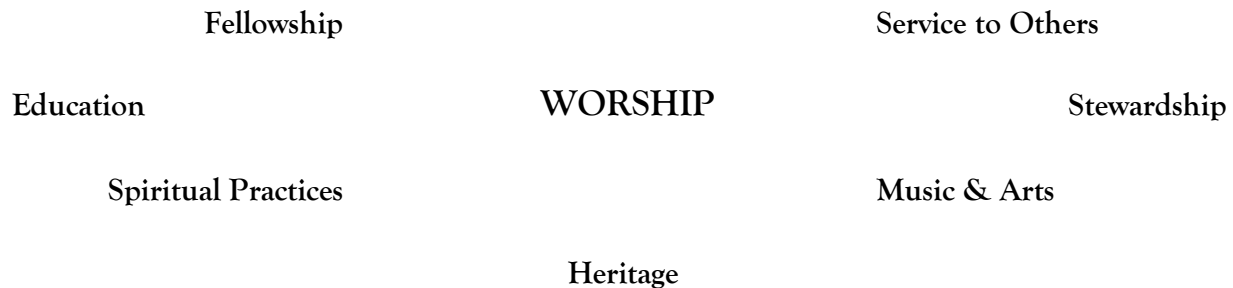


The Vision of St. Matthew's is:

- ❖ To welcome all people to share with us in celebrating Christ's Eucharistic feast in the tradition of the Episcopal Church.
- ❖ To nurture a multi-generational community through worship, learning, and fellowship.
- ❖ To celebrate the gifts of the rich history and heritage of St. Matthew's, and look to the the future in service and fellowship with our Hillsborough community.
- ❖ To carry the spirit of Christ into the world, both locally and globally, by serving and working in partnership with others.
- ❖ To encourage each person's spiritual growth through individual and communal service and ministry.
- ❖ To show respect and gratitude for the abundance of God's gifts by caring for God's world, and being mindful of the environment in all we do.

-Adopted by the Vestry February 23, 2010

CORE VALUES



Core Value Statement

We principally fulfill our worship core value by weekly Sunday Eucharist for the entire community in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer and with a broad range of supports. We build our other core values with Worship at the center; as we are fed on Sunday morning we are able to feed others.

-Adopted by Vestry, September 2010

Property Report

Submitted by Bob Quackenbush, Junior Warden

As has been my Report each of the past two years: our Sexton has provided the most excellent of care and maintenance to our buildings and to our grounds. We have begun no major projects due

to financial restraints. Our Vestry has, recently, wisely assigned resources so that we may proceed with major projects in 2011.

A major advance has been the formation of "The Society of Junior Wardens." This group will provide the continuity and expertise available from prior Junior Wardens. The (approximately) six Junior Wardens in this group (more than two decades of knowledge and experience) have itemized a list of needed projects and prioritized it as well.

We will be repairing the roof of the Rectory and painting its outer shell. With this accomplished in the following year, the completion of the HVAC in the Rectory will be done in the next year (2012).

We (the Society) anticipate the acquiring of pews for the Choir and the investigation of a sound system for the Church. It is also time for the re-inspection of our stained glass windows.

David Swanson, our Landscape architect, has provided us with recommendations for the placement of the old steeple cross, the creation of a visual barrier around the AC units, an exit to the woods walk recently created, and the reconstruction of the south churchyard wall.

We have had the center aisle in Church waxed and oiled (with the remainder to be accomplished later). Shorter term items – such as the re-grouting of the entrance steps – will be accomplished as time permits.

For old – and new – comers: the next Property Committee meeting will be Saturday, March 26, at 9:00 a.m. The next Society of Junior Wardens meeting will be Thursday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Parish Administration Report
Submitted by Richard Hicks, Senior Warden/Vestry Liaison

An important achievement of the past year in the area of parish administration is our new St. Matthew's website. After more than a year of planning and design, the website went online in January. We owe special thanks to Suzanne Maupin for her dedication and hard work in successfully managing this project to completion and working with our professional website designer, Sultan Jabbour. These efforts led to the development of a brand-new website for our parish, designed from the ground up. I would also like to recognize the many contributions of Margaret Brill to this project. The new site is informative, attractive, and user-friendly in both design and content. It has the capability of in-house management for most types of future updates to the content, which will expedite its administration. If you haven't yet seen our new website, visit www.stmatthewshillsborough.org soon!

In November 2010, the Vestry adopted a policy applicable to the publication of photographs of children under the age of 18 on the parish website or in parish-related printed materials. Under this policy, parents or guardians of children under 18 may withhold consent to publication of photographs of their children. The policy further provides that under no circumstances will the

names of children under the age of 18 be associated with published photographs of those children. Records of notifications received from families under this policy will be maintained in the parish office.

The Personnel Committee, with Maria Costello as Chair, has reviewed some of our personnel policies over the past year. Based on recommendations of the Committee, the Vestry approved updates to several of these policies. The Personnel Committee is also responsible for facilitating the annual performance reviews for our staff. The 2010 reviews for clerical and lay staff were completed last year, and the 2011 staff reviews are scheduled to begin early this spring.

The new edition of the parish directory was published in October 2010.

The staff has implemented procedures to put the interior of the church building back in regular order on Mondays of each week by assigning designated placements to certain furnishings such as chairs, prayer books/hymnals, etc. Among other benefits, these procedures will prepare the church interior to receive visitors throughout the week.

Rector: Overview of responsibilities & activities for 2010
Submitted by Brooks Graebner, Rector

1. Worship: Sundays, Wednesdays, Occasional services; Preaching 2x/month
2. Teaching & Instruction: Sunday morning: "Baptism in the New Testament" (Adult Bible Study-August); Good Shepherd & St. Matthew stained glass window programs (April & September); "Practices that Last" (Adult Forum, October); Inquirers' Classes (Spring).
3. Administration: Monthly staff meeting; confer with staff members weekly; confer monthly with Sr. Warden to set vestry agenda.
4. Pastoral: conduct monthly [Carillon &] Brookshire service (assisted by Judy Cox & Ludie White); visits to sick or shut-in members; crisis counseling; new member visits
5. Parish committees & project groups: All committees *ex officio*. Attend regularly: vestry, worship planning, adult education, finance, personnel, parish life, pastoral care, faith & the arts, and social ministry.
6. Diocese: Historiographer (beginning 2nd term); St. Mary's Chapel oversight committee; Historic Properties Commission (with Elizabeth Matheson); Examining Chaplains (with Jean Vail); Instructor in Church History for Deacons and special formation for the priesthood; Chartered Committee on History & Archives (with Ed Southern). "Colonial Church building in North Carolina" [booklet produced for Diocesan Convention as a companion piece to the new DVD on the Church in early NC].

7. National Episcopal Church: Secretary, Historical Society of the ECUSA; Chair, Tri-History Conference (June, 2010). Now retired.

8. Local: 'Food for All' program (2nd Monday team); Pauli Murray Project (inc. grant support); Orange Co. Habitat for Humanity partnership with AME-Episcopal congregations; Hillsborough Historical Foundation Exhibits and Program committees (including hosting Mill Village program 11/7; Walking tour brochure revision); Essay in *27 Views of Hillsborough*.

Assistant to the Rector Report
Submitted by Lisa Frost-Phillips, Assistant to the Rector

This year has been marked by a broadening of responsibilities and interests, following the return to having a children's ministry coordinator. Anne Kenyon has filled this position ably and well, and she and I now work collaboratively to plan and implement children's programs, with Anne providing much of the organizational support. This year we have focused particularly on broadening support for the children's programs, forming a children's ministry advisory committee, and on building intergenerational programming. We also are focusing on incorporating children more regularly in worship, through music and special presentations.

In addition to children's ministries, I have supervisory responsibilities for the nursery and youth programs. Amy Alvut continues as our nursery staff person, providing coverage now for both 8 and 10:30 am services. We also are providing childcare for Sunday evening services in an effort to offer increased flexibility for worship.

In the areas of youth ministries, Laura Branan and I are in regular contact, as she plans and implements youth programs, which continue to be vibrant, lively and strong. In this capacity I serve as a sounding board, guide and support for her in her leadership.

Other areas of leadership are liturgical, pastoral, and administrative. Liturgically, in addition to the regular Sunday morning worship services, I have been involved in planning and leading contemplative evening worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings. These services have offered a lovely, quiet opportunity for prayer and reflection and have been well received by those who come. I also share leadership with Brooks at the Wednesday noon services of Holy Communion.

Pastorally, I am involved in convening monthly the pastoral care team, offering support to parishioners in need. I also schedule and coordinate LEV's who bring communion to home-bound parishioners, and manage the Serve One Another network, which provides basic support to parishioners with pastoral needs. This has been a very successful and gratifying new initiative in our provision of care for one another, involving more people and offering more support.

Administratively I am involved in editing weekly bulletins, developing and editing biweekly contemplative prayer service bulletins, newsletter, brochures, and Bringing Home the Faith for families. I also attend regularly staff and vestry meetings as well as planning meetings for various committees, including worship, parish life, newcomer planning.

I have appreciated this year being able to get more deeply involved in a broader range of programs and to be involved in planning and trying out new ideas and initiatives. Working collaboratively with others in service to God and honoring, supporting and encouraging the gifts we each bring to such service is a joy and a privilege.

Deacon's Report
Submitted by Katherine Bradley Johnson, Deacon

As always, it has been a blessing and a privilege to serve another year with the people of St. Matthew's Parish. Over the past year I have continued to work with the Social Ministries and Adult Education committees. Last fall, I led a series of discussions in the evening based on the book *Made for Goodness*, by Mpho and Desmond Tutu. Most recently, I made a presentation to the Adult Forum on Episcopal Relief and Development as part of a series on the parish's relationship with the wider world. I was moved and inspired by Carrie Wagner's presentations and sermon on her work with Habitat in Uganda and her "Family Faith Adventure" in which she and her family visited Uganda and also fostered an international exchange (via handmade books and soccer equipment) between students in Asheville and Uganda. I hope her example will inspire families here at St. Matthew's to engage in outreach, at least on a local level.

My personal commitment to ministry with Latinos continues with membership in the bishop's advisory committee for Iglesia El Buen Pastor, where they are developing exciting new projects under the leadership of their vicar and vestry, while continuing programs such as being a distribution point for the Interfaith Food Shuttle. It is encouraging that parishes in our convocation continue to provide financial support, since Buen Pastor is not yet ready to support its own program solely from congregational giving. At the diocesan level, I am a member of the Chartered Committee on Hispanic Ministries, which is also seeing growth in participation and in its activities.

One of the most satisfying and gratifying things I have done this year is to sing with the joint St. Matthew's-Dickerson Chapel choir, which Pastor Holman calls the Holy Spirit Choir. Last spring we sang at a fundraiser for the Apostles Build Habitat project, and we were the only choir that represented two churches and included white and African-American members. In December I joined a small group that led the music to accompany the Christmas play staged at St. Paul's AME in Chapel Hill—the first time this has been a multi-church event. More opportunities to build our ecumenical, interracial relationship will be coming this year, so I hope more people from St. Matthew's will be able to participate. You don't have to sing—you can just enjoy a movie and discussion, or attend one of our joint Fifth Sunday services.

Though it's not social outreach, I've also been glad to participate in planning and leading some of the contemplative services on Sunday evenings. Outreach loses its spiritual foundation if there are no opportunities to renew our ability to listen to God's Word, and these services built on *lectio divina* are an inspiring opportunity for renewal. I'm grateful to be able to partake of them.

I still am physically unable to do as much as I would like to, but St. Matthew's community sustains me and gives me endless blessings. Please accept my profound thanks for allowing me the privilege of serving as one of your deacons.

Music Report
Submitted by Megan Whitted, Director of Music

It is my great joy to lead the music program here in this community. This fall at St. Matthew's, we stated our intention to keep the Sabbath holy and happy. I believe that by participating in music-making in our church, we find many ways to keep the Sabbath and to connect with our community.

- ◆ The faithful service of the **Senior Choir** brings strength to our congregational singing and beauty to our worship. This year we have enjoyed learning classic choral anthems as well as Gospel and chant. Our music has been inspired by our connection to Dickerson Chapel, and we see the talents of our community shine on feast days like Christmas and Easter.
- ◆ Our **Junior Choir** raises a joyful noise at each Sunday evening practice and enjoys leading music for early services on Christmas and Easter.
- ◆ **Children** learn church songs in Sunday School music in the choir room, complete with drums and ensemble percussion.
- ◆ Our **Youth Choir** came together to produce the CD "Sanctuary" to sell at FeST and the beauty of their voices can be heard at the Youth service and festival services throughout the year.
- ◆ Sunday evening contemplative services have been enhanced by the **chanting** of members of the Senior Choir and Youth Choir.
- ◆ The St. Matthew's **Talent Show** this year included more than 30 members of St. Matthew's, youth and adults who come together to put on a play about the life of St. Matthew, along with musicians and storytellers, all sharing the art that they enjoy with members of our community.
- ◆ To celebrate the connection between music and living out one's own faith, our **Faith and the Arts** series has been bringing programs of substance and beauty to this community. Last year we hosted Lee Smith and the Women's Singing Circle, *The Art of Sacred Chant* with Ana Hernandez, a screening of *Against the Tide* with David Crabtree, the choral group *Cantari*, a concert performance of *Guys and Dolls*, folk singer/songwriter Pierce Pettis, and Michael Malone and Allan Gurganus's *A Christmas Carol*. This year, we will host the play *To Buy the Sun*, about the life of Pauli Murray, storyteller Sheila Kay Adams and the Women's Singing Circle, a concert performance of *The Music Man*, and folk singer Kate Campbell.
- ◆ The **Women's Singing Circle** has participated in community events such as the St. Mary's Homecoming and looks forward to collaborating with mountain storyteller Sheila Kay Adams on March 24, 2011 and local legend Lee Smith on January 5, 2012.
- ◆ Our worship has been enhanced by the gift of a new **piano**, given by the Hudspeth family in memory of Eloise Hudspeth. It is my hope that this piano will enhance our worship, bring variety to the musical offerings, and invite more people to join in making music in our community.

All are welcome to join the various ensembles and musical events at St. Matthew's. May the music that we share continue to celebrate the Sabbath and our community.

Children's Ministries Report
Submitted by Anne Kenyon, Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Regular Sunday Programs

- ◆ 9:15-9:30 music with Megan
- ◆ 9:30-10:15am Godly Play reinstated for pre-K through 3rd grade
- ◆ 9:30-10:15 am Living the Good News-4th and 5th grade
- ◆ Children's Worship during the 10:30 am service-a structured format that helps children become familiar with the practices in the "Big church" service.

Services Incorporating Children

- ◆ All Saints (presentation by the 4th and 5th grade class)
- ◆ Baptisms
- ◆ Christmas Eve Pageant

Special Events

- ◆ **JfS&T** cookie baking and decorating
- ◆ Secret Pals

Supplemental Resources/Support

- ◆ The reinstatement of the Children's Ministries Coordinator to the Church Staff
- ◆ Children's Ministries Advisory Committee
- ◆ Bringing Home the Faith- Started this year to supplement Sunday school programs for families to enrich their faith practices at home. BHF is sent to parents by email, through Sunday School class teachers, and is posted on the St. Matthews website.
- ◆ Activity Bags- Implemented this year. Children decorated bags that would be available for their use during services. These bags are kept supplied with paper, crayons and story board books made by parishioners on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Parent Meeting - September 2010- Parents were given a folder listing the schedule for Sunday School Curriculum, the contact information for the CM Coordinator, and an explanation of the Godly Play and Living the Good News.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ During the Annual Meeting children will be learning about Holy Communion and will present an offering of canned goods to OCIM
- ◆ March -Lenten project connecting Nets for Life with children's efforts to do good deeds throughout Lent and cash in those deeds to benefit Nets For Life
- ◆ Maundy Thursday Stations of the Cross service for children and parents
- ◆ Palm Weaving on Palm Sunday
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ Last Day of Sunday School Party with a skit! 5/22/11

Youth Program Report

Submitted by Laura Branan, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

The youth of St. Matthew's have had a productive year. Last spring, 10 youth, grades 9-12th, were confirmed in our church by Bishop Curry. In May, over 20 youth, grades 6th-12th, planned and executed a wonderful Youth Service with youth-friendly songs, original prayers, and sermon. Over the summer, Julianna Parham, Lily Stagner, and Sara Tuton worked at HUGS, a one-week diocesan camp for children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities, as camper helpers. Hunter Maupin-Thomas participated in the Diocesan Freedom Ride, a 10-day bus journey tracing African-American historical inequalities from Wilmington to Greensboro, NC, and he went on a Kanuga-sponsored pilgrimage to Israel.

Last fall, Pelham Jacobs and I facilitated a two-day planning session with the Youth Council and we developed Youth Group programs, activities, and a **JFeST** project. Currently, there are 10 members of the Youth Council, eight high school-aged and two middle school-aged. Our Youth Group topics included: God's creations, stewardship of self, and thankfulness. Some of the Youth Choir also participated in Contemplative Prayer Services and the Annual Talent show. Five youth were trained as new Acolytes. Our **JFeST** project was led by youth and adults: we recorded a CD called "Sanctuary" with original instrumental contributions combined with choral arrangements by St. Matthew's Youth Choir; cover art was created by Sara Tuton. Also, the youth created over 30 handmade ornaments for St. Matthew's children and over 20 Christmas cards for sick parishioners or parishioners, who live alone. Sunday Youth Education Hour continued this fall with Joey Luis telling the story of St. Nicholas to the children of St. Matthew's.

Since January 2011, I facilitated an all-day Youth Council Retreat to plan programs for this winter and spring. So far, Youth Council members have led topics and activities on "spiritual cleansing and renewal" and individual faith. All youth openly participated in small group discussions concerning their own faith with thought provoking questions. Recently, we collected 38 cans of beef stew for the parish wide discipline of providing food for OCIM.

Youth continue to participate in diocesan retreats, if schedules permit. Some youth continue to help plan and lead the diocesan retreats and Hunter Maupin-Thomas is on the CCY (Chartered Commission for Youth), a governing body of youth and adults from the seven different convocations within the diocese.

Pastoral Care Report

Submitted by Lynn Hecht, Vestry Liaison

Licensed Eucharistic Visitors

There are at least 5 folks in our church who can not get to church for Sunday Services. We have seven visitors who leave from Sunday Service and go on to provide a short service with

communion for one or more of these people. An abbreviated service, to include prayers, readings and communion is provided several times a month for each of these people. Sometimes this number grows as the need arises and the LEV folks are flexible in adding someone to their visits.

Care Team

The Care Team consists of several church members who make visits to fellow members of our church who can not easily get around. The people who receive LEV visits are some of these folks. Those who visit have an array of agendas from playing cards to going shopping to getting a ride to visiting an old friend. Sometimes Judy Cox takes Margaret Moore to visit Leah Burt, for example. This is a fairly new group with so much potential for keeping a connection with our home-bound members.

Nursing Home Services

Several Clergy and Lay Eucharistic Ministers go out on the first Wednesday of the month to conduct Communion Services at Brookshire Nursing Center. At this time, we have several current and past members of our church who are residing here. In addition, the services draw non-members who take comfort in this monthly service.

Shawl Ministry

Various women in the church are well adept at knitting and crocheting. With their help, we have a wonderful supply of shawls. These shawls have been used for those who are sick or recovering from an injury or surgery; baptisms; graduations; and deaths. As with Ellen Weig, we can often spot one our crafters busy with their needles.

Serve One Another

This is our most recently developed attempt to serve the needs of our community in need. *Serve One Another* is an email network created to communicate with a large network of parishioners the various pastoral needs of the parish and to invite folks like you to respond as you are able. These needs might include preparing a meal, helping with transportation, grocery shopping, helping with a funeral reception. We have had a wonderful response, but would like to add even more names to the list. If you would be willing to be part of this network, please contact the office by phone at 732-9308 or email at welcome@stmattewshillsborough.org, and Mary can add you to the list. You then will receive periodic emails with requests, to which you can respond as you are able. Please consider joining this network and sharing God's love through the simple act of caring for one another.

Worship and Music Report ***Submitted by Donna Scaggs, Vestry Liaison***

It has been a pleasure serving as the vestry liaison for worship and music this year and learning what goes on behind the scenes to make our weekly services run so smoothly. It takes a tremendous amount of community effort by clergy, staff, and volunteers to make this happen consistently each week. St. Matthew's currently has 16 acolytes, 12 Eucharistic ministers, 28 readers, 19 ushers, and 20 members of the altar and flower guild.

I attended two worship and music meetings in the fall of 2010, the first in September to review both our music and worship programming and the second in October to plan for special services including All Saints Sunday and Advent and Christmas services. I also attended a meeting in January of 2011 to plan for the upcoming Lent and Easter Season. These meetings were attended by clergy members, the music director and representatives of the altar guild, flower guild, ushers, Eucharistic ministers and vestry liaison.

In 2010, we added a Wednesday noon Eucharist Service, and evening contemplative prayer services held during our Sunday evening programming twice a month. We have also incorporated OCIM beef stew into worship life on a monthly basis by having a drive on the first Sunday of each month with a goal of collecting 150 cans each month.

The leaders of the altar guild and flower guild have found that going back to a 2-service schedule on Sundays and standardizing the set-up for services has been helpful. Both guilds have struggled to recruit new members, and it was decided that we would bring both guilds back together after Christmas. It was noted that the work of both the altar guild and the flower guild is a labor of love and that passing down the value of these traditions is important to the life of our parish.

Acolyte training was held in the fall and we have five new acolytes serving this year. We will be adding a few more gospel processions in the spring to give our acolytes more practice processing with torches.

Music for our worship is provided by the Senior Choir, the Junior Choir, and the Youth Choir under the direction of Megan Whitted. Our music program greatly enhances our worship services and provides an opportunity for musicians of all ages to share their talents with our congregation and members of our community. A special gift of a polished mahogany Yamaha vertical grand piano was given to the parish in 2010 by George Hudspeth in memory of his wife Eloise Hudspeth.

Adult Education Report
Submitted by Margaret Brill, Chair

The Adult Education program strives to nurture our individual and communal spiritual health through programs that reflect the vision and mission of St. Matthew's. This year our programs included intergenerational learning, stewardship, how to carry the spirit of Christ throughout the world, and celebrating the rich heritage of St. Matthew's and raising awareness of environmental issues.

In January we began a four-part series titled “Searching for Common Ground: Reconciling Issues of Church & State, Science & Religion” in which we explored perennial issues in American public life concerning the proper role of religion. Dr. Allan Parrent looked at how our nation has handled issues of church and state and Hugh Tilson provided us with an overview of the topic of science and religion.

During Lent we looked at some of the distinctive ways in which our Anglican tradition has addressed issues of sickness and health in the series “Restoration to Wholeness”. NC State English Professor and Episcopal Priest John N. Wall helped us to see how the 1559 Book of Common Prayer spoke of sickness and health, and how the Priest and Poet John Donne applied that understanding in his *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*. Other sessions in this series included Margaret Brill on Reconciliation, especially the response of the clergy and people of Coventry, England to the bombing of their cathedral in 1940, and Episcopal Priest and VA Hospital Chaplain Marion Thullbery speaking about how she uses the spiritual and theological resources of our tradition in her work with returning war veterans.

In April Meg McCann from St. Philips gave a very inspiring talk about the role of the Episcopal Church in Haiti’s recovery from the earthquake. Meg is an epidemiologist who spent 6 months in Haiti in 2008. Next Margaret Brill gave a presentation on the history of Canterbury Cathedral, as part of our occasional series on Sacred Places, and then Brooks Graebner and Ellen Weig presented a program about the Good Shepherd Stained Glass Window as part of Heritage Day.

In May we focused on the Environment, including a road trip to the NC Estuarium on Saturday May 8th to get a better understanding of how our estuaries are affected by events in Hillsborough. The participants reported on the road trip on Sunday then the following Sunday Lauren Winner talked about the spirituality of water. On May 23 there was a panel discussion on the musical *Guys and Dolls* and marriage.

As part of our intergenerational programming the first adult forum in September was a special Godly Play demonstration for adults and children led by Katherine Johnson and Donna Scaggs. For the next 2 Sundays Hugh Tilson spoke on reading the Bible with Inquiring and Discerning Hearts, or how the baptismal prayer might apply to reading and understanding the Bible. On the last Sunday in September there was a special program in the church on the St. Matthew’s window.

October programs focused on “Holistic Stewardship” commencing with Brian McCarthy looking at the life and work of St. Francis. We looked at “Practices that last: cultivating a lifelong relationship with God, “as described in a book by Peter Gomes, titled *The Good Life: Truths that Last in Times of Need*, Anne Kenyon introduced us to sensible practices for healthy living in an age of excess, and our Treasurer, Dorothy Wood, described the benefits of “core” budget setting, and how the principles we apply in establishing the parish budget can also work at home.

Our November series “Practices Made Personal: Stories of what we do to serve God and others and what it means to us” highlighted some of the ways parishioners find meaning in the service they offer to God and others.

December featured an Advent series on “The Changing Face of the Virgin Mary.” This set of three adult forums explored the changing faces of Mary in history, art, and music through time and place, allowing us to search the roots of our own Christmas Story. The speakers were Margaret Brill on history, Jane Ann McCullough on art and John Druessedow on music.

The Parish Life Committee Report
Submitted by Karen Ireland, Parish Life Chair

The Parish Life Committee creates, hosts, and supports fellowship events for St. Matthew's. The committee meets the second Saturday of each month to plan such events as January's Chili Cook-Off, August's Ice Cream Social, the Parish Picnic, St. Matthew's Thanksgiving Dinner, the soup and bread supper and service on Maundy Thursday, special receptions and the themed Fellowship Dinners on first and third Sunday evenings. We organize the dinner groups and this year coordinated the January 22 dinner to welcome and start the new groups for 2011. Members are Carolyn Carlson, Debbie Freudenberg, Jan Grant, Merri Hutson, Karen Ireland, Lynn Kamm, Suzanne Maupin, Beth Swain, Charles Thomas, Ellen Weig and helpful former members Debbie & Bill Kodros.

JfeST 2010 Report
Submitted by Ellen Weig and Phyllis Wright, Co-chairs of JfeST

This past December's **JfeST** was a celebration of community for St. Matthew's Church. You donated hand crafts and food. You worked together to make *KidsJfeST* happen. You sang together – the men, the children, and the youth who created an extraordinary CD. You cooked together, and collaborated to create the *Third St. Matthew's Cookbook*. You worked together to organize and publicize **JfeST**, to collect and price and display the wonderful contributions, to set up and clean up. You worked two days in December as volunteers and cashiers. You shared in meals made by the hands of each other, eating together and sharing stories and conversation. You paid great respect to the parishioners who worshiped at St. Matthew's in generations past with greenery and wreaths. And you celebrated the snow that brought the joys of the Christmas season to life. And of course, you came and bought fabulous Christmas presents for friends and family – imagine how far beyond our parish home labors of our hands have reached!!

The Festival of the Society Tree, or **JfeST** as it is affectionately called, is based on a St. Matthew's Ladies' Sewing Society event in 1867. Using the novel idea of a Christmas Tree, the Ladies made handwork that was sold to raise money for St. Matthew's. As a fund raising event over the past three years, **JfeST** has highlighted the many talents and treasures of parishioners now, fitting them into the context of the wonderful heritage of St Matthew's, and its place in Hillsborough's history. The funds raised by **JfeST** are used by the Social Ministries' Committee for outreach projects in Hillsborough and Orange County.

Beautiful and creative hand crafts, homemade foods and baked goods, and many people's time and skills are donated to the event which takes place the weekend of the Hillsborough Candlelight Tour in December. Docents provide tours of St. Matthew's, and our men's and children's choirs provide music. A wonderful offering this year was the Youth's efforts in making a CD for sale at **fesT**. **KidsfesT** brought together the "ladies of the congregation" to bake cookies. These were decorated by the children and their families and sold at **fesT**. Sales of the *Third St. Matthew's Cookbook* continue to provide **fesT** with funds. The **Ordinary Café** once again offered incredible homemade soups and chili, baked breads, and hot drinks. Since 1826 the Ladies of the Congregation at St. Matthew's have worked faithfully for the church; we are simply following their good example!

Funds raised by the 2009 **fesT** were distributed by the Social Ministries Committee throughout this past year. Over \$11,000 went to OCIM, Habitat for Humanity, the Alamance-Orange County Prison Ministry Peace Center, Cameron Park School Scholarships, the Dickerson Chapel AME Church Fellowship Hall Fund, the "Against the Tide" Prison Ministry video project, and KidsCope.

This year **fesT** will give the Social Ministries Committee \$11,040.71, with an additional \$1,000 in reserve in the **fesT** funds for seed money. They will be considering how the funds this year will be spent, and will be looking at the overall **fesT** project for this coming year. **fesT** has been a wonderful success for three years, raising over \$33,000 for local outreach programs in our Hillsborough and Orange County neighborhood. It has taken root in the fabric of St. Matthew's. This coming year there will be opportunities for new ideas and new people to be involved!!

Social Ministries Committee Report

"Reaching into the Community, the State, the Nation, and the World - Forming Partnerships"

Submitted by Ellen Weig, Vestry Liaison to Social Ministries

Mary Lou Warren & Betty Eidenier, Committee Co-chairs

The Social Ministries Committee serves an advisory role in leading St. Matthew's response to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of the Episcopal Church, and in facilitating the parish

involvement in donations and projects that require volunteer participation and financial support. Members of the committee represent St. Matthew's by attending meetings of various outreach projects including Orange Congregations in Mission (OCIM), Habitat for Humanity, the Honduras Medical Mission, the Orange-Alamance Prison Ministry, and the Fairview Community initiatives. As a committee they are responsible for the disbursement of funds that are included in the annual budget earmarked for local, national and global ministries and discretionary outreach, for fundraisers for special projects, and for the distribution within Orange County of funds raised by FeST. The Committee seeks input from the congregation on how to designate this support.

Projects and programs supported in 2010 included:

- ◆ MDG-designated funds went to Pratham USA (India); Hope for Haiti (Haiti); Christ Church, Istanbul (Turkey); and Rainbow Center (Burundi). Additional discretionary funds went to support Hope for Haiti; Christ Church, Istanbul; and the Honduran Mission.
- ◆ A Standing Outreach Commitment supported Christ Church, Bay St. Louis, MS. (now concluded)
- ◆ Discretionary funds for the State, Nation, and Community supported HUGS; the Fairview initiative; Habitat for Humanity; AIDS Partnership; the Hillsborough Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Program; Outreach Scholarship funds/Honduras Medical Mission; Club Nova./TROSA; Project TURN/School for conversion (prison ministry); and El Buen Pastor/Outreach program for food distribution.
- ◆ FeST funds supported the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry Peace Center; Cameron Park School; Dickerson Chapel AME Church/Fellowship Hall; KidsCope (a program for parent-child coping skills); Habitat for Humanity; "Against the Tide" (prison ministry documentary); Fairview Park opening; and OCIM.

Highlights from the past year and goals for the future:

This has been a good and productive year addressing problems in the local community through smart use of money and volunteers to support partnerships. The committee plans for the future are to focus attention on projects that can be supported well and to continue to inform the congregation of social ministries work. The committee hopes to broaden the congregation's participation in projects so everyone feels ownership of the activity. Members expect to continue strong attendance and participation in monthly meetings.

Faith and the Arts
Submitted by Mary Rocap

Through conversations amongst staff and parishioners St. Matthew's created a Faith and the Arts Series in 2010. This came out of a desire to be more intentional in our support of the arts themselves, rather than simply thinking of them as something providing support for other

activities. We regarded the gracious and hospitable use of our church as outreach to some who may not be so accustomed to being in sacred space. We hoped to challenge and deepen our own faith and its expression in our lives through exposure to artistic expressions of faith and doubt.

We have now completed a very successful first year.

- ◆ Our inaugural event was an evening with **Lee Smith** reading from her novels and songs from the newly formed *Women's Singing Circle*.
- ◆ **Ana Hernandez** came in the middle of a snow storm and while her chant workshop and concert drew the fewest in attendance, the parish has been profoundly marked by her music. We now have our own shruti box and sing her compositions regularly during communion and contemplative services.
- ◆ Next we were able to host a showing of excerpts from Alan Julich's documentary *Against the Tide* featuring the work of our Re-Entry Team partnership. David Crabtree spoke and Will McFarlane performed.
- ◆ In May we had two productions. The first was a concert with **Cantari** under the direction of Sue Klausmeyer.
- ◆ The second was **Michael Malone & Maureen Quilligan's** production of *Guys and Dolls* involving a good number of parishioners in the cast. Connected with that production the Revs. Tad Meyer and Ann Stevenson spoke and preached on Christian courtship and marriage.
- ◆ In October, nationally acclaimed singer-songwriter **Pierce Pettis** came and gave a memorable concert.
- ◆ Concluding the year was the dearly loved annual production of *A Christmas Carol* by Allan Gurganus and Michael Malone.

I am proud to be able to report that we took in, through the sale of tickets, sufficient revenue to pay for all these events. Thank you for supporting the arts through your attendance. In particular I want to thank Bill Kodros, Megan Whitted, and Brooks Graebner for their support throughout the year.

This year we are off and running.

- ◆ On February 19 we hosted the play *To Buy the Sun* about the life of Pauli Murray.

Confirmed for the 2011 series are:

- ◆ a performance on Thursday, March 24, by storyteller **Sheila Kay Adams**, again featuring the talents of the Women's Singing Circle with singing paired with stories;
- ◆ the musical *The Music Man*, on Friday, June 3 & Saturday June 4, under the direction of Michael Malone, Maureen Quilligan, and Megan Whitted;
- ◆ a concert by **Kate Campbell**, another wonderful singer-songwriter from Nashville, on Thursday, October 20;
- ◆ and finally, 12th Night (January 5, 2012) **Lee Smith** makes a return engagement with the Women's Singing Circle with readings and songs celebrating the season of Christmas.

You are invited to be present in these intersections of faith and art in the coming year. I also invite you to participate in making them happen. Be a part of the behind the scenes network and

meet famous people! I always need folks taking tickets at the door, hosting during the receptions, and tidying up following the production. Can you help?

Hospitality at St. Matthew's
Submitted by Suzanne Maupin

The simplest definition of “hospitality” is “kindness in welcoming strangers or guests.” Ultimately, hospitality is a part of everything we do at St. Matthew’s; from our feeding mission, to our core values, and all of the programs that support them. Notable, specific examples are our fifth Sunday sharing of services with Dickerson’s Chapel AME, the greeting ministry, **Jfe\$T, Faith and the Arts**, and our newest ministry, *Serve One Another*. In addition, St. Matthew’s hosts many community programs like Alcoholics Anonymous, Al Anon, Tutoring through the Orange County Literacy Council, the Eno River Association, The Re-Entry Roundtable for Prison Release, The Alliance for Historic Hillsborough, and on and on.

One of the top priority issues that the vestry identified in our annual retreat in May, 2010 was the need to evaluate and improve our ministry to newcomers. To that end, a task force was formed to study our current newcomer mission and recommend actions to improve it. The task force was comprised of vestry members Lynn Hecht, Bob Quackenbush, David Wilson, and Suzanne Maupin (chair). After reviewing St. Matthew’s newcomer practices and surveying newcomer programs at a dozen or so Episcopal and other denominational churches, the task force offered a summary of our findings and a set of recommendations to the vestry.

Our first recommendation is to establish a standing newcomer committee to organize and lead the newcomer ministry at St. Matthew’s. While welcoming newcomers is the responsibility of all parish members, the committee would help us to focus our efforts; making our newcomer ministry more efficient and effective. Other recommendations include designing and implementing newcomer needs and interest surveys, ensuring clergy and vestry are updated on newcomer issues, writing newsletter articles about newcomers and newcomer activities, organizing and implementing newcomer events with help from parish volunteers, create tri-folds with a common “look and feel” for each major program, consider establishing a bread ministry for newcomers, schedule regular receptions (3-4 per year) for newcomers, create a newcomer bulletin board with pictures and short bios, and make effective use of social media (the website, facebook, and twitter). While the committee is still in its infancy and still needs a chair person, we have begun to implement some of the recommendations. Our tri-folds have been redesigned with a similar look, we have launched a new website, we hosted a newcomer social two weeks ago, and an inquirer’s class has been planned to begin in March.

Shawl Ministry: Woven into the life of the Parish
Submitted by Ellen Weig

The Shawl Ministry of St. Matthew’s Church began in March, 2005. Members participate in the ministry by knitting or crocheting prayer shawls and lap-ropes, wedding shawls, baptismal blankets, and scarves for the graduates and confirmands. Prayer shawls are generally created using a pattern

of three. The pattern symbolizes the Trinity, the cycle of birth, life and death, the past-present-and future, the bond of body-mind-and spirit, the resolution of two conflicting sides. Each shawl is begun, created, and finished with the purpose of knitting God's love, care, and warmth into its fabric. At St. Matthew's each one has a label that is made specifically for the Shawl Ministry, and has a card attached with a prayer and care instructions. Celebration, sadness and grief, healing, or simply the need to feel wrapped in love, community, and safety are reasons to give or receive a shawl. Anyone can ask for a shawl for any reason, or let the clergy or a member of the group know of someone who might receive a shawl. Our shawls have traveled as far as Maine and California!

The first Saturday of each month at 9:30 is set aside as a gathering time for fellowship, a sharing of talents and stories, and the busy-ness of the ministry. We welcome new members to come to the meetings and learn more about the work we're doing. Not everyone can make each meeting; some people choose to simply work at home, in the car traveling, or on the way to work. They leave finished items in the work room and we include those when we finish each meeting by offering a prayer of blessing on new pieces. Members can also attend the Sunday night contemplative prayer services and bring their needlework.

A special project that the Ministry has been discussing is the making of a blanket for the Habitat builds. We are proposing this as a collaborative project, inviting members of the other churches involved to join us in the project. We would love to have more members of St. Matthew's join us in the Shawl Ministry, and in working on this project. For more information, please call or email me (644-0380, ecweig@nc.rr.com).

Altar Guild Report *Submitted by Mary Ann Plambeck, Chairperson*

The Altar Guild is pleased to report that we have had an uneventful, yet very productive year. We currently have 17 active members. We lost Molly Jones as a member of guild. Mary Griffin and Anne Gleason joined the guild. In the fall the flower guild and the altar guild merged. Cindy Cook is still coordinating the delivery of the flowers, the integration of the schedules and future flower arranging classes.

On August 14, 2010 we held our annual Brunch and Learn. At this time we reviewed the Altar set up, the purpose of the Ambry and other questions that the guild and clergy had regarding the weekly services. From that meeting Glenn Sumner was able to donate to St. Matthew a practical cruet that is currently being used.

Other purchases and gifts include: new numbers and words for the hymnal board and new white frontal hangings. Carrie Brigham donated the money need to purchase the materials and Beverly Wagner used her creativity and talent to craft the hangings. Carrie's donation was given in honor of her mother.