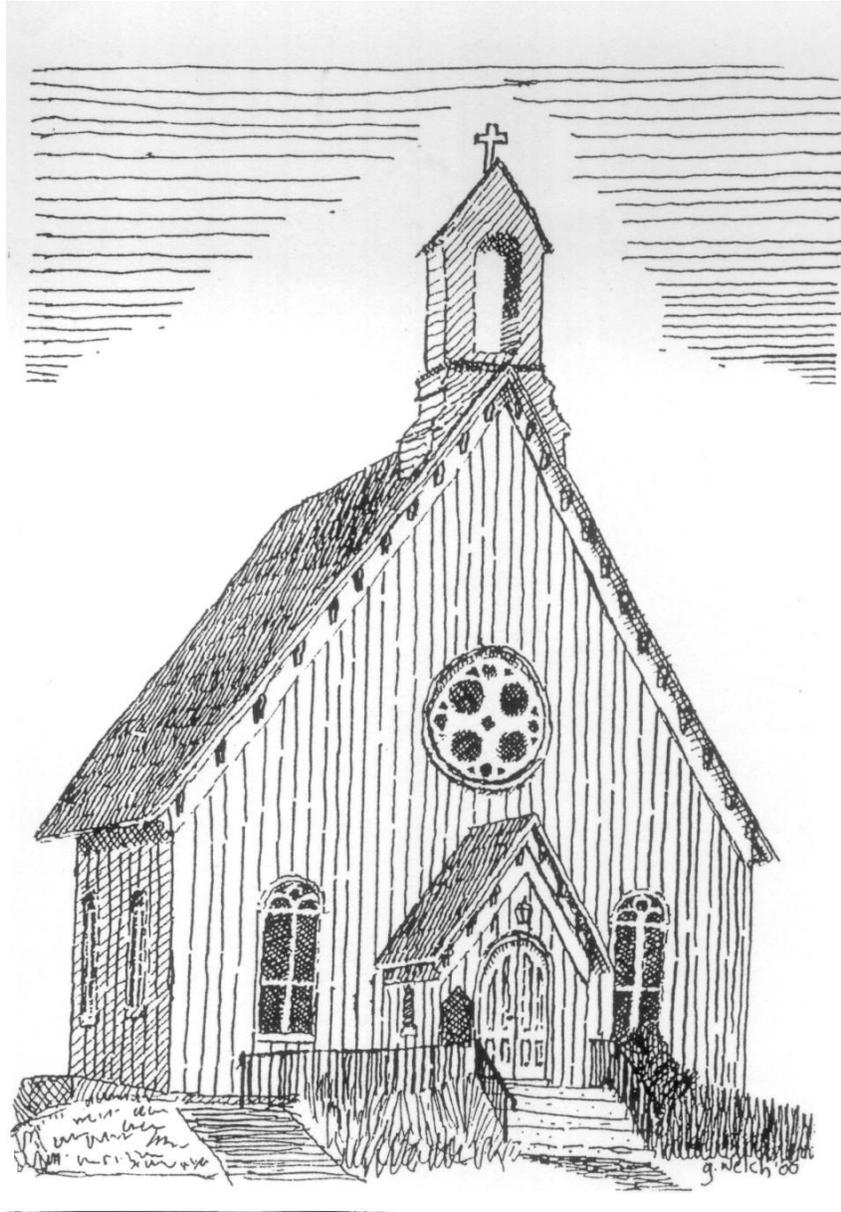


**SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**



**7 NORTH MAST STREET
GOFFSTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
03045**

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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 21, 2018

“WE ARE ST. MATTHEW’S”

1. Call to Order & Opening Prayer
2. Clerk - - Confirmation of quorum of at least 25 over 16 years
3. The joke of the year - - - Jack Kroehler
4. Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
5. Treasurer’s 2017 year-end report (colored pages)
6. Treasurer’s 2018 Parish Operating Budget Presentation
7. Thank you’s
 - a. to all elected representatives and volunteers retiring from their terms
 - b. to the Continuing Vestry, Staff & Volunteers
 - c. to the Search Team
8. Slate Process
 - a. Ballots / Nominations
 - b. Open Vote
 - c. Election Results
9. Honors
 - a. Sunday Driver’s Golf Trophy Presentation
 - b. 8th Annual Outreach Award of “The Bugbee”
 - c. Tower of Faith Award
10. Motion to Adjourn

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2017

1. Clerk appointed and quorum recognized (at least 25 people over 16 years of age).
2. Call to order – opening Prayer for the Celebration of Holy Eucharist at 10am service.
3. Reconvene at 11:38 am in the undercroft:
 - 64 Parish members in attendance
 - Joke of the year presented by Steve Fry as Jack Kroehler could not attend, first time in 16 years.
 - Vestry member introductions
4. Approve the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes – no corrections.
5. Approve the 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda – Addition of 150th to New Business
6. Treasurer’s Year End report 2016 – Colored pages – presented by Lauren Tennett, Treasurer.
 - Net income was slightly greater than \$24,000 but \$16,000 was from not having to pay full rector’s package and \$8,000 planned for audit but not yet spent.
 - We were at 98% of pledged income.
 - Reorganizing of balance sheet to correctly reflect finances and streamlining of financial reporting.
 - The Vestry has voted to invest the majority of our funds with the Diocesan Investment Fund relying on the expertise of the Trustees of the Diocese in lieu of companies like E-Trade and Fidelity. We have access to our non-endowed funds as needed.
 - Congratulation to Lauren for her hard work.
7. Thanks to Diocesan Delegation, Sr. Warden, Vestry, Clerk and Treasurer who served out terms of office through 2016.
 - Expired terms for Joan Alayne Stevens, Sr. Warden, Randy Cheyne and John Reed, Vestry.Celeste+ read a liturgy of conclusion of terms.
8. a) Nominations and Process -
 - Sr. Warden – Angela Battey
 - Jr. Warden – Rick Simons
 - Treasurer – Lauren Tennett
 - Clerk – Morgan Pierce
 - Vestry member – Chris Haines
 - Youth delegate – Steven Battey
 - Delegates –Karyn Battey, Sharon Benard, Deb Haines, Tony Howd, Nancy Nichols, Linnae Peterson, Amy Poisson, Shea Sennett.
 - No nominations from the floor.
 - b) Tellers: Roger and Brenda Fortier.
 - c) Ballot Instructions: No need to vote for youth delegate – vote for four (4) delegates and four (4) with most votes will be delegates, others will be alternates
 - d) Ballots closed - Motion to accept unopposed nominations and cast one (1) vote for the whole slate (J. McKim/S. Ambrogi); accepted.

Presentation of Maynard Smith’s 26-year term of Treasurer from Joan Alayne Stevens to Lauren Tennett.

Vestry Member – Sue Chretien - to serve the 1-year remaining in the position opened by Rick Simons moving into Jr. Warden position.

Motion to elect Sue Chretien to serve the remaining 1-year Vestry term left open by Rick Simons becoming Jr. Warden (J. Stevens/S. Ambrogi); accepted.

Parish attendees cast votes for delegates.

9. a) Sunday Drivers Trophy Presentation– every year in June St. Matt’s has a 9-hole golf tournament. Team Sennett won.
 - b) 7th Annual Outreach Award of ‘The Bugbee’ – Presented by Joan Alayne Stevens to Barbara Carbonneau for all she has done over the years.
 - c) Tower of Faith – Presented to Frank and Judy Tibbetts.
 - d) Presentation of flowers and chocolates as thanks to Kelly Kennerson for all her hard work.
10. Parish Operating Mission Budget for 2017 presentation by Randy Cheyne. Total budget of \$222,688.00 based on pledge income of \$170,000.00. Various questions around present pledged income compared to years past.
11. a) Thanks given to continuing vestry members, Wardens, Staff and Volunteers.
 - b) James McKim asked for an update on the Rector search – David Betz gave a summary.
 - c) Melanie Sherwood gave kudos to the Parish for all that it does – very active and accomplishes many things.
12. Election results –Karyn Battey, Deb Haines, Amy Poisson, and Shea Sennett are delegates. Sharon Benard, Tony Howd, Nancy Nichols, and Linnae Peterson are alternates.
13. a) Parish program reports – please take time to read all of the St. Matthew’s ministry reports.
 - b) 150th - moved up from New Business – Nancy Clark – chair and presently the committee – looking for folks. Sharon Bernard, Josh Desrochers and Happy Beale mentioned a committee had been started before Bill left so they will find notes from the previous meetings and join together with Nancy. Nancy mentioned she and the committee would like to hear about your vision for the 150th (September 24, 2017), a chicken bbq?, she mentioned the Sunday school time capsule. Needs folks to organize pictures.
14. Old Business – Motion to Amend Constitution. Article VI – Amendments: In accordance with the amendment process outlined in our Constitution, we move a change to Article VI, Amendments, which would delete the present article and replace it with: A proposal for a Constitutional amendment must be submitted in writing to the Vestry of St. Matthew’s Church and included in the notice of the meeting published in the Parish Calendar and in a conspicuous place in the Church at least four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. A duly noticed proposed Constitutional amendment shall then be placed on the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Parish and may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present. No amendments will be allowed from the floor. (J. Stevens/D. Greiner); approved.
15. New Business – Motion to replace Constitution with Bylaws: In accordance with the amendment process outlined in our Constitution, we move to replace our Constitution in its entirety with Bylaws. Some questions from the floor around terminology. Sarah Ambrogio addressed: Constitution = more hard and fast rules, not easily changed. Bylaws – operating rules, theory married with practice. Can be changed as needed. Per Celeste+, according to Roberts Rules or Order, an organization does not need both and bylaws are most useful for a nimble organization (A. Battey/R. Simons); approved. (MEP – need handout to include w/ report)
16. Motion to adjourn. 12:49pm (S. Fry/J. McKim); accepted.

SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

1.	<u>CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST</u>	2016	2017
	Sundays	95	95
	Weekdays	9	2
	Private	32	44
2.	<u>DAILY OFFICES</u>		
	Sundays	2	2
	Weekdays	17	19
3.	<u>CONFIRMATIONS</u>	6	0
4.	<u>RECEPTIONS</u>	8	0
5.	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	9	6
6.	<u>MARRIAGES</u>	1	1
7.	<u>BURIALS</u>	6	8

CONGREGATIONS:	1985	2016	Additions	Losses	2017
8. Households	83	577		*	349
9. Total Members		1,352		*	834

*We are presently reporting more members and households than we have on our mailing list. This suggests that our membership numbers need to be adjusted before we report them to the Episcopal Church in the annual Parochial Report.

10. <u>ATTENDANCE AT ALL SERVICES</u>	1985	2016	2017
Total Attendance**	4,883	8,203	6,616
Average Attendance 8:00AM	20	20	18
Average Attendance at 10AM Service	64	99	86
Average Sunday Attendance	84	105	104
Average Summer Attendance	34	59	57

**Total Attendance includes attendance at all church services in which St. Matthew's participated.

11. <u>TOTAL COMMUNIONS</u>	4,131	5,853	5,205
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Interim Rector's Report for 2017 Annual Meeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To me the greatest accomplishment of the past year was “I am St. Matthew’s,” a slogan that sprang up naturally as you prepared to celebrate your 150th anniversary. Those words summarize the work of your transition process, by showing your recognition that St. Matthew’s Church is *you*—not a building, not a priest, and not even a ministry (although you have many worthy ministries). St. Matthew’s is the people, blessed by God, who love it, and give their time and talent to it. I am so proud to see your acknowledgement of that in the buttons I see you wearing, both in church and outside of church. Because St. Matthew’s is you, and because you do have so many worthy ministries, and such capable ministry leaders, informative reports about those ministries are included below. So I’ll just share some “snapshots” of the past year. Some of these are actual photos that have been published in the daily meditations or the parish news, others are just pictures in my mind’s eye.

- The “dove” window behind the altar, lighted for evening worship.
- The flower motif lighted behind the rediscovered window next to the organ
- The CCC garage, repaired by volunteers
- Morning glories over the arbor to the memorial garden
- The flowers planted by children at the end of Sunday school, to cheer us during the summer
- Candles being lighted by past, present, and future people of St. Matthews at our 150th Anniversary evensong
- Finn, sitting on the steps behind the altar and reading a book
- All the hastily-called volunteers working over the snowy Christmas weekend to assemble, sort, pack and distribute Christmas dinner baskets to needy families.
- Hand-written meditations from Nicole Wells and Autumn Myers.
- The faces of newcomers at St. Matthew’s
- The photo of the Rev. Nancy Vogele, arms laden with fresh flowers.

Thank you all for these pictures,
Celeste Hemingson+

Sr. Warden's Report

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I am writing this annual report on the last evening of the year. This morning we said our goodbyes to Celeste, our interim rector for the past 18 months. One would think that, while there is an interim rector at a church, programs, ministries and other activities would be let go of in order to spend the time necessary to search for a new full-time rector. That is certainly not how we do things here at St. Matthew's.

As I prepared to write this report, I sat down and went through the year and made a list of what we had accomplished each month. That list was incredibly long. Not only did we continue our work in our existing ministries but we started new initiatives and even improved on some of them.

One of the most impressive new directions we took this year is to improve how we do Outreach. With the formation of a Social Justice committee, we have taken our outreach ministry to the next level. We look to give our brother and sisters in need a helping hand not only in the short term, but also through looking for positive, long lasting solutions to help improve each of their situations. Our parish profile

expressed at great length how important Outreach is to St. Matthew's and we continue to show that, in all that we do for those in need in our community and beyond.

We spent the year planning and celebrating our 150th anniversary. The phrase "I am St. Matthew's" turned out to be so much more than a slogan or catch phrase. We discovered that St. Matthew's is each and every one of us. So much more than any one person or a building. We are the cornerstone of our community working in unity for the mission of the kingdom of God. I have faith that this sentiment will be carried forward 50 years when the Sunday School time capsule is unearthed.

The Festive Evensong Service that was celebrated with the Bishop showcased our past, present and future. In my opinion, it was the most beautiful service we had this year.

Our search team did a tremendous job this year. With much dedication, hard work, and prayer, they found the candidate that God had chosen for us. The Reverend Dr. Nancy Vogeles is the perfect addition for our future at St. Matthew's. She will work alongside us toward our mission at St. Matthews Church. This year we took a hard look at our pastoral care ministry. The changes we made are enabling us to reach out and stay in touch with those that cannot always come to us. Our Eucharistic ministers, visitors, and pastoral correspondence volunteers are making a positive difference in many lives.

We also started a welcoming ministry this past fall. It is always exciting to see new faces in our church, and the welcome team helps us get to know these newcomers.

Some challenges arose this year as well, nothing we couldn't handle, but another example of how, when we work together, we accomplish great things. When the Stewardship Team came to the parish this summer to really discuss the hard numbers of what a full-time clergy would cost, and when we didn't feel we were prepared for it, 62 families came forward to let us know that they would either pledge or increase their pledge for 2018. How remarkable! Thank you.

This past year we tried a new model for our youth by hiring a youth director from outside the St. Matthew's community. While that model struggled, a new way developed, Theology Under Wraps gives our high school youths a chance to sit down with clergy and discuss whatever bubbles to the surface. By being open to adjusting our ways and transitioning with the times, we can still be available for our youth on their terms. They are, after all, our future.

I am most grateful for our parish administrator, our music director and our sexton. Without their consistent dedication, we would not be able to function on a daily basis.

As I look toward the future and think about what the next year might bring, I can't help but feel great optimism in all that I know we can accomplish together. We will still be in a time of transition as Nancy gets to know everyone, our ministries and our community but I know she has a lot of enthusiasm and energy for all that St. Matthew's is and can become. God is good to us, and I look forward to seeing what HE has in store for us in 2018.

Angie Battey, Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden Report

2017 was a busy and challenging year for us. We had a little flood in the undercroft, with a very elusive source. Fortunately it was discovered early and we were able to get it cleaned up quickly. Most of the repairs were able to be completed right after the clean up was finished. We also decided to wait on some repairs because of the town's Main St/Mast Rd project, fearing that the water may show up again with all the construction. Once the town finished their phase in November we decided to go ahead with the carpet installation in January 2018.

We celebrated our 150th Anniversary with Bishop Rob Hirschfeld joining us for an incredible Evensong service followed by a reception in the parish house. It was a truly wonderful way to recognize the spirit of St. Matthew's in Goffstown.

Our Search Team presented the Vestry with a candidate we were honored to call to be our new rector. They did an extraordinary job and we can't thank them enough. We were blessed to be able to call the Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogele as our new rector and have her accept our call. While some of us remember her from when she was with us 17 years ago, we all need to take the opportunity to know her, and let her know us.

With that blessing came a sad truth, we had to say goodbye to our Interim Rector Rev. Celeste Hemingson. We were so blessed to be guided through this transition process by a shepherd such as her. She taught us, vestry and parishioner, so much during the last year. While she is no longer our shepherd she will always be our Sister in Christ. We need to say Hi at every reunion we have with her.

We have welcomed many new members in 2017, and look forward to welcoming many more. Through Outreach & the CCC we have been able to help so many in our community and beyond. Lifelong Spiritual Formation, Sunday School, Shine, Music Ministry, Acolytes, Worship, Altar Guild, Fellowship, Buildings & Grounds, and Pastoral Care are all doing well.

We are truly blessed. I think of the song by Irving Berlin "Count Your Blessing (Instead of Sheep)"

When I'm worried and I can't sleep
I count my blessings instead of sheep
And I fall asleep counting my blessings

Thank you for Blessing me with the opportunity to be your Jr. Warden.

Peace,
Rick Simons

Long Range Plan

The Long Range 20/20 Vision Plan developed in 2012 is coming to an end.

It is time once again to reset goals for the future in all areas and ministries at St. Matthew's Church. With our new rector, Nancy Vogele, the vestry will be taking a thorough look at the long range plan this year. If you have an interest in developing and implementing goals for any ministry, please contact a vestry member.

Annual Goals 2018: based on 20/20 Vision Long Range Plan-

Long Range Plan developed in 2012 and spans through 2020. It is meant to be used as a guide to inform the ministries of St. Matthew's Church. Items in bold are new to 2018, which is nearing the end of the plan. In addition to the charge to each ministry listed below, the Executive Summary and the full Plan also include Elaborate Dreams for each ministry and some identified an overarching goal along with their goals, objectives, activities, evaluation, indicators, and timeline, people responsible and budget. The full plan is located in the Parish House or on our website.

ADMINISTRATION CHARGE: To provide appropriate staffing and volunteers, equipment, materials and processes to enable and inspire the parish to meet its mission.

- Continue to develop and use Volunteer and staff succession
- Continue recognition program for Time and Talent including youth
- **Continue technology improvements such as online surveys and sign up genius**
- **Continue to educate parishioners on what we do and opportunities to participate**
- Reach out to current and absent parishioners

- Revisit long range plan to add specificity to long range goals
- Build Capital Reserve Fund
- Collaborate with area churches on ministries like Shine, use Clergy Association
- **Explore regional shared ministries for programs and services like Shine**

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CHARGE: To provide safe, accessible, comfortable, environmentally sound buildings and grounds.

- Continue to explore optimal use of space in 9 North Mast backroom
- Continue implementation of high return/low cost energy improvements.
- Conduct independent audit re: welcoming and functionality
- Continue to utilize Long Range Plan spread sheet to map out improvements for use in line item budget.
- **Continue to monitor opportunities to achieve accessibility for all B&G with an eye to to grant opportunities for accessibility in church undercroft and bathrooms**
- Budget for large replacements/ roof, painting, boilers, windows, wiring, solar panels, chimney
- Explore alternative energy options and continue the change to LED lighting
- **Continue to make improvements to the Grove property and paint garage**
- **Establish a work team/ vision team for B& G**
- **Consider a parking lot expansion**
- **Expand multiple uses of buildings**
- **Seek Historical Designation for Church**
- **Survey Properties**

FELLOWSHIP CHARGE: To provide opportunities for members and potential members to meet and socialize and feel welcome and included as a means to enhance spiritual growth

- Continue opportunities for parishioners to get to know each other better and enjoy each other's company
- Conduct fellowship event survey
- **Form a Fellowship work team and identify specific roles for Fellowship volunteers**
- Update and distribute Parish Directory
- Continue sending note/gift card to members who are away as freshmen in college
- **Increase number of coffee hour hosts**
- **Consider Senior Saints lunch type programs**
- **Explore and conduct fellowship type retreats**

LIFELONG SPIRITUAL FORMATION CHARGE: To provide opportunities for learning and growing spiritually for all people

- Consider vacation Bible School, if interest warrants
- **Make Family Sunday services more meaningful for children (with worship)**
- Reinvent Community Spiritual Life Center and include interfaith offerings
- **Evaluate needs for programs providing alternative forms of worship**

OUTREACH CHARGE: St. Matthew's parish is committed to the spirituality of outreach. Our efforts extend to the community in which we live and beyond. It is the purpose of the Outreach Committee to respond to critical needs of our neighbors through direct support and prayers and through the allocation of small grants to meet these needs and to enable them to be better able to care for themselves.

- Continue resource coalition work with community to identify and meet community needs
- **Update the Resource Referral guide and the 1-page version**
- Continue exploring mission-related outreach (local to international)

- Continue developing social justice actions developed in 2017
- **Share with parishioners/community how money raised is used (example at Yard sale)**
- explore options to perform missionary work
- Train parishioners in political action
- Better use of 9 North Mast (with B & G)
- **identify sources of new funding**

PASTORAL CARE CHARGE: To provide services to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those who are in trouble, need, sickness or any other adversity.

- Develop/revise list of Pastoral Care resources
- Form Pastoral Care Team and begin active work
- **Bring the word of God to those who can no longer come to services**
- **Provide Caregiver Support**

STEWARDSHIP CHARGE: To adequately finance resources to enable the parish to reach its goals and mission and to serve as stewards of God's green earth (land, air and water)

- Continue to fund Capital Reserve & discuss a capital campaign
- Continue to Fund Permanent Endowment Fund
- **Identify volunteer environmental coordinator & involve youth with new & ongoing environmental activities**
- **Educate parish on different ways of investing/support**
- Consider rolling pledges
- **Explore grant funding (Lilly Foundation, Sacred Places for B&G improvements & accessibility)**
- **Emphasize that everyone has something to offer**

WORSHIP CHARGE: To feed the body, mind and spirit of our community by living our baptismal covenant

- **Use technology to get the message out to the public**
- Consider off campus worship
- Continue family Sunday sermon involving children
- Conduct interfaith offerings as appropriate: with Goffstown Clergy Association
- **Reach potential & absent seekers like young adults through weeknight services**
- **Pilot off-campus and outdoor services to enhance spiritual experience**
- **Hold off campus worship with fellowship/ hikes, parks etc**

YOUTH CHARGE: To offer opportunities that engage young people in positive, healthy, Christian/spiritual ways.

- Grow youth group with youth giving services/ involve youth more
- Participate in community activities
- Consider garage bands, movies, trips, work projects, retreats
- **develop youth leadership opportunities**

Rector Search Team

The search team was chosen by the Vestry and commissioned at the end of July 2016.

The team members are:

Karyn Battey
David Betz - vestry liaison
Bonnie Calhoun - co-chair

Barbara Carbonneau - chaplain
Michael Domingue - co-chair
Bob Jones
Roger Macon
Laeny McKahan - secretary
Kathy McKim - youth representative
Abby Poisson - youth representative
Shea Sennett

In the beginning of 2017 we were finishing up the parish profile.

- The search team worked on finishing writing and editing the parish profile for the first few months of the year. This profile was based on input from a parish-wide survey as well as many meetings with parishioners.
- We enlisted Ann Domingue to do the graphic design and layout. The resulting profile was a beautiful description of our parish with an eye-catching theme “Help Wanted: Gardener”. In fact, our chosen candidate mentioned that it was that theme that attracted her attention. (A **BIG** thanks to Annie!)
- We reviewed our final draft profile with the Vestry early in May.
- We then revised the profile based on Vestry feedback and completed the final profile.
- We posted the profile to our parish web site and Hannah Anderson, Canon to the Ordinary, also posted it on the Diocesan and national web sites.
- We then put together a standard list of questions to ask candidates.
- We started receiving applications in August.
- We did Zoom (online) interviews with the finalists in early September and site visits later that month.
- We submitted our recommendations to the Vestry in late September.
- The Vestry and search team met with the recommended candidates.
- The Vestry voted shortly thereafter and the wardens announced the Vestry’s choice to the parish in early November.
- The search team worked with the vestry to plan the farewell for Celeste and the welcome for our new rector.
- Our new Rector, The Rev. Dr. Nancy Vogeles, joined us at the beginning of January.
- The search team will continue to be available to aid in the transition to our new rector.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers throughout this whole process.

David Betz, Vestry Liaison to the Search Team

Office Report

Office hours during the program year are Tuesday mornings 9:30-12:30, Wed 9:30am-1:30 and Thursday 9:30am-12:30. Summer hours were Tu/Th mornings. The office produces weekly bulletins, special bulletins for weddings and funerals, weekly parish notes, prepares for monthly vestry meetings and Annual Meeting. The parish notes are emailed out. Please make sure the office has your current email address as well as phone and mailing information. If you would like to be included in the weekly Prayers of the People please send in your birthday and/or anniversary information.

The regular volunteers are invaluable as they fold over 100 bulletins weekly. The bigger volunteer force gets called in when it is time to mail the annual letters for Easter, Stewardship Campaign (pledge and time & talent offerings), and Christmas as well as quarterly Matthean's. A special thanks to Alice Kelchner for coordinating the volunteer group.

I am thankful for Vestry approval to purchase a new (used) copier this past summer. The older one was slowly having parts break that were expensive to repair and the toner was expensive to purchase.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Kennerson

Acolyte Report

Faithful service at the Lord's Table is an essential part of Episcopal worship and liturgy. St. Matthew's acolytes, all 17 of them, fulfilled their roles while learning about teamwork and commitment in 2017. Thanks to Michael Domingue and Sandra Jones for volunteering to acolyte at 8am worship and Nathaniel Sherwood at 10am. We are always seeking more members to the acolyte team.

From our weekly Sunday celebrations to weddings and burial rites on weekdays, plus special week night liturgies during Holy Week, our acolytes were ready and prepared to assist the clergy and help lead the congregation. I am grateful to our adults and young people who serve in this capacity. We had a wonderful Acolyte training and we have created our very own St. Matthew's Acolyte manual for old and new members.

Thank you to parents who are supportive of their children and helpful in making sure they make it to worship and offer themselves in service.

Bob McKahan

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Lay Worship leaders and Ushers

Three Eucharistic Visitors—Deb McCarter, Deb Haines, and Barbara Carbonneau—bring Communion from the altar on Sunday Morning to those in our community who are unable to join us in Church. Between the four of us, everyone is receiving the Sacrament once a month. Barbara Carbonneau and Pauline Wood are continuing a regular prayer service at Bel Air Nursing Home.

The office of Morning Prayer is a wonderful opportunity for folks to hear some of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. I'm glad that we can offer this during on Sundays when I'm away, and glad we have Lay Leaders who know how to lead the office. If you would like to learn more about leading Morning (or Evening) Prayer, please ask the rector.

I deeply appreciate the assistance of our 14 Licensed Eucharistic Ministers who administer the chalice on Sunday mornings. The vestry recently approved a license for one new Eucharistic Minister, and others are welcome to assist at the altar in this ministry.

One of the features that makes Episcopal worship special is the sound of many voices reading lessons and leading the prayers of the people. I'm delighted to see that more of you have come forward to join in this ministry. This year Mary Jenkins and Nancy Rosen have been added to the reading rotation. More Lectors are always appreciated, especially for the 8:00 service. Having more young persons join this ministry on Family Sundays and at other Sundays is a goal as well.

St. Matthew's is one of those churches that has frequent visitors, so friendly, helpful ushers are very important. Many of you who are familiar with all the functions in the church have been quick to step in when ushers are needed. This is another area where we could use more ushers on our schedule for the 8:00 service.

Celeste+

2017 Altar Guild Annual Report

Under the direction of the Rector, the Altar Guild prepares and maintains the Altar for Sunday worship services and other special occasions, such as weddings and memorial services. In addition to preparing the Altar by setting out the altar hangings, linens, and other articles that are part of an Episcopal Mass, the Guild cleans the linens used, ensures that flowers are in place for most services, and maintains the supplies used throughout the year. St. Matthew's is blessed with a wonderful Altar Guild; I am so grateful for their work on our behalf. Members of the Altar Guild are Roger and Brenda Fortier, Julie Greiner, Kelly Kennerson, Dianne Macon, John Yost, Margie Battey, Christina Dickey, Sally Booth, and Joan Alayne Stevens.

We also conduct two special cleanup days each year. On these days the church undergoes a thorough cleaning in preparation for Advent and for Holy Week. Many thanks go to the parishioners who have pitched in on those days, helping to keep St. Matthews looking great.

The Altar Guild is a peaceful, rewarding, "behind the scenes" ministry. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to contact either myself or the Parish Office to find out more.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Greiner

Music Ministry

In this year of transition for St. Matthew's we continue to hope that the music ministry enhances your worship and brings you closer to the Holy during our times together.

What a wonderful year of ministry we have shared together. I am one staff member - let me be clear that St. Matthew's music ministry is principally about our volunteer musicians. I am so thankful for our volunteer corps including all our senior choir members, our junior choir members and their parents who allow them to inspire us all through music. I can't say enough to thank Ms. Debbie Haines, without whom we would not have a junior choir. Her patience and diligence are gifts from God that she has learned to put to good use for all of us! Special thanks to Paul Peterson for all of the help with planning and repertoire selection and thanks to James McKim for taking the directing pressure off occasionally.

Our monthly folk group continues to "Make a Joyful Noise" on the second Sundays of the month during Family Sunday. Big thanks to James McKim and Allison Buckless on guitar and Bill Gannon on Bass and Trombone. For the first time ever, we tried a folk Christmas Eve service at the 7pm, and our regular folk musicians were joined by Kathy McKim on flute.

We pulled out all the stops (literally) with extra music preparations for the 150th anniversary Evensong service this year, and presented our second Lessons & Carols service, both of which were received well by the congregation. We were able to find funds to support special music offered by Anna Ambrogi on Flute and Molly Goldstein on cello.

My work with all of you is incredibly meaningful to me personally -- thank you so much for all the support.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Desrochers
Minister of Music

Outreach Committee

What a year this has been! We have had the pleasure of having Celeste as our interim rector. Her presence has been an anchor of our purpose and we thank her for her counsel and understanding our purpose. She has been a joy and we thank her! Early in the year the requests for help were far and few between. Our other ministries (CCC and Network) also saw a decline in demand. It was a joyful time. Our two flea market fundraisers were successful in building up our ability to provide help to those when needed. Since September we have seen a rise in requests for help with rent, repairs, utilities, etc. More than ever our ministry is as relevant as ever before. Thank you to all who made this possible. We are only a piece of what St. Matthew's is all about. We would love for more of you to join us!

Roger Fortier, Amy Poisson, and Joan Alayne Stevens

The Outreach Committee has been involved in helping several individuals and families with some immediate needs. The Spring and Fall yard sales have been successful in raising funds to respond to some difficult situations.

A new subcommittee has been formed with a focus on Social Justice. After a few whole group meetings, the SJ committee has broken up into small groups seeking to find the root causes that impede people from improving their lives. This may involve connecting with other groups doing similar work and also educating themselves on bills being introduced at the state level that may help or hurt low income people. This social justice group is discerning how else they may work alongside Outreach. They are talking about seeking parishioners who may be interested in sharing their expertise with people who may need guidance. This would not only give them assistance in the short term but may also give them the tools to improve their lives permanently.

Sue Chretien

2017 Social Justice Sub-Committee Report

A new ministry of St. Matthew's formed in the spring of 2017. The Social Justice Sub-Committee has met monthly since then. The group's mission is *to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation between peoples and with the environment in the Goffstown area and beyond.*

Where Social Justice's parent committee, Outreach, seeks to provide "emergency assistance" (i.e. fill emergency needs of those in our community, nationally and internationally), the Social Justice Sub-Committee seeks to provide advocacy (legislative) and assistance to self-help (helping individuals improve their situation). To learn more about the theological underpinnings for this work, see <http://enej.org/howtomanual.htm>

After a series of planning meetings, the Social Justice Sub-Committee selected three goals: 1) improve access to affordable, quality healthcare, 2) decrease poverty, and 3) improve the environment. We established three work teams to focus on these goals. We are committed to accomplishing 1-2 objectives listed below for each within three to six months.

Healthcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) promote enrollment in the Affordable Care Act2) publicize the availability of the parish nurse who is at St. Matthew's on Wednesday mornings free-of-charge to take blood pressure and to offer referrals as needed.
Poverty	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) pass legislation to raise the minimum wage by the end of the current legislative session2) pass legislation to make quality, affordable childcare accessible to working parents.
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) improve the water quality in Goffstown2) improve energy efficiency in our church and in homes of our parishioners

If you're interested in learning more about how you can participate (call it your part of your Time and Talent contribution), join us at one of our meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 11:15 in the Parish House or contact the Rector, James McKim, or Joan Alayne Stevens.

Respectfully submitted,
James McKim and Joan Alayne Stevens, Co-Chairs

Community Clothing Center Annual Report 2017

Open for business just 9 hours a week and staffed by approximately 50 volunteers from our parish and the Goffstown area, the Community Clothing Center is a vibrant Outreach Ministry of St. Matthew's Church. Upon opening the door, one sees rack after rack of children's, women's and men's apparel just waiting for someone to try it on, fold it up, pay a fraction of retail cost, and take it home. The prices have been called ridiculous by some, and if you are lucky enough to shop on a "Bag Sale" day, you will be given instructions how to neatly fold your items to give the most room inside a large white plastic bag that is yours to fill for a small price. But wait, there is so much more to the Clothing Center than the shopping experience.

Our stock comes entirely from community donations, and in return, almost all of our items are re-purposed. (Even our soiled and damaged goods are sold to Ecosmith Recycling.) Community support is our main thrust and we reach out whenever possible. Families in need are given vouchers for free clothing (through the church office or Town Welfare Office, for instance). We are a strong supporter of the First Methodist Church Refugee Program, assisting them weekly with clothing needs. My Brother's Keeper, an organization aiding the homeless in Manchester and surrounding areas, is the recipient of blankets, yarns, fabric and other necessities. Donations of back packs and duffel bags to Liberty House, a transitional housing program for veterans; durable medical equipment to Joseph's Closet; and household fixtures to the ReStore, Habitat for Humanity, are also ongoing throughout the year. Victims of catastrophic situations are made to feel welcome, and we often open the store in off-hours to help them shop confidentially. Goffstown school nurses call on us to supply them with emergency clothing for their "accident bin" and also to assist with families they deem as necessary. CASA of NH children receive "goodies" from our store to help ease the turmoil in their troubled lives.

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and many people relocated to the mainland to rebuild their lives, coming to NH with little more than the clothes on their back. The Clothing Center was instrumental in helping to provide warm winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens, boots, blankets, etc. to many families.

Who would have ever guessed that Santa lives amongst the boxes piled out back? Well, he does. Our Secret Santa was able to put together two large green tote boxes filled with holiday cheer – blankets, puzzles, books, mugs, ornaments, wreaths – and new Christmas trees with lights to bring joy and goodwill to two families who were in need of a little boost to their spirits.

We found the need to add another position to our amazing staff of workers. Having had so many books donated, it was necessary to designate a person to specifically sort and manage our wide array of reading material. We are forever grateful to Judy Pancoast for cheerfully offering to help us.

The Goffstown Police Department also has added the Clothing Center to a list of places that people can select to donate to rather than pay a fine for minor offenses. We had an individual walk in one day and give a \$50 donation for an inspection sticker ticket violation. What a wonderful benefit for our shop!

However, I believe the real ministry comes not from the actual material things but from the love and compassion in the air. Our volunteers brighten lives – customers, fellow workers, and their own. They

put in countless hours of sorting, packing, chatting, hanging, pricing, counting, and much more. In fact, one customer comes in every time we are open; she considers our shop her own private “sanctuary.”

A new addition to our calendar was the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Reverend Celeste and her team of talented kitchen helpers treated our volunteers to a scrumptious meal, and Jo Szlyk, one of our favorite CCC faces, shared some of the heart-warming stories demonstrating how our donations have improved the lives of her clients. (Jo, if you don’t know her, is a good and faithful servant of Our Lord, serving the poor, victims of tragedy, those who are forgotten, and those who “fall through the cracks of the system.”) Of course, the best part of the event was the fellowship and mingling of all who participate to make the Clothing Center a success.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a big round of applause for Rick Simons and Mark Battey. The garage at 9 North Mast Road has been in great need of repairs for quite some time, and we are thankful these two men have taken on the task. We are looking forward to celebrating with a “garage blessing” by our new Rector when the work is completed.

I believe the CCC is making the world a better place to live... one piece of clothing at a time.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Benard

Adult Lifelong Spiritual Formation

Lifelong Learning Spiritual Formation is alive and well at St. Matthews Church. There are opportunities for seniors, adults, teens and for children of all ages to benefit from the knowledge of the many teachers among us.

Young children of parishioners can benefit from a curriculum that has depth and a richness of activities specific to each age group.

Book groups are offered throughout the year with one beginning in January. The book to be discussed is Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear by Scott Bader-Saye. It will be led by Linnae Peterson.

Other educational opportunities exist such as training in meditation, bible studies, and “Theology under Wraps” for older teens and young adults.

Sue Chretien

Sunday School 2017

2017 brought some new and exciting changes to our St. Matthew's Sunday School Program! Our program consisted of 4 different classes whenever possible, though there were times that we combined classes when having smaller numbers. Typically our classes flush out as follows: Pre-K (ages 3-kindergarten), Primary (grades 1-2), Intermediate (grades 3-5), and Young Teens (grades 6-9). On average, our weekly student numbers for attendance hovered around 10-12.

St. Matthews continues to maintain a great group of committed teachers and greeters each week, who help ensure the success of our program and make it possible. We are thrilled that we could add some new members to our teaching team this year! Probably our biggest news of the year was a change in curriculum. While the first half of the 2017 year was spent utilizing the Whole People of God curriculum, in September we completed our changeover to a new curriculum - Sparkhouse. After much discussion, investigation, and deliberation, we determined that a change in curriculum would bring about fresh and exciting transformation: The Sparkhouse Sunday School Curriculum is engaging, child-friendly, teaches the relevant biblical stories and lessons, and provides a wealth of arts-integrated, music, and movement activities. We are hearing positive comments from both teaching staff and most importantly, the children, and are excited to continue to explore all our new materials in the 2018 year.

We would LOVE the opportunity to add more teachers to our teaching team, and can easily accommodate new members mid-year/mid-curriculum. If you would like to support and help educate the children of our church and encourage them in their faith journeys, please contact Melanie (mksherwood@comcast.net) or Jenn (jennifertetreault@comcast.net).

Jenn Gilliland

Youth Group

Early in 2017, we realized that the youth group was quickly dwindling in numbers and enthusiasm. The model of bringing in someone to lead our youth group from outside of St. Matthew's community was not as successful as we hoped it would be. Our youth are increasingly more busy and scheduled and the old way of doing things was not going to work. In May, after canceling the youth retreat due to lack of interest a new idea formed. Celeste had heard of a group called Theology On Tap, geared toward college age kids. This idea was adapted for St. Matthew's and became Theology Under Wraps. Our youth have met one Sunday a month at Nadeau's Subs & Wraps to sit with Celeste and Shea Sennett to discuss various topics of Theology. It has been successful and well received by the 4-6 youths that attend regularly. This will continue with The Rev. Nancy Voegel.

Angie Battey

SHINE Report

The Senior Health Inventory Network Endeavor commonly called "SHINE", met each Wednesday morning this past year with the exception of July and August. On average, a group of eight to ten seniors in their 80's and 90's, gathered in the parish house for ninety minutes to socialize, exercise their brains and bodies, plus enjoy an assortment of nutritious and tasty food. They also had the opportunity to visit with Sue Jepsen, our parish nurse. She is available each week to answer any health concerns and to check blood pressure. SHINE is an appropriate name for this group of seniors who share the wisdom of the past and present through their personal stories and experiences.

Throughout the year a wide variety of programs were presented that included: Librarian Sandy Whipple, Alyssa Van Guilder of Apotheca Flower Shoppe, Barbara Mace, local historian, Sunny Mulligan, a member of the NH State committee that oversees senior abuse, gave pointers on avoiding recent phone scams, The Rev. Celeste Hemingson, shared her knowledge and experiences as head of NH Social Security prior to her ordination to the priesthood. Sue Jepsen, our parish nurse, enlisted nursing and pharmacology students who kept us up to date on a variety of medical issues.

Many of our SHINE members fold the Sunday bulletins each Wednesday, if time allows, a job which is greatly appreciated by Kelly Kennerson, best parish administrator ever, she is a treasure.

My thanks go to those who helped with food and program assistance during this past year, in particular, Deb Haines, Joan Alayne Stevens, Sue Jepsen, Donna DiBello and last but not least, the Reverend Celeste Hemingson, our interim rector, for her continued support and enthusiasm for our SHINE ministry.

My involvement with SHINE continues to be a highlight of my week and I look forward to another year of friendship and fun with this shining group of seniors and I am pleased to report that our membership has increased over the past few months and now ranges in age from 70-95!

Barbara Carbonneau, SHINE Coordinator

St. Matthew's Prayer Chain

Blessings go to Prayer chain for continuing their ministry of ongoing Prayer Chain/Intercessory Prayer Ministry at St. Matthew's Church. Though always a prayerful community, new technology and emphasis on prayer, plus an increasing number of requests for the prayers of the church from people inside and outside our walls have confirmed the need and appreciation of this ministry. Here is how it works - the requests come to Deb Haines and she sends it out many times with a specific prayer to go with it. But we don't have to know who or what the need is - God Knows, it is just offering up prayers for the well-being of those we pray for. Many weeks there are several faithful souls offering prayers to meet the needs of those who contact us with their concerns, hopes, celebrations and deep needs. This is the Lord's work and we are blessed to have many willing to share in it.

Deb Haines

Fellowship

Thank you to all our coffee hour hosts. Their generosity each week following the 10am service not only nourishes us with food but offers an environment to gather and get to know and support one another. This enhances our spiritual growth.

This year our talented cooks continued the tradition of offering breakfast on the third Sunday of the month between the 8 and 10 services. These breakfasts have been very well attended. Many thanks to Roger and his esteemed band of chefs.

We also continued the tradition of our delicious annual meeting potluck, Mass on the Grass barbecue hosted by the Clark family, The Christmas Progressive Dinner and providing snacks for first responders on Christmas Eve. Our goodbye brunch for Celeste, our Interim Rector was a bountiful feast.

We are always looking for new fellowship opportunities. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer for any of our events feel free to contact a Vestry member.

Angie Battey

Buildings and Grounds Annual Report

As I began to put the past year's events and activities to paper, I realized something; *Wow! There is a lot going on in our Parish.*

Of course that means there is some impact upon our Campus facilities. This places significant reliance on our buildings, so that our programs and ministries can be vital and effective for the Community we serve.

Along with myself, our Buildings and Grounds Vestry liaisons include: Chris Haines, Rick Simons, Jr. Warden and Angie Battey, Sr. Warden.

As in past years, we faced a number of challenges in 2017:

- Water damage from flooding in the Undercroft
- Roof repairs at the Church and the Community Clothing Center
- Sewer line backups
- Structural damage at the CCC garage wall
- Developing a long-term plan for the repair and maintenance of our 3 buildings, in anticipation of the expected arrival of a new Rector

In February, we became aware of an opportunity to obtain grant funding that is available to organizations such as ourselves for the preservation of historic structures offered by the Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Places. It was also discovered that the application timeline to submit an

application would be needed before May 1, 2017. Undeterred, a dauntless team was formed with the mission of submitting a worthy application before the funding deadline. A group was tasked to investigate the requirements for this grant funding. Other Team members were tasked with researching the Historic status of the Church building. Still others focused on determining which specific project would be most eligible to qualify for the funding. During this exercise, a list of potential projects and repairs was developed. Out of this list it was determined that restoration of our Stained Glass was the best option. We put a request out for an appraisal of these windows so that a cost for the project could be identified as part of our grant application. Eventually, the application was submitted with time to spare! We were later informed that our application was declined. The explanation of our unsuccessful application was due to a lack of a formal Capital Improvement Plan. As a result ongoing efforts continue toward the development of such a Plan.

Also in February, we encountered flooding in the church undercroft. The company contracted to mitigate the flooding damage was unable to identify the source of the incoming moisture. Fortunately, our insurance coverage has provided repairs of the damaged materials to include the undercroft carpet. It was decided that the carpet replacement would be deferred until warmer months in case we encounter further flooding conditions, which did not occur. Eventually, wall repairs, repainting and carpet replacement is complete! (At the time of this writing, the carpet was being installed in the next few days)

One benefit of the grant funding efforts was that a To-Do list was put together which encompasses repairs and ongoing maintenance needed in our facilities. This list will supplement the organization of our ongoing repairs and maintenance. These repairs will be part of the Vestry's Long-Term Planning document also.

As the year progressed, we learned more of the pending Main Street road improvement projects being undertaken by the Town. Our Senior Warden attended meetings to understand how this project might impact our property. This included the potential loss of on-street parking spaces at the front of the church and how these could affect church activities such as funerals. Later, it would include the sale of the 1 North Mast property to the Town. These events stressed the importance of a complete understanding of the boundaries of our campus property. We are currently working with a land survey company Meridian Land Services to update our boundary limit information. The most recent recorded survey occurred in 1977. The arrival of winter will delay the Surveyor's Report until this spring.

Over the summer, we contracted with Northpoint Roofing to repair roof leaks and other damage at the Church and the Community Clothing Center.

Investigation of needed repairs for the damaged wall at the CCC garage has revealed underlying moisture damage. Mark Battey and Rick Simons spearheaded the repair efforts. These repairs are currently on hold, but will be completed in the springtime. At that time, the overhead door will be replaced with a new entry door for energy efficiency.

As we proceed into 2018, we will continue our efforts to develop a Capital Improvement Plan with the help of our new Rector. We anticipate commissioning a professional assessment of our buildings and grounds will be performed to provide us with guidance for the development of this Plan. It is expected that the findings and recommendations of this assessment will update the 2008 Criterium Engineers report that identified many needed actions such as repairs to achieve energy improvements and resolve potential safety concerns.

Not enough can be said to thank the volunteers that have participated in the ongoing Spring and Fall stewardship cleanup activities and the *too many to mention here* "behind the scene" helpers. We are ever grateful to the Buckless Family for the outstanding work they do to keep our grounds and gardens looking fabulous! Also, I want to express timely gratitude to Rick Simons, Randy Cheney and all who

help out clearing the ever-building accumulations of snow and ice from our entryways, walkways and parking areas!

Faithfully Submitted,
Eric Battey, Vestry Liaison for B&G

Stewardship

The Stewardship Ministry thanks each member of the parish for the opportunity to serve St Matthew's in 2017. The Stewardship Ministry has two important responsibilities.

The first responsibility is to lead the effort to raise the resources that are necessary to operate St. Matthew's. This effort is embodied in our annual pledge drive. During this drive, the vestry asks the members of the parish to pledge two different and equally important types of resource: financial and time/talent. The financial resources are needed to keep the nuts and bolts of the church going (salaries paid, lights on, furnaces running). The other resource, time and talent, makes everything else possible. Without the volunteer efforts of so many members of the parish, there would be no choir, no coffee hour, no Outreach committee or yard sales, no Community Clothing Center, no roadside cleanup, limited pastoral care (and the list goes on and on). In short, there would be a parish; but, it would be missing all of the things that make it St. Matthew's! (Those buttons are right ... we are all St. Matthew's).

The second responsibility is to lead St. Matthew's efforts to be good stewards of the planet Earth. In addition to the two roadside cleanups and our continued recycling efforts (in all parish buildings), we also held our Dumpster Dare this spring in order to spread the word on the finer points of Goffstown's recycling program.

- "Official" St. Matthew's membership stands at 834 with 104 in regular attendance. All God's children are welcome to this parish.
- Pledge commitments for 2018 are still coming in. At this point pledge commitments - 72 pledges totaling \$146,256
- Income from the Community Clothing Center again surpassed its annual goal of \$20,000.
- Our annual financial commitment to the Diocese of New Hampshire has been paid in full.
- Our parish continues to reflect the model adopted for Stewardship by The Episcopal Church.

Faithfully submitted,
Vestry Liaisons to Stewardship
Leo Steffens and Angie Battey

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care ministry of St. Matthew's Church is there to provide assistance and support for our fellow parishioners whenever they are dealing with any kind of trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity. This support may be offered by Rev. Vogele or it may come from one of our many parish volunteers. In all cases, this support is offered with an appropriate level of discretion.

St. Matthew's continues to look for ways to improve its ministries. This year, the Pastoral Care ministry held training sessions for those volunteers that provide pastoral visitations.

Pastoral care relies on and thanks its numerous volunteers that have helped throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the parish office or check off the appropriate section on your Time and Talent form.

We will gratefully accept your help in providing this type of support to our St. Matthew's family:

- Visiting people in the hospital or nursing home
- Providing meals when needed
- Giving somebody a ride to a medical appointment or to church
- Running or assisting with errands
- Knitting comfort shawls
- Praying for those in need
- Participating in the prison softball game

In 2017, St. Matthew's saw an increased need in the areas of providing meals, and providing rides.

Faithfully, Leo Steffens

CMC PARISH NURSE PROGRAM
2017 Annual Report

The CMC Parish Nurse Program remains committed to serving the Goffstown community and thanks St. Matthew's for its continued support. The program consistently offers a variety of classes at various sites every month. Although the number of clients using the CMC Parish Nurse Program at St. Matthew's continues to decline, those utilizing its services continue to benefit from them. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Priscilla Hamilton, RN at 663-8004.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Jepsen, RN

VISIT REPORT

<u>Month</u>	<u>Visits</u>
January	2
February	3
March	5
April	6
May	7
June	0
July	closed
August	closed
September	2
October	4
November	1
December	1
Total:	31