



***St. Martha's
Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
November 12, 2017
Booklet One***

ST. MARTHA'S ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2017 AT 11:00 A.M.

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order -

Opening Prayer - Rector, the Rev. Mary Allen

Registration Book - Circulate for Voting –

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting –

Elections - Appointment of tellers(3) for the Election –

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominations from the Floor for Vestry

Nominations from the Floor for Diocesan Convention for both Delegates & Alternates

Distribution and Collection of the Ballots by the Tellers

Annual Reports (Emailed prior to meeting) - Questions & Discussions

Financial Report & Lighthipe Update – Beth Maurer & Tempe Steen

Report of the Election Committee Tellers

Questions & Comments from the Floor

Closing Prayer - Rector, the Rev. Mary Allen

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
St. Martha's Episcopal Church, Bethany Beach, DE
November 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the presiding officer, Sr. Warden, Terry Watson and by The Rev. Mary Louise Allen. A prayer was offered by Rev. Mary.

The registration book was passed among the attendees and all signed.

Election of Vestry Members:

The election of new Vestry members was proceeded by the appointment of Tellers: Al Thomas, Pat Long, and Lanny Moore. Terry Watson stated that the Nominating Committee has successfully chosen three people (Tempe Steen, Bill Freund, and Nancy Rojewski) to fill the three open slots created by retiring Vestry members. The members were asked if there were any additional candidates to be nominated from the floor. There were none. A motion was then made and seconded to accept the candidates as Vestry members forthwith. This motion was passed unanimously, M-Joe Reardon, S-Dianne Burlew, approved-all.

Nominations were received from the floor for Delegates and Alternates for Diocesan Convention in 2017. The following were nominated and accepted by unanimous vote: Delegates-Phyllis Mikolaitis and Beth Maurer, M-Pat Long, S-Jim Reichert, approved-all. Alternates-Tina Edgar and Bud Palmer. M-Carol Boebel, S-Barbara Reardon, approved-all.

Financials

Dianne Burlew reported on the financial picture, the budget and stewardship. She pointed out that the expenses of the parish are expected to exceed the operating revenues by \$10,500. The difference will be made up by carry-overs from previous years. Also, the pledge figure is an estimate based on what was pledged last year. There is a 2-3% COLA, but expenses have been reduced in payroll due to a change in Rev. Mary's medical insurance. The new Vestry will need to do everything they can to improve income while at the same time keep a sharp eye on expenses. Pledges are currently behind last year by \$14K and there are 23 pledging units not yet heard from.

Pastoral Care

Rev. Mary and Nancy Rojewski discussed the various options open to parishioners who may need pastoral care and noted that the options are now summarized on a "postcard" size handout that will be available for people. The purpose of the postcard is to increase awareness of what is now being done at St Martha's and how people can ask for help. Nancy particularly stressed that people should be open to the idea of "allowing" others to help them in times of need, whatever the need might be. Caregivers cannot help people who do not allow them to help.

By-Law Changes

Tempe Steen presented the By-Law changes to the members as approved by the Vestry (email vote Aug 29-30, 2016). These changes were unanimously adopted by the congregation, M-Tempe Steen, S-Beth Maurer, approved-all.

Annual Reports

Annual reports from the various committees and groups at St Martha's were printed in a double booklet form and passed out at the meeting.

Naming of the Parish Hall

Tempe Steen presented the history of Bishop Arthur R. McKinstry and Mary Lighthipe and their connection to St Martha's Church. After her presentation, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to name the new parish hall after these two people, M-Tempe Steen, S-Jim Reichert, approved-all. The official name of the parish hall will now be the "McKinstry-Lighthipe Parish Hall." Also, a special thanks to the Lighthipe Property Committee (Tempe Steen, Frank Bell, Phil Fleming) was extended by the parish.

Sunday School

Bud Palmer asked what is being done about the Sunday School as it appears to be somewhat disorganized. Also, the teacher, Barbara Harris, who has retired has not been replaced. He suggested that possibly we should consider hiring someone to do this. Rev. Mary stated that we are covered for Advent, but beyond that the future of the Sunday School is uncertain. No one has volunteered to take the place of Barbara Harris and we might need to consider hiring someone. The new Vestry will have to deal with this issue.

Retiring Vestry members, Terry Watson, Clem Edgar, and Martha Fields were thanked and each given a gift in appreciation for their service.

Minutes:

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on November 8, 2015 were presented in the booklet for this annual meeting, signed and dated by the Secretary, November 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Clem Edgar
Secretary of the Vestry

NOVEMBER 12, 2017 RECTOR'S REPORT ~ ANNUAL MEETING ~

My dear ones,

How very quickly a year goes by! I have just returned from my Mini-Sabbatical leading a pilgrimage on *the Way of St. Cuthbert* in Scotland and Northumberland. I will be sharing tales of the trip and pictures in the new year, but I want to say how much I appreciated the opportunity to take this time for study and exploration! It was refreshing for my mind, body and soul to lead this pilgrim group and be in these holy places. Sometimes I believe that time goes faster each year, and I know many of you feel the same. To take this time out of time is important for us to do occasionally. *The Rev. Jeff Ross and I are already planning for our next pilgrimage to Iona in 2019 so mark your calendars now!* I will be taking a bit more of this Mini-Sabbatical time in the spring of 2018 with study and attending a preaching conference in Washington, DC. Coming back to our time together, here at St. Martha's, is a delight, as we continue to have so many things going on. Activities, ministries, social events, and of course, our Worship together. I give thanks for this place and the wonderful and varied ministries we support.

Our parish continues to get quite a workout, especially our Parish Hall, with meetings of the 12-step groups every day except Sundays; Used Books & Bake Sales; the International Student Picnic with over 90 some youth attending and their bi-weekly language labs; Mardi Gras; social events; funerals and receptions. Concerts, Quilting and Special Community Events have been added this year with showing of documentary movies on topics that impact us all and this last week with the presentation by The Rev. Rita M. Nelson of her book about her life with a transgender child...the list goes on. We are a busy place!

We continue to grow and change, finding new ways to use our space and new ways to minister to the greater Bethany community. Our music program continues to expand with the above-mentioned concerts, the Adult & Bell choirs, and other special music, all thanks to the wonderful leadership of our Director of Music, Dave Kemper. This year saw a change in the office with Teri Munz's resignation for health concerns and the hiring of our new Administrative Assistant, Jaclyn Hickman. If you have not yet met Jaclyn, stop in anytime Monday through Thursday between 9 and 1, our new *regular* office hours! Our Volunteer corps in the office continues to expand and be invaluable in helping get everything ready for Sunday as well as special mailings and events!

Under the leadership of Lanny Moore in scheduling, this ministry is such a joy and help! My thanks to ALL the volunteers who come weekly to assist us! Our Outreach Committee continues it's vital work as well as the plans for expanding our ministries with a possible Summer Reading Program in the future. Our Worship Committee meets regularly to continue planning for our liturgy and all that goes into it. Our Pastoral Care committee has continued its work with the Card Ministry the most visible of the groups. Our Hospitality Ministry is continuing to look for ways for us to gather together including the special Christmas Crafts & Cookie sale alongside our winter Used Book Sale.

This year we expanded our Diocesan presence by hosting the Diocesan Convention on January 27 & 28, 2017. Our bright blue t-shirts were a huge hit! Everyone knew where to find someone if they needed help and our very visible presence was much appreciated. The Diocese copied our idea (the purest form of compliment) for the Special Convention for the election of our new bishop. A large number of St. Martha's members served as volunteers for that event as well!

We are a busy place...and I give thanks for ALL the ministries that continue so smoothly throughout the year as well as all of you who participate in our life together, even if it is attending St. Martha's when you are in town. I feel so blessed to be a small part of the life of this place.

More than ever I give thanks for the wonderful spirit of this congregation. This is a great community and we have so much to share!

God bless and hold each of you!

Peace,

Rev. Mary Louise+

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

As Stewards of St. Martha's Parish, we continue to show our concern for our community and for the life of the Episcopal Church in the state of Delaware.

In January, our parish was privileged to be the host church for the Convention of the Diocese of Delaware. Thanks to the many who gave so generously of their time and talents to serve as registrars, election officials, and hosts to make this a very successful event and farewell for Bishop Wright.

Our stewardship is shown in many ways around the church. Support for the many AA groups that use our building six mornings a week is one of the strongest examples of our commitment to the welfare of our community. This ministry has grown to a Wednesday lunch group and a book club as well. We now also provide space for Overeaters Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous. For most of us this ministry is almost invisible but so very important to those who need our help. The Way Home represents one of the largest recipients of our outreach commitment. This program, to help released offenders, was started by parishioners of St. Martha's and now extends statewide.

The dedication to our ministry in the community is illustrated in many ways. (Read other reports for details.) We can take pride in our commitment to our congregation and to our many visitors. We have provided musical and educational programs during the year and educational opportunities for both the congregation and the Rector.

The vestry has taken action this year to put our finances on a firmer foundation. We renegotiated the contract with the purchaser of the Lighthipe property to include the 5 acres that had previously been reserved for us. However, upon further review by the vestry, with input from the congregation, those 5 acres are now included in the contract. I believe this will provide a much better outcome for St. Martha's. The settlement of this contract should now take place in the spring of 2018.

Pledging for 2018 is well ahead of last year and I am hopeful that we will exceed 2017.

We have much to be thankful for but there is much yet to be done. We must find ways to be more visible in the community. We need to find ways to reach out to the new communities that are being constructed all around us. We need to attract new comers and to make our summer visitors feel a stronger bond to St. Martha's both spiritually and financially, however this is the responsibility of all parishioners, not just the leadership.

There will always be issues that need to be addressed in the everyday running of our facilities. We will always have to deal with sound systems, cleaning gutters, washing windows, and the maintenance of our grounds but our most important mission is our service to God and our stewardship of that which has been passed down to us.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Sr. Warden. It is my hope that I may continue to serve this parish in some meaningful way.

Thank You.

Faithfully,

Don Boebel, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN, ANNUAL REPORT - LANNY MOORE

This year, the role of the Junior Warden was different than in the past. Instead of overseeing the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, the Junior Warden was the "people's warden". The oversight of the buildings and grounds was left in the very capable hands of Terry Watson, the Sexton, and Don Boebel, the current Senior Warden and past Junior Warden.

Several concerns were brought to my attention by parishioners. They are as follows:

- The handicap access to the church and parish hall are inadequate. While we do have ramps, the doors need to have push button access and the parking spaces and walks need to be paved. This is currently being researched by the vestry.
- It would be very helpful to have a couple of chairs with arms in both the parish hall and the church. A donation has been promised for some of these. If necessary, we will research purchasing some.
- A large bulletin board in the parish hall would clean up the sign-up sheets on the tables and allow flyers to be displayed. Don Boebel took care of hanging a bulletin board.
- The Sunday School area was moved to the corner of the parish hall and several storage areas were cleaned out and unwanted items were donated. Don Boebel and I took care of this.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Dianne Burlew, Chairperson	Frank Bell
Carol Ann Heath, Asst. Treasurer	Sue Mantegna, Recorder
Carl Long, Deposit Coordinator	Phil Fleming
Ron Kerchner, Asst. Treasurer	Sue Proska
Hank Rojewski	Beth Maurer, Vestry Liaison
Todd Stevenson, Treasurer	

Purpose:

The Finance Committee prepares the Annual Operating Budget for recommendation to the Vestry for its approval. The Committee seeks input from the various committees/groups in order to meet the physical needs and the program requirements of St. Martha's Mission Statement.

The Committee meets regularly during the year to review the Treasurer's Reports and makes recommendations to the Vestry regarding the parishes Income & Expenses. In July, the Committee does an in-depth review of the Operating Budget for the first half of the year making suggestions to the Vestry for any changes it deems appropriate.

The Committee prepares and reviews the Policies & Procedures for conducting St. Martha's financial affairs. These documents are sent to the Vestry for approval or revision. The Committee follows the procedures as found in the "Manual of Business Methods" as developed by the National Episcopal Church.

The Committee has the task of scheduling the annual audit of the parishes' financial records. The audit for calendar year 2016 was conducted by the Rev. Rusty Hesse, a professional auditor. When the audit was completed, the Committee reviewed the report with the auditor and made recommendations to the Vestry as needed. As required by diocesan canon, the written audit report was submitted to the diocesan office.

Accomplishments:

In addition to preparing and reviewing the 2017 Operating Budget, the Committee reviewed a few of the Policies & Procedures making recommendations for revisions and additions to update the procedures. Also, the Committee reviews and follows an Annual Financial Planning Calendar.

**St Martha's Expansion: Summary of Monies
accumulated and borrowed as of Sept 30, 2017**

St Martha's Funds on hand (Funds, gifts, fundraisers, etc.)	158,296.04
Pledges (Amount Pledged -- 360,520)	352,708.64
St. Martha's Master Fund "A" ***	204,711.31
Diocese of Delaware Grant (Not to be paid back)	200,000.00
Diocese of Delaware Line of Credit (Short Term Loan - 3yrs.)	100,000.00
Diocese of Delaware Long Term Loan (10 yrs.) TOTAL INCOME	<u>200,000.00</u>
	1,136,567.98
Repayment already accomplished	
Diocese of Delaware Short Term Line of Credit	\$100,000.00
Diocese of Delaware Long Term Line of Credit	25,014.97
	125,014.97
Repayment still necessary	
Diocese of Delaware Long Term line of Credit	174,985.03
St Martha's Master Fund "A"	204,711.31
Grand Total still owed	379,696.34

BAKE SALES - LEE MOORE

We had 3 very successful bake sales held in the church along with the book sales. We did extremely well on our 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Sale on December 3rd 2016. The Memorial Day and July 1st bake sales were also very successful. The total for the three sales came to \$1,989. Many thanks for all the tasty baked goods and to all who helped price and sell.

BOARDWALK BAKE SALE – MARY DAVIS AND SUE MANTEGNA

Once again, St. Martha's Divine Confections was a big hit at the annual Bethany Beach Craft Fair on Saturday, September 9. We have many repeat customers who look forward to our goodies. The weather was perfect. Our parishioners pitch in, baking many wonderful treats. It seems like our customers especially like some of the larger items like cakes and pies. Our success was made possible by the many people who helped in baking a variety of treats, as well as those who assisted in pricing, transporting and selling our items. We also could not have functioned without those who did the heavy-duty work of setting up and taking down our booth. In all, it is a team effort and as usual St. Martha's steps up and does the job. Thanks to everyone who helped.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower Committee is co-chaired by Deb Kerchner and Lee Moore. The recent ministry fair has supplied us with several substitutes, if needed. The Flower Committee ensures that altar flowers are provided for regular services, and special displays are ordered for Palm Sunday, Easter, and Christmas. The flower committee maintains interior plants, and supervises the distribution of any altar flowers donated by parishioners.

GREETERS & USHERS ANNUAL REPORT - DON CLARKE

Purposes and Tasks of this Ministry:

The Greeters welcome visitors and church members as they arrive to attend services at St. Martha's. After services, the greeters engage our new guests in conversation to learn if they are new to the area, visiting family or friends, are on vacation, or just passing through. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest register and are invited to our coffee hour. We introduce them to others and answer any questions they may have about St. Martha's. We invite them to return to worship with us again. The greeters also carry the

communion elements forward to the altar. Finally, they distribute the welcome gift bags to first time visitors at the conclusion of services.

The Ushers, upon arrival, turn on the lights and adjust the thermostat and ventilation(fans) as needed. As worshippers arrive, they pass out our worship folders while directing and assisting with seating. Gluten free wafer cards are provided to those who request them. The ushers take count of those in attendance for the celebrant to prepare the bread and wine for communion. They collect the offerings from the congregation and direct communicants to the altar to receive the Eucharist. After services, ushers collect the worship folders and take the collections to the sacristy for counting by the tellers. The duties of greeters and ushers are shared as needed to ensure adequate coverage at both the new and original entrances.

Membership: There are currently 43 greeters and ushers providing this ministry at our services.

8 o'clock participants are:

Ann Adams, Harry Adams, Don and Carol Boebel, Don Clarke, Alice Ann Freund, Wincy Jackson, Donna Kent, Sandy Martin, Russ Melrath, Lucy Michaels, Bud Palmer, Linda Rineer, Bill Richardson, Sandy Roberts, Carolyn and Jack Smith, Ron and Tempe Steen, Paul Thompson, Ted and Susan Tinsley and Bette Wade.

10 o'clock participants are:

Frank and Jean Bell, Bob and Mary Davis, Martha Fields, Patricia Fink, Dick and Carolyn Hay, Carol Ann Heath, Carl and Pat Long, Carl and Susan Mantegna, Ken and Fran Marta, Hank and Nancy Rojewski, Paul and Johann Ross, Jere Wise and Mary Wuslich.

Our sincerest thanks to all the Greeters and Ushers who attend services each week and fulfill their commitment to this ministry so cheerfully.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Chairpersons—Barbara Reardon and Tempe Steen with great assistance and direction from Dianne Burlew

Purpose or Goal of Ministry—To plan, organize and present the Christmas Luncheon for parishioners at a local venue for fun and holiday celebration.

Activities or Accomplishments —The luncheon was held at Cripple Creek last year and turned out very nice. Planning is underway for this year's luncheon. The date and location will be announced soon.

TELLER COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Carl Long, Asst. Susan Mantegna

Member Purpose: The Teller Group is responsible for counting and depositing the cash from both Sunday services. A worksheet is completed and secured with the checks received until later when they are entered into Quickbooks software by the Chairpersons. A report for all deposits for the week is then forwarded to the Treasurers.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact Carl Long or Susan Mantegna.

ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose:

To prepare the altar for Sunday and special occasion services.

To prepare the travel kits containing the sacraments for Eucharistic ministers who visit parishioners who are unable to come to church. (These visitors are trained by Nancy Rojewski.)

To provide for the proper care of linens, vessels, lectern hangings, candles, and any other materials used in the worship services; to purchase such items as needed.

To provide assistance to the rector as needed.

To serve on the Worship Committee.

Activities/Accomplishments:

Working in teams of two for every service, our current sixteen members continue to be faithful to the responsibilities given them.

Linens and supplies continue to be purchased as needed.

All church flowers remain the responsibility of the Flower Guild.

Our new sacristy is wonderful. It was discovered that the heat/ac vent needs to remain open to facilitate air circulation. To correct the humidity problem, a dehumidifier has been installed. Temperature and room conditions are much improved.

We share the sacristy with the tellers (for after service accounting and storage of their materials).

Last year some of our members created two Quilts of Valor. These were given to veterans who come to Bethany Beach for the Seas the Day activities in September, 2017.

New altar guild members are always needed and most welcome. Serving God and our parish gives much pleasure. We welcome others who wish to join us.

Respectively submitted,
Carol Boebel, Bev Shubert
Chairpersons

GREETING CARD MINISTRY

Ministry Members:

Frank & Jean Bell	Joyce Tuck
Dianne Burlew	Carolyn Clarke
Fran Hasson	Mary Thormeyer
Marie Hogsten	Donna Kent
Bud Palmer	Mary Perkins
Jean Skinter	

Purpose:

To maintain regular contact with parishioners who are homebound as well as those who are experiencing prolonged illnesses. Get well or sympathy cards are sent to any parishioners whose circumstances warrant it.

Each member is assigned specific persons to whom are sent monthly note cards. Also, birthday and anniversary cards are sent to their assignees if the respective dates are on record. Each member serves for a month at a time as the “acute” contact person for those in the parish who are hospitalized, fallen ill or involved in a family death.

The note cards and postage expenses are covered by the Pastoral Care line item in the Operating Budget, although many of the ministry participants cover their own expenses. There is a basket in the Parish Hall to receive donations of cards for the ministry’s use from parishioners. The card donations are greatly appreciated and assist with the ministry’s expenses.

Accomplishments:

At the present, there are twenty-seven (27) families on the regular contact list – some of whom are couples. There have been over twenty (20) additional recipients of “acute” greeting cards – mostly for health reasons. Several recipients have acknowledged how much the note cards have meant to them.

The ministry would like to expand to contacting everyone on St. Martha’s Prayer List. Unfortunately, many are not parishioners so that contact information is not available. The group would gladly welcome any and all additional participants in this pastoral ministry.

If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a card, please contact the Parish Office, The Rector or Barbara Reardon.

BOOK SALES - BILL ZIEGLER

Sale	Date	Actual	Date	Projected
Christmas	12/2/16	\$866	12/2/17	\$900
Memorial Day	5/27/17	\$1700	5/26/18	\$1800
4 th of July	7/1/17	\$1728	6/30/18*	\$1900
Labor Day	9/2/17	\$2076	9/1/18	\$1800
Total		\$6370		\$6400

NOTE: Sales are for fiscal year-Dec. thru Sept.

*The 4th is a Wednesday in 2018. Either Saturday, 6/30 or Saturday, 7/7 will work but we usually use the Saturday before the 4th.

Expense Request:

1. (12) 6’ tables (\$600)
2. 24 plastic crates (\$240)

HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP - PAT LONG

This is my last year on Vestry as Hospitality Chairman. The 3 years have flown by and I have really enjoyed being in charge of the kitchen and helping coordinate the many events we have had in our social hall. I have had so many helpers along the way with setup, serving and cleaning up. I thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Martha's.

Coffee Hours

We continue to have coffee hour after the 8:00 and 10:00 services. I thank everyone who has done coffee hour. Also, a special thanks to the Boebels who have hosted several pancake breakfasts. Thanks to the Robberts for have supplied coffee to St. Marthas. We have also been using china cups to save on cost and also to run the dishwasher each week which helps keep the dishwasher in working order. In the near future an additional dish washer and stove will be installed to help expand our kitchen.

Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 25, 2017

The 10th annual Mardi Gras dinner party was held in the parish hall chaired by Lucy Michaels. We had about 55 in attendance. Many dressed in costumes which made it a fun evening. We enjoyed many covered dishes made by everyone who attended. Thanks for all the help with another successful event.

Birthday Dinner – Thursday, April 20, 2017

Our Birthday dinner is always a good way for people to get to know others at our church. Those in attendance sit at the table of their birthday month. People signed up to decorate a table for each of the 12 months of the year. We had many great covered dishes to share and everyone had fun remembering and sharing special moments in our past birthday celebrations. We had a great turnout of 63 people. Thanks to all who participated and helped make it a success.

Craft Sale – Saturday, December 3, 2017

Our combination Book, Bake and Craft Sale was a huge success. We raised \$1700 in the sale of crafts alone. I want to thank everyone who came weekly to make crafts. Also, for those who made items and donated them, thanks so very much. Those who helped setup, sell and cleanup a big thank you.

July 4th Picnic – Sunday July 4, 2017

It was decided that we would have an indoor picnic for the 4th of July this year so families could share in a fun evening eating and watching the fireworks from St. Martha's deck and parking lot. It was a fun time with approximately 65 attending. We cooked hotdogs, hamburgers and everyone brought sides to share. We had a special cake for dessert.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Chairman - Lanny Moore. Committee - Carolyn and Don Clarke, Mary Davis, Diane Gay, Pat Long, Sandy Martin, Carol and Bill Richardson, Ted Tinsley, Marie Hogsten, Sharon Korody, Carol Miles, Anne West, and Lee Moore. The primary responsibility of the office workers is to ready the folders for Sunday Worship. We have two people scheduled each week, one to clean up the folders after the Sunday services, and the other to fill them for the upcoming Sunday. We also schedule people to assist with large mailings, which occur several times a year.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord!

*How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.*

It is hard to believe that I am completing my fifth year as the Director of Music at St. Martha's. I am very thankful to God for leading me here after retiring from teaching in Pennsylvania. I had never really heard of Bethany Beach! I am also thankful to Rev. Mary Allen, Rector, and the members of the Vestry for their strong leadership and support of the music program at St. Martha's.

The Adult Choir remains committed to providing musical leadership at Sunday morning services. I appreciate the time that each choir member gives to the music program. Weekly rehearsals are well attended...singing and fellowship are enjoyed by all. I try to select a variety of anthems for the choir to sing; from easier 2-part anthems to more challenging 4-piece anthems. **Additional singers are always needed!** In many churches, choirs are going the way of pay phones and Blockbuster video stores. It is important that we continue to build and maintain the membership in the choir to ensure its continued presence at St. Martha's.

The Handbell Choir rehearses weekly and has played for various services throughout the year. The choir is made up of 11 ringers. These people are dedicated and committed to make the Handbell Choir successful. Several ringers attended a bell ringing technique workshop last year. The Handbell Choir always enjoys ringing at St. Martha's Christmas luncheon.

Two concerts were performed at St. Martha's in the past year. On Sunday, July 9th, Jim Worthing presented an uplifting and inspiring concert. The proceeds from the concert, \$300, was donated to Operation Seas the Day. "Celtic to Classical" performed on August 12th. This concert was performed by a group of

renowned musicians and brought the audience to their feet several times!! In order for me to schedule concerts for St. Martha's, I need your support by filling every seat in the church! We are fortunate to be able to bring quality performers to our church, and by showing your support, that will be able to continue.

As we move forward to a new year, I would encourage you to join St. Martha's music program for fun, fellowship and a whole lot of singing and ringing!

Musically Yours,

David C. Kemper

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - JACLYN HICKMAN

It has been an exciting and busy first few months getting to know all the new faces at St. Martha's as well as getting acquainted with the operations of the Office and overall Church. I very much appreciate the warm welcome I've received and the time spent by various members who stopped by to personally introduce themselves. So far so good, as far as daily operations of the Office. Everything appears to run fairly smooth from what I've seen. I am very appreciative to the many volunteers who help with the weekly task of preparing the service folders and I enjoy their company when they are here as well.

Based on the report provided by my predecessor there have been many improvements made to communications over time. I realize how critical this area is to the congregation and the Church as a whole and note that there is always room for improvement. I will do my best to try to make adjustments as necessary and welcome suggestions.

The Parish Hall continues to be used for a variety of Church and community related events. The Administrative Assistant makes sure those using St. Martha's facilities are aware of the rules and policies. Facility use is a topic currently under discussion and we look to implement a more formal policy in the future.

The Messenger continues to be published monthly and is a fun and informative way to keep the lines of communication open. It appears on St. Martha's Website along with the most current weekly announcements, Calendars, Membership Directory and schedule for Layreaders, Servers, Acolytes, Pops, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild and Tellers.

I have enjoyed the time I've spent working in the Parish office thus far and getting to know everyone. I'm very much looking forward to the months to come here in my role as Administrative Assistant. I thank you all allowing me the opportunity to support St. Martha's and be a part of such a wonderful community of people.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our Mission: The Outreach ministry of St. Martha's church shall display the Love of Christ by sharing our resources with others to help improve the quality of life of those in need in our community.

Committee members – Paula Anderson, Carol Boebel, Diane Catlin, Tom Catlin, Don Clarke (Chairman), Diane Gay, Barbara Gerk, Ron Gerk, Sharon Korody, Sandy Roberts, Johann Ross, Eric West and Lanny Moore, Vestry rep.

The Outreach Committee oversees the following projects in service to our community:

ANGEL TREE - You provided 94 Christmas gifts (value=\$1880) and we delivered them to the children at the Hickory Tree after school program, John M. Clayton Elementary and Philip Showell Elementary Schools.

BACKPACK AND SUPPLY PROJECT - You provided backpacks (value=\$2640) filled with school supplies and we delivered them to 44 children at the Hickory Tree after school program, Philip Showell and John M. Clayton Schools. In addition, several of the children at John M. Clayton were given bags of personal care products.

BEEF STEW AND CHILI DRIVE - \$905 raised from the congregation purchased 105 cases of beef stew and chili to provide protein rich meals during the winter months. They were distributed to the Indian River School District (IRSD) Food Pantry in Frankford and the Community Food Pantry at Salem Methodist Church in Selbyville.

CAMP ARROWHEAD – We sponsored 7 children to attend a one week summer session at Camp Arrowhead at a total cost of \$3092. The campers were from John M. Clayton Elementary School, Philip Showell Elementary School and Lord Baltimore Elementary School. We also contributed \$1500 to their Capital Campaign building fund.

CLOTHING OUR KIDS – To date, we have given \$500 to this organization which provides clothing to needy families in Sussex county.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – To date, we have given \$400 to John M. Clayton Elementary and \$350 to Philip Showell Elementary Schools to provide additional proteins to reduced and free lunch children.

FOOD PANTRIES – You donated and we collected and delivered foods, personal care products and clothing (value = \$906) to the local food pantries. The Indian River School District food pantry was our primary recipient, however we also donated to The Community Food Pantry at Salem United Methodist Church, the Pyle Center and The Way Home. In March our Diaper Drive provided over 1500 diapers and baby wipes (value=\$318) to the Indian River School District Food Pantry.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS - You provided 50 Thanksgiving dinners (value=\$2010) to local needy families from the Hickory Tree after school program and John M. Clayton and Philip Showell Elementary Schools.

THE WAY HOME – This facility in Millsboro provides inmates released from the Sussex Co. Detention center a temporary residence, guidance and support as they transition back into the local community. We contribute \$5500 annually to The Way Home representing the largest portion of the Outreach budget. The Way Home program substantially helps reduce recidivism in Sussex County.

EMERGENCY FUNDS – To date, we have donated \$1000 of our emergency funds to Episcopal Relief and Development for hurricane relief in Texas and Florida.

In addition to the above listed projects, the Outreach Committee gave financial support to the following: \$250 to Delaware Hospice, \$250 to Sussex County Habitat for Humanity and \$250 to Home of the Brave II (a temporary housing program for returning veteran women).

Also, several members of the Outreach committee share their time and talent as volunteers and mentors in the local schools and the Hickory Tree after school program.

Finally, The Outreach committee could not do all that it does without the generosity and support of the members of St. Martha's. From November 2016 through October of this year, the congregation and visitors of St. Martha's have donated over \$7400 worth of foods, clothing and personal care products. We are truly grateful and sincerely thank you for all you do to reflect the spirit of giving at St. Martha's.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMITTEE

Please note that this year we will not mention individual parishioners by name in this report because so many wonderful people volunteered and pioneered very successful new ideas that showed students the best traits of our church and our country.

St Martha's outreach to help international students have safe, healthy, rewarding experiences in the US continued to grow in 2017. Our 12th Annual "Welcome to the Community Picnic" was supported by hands-on participation from more parishioners than ever before. It was also generously supported for the first time by local police and emergency medical aids distributing helpful information, about 10 interested community residents offering helping hands, wonderful food and door prize donations from about 15 businesses, and even a strolling magician from Dickens Parlour Theater. And while the picnic was underway a few of our trusty old timers that can still use a hand-operated screw driver attached safety lights

on bikes and gave out bright colored safety vests. All that while one parishioner taught students to play chess. The beneficiaries of all this hard work and generous community spirit were about 90 students from over 10 countries, who as they do every year, tell us Americans are the most generous welcoming people they have ever met. What a meaningful life lesson to be able to pass on to these J1 visa students, who will likely become the next generation of leaders in their home countries.

This year we also expanded our "post picnic" outreach. We continued offering informal "practice English" sessions adding new ideas such as giving students free copies of popular US magazines donated by parishioners and English dictionaries from our always overflowing book sale closet. We also added a well-attended free Stand-Up Paddle Board lesson from Bethany Beach Surf Shop, small group "home dinner" visits for students to see American homes and join in making home cooked food, and small group trips to University of Delaware Engineering Labs and the NASA Wallops Island museum. One parishioner even took the time to research and host an end of Ramadan "Eid al-Fitr" feast for students that were practicing Muslims. And as always, some parishioners reactivated their "guardian angel super powers" to find local volunteers to properly house students escaping substandard housing and assist another student recover logistically and legally after being hit by a car.

Each year presents us with different challenges and opportunities. This year, due to a shortage of students, many students accepted second jobs early on. This depressed attendance at our practice English sessions but gave us the opportunity to try hosting home dinners, group trips, etc. All those experiments were successful. We will soon be meeting to discuss what to keep and what to drop in 2018. Additionally, we will be discussing how/if we at St Martha's can work with other organizations, such as the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce, to build a list of homeowners interested in renting safe, healthy rooms to students. We will keep you informed of our progress.

LIGHTHIPE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chairperson—Tempe Steen

Participating Members—Phil Fleming, Frank Bell and the Rev. Mary L. Allen for St. Martha's and Steve Boyden, Tom Sombar, Ron Truitt for the Trustees. In addition, Dave Moore, Joe Reardon, Ron Kerchner and Don Boebel participated this year.

Purpose or Goal of Ministry—Determine potential uses and if any buyer(s) exist, negotiate contract and sell the property, gift from Mary Ann Short Lighthipe.

Activities or Accomplishments—Committee has met regularly, reviewing the status of the agreement of sale executed with WindandSea LLC/Convergence (original company) (now Lighthipe LLC) for \$3,000,000, closing to occur in one year or as extended with specific additional deposits and increase in price. This Agreement was executed in December, 2012.

Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the Diocese will retain 5 acres for the benefit of St. Martha's. The initial deposit was \$25,000 and the second deposit was \$100,000. These are nonrefundable (unless there is some default by the Diocese/St. Martha's). Closing is to occur one year from the date of the Chancery Court Order clearing title (received April 4, 2013).

Pursuant to the Agreement and Amendment in 2015, the Buyer has exercised the extensions for additional payments. Closing is now contracted for April 10, 2018.

Although closing on the contract was to be scheduled for April, 2017, during the late winter the Buyer asked for an extension. We were not interested in doing so but the terms for a one-year extension were attractive and we had not yet determined uses for the property. After further negotiation, the contract was modified to include the 5 acres originally to be retained by the Diocese/St. Martha's and extended for one year; the purchase price was increased to \$4,028,845.00; an additional nonrefundable deposit of \$350,000 was made; and the Buyer agreed to make a donation of \$75,000, paid quarterly, directly to St. Martha's and has performed to date. The new closing date is April 10, 2018. If Buyer determines not to close, then in April, 2018, the contract will become void and the property and title will remain in the Diocesan Trustees' for the benefit of St. Martha's.

The local farmer who has been tilling the property for years entered into an agreement for continuing for 2017 for \$1,500, ½ of which has been received and the remainder due December 1.

The Trustees of the Diocese are holding the deposits in escrow; the current total is approximately \$904,885, which will be applied to the purchase price at closing. The interest is being used to pay costs related to the negotiation, execution and potential closing on the Agreement of Sale.

The Developer had purchased the property adjacent to the south, the Berzin's property, and is currently developing that into "Ocean View Beach Club", a mixed residential use community. Homes are being built by K. Hovnanian.

****Plans/ Visions/Goals for 2018**—*As we approach closing on the property, S. Martha’s must focus on articulating our mission and potential uses for this gift. Without a clear statement of vision and plans, we will not be able to show the Trustees of the Diocese (who hold the funds) that we are ready to receive and use the funds gifted by Mary Lighthipe for the mission of this parish.*

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chairperson—Tempe Steen

Participating Members—Clem Edgar, Mary Thormeyer, Dianne Burlew, and Jere Wise; Vestry liaison- Tempe Steen

Purpose or Goal of Ministry—To help ensure open communication between staff and Vestry; to avoid misunderstandings; to maintain fair and objective personnel procedures. To this end, the Committee reviews/recommends policies and carries out its responsibilities under the policies as provided.

Activities or Accomplishments —The Personnel Committee assisted the Rector with the exit interview of the parish administrator who resigned for health reasons. In addition, the committee assisted the Rector with the advertising, interviewing and hiring of a replacement parish administrator. During the Fall, the committee assisted in the reviewed performance of staff—Parish Musician and Parish Administrator, completing 2017. The Personnel Committee continues to provide guidance to staff and Rector as requested.

Plans/ Visions/Goals for 2018—Continue to oversee personnel and modify policies and procedures as necessary.

