

Congregation of Saint Saviour Annual Report for the Year ending December, 2017

Presented by the Wardens at the
26th Annual Meeting, February 4,
2018

Tim Dwyer

Marsha Ra

We are a family of Christians, drawn together by a common mission: **"to build and nurture an active Christian community; to support the mission of the Cathedral; to offer opportunities for exploration and expressing spirituality; affirming the diversities that exist among us; above all, through worship, service and example; to witness to Christ's healing and reconciling love to neighbors, pilgrims and visitors."** (Congregation Mission Statement, Adopted by the Vestry April 24, 1993) Our mission statement recognizes the unique role we play in the life of the Cathedral and as a Christian community within a pilgrimage site.

Agenda, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer, Welcome, and Introductions
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Designation of Secretary
5. Election of Officers:
 - a. Review of Election Procedure
 - b. Introduction of Candidates for Vestry, Warden, and Inter-Parish Council
 - c. Nominations from the floor
 - d. Opening of Polls and Voting (10 minutes)
 - e. Closing of Polls and collection of ballots
6. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
7. Budget and Finance Report
8. Wardens' Address
9. Reception of Committee Reports
 - a. Stewardship Report
 - b. Mission and Outreach Report
 1. Cathedral Community Cares projects
 2. Anti-Racism Committee and Diocesan Year of Lamentations
 - c. Congregation and Cathedral Programs
 1. Little Pilgrims
 2. 20s-30s
10. Recognition of Volunteers and Guild Leaders
11. New Business
12. Report of Elections
13. Call to Adjourn
14. Blessing and Dismissal

Minutes of the 25th ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 1:00 pm

1. **Call to Order and opening prayer:** Mary Julia Jett+ called the meeting to order and offered an opening prayer. She thanked the Events Committee headed by Lisa Chen.
2. **Determination of Quorum:** There were 49 eligible voting members present to make up a quorum.
3. **Designation of Secretary:** Gale Kenny was elected to be secretary.
4. **Election of Officers:**
Vestry member Frank Winter explained the purpose of the Vestry and reviewed the election procedures. Four candidates will be running for three-year terms on Vestry, and Marsha Ra is running for a two-year term as Warden. Frank read the biographies for those who were not present (JoAnn and Kevin), and he invited the others to introduce themselves.

John Felbinger nominated himself for election to the Vestry. His candidacy was seconded and approved with a vote by acclamation. John's candidacy required a vote by ballot.

While people filled out their ballots, Sonia invited everyone present to introduce themselves and to say how long they've been coming to the Cathedral.

The candidates:

Warden

Marsha Ra (*two-year term*)

Class of 2020 (three-year term).

JoAnn Bell

Kevin de L'Aigle

Gale Kenny

Paula Gifford McKenzie

John Felbinger (*nominated from the floor*)

Forty-seven people voted (out of 49). Marsha Ra was unanimously elected to serve as the Warden, and JoAnn (32 votes), Kevin (40 votes), Gale (41 votes), and Paula (42 votes) were all re-elected. John Felbinger received 25 votes.

5. **Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:** The meeting minutes from last year's annual meeting, held on Feb. 7, 2016, were approved.
6. **Budget & Finance Report:** Cecilia Amadi read the 2016 treasurer's note, and it was accepted.
7. **Wardens' Address:**

Tim Dwyer spoke first and began by thanking Lisa and the Events Committee for their time and work. Tim spoke of some of the challenges during the past year, including the departures of Vicki+, Julia Whitworth,

and Dean Kowalski and the reasons why the Crafts Fair was cancelled in 2016, the loss of which had an impact on the Congregation's budget. He also recognized Marsha for her dedicated work on working out the details and preparation for the 2017 Crafts Fair. Tim thanked those who have served on the Vestry as well as Mary+ for taking on the challenging role of Vicar and interim Canon Pastor. He also offered a heartfelt thanks to Sonia for her time and service as Warden for the past several years. The Vestry presented Sonia with a parting gift to honor her service.

In her final address, Sonia spoke about how the Congregation's maturity and the commitment of its members have helped to weather the transition process as Vicki+ has left. She thanked the Congregation for being her source and spiritual formation. She also recognized the Dean's fifteen-year tenure at the Cathedral. Sonia thanked Gale Kenny, Cecilia Amadi, Lisa Chin, and Hubert Watson. Sonia also thanked Marsha Ra for stepping into the role of Warden. She also called everyone's attention to the Congregation's Anti-Racism Committee's showing of *13th* next Tuesday. Finally, Sonia presented Tim with the church keys.

8. Vicar's Address:

Mary+ spoke about her appreciation for the variety of people who have made the Cathedral home, and she thanked everyone for their commitment during the transition period. Mary+ also encouraged those in attendance to get involved – as acolytes, ushers, or any other areas. She noted that during the transition time, it was even more important.

(After the Vicar's Address, Frank announced the election results (see above)).

9. Reception of Committee Reports:

- Mary+ announced that the committee reports can be found in the Annual Report.
- Marsha Ra spoke about the plans to hold the Crafts Fair in the Cathedral in 2017, and she also spoke about the upcoming spring retreat led by Kent Curtis.
- Acolyte co-leader Harry Johnson encouraged people to volunteer to serve as acolytes.
- Sonia called for Congregation members to consider volunteering at the Welcome Table after the 9 am and 11 am services.
- Congregation member Hal Weiner announced that the Wednesday Lenten services for the Manhattan North Inter-Parish Council.
- Mary+ asked for volunteers to carry the Congregation's banner at the Absalom Jones service.
- Tim made an announcement about pledging, and he encouraged those attending the meeting to fill out pledge cards if they haven't already.
- In response to a question, Mary+ explained membership rules. First, if you're a member of another parish, you have to get your membership transferred here. If you are baptized here, you can become a member.
- Congregation member Meryl Marcus called for Eucharistic ministers to stand up and be recognized.
- Vestry member Mary-Elizabeth Mitchell asked for how many people have pledged this year versus last year, and Mary+ did not have exact numbers but said it was slightly higher than last year.
- Congregation member Wayne Yankus asked about the transition process. Mary+ reported that a Vicar would not be appointed until at least an Interim Dean was in place, which will possibly happen in March.

- Congregation member Lou Gropp asked if the Congregation had any plans to recognize the Dean and Anne Brewer's service to the Cathedral. Tim said that the Vestry had written a resolution to honor his service that would be read during a service later this year, and the Vestry also approved a gift in his honor.

10. New Business and other presentations:

Catherine asked the Congregation to renew the Environmental Task Force, and Mary+ pointed out that the Ecology Committee existed. Catherine also called for a program honoring the fiftieth anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Beyond Vietnam" speech. Mary+ suggested Catherine speak to Michael Nixon's Ecology Committee and the members of the Anti-Racism Committee.

11. Call to Adjourn:

Mary+ gave a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted Respectfully by Gale Kenny

THE YEAR 2017

Since we gathered for our 25th annual meeting on February 5, 2017, much has changed for the Congregation, the Cathedral, and our world. We began our Silver Jubilee year with an interim pastor *and* interim Dean, and faced uncertainty about how, when, or even if those positions would be permanently staffed. As a congregation, we decided to focus on building and strengthening our community. In the year since, we have accomplished much and grown in commitment as we gather to worship and serve at our wonderful, massive cathedral home.

Leadership

Marsha Ra was elected for a two-year term at the annual meeting in February 2017, but Sonia Omulepu, having resigned, still had one-year remaining in her term. The Vestry voted at the March meeting to elect Tim Dwyer to fill in for Sonia's outstanding one-year term. Toward the end of the year when it was clear that the interim vicar was leaving, responsibility for the life of the congregation became very much the work of the Vestry. The Interim Dean, Canon Patrick Malloy, Steven Lee and other staff have been very helpful, but much of the work of the vicar has fallen on the wardens.

Administrative Support

Christian DeRuiter, parish secretary for many years, left in March to take on that role at Grace Church, Brooklyn, a much shorter commute from his home. This left the Congregation without administrative support. Luckily for us, the remarkable **Chanmi Byun** has stepped in and is doing an amazing job as our community works through yet another transition.

Room 118

Mid-year one Vestry meeting was held in Room 118-- a room on the first floor of Cathedral House that is largely committed to the Congregation to use as it sees fit. It has long been used as a combination office, storeroom, archive, and meeting room. The Vestry discussed the state of the room and the need to clean out the old paperwork and organize the files. The team agreed to a "118 clean-up day," and began a laborious, ongoing project to sort and shred old financial records, and dispose of or find a new home for much of the material stored there so that the Congregation can use the room more effectively for small meetings. The "clean-up day" turned into weeks of work which is not yet complete. The goal is to turn the room into a place for committees to meet and do projects.

The Cathedral

Communications on the Close

Communications have always been an issue at the Cathedral. In the past the Congregation was rarely included in communications from Cathedral leadership. This led to complete dependence on the vicar who didn't always think to pass on news and so the congregation relied on the grapevine—not the healthiest situation. During the fall and winter of 2017 this changed in two ways: First, the Vestry officers were placed on the Close Communiqué, the email list that goes out to people who work on the Close. Second, the wardens began in December to communicate directly with the congregation through a weekly e-blast. We are grateful to Steven Lee who set up the access for us.

Saying Goodbye to Dean Kowalski

Although Dean Kowalski had been away from the Cathedral since the previous Christmas, his official last day was June 18, which was marked by a reception in his honor after the 11 o'clock service. More than 40 people brought food, **Tony Dancy** baked four cakes, and the events committee brought over bowls of

strawberries and whipped cream. **Kristin Bergfeld** wrote a special hymn with which the assembled joyfully serenaded the Kowalski family at the reception. During the service the wardens read the following Vestry Proclamation:

“A Proclamation of the Congregation of St. Saviour

On the occasion of the retirement of the 9th Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine:

- Whereas, The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski has served faithfully as the Dean of this Cathedral Church for more than fifteen years;
- And whereas, he has led our community with integrity through times of sadness and joy;
- And whereas, he skillfully directed the renovation and rededication of this Cathedral Church after the devastating fire of December 2001;
- And whereas he has worked tirelessly to stabilize and enhance the financial foundation of this Cathedral Church;
- And whereas he has dedicated himself to furthering the mission of this Cathedral Church to be a house of prayer for all people and a beacon to the world in the pursuit of peace, social justice, and civil rights.

We, the Wardens and Vestry of the Congregation of St. Saviour:

- Do affirm our profound and sincere gratitude for his mission and work in our community;
- Do convey to him and to his family our sincere best wishes for joy and good health in the years to come;
- Do announce: to the Southern Poverty Law Center a gift of \$1,000, and to Cathedral Community Cares a gift of \$500 in his honor to further the advancement of peace, social justice, and civil rights for all people.

Promulgated this 18th Day of June, in the Year of Our Lord 2017, in the City and the Diocese of New York.”

We know that the gift to CCC in the Dean’s honor has already made a big difference in their ability to help the hungry each Sunday. Dean Kowalski sent a note of thanks to the Congregation for the donations and reception.

Saying Goodbye to Reverend Jett

When Dean Kowalski appointed Reverend Mary Julia Jett to serve as our interim Vicar, it was clear that the position was temporary and she considered her academic pursuits to be her primary calling. Nonetheless Mary threw herself enthusiastically into the role while also working toward the completion of her doctorate. At the end of the year she found a teaching job at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, and attended her last Vestry meeting in November. The Congregation gave her a gift certificate to Book Culture as a thank you and farewell.

A New Interim Dean

At the end of March a new Acting Dean, **Bishop Clifton Daniel III (“Dean Dan”)** started his ministry at the Cathedral. On May 21, Dean Daniel hosted a brunch for the Congregation of St. Saviour and the Cathedral community between the nine and eleven a.m. services in Donegan Hall (Diocesan House). The brunch

was a wonderful pot-luck with provisions from worshippers at both the 9 and 11 and very well-attended, It gave the Dean the opportunity to meet many members of the community. Since that event it has become evident that the new Dean has taken the reins and is a remarkable welcoming presence to one and all.

Entrance Fees at the Cathedral

In 2017 the Cathedral became the first house of worship in the greater NY area to establish an admission fee for tourists. To those who visit churches in Europe this is not unusual, but in the US it is. The decision reflected the ongoing need for the Cathedral to identify sources of revenue. The Vestry's primary concern was making sure that those who came to the Cathedral to worship or who were in need of pastoral care would not have to pay to enter. The entrance policy allows for that.

Access for All

The construction project on the north side of the Cathedral put the handicapped access ramp out of action for almost two years. During that time, a temporary wooden ramp seemed to scare away as many visitors as it facilitated. Though the new and improved northern handicapped access ramp to the Cathedral has been reopened for several months, traffic is still light. For a long time there were no signs providing guidance or direction to the public, and an old sign over the #6 door, the exit to the ramp, read "Not an Exit." After considerable pressure from the head usher, the signage issue was rectified. Ideas are being solicited for a rededication/blessing event to advertise to the outside world that we are open for all visitors.

Search for a Permanent Dean

In the year that Bishop Daniel has served as our interim Dean, he has endeared himself to our community and proven himself to be a thoughtful and caring steward for our beloved Cathedral. But since his appointment was as an Interim Dean, a search process for a permanent Dean seemed to be on the horizon. With that in mind, the lay leaders of the community reached out to Bishop Dietsche to request that our voices be incorporated in that search. The letter read in part:

"We note with great interest that you will be establishing a search committee in the next few months to identify a permanent new Dean, which is expected to conclude by the end of 2018. We write to you in the hope that some representative (s) of our community can play a role in that search.

As the Cathedral website says, "By doctrine, the laity is central to Episcopal leadership." And it was Bishop Potter who often publicly emphasized the central role of the laity in promoting not only the program for a cathedral, but also in advancing the general work of the Episcopal Church through associations, clubs, and guilds. In the past, despite its important role in the life of the Cathedral, lay worshippers and volunteers have usually not been included in the search process. Rather, we are normally introduced after the selection has been made.

We believe we can best contribute to this process by being engaged at the start. We also think any candidate for Dean would be most desirous of meeting with such an active and strong lay constituency, both to understand the history, character, and concerns of our religious community, and to contemplate the next steps of our common life together.

We the undersigned have given many years of service to the Cathedral in a variety of roles and over that time have been led by several Bishops and Deans. Few religious institutions have a lay community that

operates with such devotion in so complex and public a setting, a gift that could be put to better use. We hope you will be open to discussing how we can participate in this upcoming search and selection process.”

The letter was signed by the Wardens of the Congregation, as well as by the heads of the various Cathedral Guilds and the Layman’s Club. To date we have not had a reply from the Bishop, but are still hopeful that when a search gets under way, lay people will be part of the process.

Diocesan Convention

On November 11, Warden Marsha Ra and Clerk of the Vestry Gale Kenny represented our Congregation at the Diocesan Convention. They noted that there are two upcoming diocesan programs that the Congregation may want to participate in:

- The **Reparations Task Force declared 2018 a Year of Lamentation**. Events will take place around the Diocese.
- The other coming event will be a partnership on sustainability with the Diocese of Tanganyika in Tanzania with which we had a relationship through several years of the Carpenter’s Kids program.

The Diocese is also beginning a Credit Union, where individuals may establish accounts.

Inter-parish Council & Harlem Youth Initiative

The Congregation of Saint Saviour belongs to the Manhattan North Inter-parish Council (IPC). To demonstrate our continued commitment to our neighboring Congregations in Harlem, the Vestry voted to approve up to \$300 for Jeannie Wertheimer to spend for the end-of-the-year event of the Harlem Youth Initiative, as well as a one-time youth group event hosted by the Congregation. Jeannie also represents us on the Inter-parish Council along with Hal Weiner. The Congregation hosted the IPC in Cathedral House for their annual Epiphany Party in January.

Congregation life

Volunteering

The level of volunteering among members of the Congregation is very high and is evidence of a healthy level of engagement in the liturgical work of the Cathedral and the life of the worshipping community. A list of all the volunteers in 2017 includes 124 formal members of the Congregation as well as an additional 28 members of the broader cathedral community and three former members who work on the Crafts Fair every year. This list is as complete as we could make it, but will by the nature of things have omissions. We apologize to anyone who volunteered their time and talent in 2017 and is not listed here:

Volunteer Honor Roll

Congregation of Saint Saviour Members

Agnes Marcaillous	Crafts Fair café
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Alisa Callendar Mitchell	Acolyte, Lay Reader, Verger
Andrew Mitchell	Lay Reader, usher
Barbara Lee Jackson	Usher
Barbara Roca	Crafts Fair café, Cookie Angels
Barbara Whiteman-Hull	Lay Reader, Crafts Fair Café, Vestry
Barbara Williams	Lay Reader, Cookie Angel
Belle Hann	Acolyte
Benjamin Koch	Acolyte
Carole Wilkins	Lay Reader
Caroline Morisseau	Lay Reader
Carolyn A. Brown	Lay Reader
Cate Elliot	Cookie Angel
Catherine Skopic	Acolyte, Crafts Fair café; Events & Hospitality, Lay reader, origami peace tree
Cecilia Amadi	Cookie Angel, Congregation Treasurer
Celeste Oyeku	Acolyte
Chanmi Byun	Acolyte, daily Office readers
Chris Johnson	Lay Reader
Christopher Scott	Lay Reader
Chuck Roberts	Crafts Fair café
Connie Benson	Acolyte
Cynthia Munzer	Daily Office Readers
David Johnston	Acolyte, Healing minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Lay Reader
Donna Doyle	Usher
Donna-Mari-Fieldsa	Daily Office Readers
Doug McTavish	Crafts Fair café
Edward S. Blackwood	Usher
Ekaterina S.	Crafts Fair café
Emily Baldwin	Crafts Fair café, Lay Reader, Events & Hospitality
Fons Amayeobu	Usher
Frank Winter	Lay Reader, Vestry
Fred Wherry	Acolyte
Gail Felix	Acolyte
Gale Kenny	Acolyte, Cookie Angel, Crafts Fair Café, Clerk of the Vestry
Garrison Koch	Acolyte
Hal Weiner	Lay Reader, Representative to IPC
Harry Johnson	Acolyte, Lay Reader
Hubert Watson	Usher, Cookie Angel
Jake Hendrickson	Usher
Jane Gropp	Events & Hospitality
Janice Hussock	Usher
Jeanne Wertheimer	Usher, Crafts Fair Café, Representative to IPC
Joan Adams	Vergers

Joan Ogden	Cookie Angel, Lay Reader, Usher
JoAnne Bell	Crafts Fair café, Vestry
John Felbinger	Acolyte, daily Office readers
John Rumely	Crafts Fair café, Lay Reader, Usher
John Thatamanil	Education
Jon Aceto	Acolyte, Healing minister, Bible Study Leader
Joyce Howard	Crafts Fair café
Keat Foong	Usher
Kelly Smith	Usher
Kevin de l'Aigle	Lay Reader, Usher, Crafts Fair Café, Vestry
Kristin Bergfeld	Lay Reader, Volunteer Choir
Kyoko Mary Toyama	Altar Guild
Lanice France	Lay Reader
Laurie Sanderson	Lay Reader
Lee Welch	Lay Reader
Leila Oyeku	Acolyte
Lewis Salas	Twenties/Thirties, Vestry
Linda Lees	Verger, Lay Reader, usher
Lisa Chin	Acolyte, Events & Hospitality, Crafts Fair Café, Vestry
Llewellyn Cole	Acolyte
Lorenda Johnson	Cookie angel, Crafts Fair café, usher
Lorraine Simmons	Altar Guild, Acolyte, Sub deacon, Crafts Fair Planning, Lay Reader, verger, vestry
Lou Gropp	Events & Hospitality
Maddie Cruz	Acolyte
Manos Lampidis	Lay Reader
Margaret Barry	Usher
Margaret Jack	Crafts Fair café
Margaret Klenck	Sub deacon, Lay Reader
Margaret Mackenzie	Usher, Lay Reader
Marjorie Witherspoon	Lay Reader
Mark Dilcom	Crafts Fair café
Marsha Ra	Events & Hospitality, Crafts Fair Planning, Lay Reader, Warden
Marshan Mason	Lay Reader, Usher
Martha Hunt	Crafts Fair café, Usher, Lay Reader
Mary Anne Tait	Crafts Fair café
Mary Burrell	Crafts Fair café
Mary Burton	Daily Office Readers
Maryelizabeth Mitchell	Healing Minister, Lay Reader, Crafts Fair Planning, Vestry
Meryl Marcus	Lay Eucharistic Minister, Retreats
Michael Connolly	Lay Reader
Michael Nixon	Acolyte, Sub deacon, Crafts Fair Café, Vestry
Michael P. Dougherty	Lay Reader

Mohammad Mossayebi	Usher
Muriel Kneeshaw	Altar Guild, Usher
Pamela Koch	Acolyte, Cookie Angel, Lay Reader
Patricia Carey	Cookie Angel Lay Reader organizer, Usher
Paula McKenzie	Usher, Vestry
Phyllis Murray	Events & Hospitality
Robert Carey	Lay Reader, Crafts Fair Café
Robert Deming	Crafts Fair Café, Lay Reader, Usher, Vestry
Ronald Melichar	Lay Reader
Ruth Mueller-Maerki	Cookie Angels, Daily Office Readers, Lay Reader, Usher
Sally Sobolewski	Altar Guild, Crafts Fair Café
Samuel Amadi	Lay Reader
Sascha Naylor	Acolyte
Seanan Forbes	Cookie Angel, Acolyte
Sonia Omulepu	Altar Guild, Crafts Fair café, Usher, Liaison to CCC
Stanley Roberts	Usher
Steadroy Zachariah	Acolyte
Stephen Rowe	Lay Reader
Steve Shulman	Usher
Steven Livesay	Cookie Angel, Crafts Fair Café
Stewart Clarke	Lay Reader
Susan Baldwin	Crafts Fair café, Events & Hospitality
Susan Sobolewski	Altar Guild, Crafts Fair Café, Volunteer musician
Susan Stair	Acolyte, Crafts Fair Planning, Little Pilgrims
Sydney Briggs	Altar Guild, , Crafts Fair Café
Terecille Basa-Ong	Lay Reader
Tim Dwyer	Usher, Crafts Fair Café, Lay Reader, Warden
Tim Farrell	Crafts Fair café, Lay Reader
Tom Hurwitz	Lay Reader, Verger
Tony Baer	Usher
Una Yearwood	Usher
Valerie Robin	Usher
VaughnFolkert	Lay Reader
Wayne Yankus	Lay Reader
Will Baldwin	Lay Reader, Events & hospitality, Crafts Fair Café
Young Kun Kim	Lay Reader
Yvonne O'Neal	Daily Office Readers, Verger

Volunteers from broader Cathedral Community

Akisa Omulepu	Lay Reader
Alexander Vera	Acolyte
Angelo Santos	Acolyte
Angie Karna	Lay Reader
Barbara Trelstad	Crafts Fair café

Beautiful Scott	Crafts Fair café
Benjamin Van Dyne	Daily Office Readers
Claire Rodman	Lay Reader
Clive Robinson	Lay Reader
Bob Cope	Usher
Dion Keane	Acolyte
Fiona Phoenix	Cookie Angel
Jenelle Persky	Crafts Fair café
Jennifer Dorr White	Lay Reader
June Ogilvie	Usher
Kyler Culver	Usher
Lucas Tremminga	(Boat)Acolyte
Matt Bennett	Lay Reader
Michael Benn	Daily Office Readers
Miner Warner	Lay Reader
Olivia Heaston	Lay Reader
Peter Ennis	Daily Office Readers, Verger
Priscilla Bayley	Daily Office Readers
Rebecca Shrecengost	Crafts Fair café
Richard Gayzur	Lay Reader, Usher
Stan Ackert	Usher
Thandie Nyirenda	Lay Reader
Wendy Darby	Lay Reader
Winston Nyugen	Crafts Fair

Former members who make the Crafts Fair possible:

Bart Pass, Anne Wroten, Jim Wroten

Events

The role of the Events Committee, chaired by **Lisa Chin**, is to provide the experience of community for Congregation members and non-members through social gathering. These social gatherings are aimed to bring together women, men, and children of diverse backgrounds and cultures to promote fellowship and understanding. Our social gatherings are targeted for key dates involving the practice of faith throughout the calendar year – Epiphany (Manhattan North Inter-Parish Council Epiphany Party), Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Supper), Easter Vigil (a reception for the newly baptized, confirmed, and re-affirmed) and Christmas (Congregation Christmas Party). In June, the Events Committee coordinates a Strawberry Festival to mark the beginning of the summer season and to provide an opportunity for Congregation to build friendship and Christian fellowship. In addition, the Events Committee oversees a Homecoming reception, which was held in the Cathedral Nave in the 2017 year, as a means to welcome back Congregation members after the summer to the cycle of Congregation activities at the Cathedral, as well as invite non-members to explore what the Congregation and Cathedral have to offer as a place to worship God and encounter His mystery and presence.

The Events Committee wants to thank Congregation members who have contributed to the success of these events by offering their time to cook and bake, as well as to help set up for them.

Hospitality

Our Hospitality Sundays, generally scheduled for the Second Sundays of the month, have been very successful in bringing together the “face” of the Congregation and giving an opportunity for Congregation members, and visitors to the Cathedral to meet clergy and staff, enjoy fellowship, and learn about the Congregation and its various volunteer activities. The extended coffee hour is held at Cathedral House, after the 11:00 a.m. service, and volunteers provide an assortment of refreshments.

The Hospitality Committee also coordinates a volunteer Rota for cookies, called “Cookie Angels,” for the coffee hour after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services in the Cathedral for the non-second Sundays. This gives members an opportunity to connect to the Congregation and to socialize after the services.

Lisa Chin, Phyllis Murray

Co-Chairs, Hospitality Committee

Homecoming

On September 10, inspired by the success of the reception for Dean Kowalski, our annual Homecoming was held in the Cathedral itself rather than Cathedral House. It appeared to be a success (another pot-luck augmented by the Hospitality Committee’s creations). More new people seemed to feel invited, there were more conversations with newcomers, and generally a good energy.

Congregation “Welcome” Table

There are few better opportunities for the Congregation to show its face to the public than by staffing the welcome table for the 9 and 11 AM services. However, we have struggled to gain a regular commitment from our members, so the table is often left without anyone. For a while we actually removed the table from both coffee hours. However it was returned during Stewardship Sunday and is now a place where members and seekers can pick up information, drop off donations to CCC, etc. We encourage all members to check it out and spend some time at the coffee hour reaching out to people they have never met before, greet them and welcome them to our home which is a pilgrimage site for many.

Formation

Sunday School

Sunday school has been part of our life since our incorporation and has seen a variety of names and approaches over the years. Most recently **Donna Devlin** ran the **Children’s Abbey** during both the 9 and 11 services. Our community felt her loss when her departure coincided with a remodeling of children’s programs at the Cathedral. Happily she is still with us, mentoring the EfM program (see below). **Steven Lee** now heads up the “Little Pilgrims” program which meets between the 9 and 11 services (see below). In addition, staff, usually Steven, remain with the children during the services themselves building a youthful community to accompany our Sunday worship.

Little Pilgrims (our new Sunday program for children)

The Little Pilgrims program, the Cathedral’s Sunday School program for children, had a successful 2017. We had an average of 12 children participate regularly each Sunday, with several parents (**Holly and Christian MacDonald**, and **Margaret Barry**) also volunteering regularly. The occasional family brunches,

held either in Diocesan House and Cathedral House after the 9am service, were also successful. Parents found them to be enjoyable ways for this growing community of families to get to know one another. In addition, our electronic newsletter for families at the Cathedral, which is sent out every Friday morning during the program year, has over 130 individual email addresses on it and more names are added each week. For the year ahead in 2018, we will be looking to add other volunteer teachers for Little Pilgrims in order give us the capacity to further grow. **Susan Stair** and **Lorraine Simmons**, both members of the Congregation as well as professional artists and art teachers, have both signed up as volunteer teachers, and we are excited to have them join us.

Submitted by Steven Lee

Adult Formation

Our Congregation is committed to fostering the spiritual/intellectual growth of our members through a variety of learning and engagement opportunities. 2017 saw this commitment realized in several excellent classes.

Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. services Canon **Patrick Malloy** lectured on Liturgy, the Book of Common Prayer and the Daily Office. Originally designed for liturgical volunteers, this long-running series attracted many other members who gathered in a chapel to hear this great teacher.

Jon Aceto, a long-standing volunteer, continued to lead adult Bible study between the 9 and 11 a.m. services. About 15-20 people attend most Sundays and the discussion is always lively.

On December 5 & 12, Professor **John Thatamanil**, Union Theological Seminary Professor and member of the Congregation, presented two exciting talks entitled "What's Love got to do with it? – Beauty and the Pursuit of Social Justice," focused on turning to the beautiful in thinking about God, the life of faith, and the pursuit of social justice. In all 32 people attended and entered into a stimulating discussion on the importance of beauty in the life of faith and the pursuit of Social Justice.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

This long-running four year program is a great opportunity to explore and add to our biblical understanding, knowledge of the wider Church and how it was and continues to be shaped. The weekly seminar meetings are lively and instructive and support the creation of a close and caring community. Course materials and texts encourage questions and the development of deeper individual spiritual commitment. Sponsored by our Congregation, it meets on Thursday evenings.

In May 2017 we graduated two members following completion of four years of study in this distance-learning program from The University of the South (Sewanee). The Rev. **Canon Pat Malloy** officiated at the graduation Eucharist. We began a new term of EfM in September, 2017 with seven students. One student dropped out due to work conflicts. We have four students who are working on their fourth year of study; they are **Sonia Omulepu**, Louise Hannibal-Boyce (St. Phillips Church), **Sheila Evans**, and **Lanice France**. They will graduate in May of 2018. **Paula McKenzie** is a third-year student and Joyce Cleveland (St. Philips) is in her first year. New members are welcomed and encouraged.

Submitted by Donna Devlin, EfM Mentor

Retreats

Although our Cathedral is one of NYC's top tourist destinations with thousands of people journeying to us each year, our Congregation gets out and about too!

From March 31– April 2, **Deacon Kent Curtis** led a retreat on the Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross Monastery, based on a version of Stations of the Cross developed by the Jesuit Refuge Services. On November 2-4, **Canon Malloy** led a retreat on the Communion of Saints at the Mariandale Retreat Center. Both retreats were an opportunity to get away, to meditate and to enter into frank and open discussion on aspects of our Christian faith.

Community Outreach

With the leadership of **Sonia Omulepu, Lorraine Simmons** and volunteers from The Congregation of St. Saviour, the Vestry has committed to work with and support Cathedral Community Cares program (CCC). The first event, which was started in November, was the Toy Drive for people in need locally. We are delighted to report that the Congregation donated 169 toys and 200 books for Christmas. After the toy drive, we met with Thomas Perry, director of CCC and we discussed the ways in which the congregation could help them support the neediest of our local community. The Vestry determined that our relationship and support of CCC will be an important priority going forward.

Ecology Forum

The Ecology Forum sponsored two events during 2017: A visit to St. Hilda House, convent for the Community of the Holy Spirit in Harlem in June and a visit to Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center in Brewster, NY, in October, also owned by the Community of the Holy Spirit.

Several members of the Congregation visited St. Hilda's House, home of several members of the Community of the Holy Spirit, to learn more about the community, an Episcopal order of nuns, and to see how the building reflects the community's values of protecting God's creation.

Members of the congregation were greeted by Sister Claire Joy and Sister Faith Margaret, who provided some background about the Community of the Holy Spirit, its history and its mission. Starting in the chapel, members of the congregation saw the various green components of the building, including its passive solar features, solar panels, green roof, use of sustainable and recycled materials and energy efficient design. These designs create a living space for the Community of the Holy Spirit that maximizes energy efficiency and minimizes environmental impacts. The visit provided members of the congregation an example of Episcopalians in our diocese living their faith and who provide a role model for other Episcopalians to be stewards of God's creation.

In October, two members of the Congregation visited Bluestone Farm and Living Arts Center, about 60 miles north of New York City, where other members of the Community of the Holy Spirit live. The congregation members met with Sister Catherine Grace, who talked about the Community of the Holy Spirit, its mission of being stewards of God's creation, and the history of the farm since it has been owned by the community. Sister Catherine Grace also spoke of the challenges of an aging order managing a farm, and the desire to find a new mission for the community in maintaining the farm that is both physically practical and financially feasible. The Community is in the process of discerning the next chapter of the farm's life and purpose.

After speaking with Sister Catherine Grace, the members of the congregation met with farm manager Sharon Bodenschatz, to learn about biodynamic, organic farming, what was produced on the farm, to walk a small portion of its 23 acres and see and learn about some of the operations that take place on the farm. The visit was capped by picking beans for seeds that will be sowed during the spring planting season, beginning the cycle of rebirth that takes place on a farm.

The Ecology Forum exists to educate congregation members on topics related to the environment and to engage in actions that the congregation deems important to preserve God's creation, whether on the

Close, or in the larger world. The vestry welcomes ideas that encourage education and engage the congregation in preserving the environment and being stewards of God's creation.

Submitted by Michael Nixon

20/30s

The Saint Saviour Twenties and Thirties fellowship has been actively involved in supporting and promoting the mission of the larger diocesan young adult network, which aims to bring together Episcopalians from a variety of congregations in New York City. We have 40+ members in our email distribution list and it has been a pleasure to pray, reflect, and discuss spirituality with young adults from all walks of life.

This year, we had the opportunity to volunteer at Bluestone Farm in Brewster, New York. We had a wonderful time digging up fresh potatoes, learning more about the farm's biodynamic farming principles, as well as relishing Brewster's breathtaking beauty. Additionally, the 20s-30s fellowship has focused on establishing a regular monthly brunch after the 11 o'clock service on every third Sunday. Usually 4-8 people attend. The brunch is a way to welcome newcomers as well as form a community, and it has become a place for discussing common concerns about vocation and for creating connections between participants with similar interests and concerns. The group has grown primarily through the help of other Congregation members who point visitors to the Cathedral to someone already involved in 20s-30s.

Submitted by Lewis Salas

CONGREGATION Finances

Stewardship

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”—Winston Churchill

As the resident congregation in the world’s largest Cathedral, we do not bear sole responsibility (thank God) for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds. But we have an obligation to help, and also an opportunity, through our discretionary budget, to impact and influence the Cathedral and its community. Over the years, our gifts have helped feed people, assisted the handicapped, funded education for the community, provided emergency assistance to the destitute to help avoid evictions, and so much more. None of that is possible without the financial commitment of our community through pledging and giving. Whether large or small, every pledge makes a difference.

Below is the most recent listing of the pledging members of our Congregation:

Cecilia & Samuel Amadi	Thomas Hurwitz & Margaret Klenck	Sonia Omulepu
Tony Baer & Margaret Barry	Chris Johnson	Bruce Paulsen
William & Susan Baldwin, II	Lorenda Johnson	Marsha Ra
JoAnn Bell	David Johnston & Danny Costa	Barbara Roca
Luz Betancourt	Gale Kenny	Deborah Rose
Sydney Briggs & Reinhard Bek	Muriel Kneeshaw	John & Christine Rumely
James & Ann Brown	Rosetta Kromer	Lewis Salas
Chanmi Byun	David & Pamela Leeming	John Slorance
Robert & Patricia Carey	Linda Lees	Karl Smith
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White	Joshua W. & Mary Ann Lo	Bowie Snodgrass & George Mathew

Kevin de l'Aigle & Timothy Farrell	Holly MacDonald	Sally Sobolewski
Robert Deming	Margaret Mackenzie	Susan Sobolewski & Prajit Dutta
Mark Dilcom	Meryl Marcus	James & Michelle Stabler-Havener
Michael Dougherty	Paula McKenzie	Susan & Bailis Stair
Timothy Dwyer	Bill McKeown & Canon Constance Coles	Sydney Stewart
Peter Ennis	Mary-Elizabeth Mitchell	Leslee Sumner
Aili Flint	Ruth Mueller-Maerki	Mary Anne Tait
Louis & Jane Gropp	Phyllis Murray	Peter Thiede & David Turley
Carol Harvey	Michael Nixon	Hubert Watson
Robin Heagan	Christine Nusse & Patricia Bennett	Barbara Whiteman-Hull
Joyce Howard		

From those 64 pledgers, we have total of \$84,070 pledged, just \$900 less than last year's pledges (from 62 pledgers), but significantly under the previous year's total of \$100,172 (from 82 pledgers). Our goal is to return to and then surpass our 2016 numbers in both dollars and the number of people pledging.

We welcome new pledges any time of year and at any amount. Now the Congregation even has a stewardship page on the website with an e-pledge option.

Diocesan Investment Trust

The Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) is a Diocese-wide Financial Services organization with over 80 million dollars in funds. It is governed by Trustees elected by the Diocesan Convention, and has an Equity Fund and an Income Fund whose returns are very competitive. Through participation as a shareholder in these funds, every congregation and institution has access to professional investment management services of high quality and low cost under the direct supervision of the Trustees and the ultimate control of the Convention of the Diocese of New York.

The DIT had been suggested by Canon Blake Rider as a good home for the Congregation's assets. After some conversations with the DIT, the Vestry agreed to place most of the Congregation's assets (except for its bank Checking Account) into the DIT with the Wardens and Treasurer authorized as signatories. Treasurer Cecilia Amadi and Warden Timothy Dwyer worked on the details of the transfer. There were some discussion amongst the Vestry about the safety of the principal given the vicissitudes of the stock market, and the risks posed by market volatility. However, in August the Congregation did move \$124,000 into the trust, leaving funds in a checking account and money market account for short-term needs. By year-end, the value of our DIT investment grew to more than \$129,800.

Crafts Fair

Crafts at the Cathedral has been and still is the Congregation's chief fund-raising effort which is wonderfully supported by the community and by several Cathedral Departments.

Having missed the opportunity to stage a Crafts Fair in 2016 because of uncertainties regarding the fate of Synod Hall, it was proposed by then Dean Kowalski that the fair be held inside the Cathedral itself at the end of 2017. As many medieval Cathedrals were often centers of commerce and town marketplaces, the Vestry endorsed this concept. The committee began its work in December, 2015. By March the

Crafts Fair committees were hard at work: the jury was Marsha, Lorraine Simmons, Mark Pass, and Susan Stair; the Food committee was headed by Lisa Chin, and the website was maintained by Jim Wroten who also did much of the graphics.. As in the past, Lisa Schubert and her stellar staff ran the publicity.

The Cathedral turned out to be a much more hospitable location than Synod Hall. The exhibitors were very excited to be in such a beautiful space. Load-in and out were relatively painless, the show was much larger than in the past, on a single floor with usable bathrooms. Above all the whole infrastructure of the Cathedral made everything easier. Profit was shared between the Congregation and Visitor Services with the Congregation taking the booth fees and Visitor Services the entrance fees. The Congregation grossed nearly \$54,000 and netted in the \$30,000-\$35,000 range. Because there was reluctance to have the show in the Cathedral on Sunday, Thursday afternoon and evening were added. However most people came on Saturday when 1700 people walked through the doors. A reception was held on Thursday Evening to acknowledge the move to the Cathedral and the 25th anniversary of the Congregation. Congregation member **Susan Sobolewski** performed stunningly on the piano and a group of high school students from the Bloomingdale School of Music (a local school) played jazz.

Maryelizabeth Mitchell encouraged sponsorships for the fair which brought in an additional \$2500 from members **Eugenia Foxworth, Kristin Bergfeld, Bob & Pat Carey** and Marsha Ra. Book Culture supported the fair with two e-blasts to their mailing list of 50,000 readers. A café was set up near the south art wall which added to the warmth of the show and encouraged customers to stay longer.

The Crafts fair, 2017, extended the number of Cathedral departments that worked with the Congregation. Departments involved included Facilities, Security, Productions, Visitor Services, Programming and Outreach.

Perhaps most importantly in the long term, the Cathedral leadership, both clergy and lay, seemed to recognize that the event was one worthy of being included on its regular calendar, and was another way to draw-in and engage the public. There is now much excitement as to how future fairs can be improved and expanded, publicity and advertising enhanced, and additional resources brought to bear. The Crafts Fair committee is already focusing on some new ideas and some lessons-learned that will help us improve the show next year:

Sincere thanks to the many volunteers and Cathedral professionals who made the show possible.

Audit

Happily, our Congregation has a long record of clean and transparent financials. Controls are in place to prevent abuse, and previous audits have detected no anomalies. During the year we received an inquiry via our Treasurer **Cecilia Amadi** from the accountant who had previously audited the Congregation's finances, Alice Blunt-Finney, to ascertain if the Congregation wished to do another full audit. Conscious of the cost of such a study, the Wardens were reluctant to commit to one again, but ultimately settled for an abbreviated form of financial audit which cost less and was delivered more quickly.

Financial Statement

Assets as of December 31, 2017

TD Bank Checking	\$54,532.94
Money Market	\$32,102.86
Total TD Bank	\$86,636.80
Diocesan Investment Trust	\$129,860.27
Total Assets	\$216,623.07

Income/expense (For detail see attached sheet)

Total Income	\$ 213,416.37
Total Expense	\$196,411.32

INCOME

	2017budget	2017 actual	Difference
Pledge and Plate	158,000.00	152,965.00	(5,035.00)
Vicar's Discretionary fund	1,500.00	-	(1,500.00)
Crafts Fair/development	41,000.00	53,145.00	12,145.00
Savings Interest	650.00	383.00	(267.00)
Events income	500.00	590.00	90.00
Adult Education	1,000.00	116.00	(884.00)
Little Pilgrims (children's abbey)	500.00	-	(500.00)
Retreats	3,600.00	5,835.00	2,235.00
Vestry	500.00	360.00	(140.00)
Mission & Outreach	200.00	-	(200.00)
Checking interest	-	22.37	22.37
Total income	207,450.00	213,416.37	5,966.37

EXPENSES

	2017 budget	2017 actual	
Lay compensation	-	2,591.00	
Children's Abbey/ Little Pilgrims	2,000.00	684.78	1,315.22
Adult Education	3,500.00	330.54	3,169.46
Retreats	3,600.00	6,753.25	(3,153.25)
Inquirers/Via media, etc.	500.00	194.72	305.28
Youth	-	387.03	(387.03)
supplies/paper	500.00	1,798.49	(1,298.49)
Postage & telephone	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Audit Fee	-	50.00	(50.00)
Bank charges	400.00	129.75	270.25
{Vicar Discretionary}	1,500.00	340.34	1,159.66
Cathedral support	135,696.00	135,696.00	-
Diocesan support	16,805.00	16,027.00	778.00
Young adult fellowship	500.00	395.99	104.01
Events	6,699.00	4,377.22	2,321.78
Communication (ACS)	3,000.00	3,132.39	(132.39)
Pastoral Care	1,500.00	8.19	1,491.81
General Ministries			
Welcoming	750.00	206.97	543.03
Vestry expenses (includes insurance & special gifts)	5,000.00	6,928.85	(1,928.85)
Stewardship	1,000.00	67.32	932.68
Hospitality	2,000.00	2,572.84	(572.84)
Mission & outreach	1,500.00	550.00	950.00
Environmental task force	500.00	-	500.00
telephone	3,000.00		
Security	5,500.00	6,009.00	(509.00)
Crafts Fair	11,000.00	7,179.65	3,820.35
total expense	207,450.00	196,411.32	
Income/Expense	-	17,005.05	

2018 Congregation Budget

	INCOME	Total
Pledge and Plate Revenue	\$ 158,000	
Crafts Fair Revenue	\$ 55,000	
Interest	\$ 420	
Events income	\$ 500	
Adult Education	\$ 500	
Retreats	\$ 5,000	
Vestry	\$ 500	
Mission & Outreach	\$ 200	
Total income	\$ 220,120	\$ 220,120
	EXPENSE	
Cathedral support	\$ 136,000	
Diocesan support	<u>\$ 17,000</u>	
Total Cath/diocesan support	\$ 153,000	\$ 153,000
Administrative/Office		
supplies/paper	\$ 2,200	
Postage & telephone	\$ 500	
Communication	\$ 3,100	
Audit Fee	\$ 50	
Bank charges	\$ 130	
Security	\$ 8,000	
Crafts Fair	<u>\$ 18,000</u>	
Total administrative	\$ 31,980	\$ 31,980
Program		
Christian Formation		
Children's program	\$ 1,500	
Adult Education	\$ 3,500	
Retreats	\$ 5,000	
Inquirers/Via Media	\$ 1,000	
Mission & outreach	\$ 1,000	
Environmental task force	\$ 500	
Youth	<u>\$ 500</u>	
Total program	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Parish Life		
Pastoral Care	\$ 1,000	
Welcoming	\$ 750	
Young Adult fellowship	\$ 500	
Events	\$ 7,890	
Vestry expenses (includes insurance & special gifts)	\$ 7,000	
Stewardship	\$ 3,000	
Hospitality	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	
Total Parish Life	\$ 22,140	<u>\$ 22,140</u>
Total Expense		\$ 220,120
Total Income less Expense		\$ -