

Altar Guild

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung susanjung@earthlink.net
Committee Chair: Joan Kengla jk2ridge@comcast.net
Committee Members: 13
Meeting Schedule: As needed

The Altar Guild is the Priest's partner in making the Worship life of our church run smoothly. We set the Altar for all Eucharist celebrations during the church year. We also assist with Weddings and Funerals. The members of the Altar Guild also care for all our communion vessels, linens, vestments, and seasonal accessories. We meet every Saturday to prepare the church for Sunday services.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$1000	\$1729
Restricted Funds	Beginning: \$1593	Income: \$800 Expenses: \$1058 Ending: \$1335

I am honored to serve with these ladies: Diane Croft-Doane, Mutty Dixon, Vicki Conway, Susan Adkins, Susan Savage, Wilhelmina Wilson, Mary Vore, Cheryl Wheeler, Nancy New, Judith Kimsey, Jan Nabors and Ava Kay Champion. Many of these ladies also serve on many other ministries within St Matthew's.

We welcome all who are interested in learning and serving on our Altar Guild. Please feel free to ask any member about us.

Bread Ministry

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung susanjung@earthlink.net
Committee Chair: Sylvia Campbell soupab@comcast.net
Committee Members: 13

The Eucharistic Bread Ministry completed its fifteenth year in 2024 with thirteen members and Susan Jung as our Vestry Liaison and Fr. Tim Myers as our Worship Chair.

This ministry does not require budget funds from the church as each member is responsible for obtaining the required ingredients of whole wheat flour, yeast, salt, clover honey, oil and water for making the Bread during their appointed month.

The Communion Bread was made for all 8:00, 10:30, Holy Week, and Christmas services. Please note that wafers are used for wedding and funeral Eucharists.

The members of this ministry are Michael Chapman, Nancy Charron, Muttu Dixon, Frieda Marsh, Jessie Hurst, Terri Hurst, Vicki Conway, Oscar DeLeon, Karen Wilson, and Sylvia Campbell and our new members are Whitney Meyers, Debbie Lott, and Adah Cheatham.

This Ministry is open to men and women of St. Matthew's. Training is provided to all new members. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a member of the Bread Ministry.

Breakfast Ministry

Vestry Liaison: Clay Olbon olbonc@yahoo.com
Committee Chair: Trisha Voiles tvoiles@att.net
Committee Members: 20 families and groups

Kitchen Fund Reserved Balance:

Jan. 2024 – \$815.20, Income - \$2254.50, Expense - \$1210.18, Dec. 2024 - \$1859.52

THANK YOU! I would like to thank those who have hosted and those who have participated in the between services ministry of feeding our people and providing a space to make relationships with other members. We had 20 different families or groups volunteer to help create a welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ, as we share God's Love with the community.

Did you know there is a Breakfast Host Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office and a link to the Sign Up Genius on-line which is posted every week in the newsletter?

The Love Donations provide the Kitchen Fund help to purchase coffee, paper goods, etc. in the kitchen not just for breakfast, but for all kitchen use.

We welcome you to join in the Breakfast Fellowship every Sunday between services, approx. 9-9:45. If you are interested in hosting as a family or a group you can sign up on the monthly sign-up genius in the newsletter or contact me, Trisha Voiles. If you have never hosted and would like to shadow someone just let me know. "What Sunday is Best For You?"

Sincerely Submitted,

Trisha Voiles

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Vestry Liaison:	Clay Olbon olbonc@yahoo.com
Committee Chair:	Gregory Andrews ctigregory@aol.com
# Committee Members:	20
YTD Budget Balance:	\$1400+ (Not receiving funds from the church)

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

Bible Study, Service and Prayer are the focus of the Oren W. Morris Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Meeting every other Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., men and youth of the parish enjoy fellowship, wonderful food and an informal Bible study. Conversation is likely, practical, personal and often hilarious! The Brotherhood enjoys fellowship gained through service projects within the Parish, frequently centering on our well-deserved reputation for good cooking! If you are looking for close friendships, warm fellowship a wide-ranging discussion of the Bible and an opportunity to serve St. Matthew, come and be a part of the Brotherhood.

What are your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Our major accomplishments for the year have been the following:

- Provided fish dinners for the Annual Meeting in February
- Provided lunch for the spring and fall Parish Work Day
- Donated \$200 to the Garden Guild to help beautify the church grounds
- Repaired and cleaned the Meditation Path that Josh Hurst had created as an Eagle project
- Continue to support the many outgoing projects of the church

What have been your biggest challenges?

Dealing with the ongoing issue of an aging membership, continuing to recruit those younger men of the church.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

We hope to have our Annual Fish Fry and continue to provide a sound foundation for the men of the church. Supporting the church in everything that we can.

Is a leadership succession plan needed for this Ministry?

Greg will continue to serve the Brotherhood until removed by the members.

Buildings and Grounds

Vestry Liaison: Bruce Bowen bbowen790@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Steve Charron scharron@comcast.net

Thanks to the work of many people, the building and grounds are doing OK. Property takes maintenance and we have been doing our best to keep it at its best.

Highlights

Property maintenance: Want to thank all the Janis and her team who take care of keeping the “gardens” of the property looking nice and Yard King Lawn Care for keeping the grass under control. Like to thank all the folks who showed up for Spring and Fall cleaning to do the extra cleaning of the inside of the church beyond what Status Cleaning does weekly to keep the church operational.

Recycling: The county charges a fee to pick up the recycling bin and then has a fine if the bin is “contaminated” with non-recyclable items. With the fence around the trash bin, we were having neighbors contaminating our recycling bin so our trash bill was going up and our recycling was not. With that we removed the recycling bin and are working on a new recycling process.

Kitchen maintenance: The disposal leak was repaired. The freezer needs a repair to fix the defroster (manual defrosts have been done to avoid this expense for a few months). Water leak in the pantry resolved by Steve cleaning the roof gutters above the pantry. The ice maker will need a new water pump.

Library: The large table was wonderfully redone by Mark after many years of wear to the old table.

Pre-school: Boys bathroom, the exhaust fan mount failed and Steve managed to re-solder the mount to avoid having to spend \$500 on a new fan.

Lighting: Many fluorescent lights have been replaced and some ballasts have died. As ballasts die, I have started to remove the ballast and put in LED lights that don't require ballasts. LED lights that go in with a ballast cost more than fluorescent and don't last longer than them. The direct LED lights have the long lifespan expected of LED bulbs.

Pre-school water heater: The original water heater for the preschool failed and had to be replaced.

Security: Tim asked to look into a “panic button” for the altar area and it led to a security evaluation for the entire campus. We are looking at upgrading our Ring camera system and old door locks to a new integrated commercial system. Federal grants may heavily subsidize the cost.

Christian Formation

To plan and implement all Christian Formation programs and events at St. Matthew's.

Vestry Liaison: Carolyn Coil carolyncoil43@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Mona Livermont monalivermont@gmail.com
Committee Members: 10
Meeting Schedule: 3rd or 4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	4,000.00	2743.00
Restricted Funds	0.00	0.00

Accomplishments

Nursery program, Children's Chapel, Several options in Adult education, St. Matthew's 101 for Newcomers, The Chosen, Advent, Christmas & Easter special events, VBS, 3 classes for children (pre k - 2nd grade, 3rd -5 grades, and a joint Middle/High school class.

Challenges

Having enough volunteers, having teenagers show up for class on Sunday mornings, planning Confirmation class for youth, safeguarding training.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

Confirmation, Sunday school kick off, VBS, Rite of passage celebration.

Co-chairs for 2025

Carolyn Coil & Mona Livermont

This ministry has expanded as we see new needs arise. It has grown a great deal in the past year. As we continue to expand our formation offering, we will need more volunteers. Being a leader is as much a learning opportunity as being a participant.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

We ask for discernment as we continue to try to meet the formation needs of each person at St. Matthew.

Communications

Vestry Liaison: Amanda Livermont Alivermont81@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Chris Koriath Ckoriath@gmail.com
Committee Members: 5
Meeting Schedule: As needed

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$3000	\$879
Restricted Funds	Beginning: \$340	Income: \$664 Expenses: \$664 Ending: \$340

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- Forum in May for Cyber Security with Lyndsie Williams
- Reorganized the Audio Video booth to make it more functional
- Purchased an additional wireless microphone for the sanctuary
- Purchased a tv for the Screen Initiative that is a part of the Capital Campaign

What have been your biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge for the communications committee is maintaining engagement and ensuring content consistency. While we hope every parishioner will engage with and read all the content we share, we understand that's not always realistic. Our goal is to provide multiple ways for parishioners to access the information, helping them discover the beauty of what our parish offers. Another challenge is ensuring consistency in our content. To address this, we're working on implementing templates so that all content is shared uniformly and consistently across different platforms.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

- We'd like to install more screens around the parish to provide greater communication opportunities.
- We'd like to have the lighting in the front of the parish resolved to provide a better online experience.
- We'd like to replace the projector in the parish hall as it is very old and at the end of it's lifecycle.

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Chris Koriath will continue to be the chair for 2025.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

The communications committee aims to expand how people can learn about the wide range of offerings our parish provides. We value each committee and group and strive to ensure they feel recognized and highlighted as integral parts of our community.

Counting Team

Vestry Liaison: Dave Lott / dwlott51@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Clay Olbon / olbonc@yahoo.com
Committee Members: 12
Meeting Schedule: As needed

The counting team was formed to provide consistent financial control over our counting of the incoming funds including the weekly and other offerings. This team is tasked with counting the offering, scanning checks, documenting the accounts for cash offerings, physically depositing the offering at Wells Fargo, and providing a detailed report/documentation to the financial secretary. Additionally, the team has been tasked with confidentiality and a “short memory”.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$0	\$0
Restricted Funds	N/A	\$0

In the second year of this ministry, the counting team has coalesced into a strong group of folks that work in pairs every Sunday (and occasionally at other times) to document and deposit the offering. This has taken a significant load off of what was formerly a Vestry duty. It has also brought a level of consistency to the process that has reduced errors.

Clay will continue to be the committee chair in 2025. If you are interested in this ministry, please reach out.

Daughters of the King

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung susanjungcoaching.com
Committee Chair: Cecilia Billingsley cebill58@gmail.com
Committee Members: 32 Daughters

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The Ruth Chapter of the Daughters of the King is part of a national order whose mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth through prayer, service and evangelism. Every Daughter undertakes a Rule of Life, incorporating daily prayer "to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world; and through service vow to participate regularly in the worship, study and work of the church and assist the clergy in whatever way possible for the spiritual growth of the parish. Each Daughter chooses their own ministry to participate in at St. Matthew's church or in the wider community so you will see the cross we wear in many places. We come together in monthly meetings for fellowship, study and support.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- Starting around Lent, undertook our Study Guide for becoming a Daughter. The purpose of this study is to come closer to Christ and reflect upon a Rule of Life which all Daughters are called to develop for themselves.
- Welcomed three new Daughters at an installation in June during the 10:30am service after they had completed the Study and reinstated a long time Daughter.
- To strengthen our prayer life, will continue using sections of the DOK Spiritual Formation Guide during regular meetings, which are also emailed to Daughters who could not attend in person.
- Continued using a group email prayer chain for those requesting prayers through the Sunday request listing or direct requests made known.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Keeping Daughters engaged in monthly meetings for fellowship and support since individual Daughters are very active in all aspects of church life.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024?

- Plan to hold our Study Guide for becoming a Daughter of the King starting in mid March. We encourage all women who are interested in looking into becoming a Daughter to join us at this time. You do not have to commit until you have gone through the study.
- Continue during regular meetings using the Spiritual Formation Guide covering Forms of Prayer and Tools in Prayer.
- Continue providing Sunday breakfast for the congregation on Fathers Day in June, a Sunday in Advent and on Palm Sunday.

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Cecilia Billingsley, President | Gail Sawyer, Secretary | Peggy Isaacs – Treasurer

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Meetings are held at the church on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30am.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray? That the Daughters continue to hear and grow in the Spirit so they will be able to live their Rule of Life and serve the needs of their family, our St Matthew's family and the community that we all live in.

Episcopal Church Women

Vestry Liaison:	Clay Olbon olbonc@yahoo.com
Committee Chair:	Rebecca Bowen ribowen@yahoo.com
# Committee Members:	20-25
YTD Budget Balance:	\$506.98

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

To provide opportunities for spiritual growth through fellowship, service, and education to all women in the Diocese of Atlanta and Middle Georgia.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- In February, we attended the English Tea at Holy Trinity with 21 participants.
- Advent/Christmas event – We had a Christmas Luncheon with 28 ladies. Everyone made a Simmering Potpourri to take home. We also collected coffee, creamer, and sugar for the Church of the Common Ground. Rebecca and Bruce Bowen delivered these items to Church of the Common Ground.
- We also helped the Outreach Committee with the Angel Tree for the Quinn House. We collected gifts for 20 senior citizens.
- We met on January 19 to plan more events for 2025.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Scheduling events at a time that will work for most ladies and planning events that will encourage people to come and fellowship together.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

We met in January to discuss planning one event per quarter and how we plan to fundraise this year. We plan to participate more with the Outreach Committee.

Who will be the Chair for 2023? Rebecca Bowen

Would you like to share any other information about your work and Ministry? We want to get more ladies involved with ECW.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something special for which you would like us to pray?

We would like to have more events during the year with more participants.

The Diocesan Women's Retreat is scheduled for Camp Mikell the first weekend in May; we would like to see at least five participants from St. Matthews attend the weekend.

Fellowship

Vestry Liaison: Clay Olbon olbonc@yahoo.com
Committee Chair: Warren Drury wnncc@comcast.net
Committee Members: 16
Meeting Schedule: First Sunday of each month following the 10:30 Service

Fellowship provides opportunities for members of the congregation to gather together and get to know each other better through both on and off campus events and through shared meals.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$4000	\$2153
Restricted Funds	N/A	\$5282, balance \$0

Throughout the year fellowship attempt to hold family and budget friendly events. This past year with the help of our church family we

- Organized Restaurant Foyers, one per month
- Had a Mardi Gras Party
- Toured Gibbs Gardens in Spring
- Had a Kentucky Derby Party
- Went to a Striper's Baseball Game
- Went to the Fox Theater for a Tour and had lunch at Mary Mac's
- Helped Christian Formation with the Back to Christian Ed Luncheon
- Held an International Pot Luck Luncheon for St. Matthew's Day
- Had an Adult's Table for Trunk or Treat where the Committee dressed up as "Minions".
- Sponsored the Thanksgiving Luncheon and Pot Luck
- Sponsored Lessons and Carols reception.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Our biggest challenge is planning events that can engage the greatest number of our members. This includes limiting the financial cost of the event per participant as well as finding a time that does not exclude members with families or driving restrictions due to time of day and day light. We also welcome input from the congregation on how to improve our events, when to stop having a specific event or suggestions on new events that we should hold. We look forward to being able to work with other Church Committees in act in support of their programs.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

Coming Soon to a Newsletter near you!

Who will be the Chair for 2025? Warren Drury

Financial Committee Report

Before talking about what the finance committee is and does, it might be more helpful to talk about what the finance committee isn't and what it doesn't do. Contrary to what some might think, the finance committee isn't a secret society controlling every aspect of parish life from behind the scenes. Also, the finance committee doesn't decide how church funds get spent – that is the sole responsibility of your elected vestry.

Finance is a paradoxical ministry, and money is a paradoxical entity. When there isn't enough of it, there is no greater distraction than money. Though it may seem to conflict with our theology, money fuels many of the ministries at St. Matthew's and is essential to fulfilling its mission. One of the most important roles of finance ministry is to ensure that there is sufficient money to fulfill the mission of St. Matthew's. If we're performing finance ministry properly, finances won't be a distraction, and parishioners can devote their energies to serving God as God intended.

The finance committee is an advisory group to the vestry. On a monthly basis, we review income and expenditures, apprise the vestry of our status, and make recommendations as needed or requested. On an annual basis, the finance committee assists the vestry in preparing a budget based on financial commitments and funding requests. The vestry typically makes necessary adjustments to the draft budget before voting its approval. In short, we evaluate the past and present to help us plan for the future.

Finances have always been a challenge at St. Matthew's. After several years of declining revenues, the last two years have seen an uptick. (Thanks, Father Tim!) However, to put all this in perspective, **twenty years ago St. Matthew's income was 20% higher than it is today.** Just food for thought.

Thanks to the excellent stewardship of your vestry and ministry leaders, we finished the year with a modest surplus. **We are anticipating a 2025 deficit of about \$20,000**, so continued vigilance over expenses is necessary, as is an increase in giving.

If any of this sparks your interest, know that your interest is the only requirement to serve on the finance committee. New members are always welcome, and our meetings are open to all parishioners. We typically meet by Zoom at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of the month. If you would like to learn more about the work of the finance committee, please contact Mark DiGiovanni at 678 227-8142 or markdigiovanni@comcast.net.

Mark DiGiovanni

Financial Secretary

Flower Guild

Vestry Liaison:	Susan Jung susanjung@earthlink.net
Committee Chair:	Janis Williams jhw16@comcast.net
# Committee Members:	11
YTD Budget Balance:	Budget - \$200 Actual - \$455
Reserved Balance:	Jan 2024 - \$4,307.24 Income - \$4451.48 Expense - \$3828.89 End of Yr -\$4929.83

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

Our "Blooming Ministry" Flower Guild is now in its 11th year! You may remember the altar arrangements from long ago, and we've come a long way, thanks to the support and generous donations of St. Matthew's. Our members are honored and privileged to look at the natural world that God created, and have this opportunity to create something on the altar to glorify Him. Each flower is a miracle.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

We follow the liturgical calendar, creating arrangements for most Sundays, Weddings, Celebrations of Life, Lent, Advent, Pentecost, Christmas and other special occasions. We added new and returning flower guild members this year.

What have been your biggest challenges?

We are occasionally challenged in arranging, if supplies are limited due to extremes of weather, transportation, etc. We get creative and are working to enhance our gardens at St. Matthew's with these needs in mind.

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Janis Williams will continue as the Lead, God willing.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

We are now 11 members strong, but still need more volunteers. You will be trained in easy mechanics, and there is a wealth of creative ideas available online and in your imagination. Flower arranging is a tremendous pleasure and lots of fun. Everyone can make beautiful arrangements with beautiful flowers!

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Please pray for additional members to increase our significance and skills. Some of us love to work solo, and some with partners.

Inreach/Pastoral Care

Vestry Liaison: Sharon Hansen ed1claudia@yahoo.com
Committee Chair: Fr. Tim Meyers rector@stmatthewssnellville.org
Committee Members: 13

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The Inreach/Pastoral Care Committee identify parishioners who may be in need of assistance, contact, and prayer. The committee is set up with people with a variety of pastoral care backgrounds.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

When a need is identified, the ministry reaches out to see if there is a need for prayer, meals, communion visit, prayers of the people list, prayer shawls, visits, funeral arrangements.

Critical Prayer list

- Prayers for shut ins, transitions, and healing
- Grief Support Group/Deaths
- Prayers of the People List (non Parishioners)
- Mental Health Issues

What have been your biggest challenges?

One challenge is when we reach out to those parishioners we have not seen and there is not a response back.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

We will be setting up a **Funeral Shepards Committee** to help with funeral receptions. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Tim.

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Fr. Tim Meyers

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

The ministry is a confidential committee. If there is a need you or a family member has, please reach out to Fr. Tim

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Pray for all those in need for the 2025 year.

Knit, Crochet, Pray

Vestry Liaison:	Sharon Hansen ed1claudia@yahoo.com
Committee Chair:	Beth DiGiovanni bethdigiovanni@comcast.net
# Committee Members:	About 15
YTD Budget Balance:	\$1,265.55

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- In total, we create at least 52 Prayer Shawls and about 70 Prayer Squares
- Rosebud Episcopal Mission received from us:
 - 260 hat/scarf sets
 - 48 hat/scarf/gloves or mittens sets
 - 185 extra hats
 - 229 pairs of gloves/mittens
 - 7 headbands
 - 61 pairs of socks
 - 17 sets of wrist warmers
 - 5 extra scarves
- Winship Cancer Institute's Hope Lodge: 250 chemo caps
- Northside Gwinnett Hospital: 23+ preemie blankets, 21+ caps
- S.E. Gwinnett Co-Op: 20+ baby blankets
- Delmar Gardens Nursing Home: 66+ birthday placemats
- Episcopal Rosaries
 - At least 100 to parishioners
 - At least 150 to the Union City Police Department to distribute
- Outreach's Delmar Gardens Senior Veterans' Day Celebration: 100 crocheted poppy pins and keychains distributed
- Burnsville, NC donations: Approximately 20 hats, and prayer squares and blankets

What have been your biggest challenges?

Getting the money for mailing items to Rosebud Episcopal Mission in Mission, SD. However, we now have received much help through parishioner and Outreach donations.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2024? We plan to continue the listed projects and to do more with each group.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Probably it will remain the same! The members will decide.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry? We hope to help do more each year.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Please pray that we continue to have the members who donate their time, treasure, and talents and that we have enough funds to make and get items to the people in need.

We want to say praise prayers for the support of the rector, the parish, the Outreach Committee, the Lilburn Crafters, the ministry members, and Chuck Marsh.

Loaves & Fishes

Vestry Liaison: Sharon Hansen ed1claudia@yahoo.com
Committee Chair: Paula Pownell-Nix
Committee Members: Volunteers as needed to supply meals

Purpose/mission

The purpose of the Loaves and Fishes ministry is to supply short time food needs to families due to illness or accident.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$0	\$0
Restricted Funds	n/a	n/a

Loaves and Fishes has been led by Vicki Conway for many years and has passed on her leadership role to Paula Pownell-Nix. This ministry helps parishioners who have short term needs for meals. The ministry is looking for additional people who can contribute meals or restaurant gift cards on an as needed basis for our parishioners. The later part of this year there has not been a big need for meals as parishioners with needs have had strong family support.

Long Range Planning

Vestry Liaison: Nancy Griner grinerb@bellsouth.net

Committee Chair: Bret Hurst hurst44@bellsouth.net

Long Range Planning ministry focuses on strategies for St. Matthew's hard assets and plans for future growth needs. This includes anticipating needs of physical space for our growing congregation.

In the immediate past, we identified short term (1-6 months), intermediate (>6mon-3 years) and long term needs up to a 5 year span.

Our current, and most important task, is determining a working formula to maintain, repair and replace any of our possessions which God has given us. This is a proactive idea rather than one of reaction.

This committee is part of the financial stewardship allowing St. Matthew's to grow and thrive into the future without encumbering debt.

If you would care to participate in strategics with us, our chairperson is Bret Hurst and we meet quarterly.

Respectfully,

Nancy Griner, Vestry Liaison

Music

Vestry Liaison: Susan Jung, susanjung@earthlink.net
Committee Chair: Matthew Edwards, music@stmatthewssnellville.org
Committee Members: ~30
Adult Choir Practice: Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 p.m., Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Handbell Choir Practice: Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m., 4th Sundays 9:00-9:45 a.m.
Children's Choir Practice: Sundays after 10:30 a.m. service

Purpose/mission

To support and uplift the congregation's and worshippers' prayer and praise through music, nurture participants' musical gifts, and explore and expand the church's musical identity.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Budget	\$4000	\$1645
Restricted Funds	n/a	\$1507.34

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year? We began a new concert series that started with a talent show, continued with our annual lessons and carols, and will continue every other month in 2025. This concert series is an opportunity for both inreach and outreach and can be a fundraising arm for the capital campaign (which includes the organ campaign) and later for music scholarships for the youth.

Karen Whitehead and Deborah Herron restarted the children's choir, which gave its first performance in November and another in December.

Warren Drury continued his superb leadership of the handbell choir.

What have been your biggest challenges? We haven't faced any particularly big challenges this year. The organ behaved well this year (though shows its age more as it approaches 30 years).

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

February 23: Hymn Festival. April 13: Musical Stations of the Cross. October (date tba): Talent Show. December (date tba): Lessons and Carols.

We'd like to start exploring the possibility of hosting a handbell festival, which would entail bringing in a clinician and inviting area churches with handbell choirs to attend. We may explore a 2026 launch, with planning in 2025.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Opportunities for participation in the music programs beyond singing in the congregation continue to grow! No experience is required to participate in any of the music groups, as each leader is committed to helping new and veteran members alike explore, develop, and grow their musical skills. If you already have a musical skill in an area you don't see represented, reach out to Matthew Edwards and we'll look at how you can bring your musical skills into worship!

A quick note about the restricted funds: We'll plan to apply these music restricted funds to the new organ in the capital campaign.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray? For the continued health and fulfillment of all the participants and leaders. For the capital campaign, which includes a new organ.

Newcomers Committee

Vestry Liaison: Jan Nabors jnabors4155@bellsouth.net
Committee Chair: Diane Eberhart dleberhart@comcast.net
Committee Members: 12
YTD Budget Balance: Budget - \$1200 Actual – \$781

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

We greet people as they enter the church and identify visitors. We give them a visitors pkg. which is a blue bag, clip, pen and visitor card. We encourage them to fill out the card so we have their info and can follow up with them. We follow up with them to make sure they are getting connected to groups and people in the church.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

We had 60 adults and 10 children newcomers in 2024. We held out second St. Matt's 101 in Oct. which is a 4 week class held to introduce them to the church and all of the ministries and groups and activities they can be a part of. We had a light lunch for the first class and a full dinner after the last class. We feel that this class was a success. We had 15 people attend some or all 4 classes! All but one have joined St. Matthew's.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Having enough good greeters. We need people at the door every service every week. It is important that we identify new people and welcome them. Then follow up with them to make sure they are getting connected to the church. It is difficult to know when to offer them a membership form. We are working for a plan for this for 2025.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

We would like to offer Inquirer's Class in the first half of the year and St. Matt's 101 in the Fall.

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Diane Eberhart

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Newcomers was moved to Church Growth, which was renamed Welcome & Belong.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

That we find more people to be greeters.

Also, that we do our best to welcome all visitors with a smiling face and a helpful attitude.

Outreach

Vestry Liaison:	Lindsay Isaacs lindsayatl@gmail.com
Committee Chair:	Cheryl Wheeler cherly756@yahoo.com
# Committee Members:	5 mighty members!
YTD Budget Balance:	Budget - \$3,000 Actual - \$3,000
Reserved Balance (Outreach/Co-op):	Jan. 2024 - \$4,989 Income - \$5,783 Expense - \$6,635 End of Yr - \$4,137

The Outreach committee strives to meet the needs in our community, participating in events that will elevate dignity for as many people as possible by engaging our church family as volunteers, participants in events, and donations.

St. Matthew's is one of 22 Supporting Churches of the **Southeast Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry**, a food bank serving Snellville, Grayson, and the Gwinnett area of Loganville. In 2024, we supported the Co-op in several ways:

- Conducted two semi-annual food drives (January and June) and one stock-the-shelves volunteer opportunity (June)
- Collected donations of pantry items each month
- Served dinner to an average of 225 Co-op clients four times (January, April, July, September)
- Donated Wal-Mart gift cards for the Co-op's Christmas Program
- Donated 46 Matthew's Crate boxes containing ingredients for taco soup, gift cards for perishable ingredients, and information cards about St. Matthew's

We also support **Mending the Gap**, a nonprofit that provides companionship, food, cleaning products, and personal care items to nearly 700 low-income seniors monthly. In June, we sponsored the Mending the Gap Superheroes for Seniors 5K in Lilburn, manning a table at the event and offering information about St. Matthew's. Parishioners also participated in the event. In November, we donated 10 gift cards to their Thanksgiving program.

Youth involvement was greatly appreciated this year. They filled 25 Blessing Bags for the Co-op with many items and wrote uplifting notes for each bag.

There were several **Miscellaneous Projects**. We made donations and/or participated in the **Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk; FODAC Run Walk n Roll; Knit, Crochet & Pray's warm item collection for Rosebud Episcopal Mission; sock collection for Church of the Common Ground; Diocese of Western North Carolina Hurricane Relief; First Night Foster Care Bags Annual Council Service Project; Angel Tree through Quinn House for 20 Seniors with ECW;** and **Delmar Gardens Sing-a-longs with a special event on Veterans Day.**

You will find that our 2025 calendar, which will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board, is filled with many of the same events and opportunities to help the community. We thank you for all your participation and donations in 2024. For 2025, we ask for your continued support and participation in any outreach opportunities that interest you. With your help, we can do even more to share God's love with the community.

Cheryl Wheeler

St. Matthew's Preschool

Director: Dalex Sullivan, 770-978-1323

Enrollment: 90 students

Spots filled: 90 | Spots available: 8

Ministry Purpose: Educating our communities' children

Ministry Accomplishments:

- 2024-25 SY – Began the school year at 92% enrollment (with 8 classes)
- Retained 90% of the staff for this school year and hired two new members, one of whom is an alumni of the preschool.
- All other programs: Music, Technology, Science and Chapel continued as usual
- Continued holding Summer Camp in Summer 2024 with full enrollment in the July session
- Started a new afterschool program, NZone Sports. Students have the opportunity to learn and play various sports like soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and kickball.
- In-house field trips: Magic, Puppet and Reptile shows, Firefighters, and Snellville Police Officer.
- Held Scholastic book fair in the Spring & Fall.
- Spring 2024 semester fundraiser event: Art Auction was a successful fundraiser. Church parishioners donated many auction items as well as participated in the auction. Hosted a closing event for the Art Auction attended by preschool staff; current and alumni families; and church parishioners. A former student, William Zhang, (a child prodigy pianist) performed that evening.
- Fall 2024 semester events:
 - Thanksgiving Feast: We continued the international theme for our annual feast. We asked families to bring in their cultural favorites. This was a delicious success again!
 - Breakfast with Santa: Students enjoyed breakfast with their families, gave Santa their Christmas lists and took pictures with him.
 - Christmas Festivities: We were excited to be able to bring back the evening performance for this event. All of our students performed together in the sanctuary for a lovely evening event.
 - 2023-24 SY Graduations were held outside in the gardens and in the sanctuary. It was such a beautiful space on the church grounds to use and provided space between families that we plan to do so again for the 2024-25 SY.

Ministry Challenges:

- Achieving full enrollment in our Kindergarten class
- Scheduling substitutes during teacher absences
- Family Involved Programs planned for 2025:
 - Donuts with Dad: March 10, 2025
 - Sundaes with Mom: April 14, 2025
 - Luau: April 30 & May 1, 2025
 - Ballet Recital: May 9, 2025
 - Kindergarten Graduation: May 12, 2025 at 6:30pm
 - Preschool Graduation: May 13, 2025 at 6:30pm
 - Summer camps: June 9-13, 2025; July 21-25, 2025
 - School In-house Field Trips planned for 2025:
 - Puppet Show: Scheduled for January 17, 2025
 - 8 legged Scales (Reptile show): February 20-21, 2025

Technologies Currently Used:

- Televisions are utilized for educational purposes in the classrooms.
- Tablets are used by the children (each child once a week for a maximum time limit of 15 minutes).
- Staff use their personal cell phones to take pictures to upload for parents to Class Dojo. This allows parents to see photos of their children active in class and at school.

Prayers Needed:

- That the preschool continues to be surrounded by God's hedge of protection.
- That this outreach ministry touches many lives in the community.
- For 100% student enrollment for the 2025-26 school year.
- For continued good health for all staff, the children and their families.
- That we continue to retain and hire excellent, nurturing staff members as one school year comes to a close and we plan for the next.

Stewardship Committee 2024 Annual Report

Vestry Liaison: Wilhemina Wilson wilhemina465@hotmail.com
Committee Chair: Terri Hurst hurst10@bellsouth.net
Committee Members: 3

What is the purpose of this Ministry? To encourage parishioners to prayerfully and joyfully contribute to St. Matthew's their spiritual gifts, time, talent and treasure.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year? Increases in both pledges and overall giving in 2024 compared to 2023. The theme of our pledge campaign for 2025 is "Walk In Love," created by the Episcopal Network on Stewardship. As of 12/31/24, we see increases in both the number of pledges and the amounts pledged. We are excited to see more pledges from younger families, and the pledges for 2025 reflect the new growth and energy of the parish community. Two-thirds of the households pledging either increased their pledge from last year or are pledging for the first time. As our parish membership grows, we will continue to encourage parishioners to use their Time, Talent and Treasure at St. Matt's.

What have been your biggest challenges? Reduced attendance in person resulted in decreased engagement. The challenge is to shift the general perception of Stewardship as being "just about money."

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025? Stewardship campaign, hopefully some more events to increase awareness of and engagement with the various ministry opportunities within St. Matt's. Continued education about Spiritual Gifts, including a Parish Forum in February.

Who will be the Chair for 2025? Terri Hurst, looking for a Co-Chair

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry? Stewardship is not about balancing the parish budget. Rather, it's using the gifts that God has given us, to do the work to which God has called us. We give out of gratitude for all the blessings we receive.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray? Please pray that people will view Stewardship as a spiritual exercise and be encouraged to generously share the gifts God has given them.

Vacation Bible School 2024 Annual Report

Vestry Liaison: Carolyn Coil carolyncoil43@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Terri Hurst hurst10@bellsouth.net
Committee Members: 5

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

To share the love of God and the joy of the gospel with the children of St. Matthew's and the community at large through a week-long VBS program.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

Growing the VBS program in both volunteers and campers. We had more volunteers than we have since pre-pandemic years, with a large percentage being first-time VBS helpers.

What have been your biggest challenges?

Reaching out to families who have not returned to in-person worship since the pandemic.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

VBS in July, specific program TBD.

Who will be the Chair for 2024?

Terri Hurst, looking for co-chair.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry?

Although it can be an exhausting week, VBS is one of our greatest evangelism opportunities every year. Being able to share the gospel with children in a fun, energetic and joyful environment is a blessing for all involved. There are many ways to serve, even if only for one day.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

Please pray that people will be led by the Holy Spirit to serve through VBS; that families in the community will be drawn to God through our VBS program, and that all involved will feel the love of Jesus through this ministry. Pray that St. Matthew's as a community will shine the light of Christ into the community and that we will experience God's perfect provision.

Welcome & Belong Committee

Vestry Liaison: Jan Nabors inabors4155@bellsouth.net
Committee Chair: Trisha Voiles tvoiles@att.net
Committee Members: 6

What is the purpose of this Ministry?

The purpose of this ministry is to help St. Matthew's strive to be a welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ as we share God's love with the community.

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- **Ministry Name Change** – With discussion with Fr. Tim, the committee, and the vestry the change Church Growth to Welcome & Belong.
- **Newcomers** – A welcome procedure was set up to include: Greeters welcome and give the Newcomer packet with a St. Matts bag, clip magnet, pen, welcome card. Contact from Fr. Tim and Diane E. sends a handwritten St. Matthews card from the Parish. This year we had Inquirer's Class in the Spring for Confirmation. In the Fall was our second St. Matts 101 Session Sept 29-Oct 20.
- **Fam Jam (Young Family Group)** – Heather R is the contact person for the Young Family Group. Family gatherings are set up at off-site locations. Fam Jam/Young Family Group adults meet during Christian Formation to discuss different topics around parenting and how it brings it back to Jesus Christ.
- **Publications** – Events are posted on the webpage, in the Snellville Spirit, the Patch, and Facebook. We welcome any other suggestions of publications that we may try this coming year.
- **Street Banners** – Events are advertised with our street banners. Easter, Christmas, Blessing of the Animals, Trunk or Treat, Lessons & Carols, VBS, Vintage Bazaar
- **Birthday cards** – Vestry sends birthday cards to parishioners

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025?

Inquirers Class in the Winter, St. Matthews 101 in the Fall, Fam Jam Events, Trunk or Treat

Who will be the Chair for 2025?

Jan Nabors (unless new vestry assigned)– Vestry Liaison, Trisha Voiles – Chairperson, Diane Eberhart, Sam Renfro, Heather Roca, Debbie Wellbrock, Fr. Tim (Help with publications: Mindy Barringer, Susan Carson)

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

A continued increase in new members and for all to feel welcome and a sense of belonging at St. Matthew's.

Worship Committee

Vestry Liaison:	Susan Jung susanjung@earthlink.net
Committee Chair:	Father Tim Meyers (rector@stmatthewssnellville.org)
# Committee Members:	12
Meeting Schedule:	Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Purpose/Mission of the Ministry Area:

Father Tim's intent is for parishioners to grow closer to God and neighbor through self-examination and participation in community. Each month the committee works on detailed planning for the next upcoming liturgical season. Details include worship resources, logistical issues, and themes for aesthetic benefits.

In addition, the committee reviews and assesses each previous season to determine what works well in the service and how some things can be modified or enhanced to better meet the needs of the parishioners.

Most Significant Accomplishments:

- Ashes to Go at 7:00 am and 5:00 pm on Ash Wednesday
- Children's Chapel added to 10:30 service
- Congregation invited to turn and face the narthex and cross during the closing procession, hymn, and dismissal (started during Easter and has continued)
- A prayer for the Election was used from Oct. 6 – Nov. 3
- Training for Acolytes
- St. Matthew's musical talent show held in October
- Children's Choir initiated and began practice
- The New Zealand Prayer Book was used during Advent with prayers from the book, *Hear Our Prayers*
- First Sunday after Christmas – one service with Christmas Lessons and Carols
- Ministry heads were invited to the August Vestry meeting to help in forecasting the 2025 budget.
- Continued assessment and discussion of both services will be on the monthly agendas for 2025

Biggest Challenges:

Although the committee recognizes that "you can't please everyone all of the time," the members listen for feedback from parishioners and bring concerns to the meetings. Those concerns as well as suggestions are taken seriously, and sometimes hard decisions must be made.

Specific Prayer Requests for this Ministry:

Please pray that we continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our work, and that our decisions will reflect St. Matthews as a "welcoming home for all who seek Jesus Christ, as we share God's Love with the community."

Youth Ministry

Vestry Liaison: Jay Jones / dockjones@gmail.com
Committee Chair: Amanda Livermont / alivermont81@gmail.com
Committee Members: 20-25
Meeting Schedule: Ministry meets three times per month; committee meets as needed

Purpose/Mission: The youth ministry is where our middle and high school students can connect, have fun, and build their faith in Jesus.

Financial Summary

	Planned	Actual
Salary (P/T youth minister)	18,000.00	19,620.00 (plus diocesan pension)
Budget	1,500.00	1,500.00
Restricted Funds	6,037.11	6,037.11

What were your Ministry's most significant accomplishments this year?

- Establishing a bible study for high school students (Jessie Hurst is the lead volunteer).
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (youth fundraising event)
- Easter Passion play
- Hiring Mandy Johnson as our youth minister.
- New Beginnings (diocesan retreat for middle school youth)
- Barn night at the Jung Horse Farm
- Happening (diocesan retreat for high school youth)
- Thanksgiving Turkey Hunt fellowship event
- Blue Gnu event at Mall of Georgia Fellowship event
- Christmas caroling at Laurel Grove Senior Living Center

What have been your biggest challenges? Our biggest challenge is growing the ministry and meet the spiritual needs of our youth.

What programs or events does your Ministry have planned for 2025? To hold the annual youth retreat this year. The retreat is traditionally held every August. However, it was cancelled due to the search for a new youth minister. Mandy came onboard in July, which was not enough time to plan for a successful retreat. We will look for new opportunities in ministry and community as Mandy becomes more established in her position.

Who will be the Chair for 2025? Amanda Livermont will continue as youth ministry chair, but we will be engaging with adults to find new leaders for the ministry committee.

Any other information you would like to share about your work and your Ministry? In addition to the high school bible study held during the week, the youth ministry has establish a new bible study for middle school students. The first middle school bible study was held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.

As we pray for your Ministry throughout the year, is there something specific for which you would like us to pray?

We ask for blessings for those who work in ministering to and supporting our youth as they develop their walk with Christ.