serving our church and our community. With your love and support, we are honored to do the Lord's work!

Gretchen Lubinski, Coordinator

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

The Pastoral Care Team offers a caring presence and ongoing contact to Episcopalians in hospital, hospice, rehab, care facility, or who are homebound. The hospital visitors would normally visit all registered Episcopalians in St. Mary's Hospital in person. However, during the pandemic we have not been able to visit in person. Currently only limited family and clergy are permitted to visit patients at St. Mary's in person. We have maintained the ministry by contacting patients by phone and we send cards to those who are homebound. Additionally, we have begun a phone contact ministry with homebound parishioners.

Area clergy and parishes know of this ministry and inform us when one of their parishioners is in hospital in Grand Junction. Approximately half of our hospital visits are to patients from outside the Grand Valley.

St. Mary's hospital visitors are trained St. Mary's volunteers and work closely with the hospital chaplains through St. Mary's Spiritual Care Office. Most of the hospital visitors are Stephen Ministers. All visits are confidential. We can also contact patients at Community Hospital, Colorado Canyons Hospital, and Hospice when notified and can arrange for a visit at the Veterans' Hospital.

Jim Sidwell, Coordinator

## **PLEDGE CAMPAIGN / STEWARDSHIP**

The theme for the 2022 Giving Campaign was “Everything we have is a gift from God to be shared – Time, Talent, and Treasure.” Beginning in 2020, it was decided to combine the Stewardship Committee and the Pledge Drive Committee in order to give more time for planning the Pledge Drive and to establish a 3-year term commitment from committee members (noted in the 2021 Annual Report Summary submitted by Chair Cora Galbasini).

Janet Gallenstein and Virginia Settle stepped forward to co-chair the 2022 Giving Campaign (a designation reached after consultation with the clergy and Vestry chair). Due to Covid and other constraints, the co-chairs found it difficult to convene a “traditional” committee that met on a regular schedule. So they met on an “as-needed” schedule in person or via Zoom, and eventually, they created a “non-traditional” committee of volunteers that graciously agreed to help with specific tasks necessary to carry out the Giving Campaign. The co-chairs extended their sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following helpers:

Matthew Ross – Logo designer

Sutton Frey – Graphic designer of our banner showcasing a selection of our many ministries

John Pearson – Helped us order a professionally made retractable banner that can be used more than one year

Becky Vroman and Carl Koizumi -- Provided collections of photos to help us produce the banner

Con Litz – Arranged our Ministry Minute speakers.

Father Steve and Vestry Chair, Anne Hayes– Gave input, suggestions, and wise counsel that made our work easier

The goal for the 2022 Giving Campaign was 415,000. This was announced to the congregation at the Fall Kickoff on October 17, 2021. The in-gathering date was set for November 21, 2022.

As of January 11, 2022, we had reached 96.7 % of our pledge goal with some additional pledges expected in early 2022. That combined with contributions from our “givers of record” totals \$ 441,350 for our Vestry to start the new year.

The co-chairs sincerely thank all St. Matthew’s members who stepped up to make the 2022 Giving Campaign a success. Beginning the year in financially sound shape makes it easier for our clergy and our vestry to budget wisely for the expenses and needs of our church that they have diligently and carefully reviewed for the coming year

Virginia Settle, Co Chair

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

“When two or more are gathered together, there I will be.”

God’s promise that he will hear our prayers.

The Prayer Chain group prays daily over the list of names that we have been given. Lifting up each one and putting their name in God’s hands. He knows the needs of each of us but sometimes we need the



extra boost of knowing that others are praying for same issue too.

We on the Prayer Chain have the honor of intercession for those in need of prayer.

We contact one another once a month on the first Wednesday, to go over the list and edit it with any updates for those on the list. Also, to add the requests that have been given over the month since the last meeting date.

We welcome anyone who would like to be a prayer warrior.

Margaret Palo, Coordinator

## **ST. MATTHEW'S SHUTTLE**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Shuttle is a community outreach ministry of St. Matthew's. It provides a no-cost service for those in our community without transportation. This ministry was started in 2000 and serves the homeless in conjunction with Homeward Bound (homeless shelter) and the Grand Valley Catholic Outreach. The Shuttle provides rides from the homeless shelter to the Day Center, Catholic Outreach, Social Services, Social Security, Job Services, medical appointments, jobs, as well as taking residents of St. Martin's and St. Benedict's to grocery shop at Walmart.

Due to COVID-19 the Shuttle did not operate from March 2020 to March 2021. Service was resumed in May 2021. Shuttle service is provided every week on Thursday from 8:00am to 12:00am.

The Shuttle Ministry has a small group of faithful and dedicated volunteers for whom we are very thankful. However, the Ministry would greatly appreciate additional driver and rider volunteers.

Linda Jameson, Coordinator

## **SPIRIT OF THE VALLEY 5K**

I want to thank everyone for their help in making the ninth annual Spirit of the Valley 5k- Run, Walk, 'n Roll a success. Whether you were an event sponsor, an athlete sponsor, or a volunteer- this event could not happen without you. Many businesses in the valley were hurting this year due to Covid, so the 5k team began planning unsure if money would be raised or if people would come. Thankfully, people came! We raised \$2,784 for the VA and \$1500 for Latimer House. The local VA showed up in great numbers, thanks in great part to Dave Emerson, and the Director gave a speech for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. 2021 was our best turn out! Many thanks to Lizard Analytical Laboratories, USIC, Mountain West Dermatology Aesthetics, Charles Breaux, Down Right Floors, 970 Motors, and the Taggart Family for sponsoring the 2021 race.

When the 5k began, the hope was to train team captains to run different portions of the event. This year

our team captains were Sue and Dave Emerson, Casey Wren, Jamie Galbasini, Sarah and Kevin Bouwhuis, and Jason and Becky Vroman. Each of these captains have been serving the committee for multiple years. Our goal for 2022 is to have each team captain train a new captain to take their place before retiring from their position. If you are interested in serving, this a fun and rewarding ministry to be a part of. Not only is the 5k able to fund the VA Recreational Therapy Program and financially contribute to the Latimer House- but it's also an opportunity for community members of all abilities and activity levels to enjoy a day of competition, food, and music.

Becky Vroman, Chair

## **ST. MATTHEW'S FOUNDATION AND LEGACY SOCIETY**

The St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Legacy Foundation was created with legacy gifts from church members. The donations form the principal of the Foundation, which is maintained intact and invested to create income, which can then be used to support special projects at the church. Such a project in 2020 was installation of the Loop hearing assistance system (~\$25,000). The donated principal of the Foundation as of now is \$229,575. The total Foundation assets as of the end of the 3rd quarter 2021 were \$324,897. Any church members who would like to include the Foundation in their legacy plans can discuss it with Pastor Steve, Vestry members, or Foundation Committee members.

Chuck Breaux, Foundation Committee Chairperson

## **STONE SOUP PROJECT**

In partnership with Solidarity Not Charity, St. Matthew's formed Stone Soup, which prepares and serves food to our brothers and sisters in Whitman Park on the last Saturday of each month. We began this outreach service in October 2018. Through a grant secured by Pastor Laura in 2020 St. Matthew's received funding to continue our ministry for individuals impacted by COVID-19. These monies and the contribution of canned goods and cash offerings from our members of keep Stone Soup an important part of our congregation's outreach.

Our goal is to provide a nourishing meal and a friendly smile to those who are gathered in the park. We just want folks to know that they are loved and cared for by their community. Thank you for your continued support.

Kathleen Morgan, Coordinator

## **USHERS**

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Usher Ministry for their flexibility and adaptability to meet the needs of our congregation while supporting worship services during 2021. Many changes occurred to help facilitate maximum safety for everyone. What an awesome and dedicated group of folks!

Often, the ushers are the first people new visitors meet when they come to St. Matthew's. This gives us an opportunity to make a good first impression, to help them with anything that we can, and to welcome them to St. Matthew's!

As always, we are happy to welcome new members into the Usher Ministry group and can always use more help. If you're interested in serving in this wonderful ministry please contact Dave Emerson at [zianutz3@gmail.com](mailto:zianutz3@gmail.com). You'll be surprised to see how easy and fulfilling it is to serve as an usher

Dave Emerson, Head Usher

## **WELCOME MINISTRY/GREETERS**

In this past year, we have been blessed to have many visitors and new members at St. Matthew's. In 2021, we added approximately 17 new families or 40 people! Pretty amazing for a year when we didn't even meet in person part of the time. The Welcome Ministry reaches out to visitors and new people through cards, greeting people at Coffee Hour and doing periodic Welcome Home Brunches. This year we have added a formal Greeter program to help us be more intentional in this work. Ushers welcome

visitors as they come in the door, but they don't have time to really visit with them. Greeters meet visitors after the service, offer them a gift bag, talk with them, and answer questions they may have. We have 3 rotating Greeters (Deb Robinson, Rita Paranto and Ken Brownlee) at the 8:00 service and 7 people who rotate as Greeters at the 10:00 service. (Lois Brooks, Randy Brenimer, Jeanette Benson, Jan McRae, Kathy Morgan, Marty and Terry McDanel). These folks are doing a wonderful job, but we need everyone's help to be a truly welcoming community. Please look for visitors and new people each week. Make sure to smile, share the Peace with them, introduce yourself, and make them feel welcome at St. Matthew's!

Marty McDanel, Coordinator

## **WINE, WOMEN, JESUS & DINNER**

WWJD (Wine, Women, Jesus and Dessert) is an open social group for women and their friends. The only agenda is fun and friendship. Simple menus are cooked by 3 or 4 members each month we are able to have in-person gatherings. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages are served. A charge of \$7 at the door is collected to defray food costs. Usually there is a surplus by the end of the year. These funds are donated to groups supporting women in need. The group has been on hiatus due to COVID related restrictions but hopes to resume as soon as it is safe to meet again!

Sue Van Voorhees

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

The youth group was able to join in-person this year. We had a summer lock-in since we missed our typical winter lock-in. We slept outside to mitigate transmission and were blessed with a firework's show courtesy of the Country Club. The youth group continues to support our younger children by volunteering for VBS, nativity practice, and Sunday School. Recently, we added a youth member, Oliver Plank, to the nursery staff.

Some highlights of our year have been going to Glenwood Caverns, building a wheelchair ramp at Bonnie's House, driving the bus to tour the Christmas lights, and reconnecting after a long period of meeting over zoom.

In 2022, we will be working out of our Confirm Not Conform curriculum and youth who choose to get confirmed will have the opportunity to do so in July.

The middle school kids and high school kids will be going to camp at Cathedral Ridge during July as well. We are hoping to send them as a whole group to Quest in November. Quest is a three-day two-night camp, where our youth will have a chance to connect with young Episcopalians throughout Colorado, hear from extraordinary speakers, and enjoy the music of the guest band.

Becky Vroman, Director of Children's Ministry

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The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Lucas, bishop  
The Reverend Stephen D. Hood, priest-in-charge  
The Reverend Rich Paul, deacon