

# Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

## 2008 Annual Report

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## Report of the Priest in Charge

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a great privilege it is for me to be able to serve with you in the ministry we share at St. Andrew's. Transitions are always challenging, but for you, this transition has been even more so as a result of Martha Wallace's sudden illness. I am pleased to report to you that Martha is doing quite well and is Interim Rector of Christ Church, Capitol Hill. But St. Andrew's is a vibrant and resilient body of Christ, and I see no ill effects of the two transitions that you have patiently endured.

In the time that I have spent with you I have noticed the following aspects of life at St. Andrew's that are worthy of mention:

- Liturgy and Worship are conducted with as much grace and beauty as anywhere I have served. Everyone involved in worship takes it seriously, with respect and with a sense of the sacred. It is lovely and is, I hope, efficacious.
- It is common in parish life to hear that so much of the work is done by so few of the people and I have heard that at St. Andrew's. Yet, my experience of St. Andrew's is that there is much of which to be proud when it comes to lay ministry. In relative terms, a large part of the parish is involved in ministry of all kinds. If there is any concern it is that some may be burdened by long term involvement in ministries which may ultimately sap their enthusiasm. Moreover, every parish must eventually learn that ministry is to be shared. Everyone's spiritual journey is enriched by participation in parish ministries of every sort.
- The relationship between St. Andrew's and the Episcopal Anglican Campus Ministry has grown in importance over time and will, I hope, continue to grow in the . The continued growth of the University of Maryland provides an exceptional opportunity for service and for the spread of the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Stewardship has become more than an annual fundraising event under the leadership of Edna and Laurie Paulson. This is a very positive trend and on that must continue. We do not give because the church needs it; we give because we need to be freed from our unholy obsession with money.
- St. Andrew's is blessed with an amazingly able staff. Music, Christian Formation and administration are all in exceptionally capable hands. It makes my job very easy.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve.

Bruce+

## Senior Warden's Report

### The state of the parish

As I write this a few weeks before our 2009 Annual Meeting, Washington is fully engaged in inauguration fever. That made me think of the President's annual State of the Union message to Congress and how this message from the Senior Warden is in some ways similar, although on a much smaller scale.

I'm happy to report that the state of our parish is strong. As we look back, it has been an exciting and event filled year for me, and for us. We have covered a lot of ground over the past twelve months. Back in January 2008 Martha Wallace was our interim rector and our search committee was still in its early stages. Doesn't that seem like a long time ago? One short year later, Bruce McPherson is with us and the search committee is making visits to prospective Rector candidates. (And for those who don't know, Martha is now very healthy and working as the Interim Rector of Christ Church on Capitol Hill.)

Through many challenges, I have been constantly reassured of God's presence with us and reminded of the strength of our community. For a month or two I assumed the leadership of the parish as we only had supply clergy. But the staff and many volunteers stepped up, and we continued in our mission. To plan for the busiest week of the Christian year, Holy Week, a Worship committee formed and planned and executed beautiful services. I must admit, I learned a lot about what goes into planning a well run service! A mark of our success and strength was that visitors really couldn't even tell that we had no permanent clergy; I remember a new member telling me it was interesting to have a different preacher every week! St. Andrew's also benefited greatly from tremendous support from the Diocese during a time of uncertainty.

Soon after we were blessed to have Bruce McPherson joins us as Priest-in-Charge. Bruce has helped us continue our interesting journey by trying some different forms of worship, and helping us to think more prayerfully about where we are and where we want to go.

My personal goal as Senior Warden has been to turn over a strong, healthy parish to our new Rector. We have worked to continue what we do well, strengthen some ministries that have struggled, and be willing to let go of activities where energy has waned. We have worked to avoid saying, "we'll just let the new Rector deal with that." So how have we done?

I feel we are moving forward with almost all of our ministries. The Jubilee Commission held a retreat and is working to refine its mission, while at the same time continuing its work supporting Langley Park/McCormick Elementary and hosting Loaves and Fishes cafe. Our Stewardship Committee is working to develop a year-round focus on stewardship that acknowledges all the gifts we can contribute. We also increased our number of pledges and the dollar amount of pledges compared to last year. During these trying times, this is a huge statement of the vitality of St. Andrew's.

## Finance Committee Report

### *Endowment Board*

St. Andrew's is blessed to have a broad and active set of Endowment Funds. The Endowment Board oversees the investment and expenditures of our Endowment Funds. Presently, these funds are combined with other Diocesan assets in the Diocesan Investment Fund, a broad set of mutual funds focused on investments consistent with the Christian principles of the Diocese. The Board solicits, discusses and recommends appropriate uses of the Funds to further St. Andrews' mission and to make the Endowment monies an active component of our activities. Up to 8% of a fund can be spent in any calendar year.

The global financial crisis has affected the value of our Endowment Funds; however, the generally conservative nature of the Diocesan Investment Fund limited our losses in 2008 to about 25% of initial value. The January 1, 2008 balances of each of the five Endowment Funds were: Outreach Endowment Fund (\$15,050.72), Congregational Care Endowment Fund (\$14,361.30), Prange Education Endowment Fund (\$26,076.16); Preservation Endowment Fund (\$316,719.79); and Episcopal Student Center Endowment Fund (\$32,238.19).

Last year the projects approved by the Vestry and the Endowment Board for Endowment Fund support were: books for the Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School library (\$600 from the Outreach Endowment Fund); mugs and dishwashing racks for the kitchen (\$615 from the Congregational Care Endowment Fund); speaker for honorarium for Rev. Sam Portaro to kick-off a Sunday Afternoon Speaker Program to strengthen ties between U/MD students and St. Andrew's (\$1000 from the Prange Education Endowment Fund); parking lot repairs, regarding and resurfacing (\$11,550 from the Preservation Endowment Fund); and EACM student support and a speaker honorarium (each \$500 from the Episcopal Student Center Endowment Fund ). These expenditures were relatively less than in past years to accommodate the poor financial performance of the Endowment Funds in 2008. The Board also printed a revision of our "Giving at St. Andrew's" brochure.

Historically, Endowment Fund projects come from the relevant standing commissions, but they can be submitted by anyone. The Board meets bi-monthly; forms to request Endowment projects and a summary of past projects are available on our church web site. Present membership of the Board is: Michael Alushin; Robert Bindschadler, Millie Dawson; Laurie Paulson; and Ed Post. Bindschadler and Paulson soon will complete a second consecutive three-year term and must be replaced by new members appointed by the Vestry.

The St. Andrew's Angels are those who have either contributed to or, through legal arrangements such as wills, agreed to contribute to the Endowment Funds. It is by such special giving that the Endowment Funds continue to grow and further stabilize the financial base of the church. The Endowment Board encourages all parishioners to consider becoming this special type of Angel. Information about such contributions (usually termed "planned giving") can be obtained either on the church web site or by contacting either the Church office or a member of the Endowment Board.

The mission of the Finance Committee is to provide the Vestry with sound financial advice in the execution of the church's mission. The committee's responsibilities include formulation of the church's annual budget and advise the Vestry when modifications to the budget are either anticipated or necessary; review monthly reports from the Treasurer and maintain records of the spending limits and restrictions that govern each designated fund; ensure that adequate balance exists in the contingency funds, such as the Building Reserves Fund; review annually the financial position of the church including insurance coverage, contracts, and existing assets and liabilities.

### ***2009 Budget***

The church is still in transition due to the departure of our rector in 2007. Our Search Committee has been diligently working towards identify candidates for the rector position and we have continued to provide funding that supports their mission. With that in mind, this past fall the church's committees and ministries forecasted their needs for the upcoming year and submitted their requests to the Finance Committee. A budget was then drafted by the Finance Committee and presented to the Vestry. The Vestry finalized the budget by setting priorities and determined how best to balance expected incomes and expenditures. The budget is then ratified by the congregation at our annual meeting. For 2009, revenues are estimated at \$506,609. 81% of the church's revenues come from parishioner pledges. The remainder comes from a variety of sources, including rental of church facilities, Thrift Corner, College Park Nursery School, and other sources. Expenses for this year are budgeted at \$506,529. That figure is comprised of salary and benefits (55%), physical plant (27%), mission beyond the parish (8%), church programs (8%) and Search Committee (2%).

The church's trends are improving. Pledges are up 9% over the past five years, total revenues are up 9% as well. Over this same time period salaries and benefits have increased 9%, utilities 19% and insurance 16%. This has resulted in the Vestry having to cut church programs by 15% over the past five years but they were able to restore funding for mission beyond the parish back to 2005 levels of \$42,500. The major reasons for these trends are economic factors (such a utilities cost that we have minimum control over) and clergy salary and benefits not rising since 2007. Good news, we have had our first significant increase in pledges in six years. As a result of these trends we were able to give our employees a 3.9% pay raise and continued funding the search committee. The search committee fund will be used to pay for consultants and travel expenses for search committee members and prospective clergies and provide the new rector moving funds to offset their moving expenses.

*Phineas Baugher, Finance Committee Chairman*



## Treasurer's Report

I took over as Treasurer in March 2008 so I would like to start by thanking Mary Frances Bruce for her service as my predecessor. Mary Frances has continued to help by entering the monthly payroll, reconciling the bank accounts, and providing a second signature on checks when required. Alan Sinclair has again been invaluable this year. He prints, signs and mails all approved checks as well as coordinating the counters. In the office, Jennifer Thorson sorts financial mail, fills out check requests for most bills, and enters collection results into the computer database. I thank them all.

The operating fund had a good year, although mainly for an unfortunate reason. Because of Martha's illness and thanks to the generosity of the support provided by the Diocese we spent significantly less than budgeted on clergy. Pledges provided 76% of general operating income. Most of the rest came from plate contributions, renting out the church and parish hall, and EACM's rental payments for the Student Center. As always, the expenditure was dominated by salary and benefits for our staff and keeping the buildings warm, lit, and waterproof.

In addition to the general fund, which corresponds to a checking account, we also have other funds in savings accounts, as well as endowment funds invested through the Diocesan Investment fund. One component of our savings account is the Building Reserve Fund, intended to cover major work on the buildings. In 2007 we borrowed \$68,400 from this fund in order to pay off our Capital Campaign bank loan. As campaign pledges are paid off we reimburse Building Reserves. We have now repaid two thirds of this internal loan and expect to pay back the rest this year. We thank everyone who has fulfilled their campaign pledges.

Our endowment funds have been reduced this year by around 30% due to the fall in the stock market. While not good, it could have been worse, and we still have over \$250,000 split among five endowment funds. Including savings accounts, St. Andrew's holds over \$460,000 in non-operating funds.

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild's primary responsibility is to prepare the Sanctuary for worship. We work behind the scenes to prepare the bread and wine for the Eucharistic Feast that we celebrate each Sunday. We also prepare the church for weddings, funerals and other special occasions. The tasks involve preparing candles, the washing and ironing of altar linens, counting out wafers, polishing brass, putting hymn numbers on the hymn board and the cutting and arranging of altar flowers. But when our contributions are combined with everyone else in the parish, the result is the joy and beauty of our worship.

The Altar Guild currently has about 20 members, both men and women. We always welcome new members throughout the year. No special skills are required, although we would love to know of your special interest. Training is informal and consists of working with a more experienced member for a few weeks. If you are interested in learning about what we do, please stop by the Sacristy after any service.

Co-Directors, Mary Potter and Vicki Cheeseman

## Pastoral Care Commission

In 2008, St. Andrew's kicked off a new initiative to build on existing pastoral care activities and organize our pastoral care support under a comprehensive umbrella. The pastoral care commission kicked off that effort at the parish ministries fair in September, and has begun meeting monthly to build a program that provides for a variety of pastoral care activities. We've begun to build a regular schedule for home visits, bringing communion to homebound members. We're working to reestablish the casserole ministry, to continue sending cards and notes to members needing comfort or cheer, and to identify other ways to reach out to our fellow parishioners. In 2009, we hope to add additional members and to expand our services to the parish. One program that we have identified for further study in 2009 is the Stephen Ministries, a program that provides training enabling lay ministers to be particularly helpful when parishioners are dealing with difficult issues and family crisis. As we work to create a vibrant on-going pastoral care program in 2009, we hope more members of the parish will join the commission and discover that this is a wonderful way to help ensure that St. Andrew's is a vibrant and warm community.

Mary Frances Bruce

Commission Chair

## Buildings and Grounds Commission

Let's face it - none of us are getting any younger, and neither are the buildings and grounds of our church home. As the physical plant continues to age, maintenance priorities will continue to shift and prioritization will be a key. With an eye toward the future, the commission was charged with developing a comprehensive maintenance plan with short and long term goals. The commission's primary accomplishment in 2008 was the drafting of this maintenance plan. Virtually every nook and cranny of the physical plant and grounds were surveyed, identifying small projects that can be addressed with very little capital to projects which may require significant fundraising or a capital campaign. The Buildings and Grounds Commission intends to use this plan as a road map when prioritizing future work projects.

In 2008, using Preservation Endowment Fund money, the commission was able to repave and stripe the Princeton Street parking lot and alley behind the church, and to correct parking lot drainage problems on the Yale Street parking lot.

On September 20, 2008, the commission sponsored a Parish Work Day. A group of dedicated volunteers donned work clothes and attacked various projects around the property. Volunteers were able to replace missing putty from window frames, paint various exterior surfaces, spruce up the treasurer's office and the stage area in the Parish Hall, and remove brush and debris from the grounds.

In order to conserve energy, the majority of the exit signs throughout the physical plant now utilize LED light bulbs rather than incandescent bulbs, reducing electrical consumption and bulb replacement costs. These new LED bulbs will only need to be replaced every 10-15 years, rather than every six months. Programmable thermostats have been installed throughout the physical plant, ensuring that settings are kept at levels to conserve energy and ensure that spaces are heated and cooled to comfortable levels only when occupied.

This year, the boiler that heats the sanctuary tested the patience of many of us responsible for ensuring that the sanctuary is adequately heated on Sunday mornings. Due to some problems related to the installation of the boiler earlier this decade, significant repairs and/or replacement of the boiler will be necessary in 1-2 years, with a price tag of at least \$20,000. This will be a topic of significant discussion in 2009, as will the condition of the roofs above the Parish Hall and Education Wing. These slate roofs are nearing the end of their natural life span, with repair/replacement issues looming on the horizon.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Jackson, vestry liaison to the Building and Grounds Committee

## Christian Formation

### *Children's Formation*

The Children's Formation program includes nursery care for infants and toddlers, and Sunday School classes for children ages 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Godly Play materials have been the foundation of our program for pre-school and primary grade school children for several years. This fall, however, the curriculum materials for the pre-school class were simplified to accommodate the younger children that started attending the class. The primary and intermediate classes use a combination of Godly Play materials and programs from Leader Resources. During spring 2008 they each completed a special unit on prayer. They learned about many different kinds of Christian prayer and prayer methods from other traditions that have been adapted for a Christian setting.

In the fall, the intermediate class continued using Leader Resources materials, focusing on a study of the Millennium Development Goals. Under the leadership of Kathy Hedge, they sponsored a bake sale to raise money for the diocesan Children to Children Advent project, raising close to \$400. The primary class learned about Old Testament heroes, using Godly Play supplemental materials.

We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of all the adults who assisted with our Sunday School and nursery program during 2008: Neely Kelley, Wes Snyder, Brenda Jones, Birgit Meade, Kathy Perkinson, Lesley Krauland, and Kathy Hedge.

During the early summer, and on special occasions throughout the year, children ages 3 through 7 attend Children's Chapel during the liturgy of the word. Additional activities for children included making decorations for the Warm Nights shelter; preparing and burying the Alleluia banner before the beginning of Lent; collecting non-perishable food (the "Peanut Butter project" ), hosting coffee hour, making decorations for the parish Christmas tree, participation in the diocesan Children to Children Advent Project, and the no-rehearsal Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve.

### *Adult Formation*

Adult Forum: Adult Formation at St. Andrew's includes diverse opportunities to grow in faith. On Sunday mornings a large group of parishioners gathers in the Rectors= Lounge at 9:30 a.m. to engage in discussion and dialogue about a wide range of topics. During the past year, forum topics have included a history of St. Andrew's Stained Glass Windows; a Lenten series based on the book *Were You There? Finding Ourselves at the Foot of the Cross*; and *Living as a Christian*, led by the Rev. Luther Zeigler. During the fall, there were several short series including an exploration of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion; stewardship; our accumulation of "Stuff," and Jubilee Ministry.

#### Small Groups:

Smaller groups of parishioners meet regularly at other times to engage in more specific activities.

- EFM: On Wednesday evenings, ten adults gather along with mentor Nancy Maestri to engage in Bible study and theological reflection as a part of the Education for Ministry program (EfM).
- Spiritual Deepening. A group of 6 - 8 parishioners met on alternate Monday evenings to explore different spiritual disciplines as a way to deepen their relationship with God. Using materials from the *Companions in Christ* series, the group prayed with the beatitudes using *The Way of Blessedness* during the spring, and explored forgiveness during the fall.

- Bible Study: A group of approximately twelve parishioners meets on alternate Tuesday evenings. During 2008 we studied the Book of Samuel in the spring and the Epistle of James in the fall.
- The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Sunday evening of the month to discuss a wide variety of books chosen by members.

## Youth Group

St. Andrew's youth group is made up of Youth in grades 6-12. Newcomers and guests are always welcome. In 2008, the youth participated in service projects, worship and social activities. Many of our youth attended the Diocesan retreats for middle and high school students. The major St. Andrew's events in the Spring included the annual 30 Hour Famine in support of World Vision, and Youth Sunday. Several of our high school age youth participated in the 30 Hour Famine. This year they raised over \$1000. On Youth Sunday, Seniors Amy Carpenter and Laura Gathercole preached about evangelism, while Bola Somade acted as Verger. We are very proud of these young women, and are thankful that they brought so much to the youth group.

In the fall, the Youth Group began using the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum, which focuses on applying the lectionary readings to the lives of young people. In September, many members of the youth group attended Sam Hensley's concert, part of St. Andrew's "Fourth Sundays at Four" music program, followed by a youth barbecue. In November the youth enjoyed a night of fellowship and strategy games as part of our annual game night, and we had excellent attendance at the Diocesan Cathedral Lock-In.

As always we are grateful for the help of the parents of St. Andrew's. They are integral to the success of the group. We welcome two new youth leaders, Todd Whitehead and John Rigg, who have great enthusiasm for the group. We note with sorrow that Don Perkinson, who has been acting as co-leader since 2006, is stepping down. He will be missed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Thorson

## Collegia/Campus Ministry

The Collegia Committee's charge is to foster cooperation and strengthen the relationship between St. Andrew's and the Episcopal/Anglican Campus Ministry (EACM.) During 2008, the committee contributed to this relationship in several ways.

Collegia shared with EACM in planning and carrying out College Sunday, which was held on April 20, including hosting Coffee Hour following the service. This was later than usual, as the customary date of the last Sunday before Lent came too early in the spring semester to allow full preparation. College Sunday also coincided with EACM's hosting of the Province III Higher Education Leadership Team. Collegia continued to help review student applications for residency in the Episcopal Student Center (ESC - the former rectory.) The committee provided assistance in organizing and hosting Sunday evening dinners at the ESC, and especially providing food and coordinating other volunteers (thanks, choristers!) for the large dinner that welcomed the Keiskamma Choir following their participation in Sunday evening worship on December 7. As those of you who attended will no doubt attest, this event was joyful and rewarding, and although the ESC hosted far more people than ever before, everyone was well fed!

A major effort in 2008 in which Collegia was deeply involved was EACM's Eighty-Fifth Anniversary Gala. This required considerable planning and preparation by all those involved in the campus ministry, so that Collegia cooperated with other members of the EACM Council to put together this delightful event.

In 2008, the endowment fund set up by the late Thomas Engram to support St. Andrew's and EACM's joint ministry through the ESC reached sufficient age to permit small draws upon its earnings. Collegia interacted with the Endowment Board to help support two speakers at St. Andrew's. Rev. Ruby Sales, a civil rights activist and scholar, was our speaker for the spring. In the fall, EACM hosted Rev. Sam Portaro, a national leader in Episcopal campus ministry and author. The Board also provided some of these earnings to set up a fund for helping ESC residents in time of financial need, a specific provision of Mr. Engram's bequest.

Collegia took on an exciting new task in the autumn related to our changed seminarian status during this time of transition. For now the parish cannot host a seminarian, so upon Matt Bradley's graduation and departure parishioner Charlotte Colvin became our chairperson. Father Peter Antoci and EACM are hosting a seminarian this academic year, Nik Forti. Seminarians doing their field education in a chaplaincy are not required to have a lay committee, but both Nik and Peter believe that such a committee provides valuable interactions and insights to a seminarian. Thus, Collegia are serving as an unofficial Lay Committee for Nik. This is proving to be a very rewarding experience.

We believe there are major ministries in which the Collegia Committee can provide greater assistance to the interaction between St. Andrew's and the campus ministry. The Collegia committee would welcome new members who would be excited to help us carry out existing interactions with Episcopal and Anglican college students, and to explore new possibilities.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Colvin, committee chair, and Larry Merkle, vestry liaison to the committee

## Jubilee Commission

In spite of severe budget constraints in 2008, the Jubilee Commission, with the continuing support of the people of St. Andrew's, carried on the tradition of providing both hands-on and financial assistance to those in need within our community and around the world.

On the local front, Loaves and Fishes Café continues to feed hungry low-income and homeless members of the community. On the first and fifth Sundays, our volunteers serve hot, nourishing, and delicious meals to twenty-five to thirty-five guests. We also continue to host Warm Nights for one week each winter. This shelter for men, women, and children is supported by the county and is hosted on a rotating basis by participating churches.

The parish's relationship with Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School continues to develop. In 2008, parishioners generously supported the annual school-supplies and warm-clothing drives. Volunteers also work in the school library and tutor students. After Principal Amy Stout spoke at an adult forum about students' need for exposure to the world beyond their neighborhood, the vestry voted to give the St. Andrew's Day special offering, usually earmarked for "in reach," to provide transportation for school field trips. Parishioners responded by giving \$2,800, enough to pay almost all transportation costs for field trips for two classes.

Volunteers for our hands-on activities, and ideas for new undertakings, are always welcome.

Our support for international efforts, which largely are related to Millennium Development Goals, is generally through the allocation of funds from the commission's budget or from special offerings. Recently the commission has been able to form more-personal relationships with some of the groups we support. Several parishioners have been fortunate enough to visit the Vuleka School in Johannesburg, South Africa, which St. Andrew's has supported through the Pentecost offering for two years, and the Keiskamma arts and health projects in Hamburg, South Africa. The Keiskamma Gospel Choir sang at St. Andrew's in December, and the commission is exploring the possibility of the parish's commissioning an altar or other hanging from the Keiskamma Art Project, a cooperative that provides skills training and income to local people in an area ravaged by poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Among other organizations we supported in 2008 is Bread for the World, Doctors Without Borders, World Vision, Samaritan Ministries, Help by Phone, and the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. Thanks as always to the generosity of the people of St. Andrew's, we ended the year with a donation of \$4,130 to Housing Initiative Partnership, a local group that addresses low-income housing issues.

The commission normally meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectors' Lounge. All interested parishioners are invited to participate.

## Environment committee

Made in God's own image, human beings are both an integral part of the ongoing Creation and the stewards who must protect all that God has given. The Environment Committee at St. Andrew's sets out to engage in the work of environmental care and stewardship, focusing on three broad areas: theology of the environment, environmental stewardship within St. Andrew's, and environmental stewardship in the broader world. Our mission overlaps often with other committees and commissions in the parish, and therefore much of our work happens in collaboration.

In 2008, the Environment Committee continued to grow and develop in its mission. Celia Arnaud successfully procured funding from the Endowment Board and bought over 100 reusable, ceramic mugs, along with a complete set of racks for storing the mugs and cleaning them in the recently-upgraded dishwasher. The mugs have become standard fare at Sunday coffee hours, preventing many bags of garbage every week. Another benefit of the mugs is the significant cost savings to the over-budget "coffee hour" line item.

This year the Environment Committee sponsored its first annual Earth Day potluck. We served lunch on Sunday, 20 April with reusable plates, cups, and silverware. Parish members provided food and were encouraged to cook with organic and/or local ingredients whenever possible and to share their recipes. The event ran smoothly and reminded us all of the importance of fellowship as well as stewardship of the environment.

In the fall, the Environment Committee hosted a two-part Adult Forum working from "The Story of Stuff," led by Doug Kelley and Kathleen O'Neil. A brief documentary film about our country's materials economy, the film spurred lots of discussion and reminded us all of the interconnected nature of God's world, even in matters of material goods.

Neely Kelley has contributed the weekly feature "For God's Earth" to the parish bulletin, providing simple tips for living more sustain ably. The committee also maintains a website at <http://standrewscollegepark.org/environment.php> which contains information about our group and links to information about environmental stewardship and theology. The Environment Committee has solicited no budget from the vestry.

At the start of 2009, the Environment Committee is beginning another book study, considering *\_A Greener Faith: Religious Environmentalism and Our Planet's Future\_* by Roger S. Gottlieb. We are also in the process of writing a charter, and we are going through a leadership transition. There are many opportunities to get involved, and we hope you will!

Respectfully submitted by Doug Kelley, vestry liaison to the Environment Committee.

## Congregational Care Commission

The Congregational Care Commission supports St. Andrew's mission "to be a welcoming and supportive Community of faith." Annual events include St. Andrew's Day, Christmas Bag Project, Advent Quiet Day, Easter Egg Hunt, and Parish Picnic/Graduation.

The ongoing activities include Chat Board, Coffee Hour, and Daughters of the King, Episcopal Senior Ministries, Fisherfolk, and Greeters in the Narthex, Photography/Website, and posting the Parishioner Care List

Unfortunately this Commission has not had any designated leadership for the last several years. This has left some of the duties for the staff to carry out and some activities have been dropped. The formation of the Pastoral Care Commission has been very helpful and made the Congregation Care Commission easier to organize.

There is a great variety of ways that people can assist, both in small ways and in a leadership capacity. For St. Andrew's to be a welcoming church, we need everyone to share their gifts.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Walker

## Music Program

The music program at St. Andrew's continues to be alive and well. The choir continues to sing throughout the year including the summer months to enhance our worship experience. In addition, the choir sang a Lenten Evensong, gave a Christmas concert for the folks at Collington and participated in an Advent evening service with the Gospel choir from Africa. Several of our young musicians played the prelude for our 5 pm Christmas Eve service. The Parish choir now numbers thirty two singers. New anthems continue to challenge the choir as well as familiar ones that we all enjoy hearing.

A new concert series was initiated this fall, "Fourth Sundays at Four for the Community of College Park." So far, it is paying for itself with the aid of several special gifts. These programs present a variety of musical talent and are scheduled to continue to enrich the life of our Parish.

Dale Krider,

Organist and Choirmaster

## The Order of the Daughters of the King

This year the members of our chapter have continued their commitment to prayer and service within and beyond our parish. At our monthly meetings we offer prayers for special needs, participate in study programs and plan service projects. Several times during the year we meet with our companion chapters in the Diocese for Assemblies and Quiet Days. There are 18 chapters of the Order in the Washington Diocese.

This year our most important projects have been, in the spring, the preparation of layettes for infants which we donated to the "Teen Parenting Program" at the nearby Northwestern High School. This school's very fine program enables young parents to complete their education and learn parenting skills while their infants and young children are being cared for by a dedicated staff. Several members of our parish have assisted in this project by knitting sweater sets, blankets and numerous infant caps. In December, with the enthusiastic help of many parishioners, we sewed and filled bags of toiletries which were donated to the Samaritan Ministry Program. We were able this year to send 80 bags of toiletries, 90 warm fleece scarves and a number of lap robes and bed socks.

The women of our small group continue their service to the parish in many ways, as lay readers, altar guild and vestry members, volunteers in our Thrift Corner and in our telephone ministry. We participate in devotional and educational activities including "Education for Ministry", "Companions in Christ" and Bible study programs. In these ways and in our personal prayer life we strive to live out our pledges to pray and serve our Lord and King.

Walli Stevens

President

## Search Committee

The last year has been one of great progress for the search committee. We were commissioned in Sept. 2007, and after a few months spent organizing ourselves, laying out a plan to accomplish our charge from the vestry, and outlining the steps we'd use to gather information about the parish, early 2008 found us creating a survey for parishioners to complete and scheduling information-gathering sessions for in-person discussions, as well as a history-sharing dinner. By the end of March, we had survey results in hand, and by the end of April, we had talked with as many parishioners as possible about what the survey revealed about who we are, who we want to be, and which gifts and skills parishioners thought would be helpful in a new rector who could help us achieve our vision.

May and June were busy months, as we analyzed the results of the surveys and sessions with parishioners, met twice with the vestry to share the results and ensure the vision of both groups for the parish aligned, and a subcommittee drafted the Parish Profile. Bishop Chane received and read the Profile in late June, and we "published" the final version in mid-August. We are deeply indebted to Mary Gawlik for helping to edit and Jim Walker and Bob Walker for helping to design and lay out the Profile; the resulting document has been a wonderful way to show off St. Andrew's to potential rector candidates.

Applications from candidates came in to the diocesan office throughout the month of September, and after they did an initial screening, they sent on 26 candidates. We worked so hard during October, November, and December, considering each application on our own, and then discussing two to three candidates at each weekly meeting. We discovered that listening for God's voice as we came to a consensus about whether to explore each candidate further could be a challenging process—God isn't easily rushed!

Thankfully, our work continues with all due speed as we visit a smaller pool of top candidates in January. I think everyone on the committee will be very thankful to hand off our final selections to the vestry in March so they can make the final decision about whom to call. We want everyone to know how thankful we are for your continued prayers and support and ask for your patience for just a few more months. We're just as anxious as you are to call our new rector!

Becky Fulcher for the Search Committee

## Stewardship Commission

Last summer, Priest-in-Charge Bruce McPherson asked us to lead the Stewardship Commission. We accepted with the agreement that we would work toward reactivating stewardship as a living part of St. Andrew's ministry beyond the annual fundraising campaign. We hoped to sponsor activities throughout the year to broaden the parish's understanding of stewardship and provide opportunities for parishioners to experience stewardship in new ways. In response to an announcement of the new effort, a group of energetic parishioners met to discuss recent stewardship activities at St. Andrew's and ways to expand the idea of stewardship to include more than just raising money to meet the annual budget. The group contributed some great ideas.

The first activity was sponsorship of the Ministries Fair on November 7. Parish groups set up tables with exhibits in the Parish Hall and chatted with parishioners about current activities and plans. The Stewardship Commission gave out pocket crosses and bookmarks as reminders of the bounty of God, an idea we wanted to make part of our annual theme. We had little traffic at our table, but managed to give away our supply of crosses by mingling with people and explaining our mission. The event gave some less- visible ministries a chance to be known better and was a sign of the diversity of St. Andrew's life and ministry.

Since we were getting started late in the calendar year, however, we were faced at the same time with the need to start planning the annual fundraising campaign. The commission decided to use as our theme Matthew 6:21 and Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Highlights of the campaign included testimony from parishioners and several guest speakers, including Principal Amy Stout of the Langley Park-McCormick Elementary School. Letters from Bruce and from the Vestry encouraged members to make their contribution as a sign of their participation in the community and in thanksgiving for God's blessings.

The climax of the campaign was Stewardship Sunday, November 16, when parishioners turned in pledge cards as part of a special liturgy. In the next few weeks, commission members contacted people who had pledged for 2008 but not yet for 2009, reminding them that their participation was important.

The campaign was a success. As of mid-January, we had received 126 pledges totaling \$376,189, an increase of five pledges and a few thousand dollars over 2008. This increase is especially significant in light of the current state of the economy. Twelve of the pledgers were new in 2009, showing that St. Andrew's is a community that is growing and being enriched by new members even during a time of transition. Our thanks go to everyone who pledged, as well as to commission, Vestry and staff members, and to everyone else who helped in planning and carrying out the campaign.

Our hope is that in our annual report for 2009, we will describe a wide variety of activities that will have established stewardship as part of the everyday life of St. Andrew's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie and Edna Paulson

## Thrift Corner

Linda Limberger, Manager

St. Andrew's Thrift Shop has been in existence for approximately 60 years since it was started by the Rev. Acton's wife in a small trailer back of the Rectory. The shop is an integral part of the College Park community, with many regular customers from the area and university as well as church members who come in to shop and drop off donations. The shop provides clothing for the needy -- so donations of men's shoes and clothing are especially welcome. The shop is a good way to keep items out of the landfill and recycle them. Clothing that we cannot sell is distributed to a company who then recycles those items. We made approximately \$5,050 in 2008 - down from the approximately \$6,000 we made in 2007.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who give untold hours of hard work sorting and pricing items for sale. More volunteers are needed on a regular basis or as substitutes, and a volunteer is needed to do Publicity. We are always in need of donations of clothing, toys, dishes, linens, house wares, and small furnishings in good condition - - our customers come in looking for "new" merchandise.

Hours: Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

First Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m

Contact Linda Limberger for contributions of time or to make donations.

301-680-9559 (home) or [Limberger@Verizon.net](mailto:Limberger@Verizon.net)

## Last Year's Annual Report 2008 Minutes

February 24, 2008, 12 noon to 1:20 pm

Meeting opened with prayer, and a community reading of our mission and goals. Adoption of the Agenda with no changes and Approval of Minutes from the 2007 Meeting followed.

Frances Walker recognized members who have died and members who have joined over the past year.

Markus Most reviewed voting eligibility rules, presented candidates for vestry, and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. All church members who were present voted for up to four persons who would serve a full three-year term and a fifth person who would be considered as First Alternate should someone leave the vestry before the end of their allotted term. Charles Jones was voted in as Convention Delegate for 2008.

Ballots were distributed and returned for counting.

Russ Little provided the Search Committee report. After being commissioned in September of 2007, the Committee has been hard at work. In keeping with the objective of providing regular updates throughout the process, the Committee has already sponsored 1 major forum and has numerous smaller, less formal meetings in the planning stages. The first major deliverable of the Committee is the Congregational Survey, which is being distributed at this meeting. The Survey is also available online. The compiled Survey response information and feedback from the meetings will go into the Profile.

Dan Ryan provided the Capital Campaign report. Tangible improvements from the Capital Campaign include the new kitchen, Episcopal Student Center renovations, the drainage project and the tearing down of Advent House. To speed things up, a loan was taken out, which has been paid back early by borrowing from the church's Building Reserves fund. Doing this achieved a savings of \$20,000 in interest expense. However, doing this also depleted the Building Reserves fund but that account is being replenished as money that was pledged to the Capital Campaign continues to come in.

Charles Jones provided the Report on the Diocesan Convention. All information is available online at <http://convention.edow.org> it was highlighted that the atmosphere at the Convention was different this year, with a heightened awareness that a parish isn't just a single body, but instead is part of a Diocese that is connected to the Worldwide Anglican Communion. Further, the Bishop guided everyone to consider themselves as one body together, with common purpose and no need to reaffirm (again) the obvious, which is the fundamental connection to God's people. Because of this, there was only one Resolution- that all parishes try to donate .7% of their budgets to the goals of Millennium Project, which has a mission to reduce poverty and poor health, etc. Delegates were encouraged to go back to their parishes and report that the Motion has already been voted upon at the Diocese level on the behalf of the parishes. As far as the parishes are concerned, the decision to support this is already somewhat made.

Don Oberg provided the Senior Warden's report (See printed report), emphasizing that the overall pledged amount remains flat as it has been during the last four years. Achieving a workable budget is getting more and more difficult, requiring deeper cuts to programs and mission and, at some point, staff.

Don Perkinson provided the Stewardship report. Although the result of the Stewardship Campaign was \$365,000 in pledges, significantly below what is needed to fund the budget, it is still a success

because of uncertainty within the parish during this period of transition and because of today's economic challenges. Don highlighted how the Stewardship Committee went about its work this year, always keeping in mind that great things remain possible regardless of meeting the budget. Specifically raised up were the splendid achievements and contributions of the Youth Group.

Bob Bindschadler provided the Endowment Board report. (See printed report.) The total of the Endowment has reached approximately \$400,000. Previously, it had been divided into four separate Endowment funds, which are for Building Preservation, Congregational Care, Outreach and Education. In 2007, one more fund was added to support the Episcopal Student Center and Education. He clarified the Endowment's intent, which is to provide a source of funds that will last, not to be officially part of the operating or capital budgets. Further, the Endowment is intended to have a small part of its assets used to support various projects within the current program as determined by an official evaluation process. He reminded everyone that the primary way that the endowment grows is via bequests, so please be aware of the importance of making a will, including St. Andrew's if you can.

Mary Frances Bruce provided the Treasurer's report. (See printed report) Finances for 2007 were ok overall but it was close. Pledges came in at almost 100% but plate contributions and income from use of the building were lower. The year ended in the black largely because of savings achieved during the time between when our former rector left and our interim rector arrived. At times it has been difficult to coordinate making bill payments with funds becoming available. 2008 is likely to be a challenge because income is trending to remain flat as it has for the last several years while expenses continue to increase. Mary Frances is stepping down as Treasurer, and she expressed thanks and appreciation while also acknowledging that the job isn't lonely but is instead truly a team effort.

Phin Baugher provided the Finance Committee report and presented the 2008 Budget. (See printed 2008 Detail Budget and other financial information in the Yellow book). The 2008 Budget of \$480,000 is slightly less than last year. Although the average pledge is up significantly, the number of pledges needs to be higher. Other income is down, causing total income to remain flat while fixed costs continue to increase. Significant cuts have already been made beyond those that were made in the past few years. Very little else can be cut before salary expenses must be looked at. Acknowledging that this is a time of transition, it is recommended that preserving what we have and funding the Search process adequately must be top priorities.

Don Oberg expressed appreciation to Vicki Cheeseman for the lunch. Greg Jackson presented Senior Warden Don Oberg and Junior Warden Markus Most each with a gift in appreciation for service. All who were present applauded.

Election results were returned. New vestry members were Janet Carpenter, Pat Preston, Charles Fulcher and Wayne DeCesar with John Rigg as First Alternate.

Don Oberg thanked staff, Vestry, wardens, campus chaplain, and all the volunteers who serve as chairs, treasurer, committee/commission members, helpers at events, event coordinators, Thrift Corner workers, and everyone who serves Saint Andrew's. He then adjourned the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Tim Mooney, Vestry Secretary.

## *Mission and Goals*

### **Mission**

The mission of St. Andrews's Episcopal Church of College Park is to be a welcoming and supportive community of faith,  
Which offers itself to the Lord Jesus Christ in corporate worship,  
Which has a special care of all of God's children in its neighborhood.  
And which stimulates its members to be open to God's call to risk, to grow, and to use their gifts in service to others.

### **Goals**

To provide a supportive environment for open communication within our parish.  
To experience more deeply the Christian tradition.  
To provide opportunities for new people to enter into community.  
To rediscover continually that we belong to each other and are one in Christ.  
To participate wholeheartedly in corporate worship.  
To know and care about all individuals in our parish.  
To familiarize ourselves with, and serve human needs within parish boundaries.  
To develop a positive relationship between the parish and the University community.  
To grow in our awareness of, and response to, societal needs beyond the parish.  
To strengthen our relationship with the Diocese.

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Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church ★ College Park, Maryland

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