



ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4301 Avenue D. Brooklyn, NY, 11203

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DECEMBER 03, 2017

Agenda

&

Reports from Ministries on their Activities

2016-2017

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

4301 Avenue D, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203

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AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 2017

*The Celebration of the Eucharist ends with Altar party procession and dismissal.
Clergy remove Eucharistic vestments and return as choir sings.*

- I. Meeting is opened with prayer and called to order.
- II. Introductory remarks and the scope of the mtg. – Fr. Womack
- III. Reading and acceptance of the Minutes from the 2016 mtg. -
Dr. Wedderburn
- IV. Explanation of the voting process, nominations from the floor, voting
– Mr. Pryce
- V. Completion and collection of ballots – Election Team
- VI. Distribution of question cards
- VII. Treasurer’s Report – Mr. Sisnett and Mr. Kirton
- VIII. Brief period to write questions on Treasurer’s Report
- IX. Management and Finance Highlights – Ms. Leacock
- X. Brief period to write questions from Management and Finance
- XI. Spirituality and Formation Highlights – Mr. Jackson
- XII. Brief period to write questions from Spirituality and Formation
- XIII. Mission and Ministry Highlights – Frs. Womack, Diele and report
from Lift Every Voice group
- XIV. Brief period to write questions from Mission and Ministry Highlights
- XV. Election results announced – Mr. Pryce and Fr. Womack
- XVI. Q & A



XVII. Prayer and Adjournment

PARISH COUNCIL

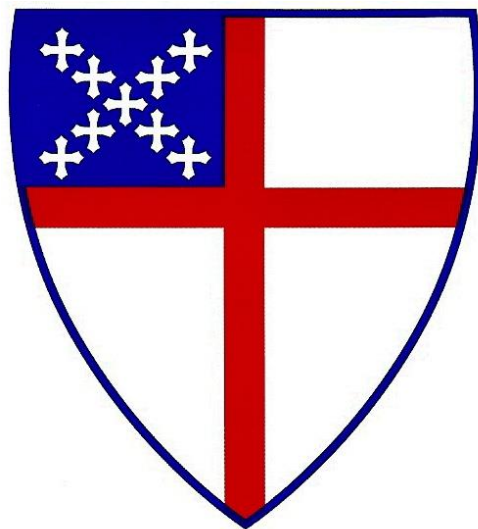
Mission: To prepare and actively manage the church's Calendar of Events and to provide support for the missions of Council members, consistent with the structure of the calendar, so that the core mission of the Parish of St. Augustine's is preserved and effectively accomplished.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017:

- Council developed and managed the Parish's Calendar for the year 2017.
- The Council holds monthly meetings in which we strive to strengthen and maintain communication and leadership among the various ministries.
- The Council supported the efforts the Rector's Guild for the Energy Rally held in the spring and the fall. Council members provide food and service for the selling of breakfast and lunch.
- Police, firefighters, and first responders Sunday, members of the Parish Council provided food and assistance with the distribution.
- The Council continues to organize the collection of non-perishable food through the generous donations of church parishioners to distribute to those in need. We successfully distributed food to 55 families for Thanksgiving

Contact: Madeline Ford
917-804-5357
madelineaford@verizon.net





ALTAR



ACOLYTE GUILD

Mission: To serve God in the church by preparing and assisting the clergy in leading the celebration of all services.

The Acolyte Ministry continues to grow by adding three new members this year. In February, nine members represented the church at the Absalom Jones service at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. In May five members represented the church at the Diocesan Confirmation held at St. Ann and Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights. In October fourteen members represented the church at the National Acolyte Festival at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. We have continued to provide diligent service to the various worship services throughout the year. We have a continuous need for new members to join us in committed service in this part of God's vineyard.

Contact: Cheryl Vaughan
718-530-5503
Kelvin Browne
718-877-6724

ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Mission: It is the Altar Guild's responsibility for the preparation of the Altar before each service, and to make sure adequate sacristy facilities are provided.

Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Activities

On March 14, 2017, a general workshop was conducted by the Altar Guild.

Contact: Miriam Coombs
718-629-5391



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS' / LICENSED EUCHARISTIC VISITORS' MINISTRY

Mission: To dedicate our lives to serve God, His Church and His people; assist the clergy in the administration of the Blessed Sacrament and take the Holy Eucharist to the sick and shut-in.

At the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we administer the Chalice. We continue to participate in the celebration of Holy Baptism as well as memorials and funerals at the church. Our ongoing mission to bring Christ's presence to the sick and shut-in members of our parish by taking the Holy Eucharist to them remains unwavering although we experienced a decrease in the number of visits since the last APM. Additionally, we arranged clergy visits for our sick and shut in members (at their request) for special celebrations; we also arranged clergy visits for members of the parish (as requested) for ministrations at the time of death or near death.

We participated in various church events and activities that enrich our parish life and worship, this included the Celebration of a New Ministry as St. Augustine's 7th Rector was installed; visiting and praying with bereaved family members; actively participating in Lenten activities specifically weekly commemoration of the Stations of the Cross and Holy Week services;

This past year, we welcomed one new member each to the Eucharistic Ministers' and the Licensed Eucharistic Visitors' ministry. We are grateful that they have made a commitment to serve.

Fr James led our annual retreat this year and the theme was "Reconciliation: spiritual and physical". As we go forward together into another year, we will keep striving to integrate this year's theme for St Augustine's week into our work: The harvest is plentiful... we are your laborers.

The Ministry of Reading (Lectors)

Mission: To proclaim God's Word and lead the Intercessory prayers during liturgies.

The Lector's ministry continues to participate in St Augustine's worship experience through the reading of the appointed lessons and leading the intercessory prayers. By their humble and focused participation in this ministry, Lectors have continued to create a positive impact within our church services.

No new members were added this year; however, plans are underway for near future recruitment and training of prospective members.

As another Advent season begins, we will joyfully re-commit to one of the Marks of Mission of the Episcopal church which is: "to proclaim the Good News" (God's Word) with the promise of sharing hope for a resurrected life to everyone who hears the Word.

Contact: Joy Fletcher, Coordinator, Joyfle3@aol.com



MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT 2017

Mission: To spread the word of God and to spiritually minister to the members of the church, and the community through songs of praise and worship.

The Music Ministry of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is a dynamic group of members who seek to spread God's word through expressions of music, dance and art. Currently, the ministry is a coalition of the Chancel Choir, the Gospel Choir, The Youth Choir (Voices of Hope) and the Pan-A-Praise Steel Orchestra. The ministry also works in close collaboration with the Dance Ministry (Vessels of Praise).

During the past church year (2017: Advent 1 to Christ the King) the members have shared their talents and love of music with the congregation and wider community. The choirs continue to lead the Sunday mass (8am and 11am) in song every Sunday from September through June. The youth choir typically performs every first Sunday (Youth Sunday) at 11am service. The Pan-A-Praise would minister to the congregation every 4th Sunday.

During the year 2017, the music ministry presented the Christmas Concert (Glory of Christmas 2), the Lenten concert series (which featured presentations from Beverley Burton (Gospel singer and song writer), Anthony Alleyne (Gospel Singer), Bevon Semple (Gospel Singer) and D'Naysa Jordan (who ministered to our congregation on Palm Sunday Sunday), the Palm Sunday concert and also debuted a Pentecost Concert.

In addition, the choirs have been present at services during Holy Week and St. Augustine's Week. The steel band also hosted a concert during St. Augustine's week that featured steel bands from St. Luke's Episcopal and St. Mark's Episcopal. All of these bands have been seeded by members of the St. Augustine's Pan-A-Praise.

In the wider community, the choirs and steel band ministered at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church (Nick Perry Inauguration Ceremony), Church of the Nativity (Gospel Evensong), St. George's Episcopal (Founder's Week), St. Paul's UMC (Revival 2017, Ecumenical Service 2017) and Marcus Garvey Nursing Home. The Music Ministry extends its sincerest gratitude to the members and congregation of the St. Augustine's Episcopal Church for their continued support. We thank you for the many opportunities to minister to you and we look forward to your continued support in 2018 as we work together in this part of God's vineyard.



Activities for 2016-2017:

2016

- ◆ Dec. 20 Christmas Concert

2017

- ◆ March 20 Palm Sunday Concert
- ◆ June 04 Pentecost Concert
- ◆ Sept. 16 Pan-A-Praise Concert

Contact: Kurleigh Lowe, Minister of Music
musicminister@staugustinesbrooklyn.org



RECTOR'S GUILD MINISTRY

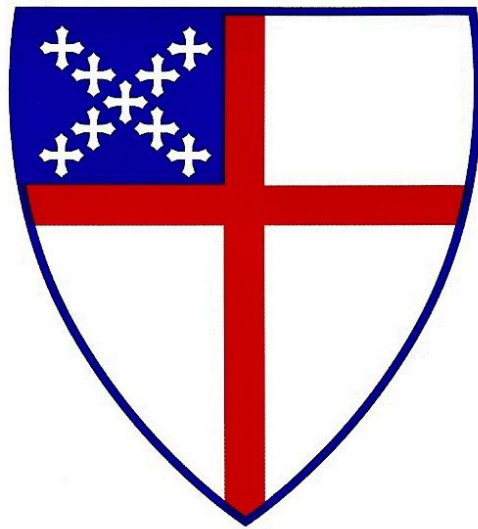
Mission: To support the Rector spiritually, morally and actively; communicate with the sick; and assist in hosting visiting clergy.

10-22-2016	Foxwoods Resort	\$605
4-22-2017	Hunterdon Hills Playhouse	<u>\$346</u>
.		\$951

Contact: Coleen Bascom
347-860-4180

Meeting 1st Sunday of each month after 11 a.m. Service





MISSION



BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Mission: To disciple men and boys, unto a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, through the lifelong disciplines of daily Prayer, Regular Bible Study and committed Service.

The Brotherhood members & associates have been committed to visiting sick and shut-in members periodically, also conducting regular bible studies as a group, on the third Sunday of each month.

Its members, in conjunction with the Boys Scouts, embarked on a kitchen garden project, at the back of the church building, across the street. and beautifying the front of the Church, by planting of flower beds.

On Saturday April, 29th 2017. members of the Brotherhood Chapter, assisted by the Boys Scouts, banded together and conducted painting of the Patterson's Hall St. Augustine's Church.

On Saturday June 3, 2017, the Brotherhood Chapter held its Annual Corporate Communion & Prayer Breakfast at St. Augustine's Church, which was well supported by church members and other brother chapters. The Brotherhood will be hosting, the Men's Day Service and celebration on Sunday 12th November, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church.

Contact: Anscelle Grant -Director
347-885-8770



CULTURAL HERITAGE MINISTRY

Mission: To enhance the cultural and social growth of the Church Family and to provide service to the community, with a strong emphasis on the appreciation on the appreciation of tradition and culture.

Activities for the Past Year:

The Cultural Heritage Ministry has sponsored and/or collaborated with others on the following events, 2017:

December 30, 2016 – Kwanzaa Celebration – Principles of Kwanzaa

January 15 Guest Speaker, Evangelist Reynold Fraser in Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday.

Bake Sale after both services in aid of the International Bazaar

February Black History Month Celebration, we produced the following Guest Speakers, focusing on the theme, “Love all people equally”, -Gal. 3:26.

05 Dr. Barbara Gordon, MD Obstetrics & Gynecology, New Generation Medical Practice, PLLC, Brooklyn, delivered a captivating message of love to the church at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

12 Observation of Absalom Jones, by our very own Rev’d Fr. Lawrence Womack

19 Rev. Jerome Robinson, Associate Minister at Gospel Missionary Baptist Church in Harlem delivered, yet another innovative and inspiring message, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
Joint Bake Sale with Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique

26 African American Heritage Day Program and Luncheon

July

08 International Bazaar - Provided a variety of Games and refreshments – Snow Cone, Popcorn, Hamburgers, and Hot Dogs

October

27 Family Night – Games; Karaoke

Contact: Roz Anthony, President



EDUCATION MINISTRY

Mission: To support educational endeavors throughout the parish of St. Augustine's and the community.

We hosted the Boasting Day in June and recognized almost 100 students for their efforts and scholarship.

We hosted Education Sunday in September at both services the speaker was our very own Rector, Fr. Womack.

The Scholarship Committee awarded \$5000 in scholarship money to five students for undergraduate and graduate studies through the generosity of the St. Augustine's congregation at the Annual Spring Luncheon.

We continue to promote education and encourage students to apply for the Prep for Prep Program and other scholarship opportunities.

Contact: Evelyn W. Castro
educationmin629@gmail.com



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) MINISTRY

Mission: The purpose of the Episcopal Church Women shall be to work and witness joyfully for Christ, seek to spread the gospel using all means available to us, encourage the varied ministries of the clergy and help strengthen the life of our church.

The ECW has had one fundraising raffle which consists of three (3) baskets (1st.prize a spa followed by 2 smaller ones). We also teamed up with MU with a collection of bras for a women's shelter, Grandparents Day where we made lunch for the members of the church who stayed back and took part of shearing what's it's like either being or was raised by grandparents which turned out very well. Last of all was our UTO which was held on 10/15/17 at both 8:00am and 11:00am service. We are looking forward to doing much more of community service going forward because our mission.

GOALS: (1) To increase membership annually by encouraging new members: (2) To support the activities of our organization. ECW Archdeaconry and the ECW of the Diocese of Long Island (i.e. annual United Thanks Offering, CPC, etc.) and (3) To collaborate with other organizations within and outside of St. Augustine's to strengthen the mission of our faith community.

Your Sister in Christ,
Yvette Huggins Gomez

Contact: Yvette Huggins Gomez



HEALTH GUILD MINISTRY

Mission: To promote the health and well-being of all church members as well as the surrounding community. To let all who serve in the Ministry be dedicated and have an interest in the health and well-being of all members, as well as members of the surrounding community.

The Guild has been involved in several activities during the year. We have continued to provide breakfast with the help of health members, and the members of the congregation after the 8'oclock service on Sunday mornings (referred to as "**free will breakfast**") and after the 10 o'clock service on Wednesday mornings.

Weekly visits continue to be made to members who are hospitalized, and the sick and shut-in members who can no longer come to church. Provision of food, pampers and supplements are given to them when they are visited. Seniors who come out on Wednesdays are also given the same supplies.

Weekly health screenings continue on Wednesdays, and the clothing drive on Saturdays is ongoing.

Young mothers are counseled especially those who attend the orientation before the children are christened and are given care packages.

On December 4, 2016, the Guild, in collaboration with the Office of Communication Ministry, hosted Red Ribbon Sunday, in commemoration of World Aids Day.

The Guild participated in the Annual International Bazaar and provided educational and counseling to the community and again provided blood pressure screening. We were fortunate to have Medical Students with specialty in various fields of study from Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Hospital whose services were very much appreciated.

The Guild partnered with St. Therese R.C. Church in Mammogram Screening. St. Luke's Day was celebrated as usual in October and most of the members came out to celebrate and the Guild sponsored the Coffee Hour after the 11 o'clock service.

Monthly meetings continue to be held on the 4th Saturday in each month and Corporate Communion on the 4th Sunday of each month with the exception of July and August. However, the work of the Guild continues in spite of this.

The Guild continues to be very active in Bereavement Counseling and at funerals. Members of the congregation who work in any area of health are encouraged to join the Guild and share their experiences and talents.

Contact: Cecelia Curtis, President



MOTHERS' UNION

CHRISTIAN CARE FOR FAMILIES

Mission: "To strengthen, preserve, and promote the well-being of Christian family life in our parish, community, and worldwide."

Outreach and Fundraising Activities:

- * On January 29th, 2017 we attended the commissioning service for the M.U.U.S.A newly elected officers in Silver Spring, Maryland, of which our own Mrs. Evelyn Alleyne became Vice President, and Mrs. Rosanna Brathwaite, Link Secretary.
- * **Dinner Sale:** We sold dinner on Psalm Sunday after the 11 o'clock service to facilitate those who stayed back for the Psalm Sunday concert.
- * **Women's Day:** On March 12, 2017, in collaboration with St. Augustine's ECW, we celebrated Women's Day at both 8:00 am and 11:00 am services.
- * **Fish Fry:** We hosted a Fish Fry on Good Friday following the mass. We had a very good turn out, and was well received by the church members.
- * **International Outreach:** The Archbishop of Canterbury, Global head of the Anglican Episcopal Church invited the Mothers' Union around the world to pray with him to help bring people closer to Christ. The theme was "Thy Kingdom Come" and it ran from May 25th, 2017 to June 4th, 2017. St. Augustine's night was May 30th and our Rector, Fr. Womack participated with us.
- * **M.U. North East Region Fundraising:** The North East Region of the Mothers' Union hosted a barbeque on July 22nd, 2017 at Epiphany and St. Simon's Episcopal Church. It was a success.
- * **Mentoring for Confirmation:** Mothers' Union mentored a candidate during her preparation for confirmation.
- * **Homeless Shelter Outreach:** We prepared meals for families in residence at a shelter on August 5th, 2017.
- * **Baptism Family Welcome Outreach:** We prepare welcome packages for the babies and try to encourage the families to join the St. Augustine Church family.
- * **Mothers' Union U.S.A. Conference:** We attended conference at the National 4-H Center, Chevy Chase, Maryland from August 11th - 15th. A gathering of M.U. members from all over the world were in attendance. This included the world wide President, Mrs. Lynne Tembey. It was very interesting and informative. The main topics were human trafficking, and race & reconciliation. That Sunday we worshiped at the Washington National Cathedral, and had meeting with the Cathedral Dean. We also visited Virginia Theological Seminary and they had a reception for us. We also had a tour of Washington DC. This conference was chaired by The Rev. Kim L. Coleman, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia. Additionally, we collected several boxes of bras with ECW for a Women's shelter in MD and prepared personal care packages for another shelter in MD.
- * **M.U. Anniversary Service:** Five (5) M.U. members went to Fort Lauderdale, Florida between September 29th to October 1st, to celebrate with The Episcopal Church of Atonement M.U. members on their 25th anniversary. The Rector Fr. Earl Henry use to be at St. Augustine and we saw a few former St. Augustine members.
- * **Anniversary and Enrollment Service:** We are preparing for our 12th Anniversary service on Sunday, November 12th, 2017.
- * **Annual Holiday Feeding and Toy Drive:** We are preparing for our annual Feeding, Toy Drive and Care Packages distribution in December.
- * **International Outreach:** We will be working with St. George's Episcopal Church to help Antigua and Barbuda after they were damaged by the recent hurricanes.

Contact: - Joan C. Lawson, H-718-251-4083, Cell. 347-987-6487. The ministry meets every 2nd Saturday



SENIOR PROGRAM

Mission: To promote activities and resources which are useful, practical and vital to help maintain a vibrant quality of life for our seniors.

Activities:

Health Guild members continue to provide blood pressure screening and counsel the seniors on ways to control and deal with issues when asked.

Medgar Evers students continue to provide lectures on Hypertension, Sleep Apnea, diet and exercise and medication safety.

The Center for Disease Prevention of Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center under the supervision of Dr. Gulmairasardo and R.N. Natasha Bowen, and Health Coach Michelle Jackson hosted a year-round program on Diabetes life saving techniques. For example, lasting life-long changes, eating healthier, and adding physical activities in their daily routine and improving coping skills.

Representatives from Human Resources and Social Security Administration provided information on how to apply for food stamps, home care, SSI benefits.

Brooklyn Arts Council continued sessions on line dancing and seniors visited Clarendon Senior Care Center and participated in a dance competition.

Councilman Jumanee Williams sponsored the dancing sessions and a music concert in the park and a Christmas Party at Tropical Paradise for all seniors and some of our seniors attended.

The seniors continue to celebrate their birthdays during the weekly group meetings. Luncheons were held to celebrate the following holidays: Pre-thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and the closing of the program for the summer.

The seniors hosted their first tea party where they were able to use their fine china. It was one of a kind. Everyone present had a marvelous time. Special thanks to members of St. Augustine's Pan-a-Praise and members of the Gospel Choir.

Mother Tatro and Teresa D. Calabrese, Esq. hosted a workshop on Living wills, Last will and Testament, Healthcare Proxy, Power of Attorney, Planning for care of children and much more.

Finally, thanks to all those who gave their time, talents and made donations towards the program, it was greatly appreciated and we look forward to your continued support.

Contact: Cecelia Curtis



SPECIAL PROJECTS OUTREACH MINISTRY

Mission: Since being transformed from a fundraising organization to an outreach ministry, we have not revised our mission.

Our purpose is to raise funds for, and build links with outreach organizations that are doing good in the community and the world.

History:

Initially established as a group to raise funds for projects requested by the Rector, as well as specialize in outreach mission, the Special Projects Ministry became the Special Projects Outreach Ministry, upon conversation with the Rector. It's purpose is solely to raise funds for, and build links with outreach organizations that are doing good in the community and in the world.

Interested parties can speak to the president. Our meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month or as needed. Dues are \$20 for the year.

Contact: Hyacinth Shepherd, President

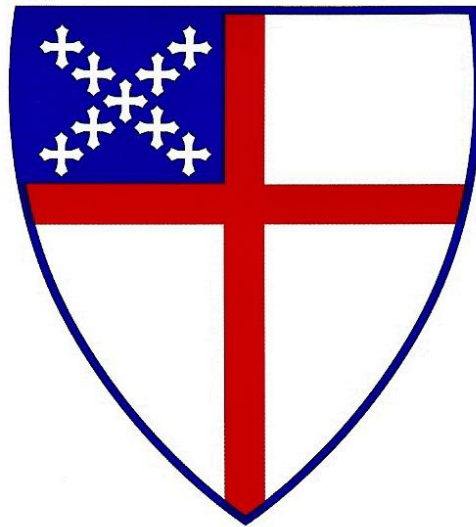
WELCOMING MINISTRY

Mission: To welcome all first-time visitors and friends.

To welcome all first-time visitors and friends into St. Augustine's faith community with open arms.

Contact: Kathleen Gamory
(718) 763 – 3861





CHILDREN & YOUTH



GIRL and BOY SCOUTS

Girl: Troops 2033, 2026, 2032, 2164 Boy: Unit 261

Mission: To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Our scouts continue to meet most Saturdays in the Noel (Girl Scouts) and Patterson (Boy Scouts) Halls, learning skills and having experiences that are preparing them for life and leadership.

Contacts: Girl Scouts – Yolande Collymore, Boy Scouts – Allyson Gillette/
Lynda Williams-Canaii

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY & SPIRITUAL FORMATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Mission: To provide a rich Christian foundation from infancy through young adulthood consistent with the teachings of the Episcopal Church and responsive to the needs of our children and young adults.

Sunday School meets in the Patterson Hall on the majority of the Sundays from October to June. We are guided by the *Living the Good News* curriculum. If you were to stop by on a Sunday, you would experience a lively, energetic Patterson Hall filled with young people (and adults) that are learning more about their faith through Scripture, stories and projects.

Contact: Lynda Williams-Canaii, Director
childrensmin629@gmail.com

DANCE MINISTRY ST. AUGUSTINE’S VESSELS OF PRAISE

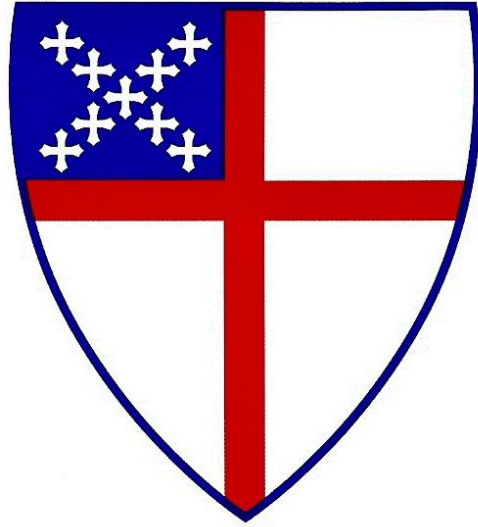
Mission: To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgical dance.

Meeting on Friday evenings, we have been working with two new choreographers this year. Our participation in the Pentecost Concert was a highlight of our Spring and we are looking forward to our next performances.

Contact: Kisha Mullin



dancemin629@gmail.com



FUNDRAISING



56 CLUB

Mission: To raise funds for the church building fund.

Activities:

March 18, 2017-Trip to Washington Museum	\$ 1,310.00
April 22, 2017- Prayer Breakfast	\$ 2,010.00
June 10, 2017- Bake Sale	\$ 728.12
August 25, 2017- Trip to Hollywood, PA	<u>\$ 1,100.00</u>
Total:	\$ 5,148.12

Contact: Hyacinth Goring



INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR COMMITTEE

Mission: To encourage the sharing of our cultural diversity in a street bazaar, through music, foods, games and social activities.

This year's Annual International Bazaar culminated on Saturday July 8th followed by International Sunday on July 9th 2017. Once again, the bazaar experienced a very successful year, as contributing countries and ministries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama and St. Kitts, USA and Cultural Heritage Ministry, and Health and Community Services) performed exceptionally well throughout the year.

Some of the activities included Curry Q's, Cake and Bake Sales, Bus Outings, Tea Parties, Breakfasts, Fish Fries and a Pre- Independence Day Boat Ride.

This year, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was the featured country. Their day began with a spectacular display of cultural talent and ethnic foods in their booth. Local Vincentian singers were among the performers and their entertainment was outstanding.

Staff members from the SUNY Downstate Medical Center were on hand to provide many health support services.

So too were members of the New York City Fire Department who appeared with the smoke truck to provide safety tips on fire and smoke emergencies.

There were other interactive entertainment and games, inclusive of dance competitions, musical chairs and scavenger hunts to name a few.

As usual, the supporters, spectators and other guests enjoyed themselves immensely. This year we had a great increase in children attendance and participation and they too had an exceptionally great time.

Net Proceeds from this year's bazaar was **\$33,663.00.**

Respectfully submitted by: Ormond Brathwaite, Coordinator

Contact: Ormond Brathwaite
917-864-3088
Ronbrath@aol.com
Cheryl Leacock
201-532-4199

Meeting
8:00AM or



Times: Every 3rd Sunday after
11:00AM Service

WILLING HANDS MINISTRY

Mission: To coordinate and sponsor fundraising events with proceeds going to carry out the objectives of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

The Willing Hands Ministry held two very successful fundraising events this year.

1. A Pre-Valentine's Day Party, held on February 10th 2017.
2. A weekend trip to Washington DC that included a visit to the National Museum and African American History and Culture Tour.
 - We hosted 110 patrons on this trip.
 - We were able to envision our history and culture.
 - It was very educational, interesting, and painstaking at times but for the most part it was very enjoyable. Many patrons would like us to repeat the tour.

Net Proceeds from the Pre-Valentine's Day Party-	\$2057
Net Proceeds from the Weekend Tour-	<u>\$6294</u>
Total Contributions for the year	\$8351

Contact: Yvonne Humphrey
718-451-0413

Meeting date: Every 3rd Saturday- Noel Hall 4:00PM



GIVING HEARTS

The Giving Hearts Ministry is no longer a fund-raising ministry at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

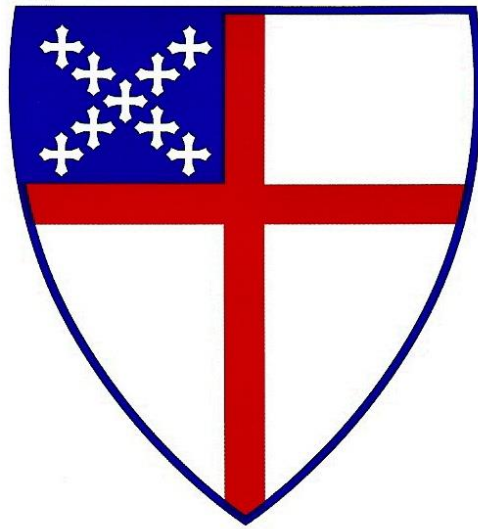
In June 2017, a meeting was held with Fr. Womack and it was decided because of lack of membership the present members should join other ministries.

This year, in order to raise funds, dinners were sold and a day trip was held in August. Proceeds from these along with other donations were deposited with the church.

We the members would like to express our sincere thanks to our St. Augustine's family and outside patrons for their support over the years.

Thanks again, and God Bless.





TREASURER'S REPORT

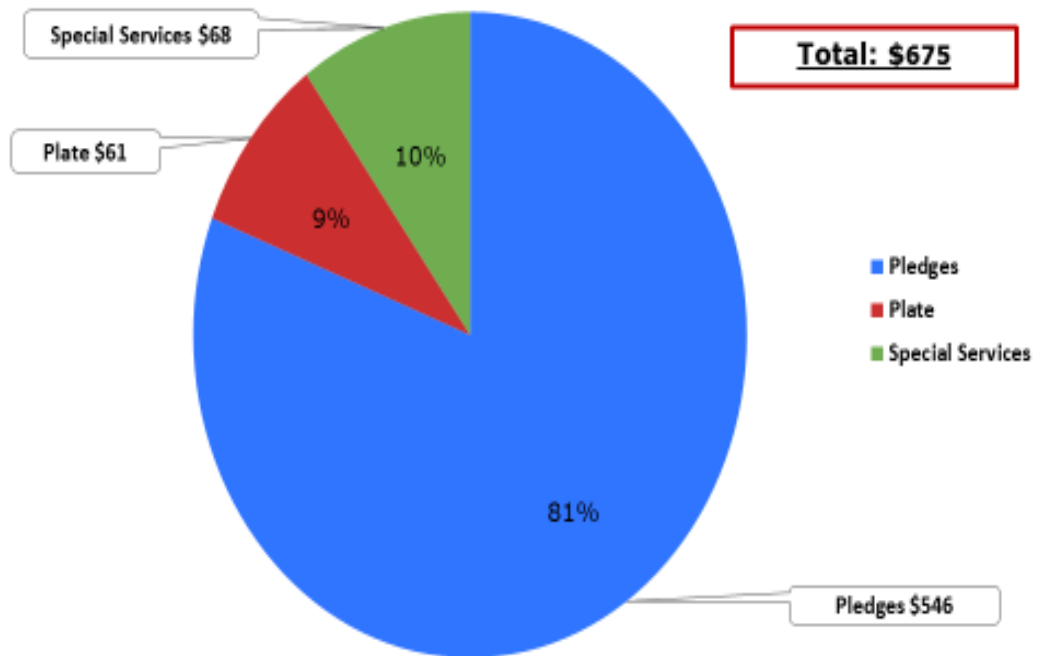


ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PLEDGES, PLATE AND SPECIAL SERVICES INCOME

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

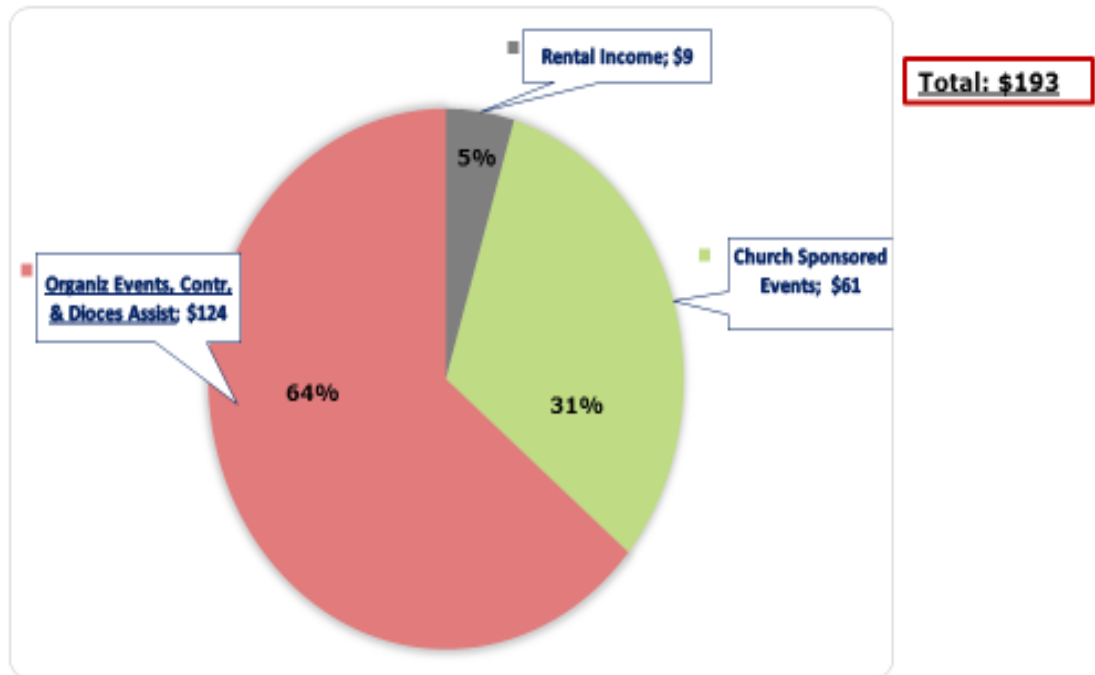
\$ in Thousands



ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

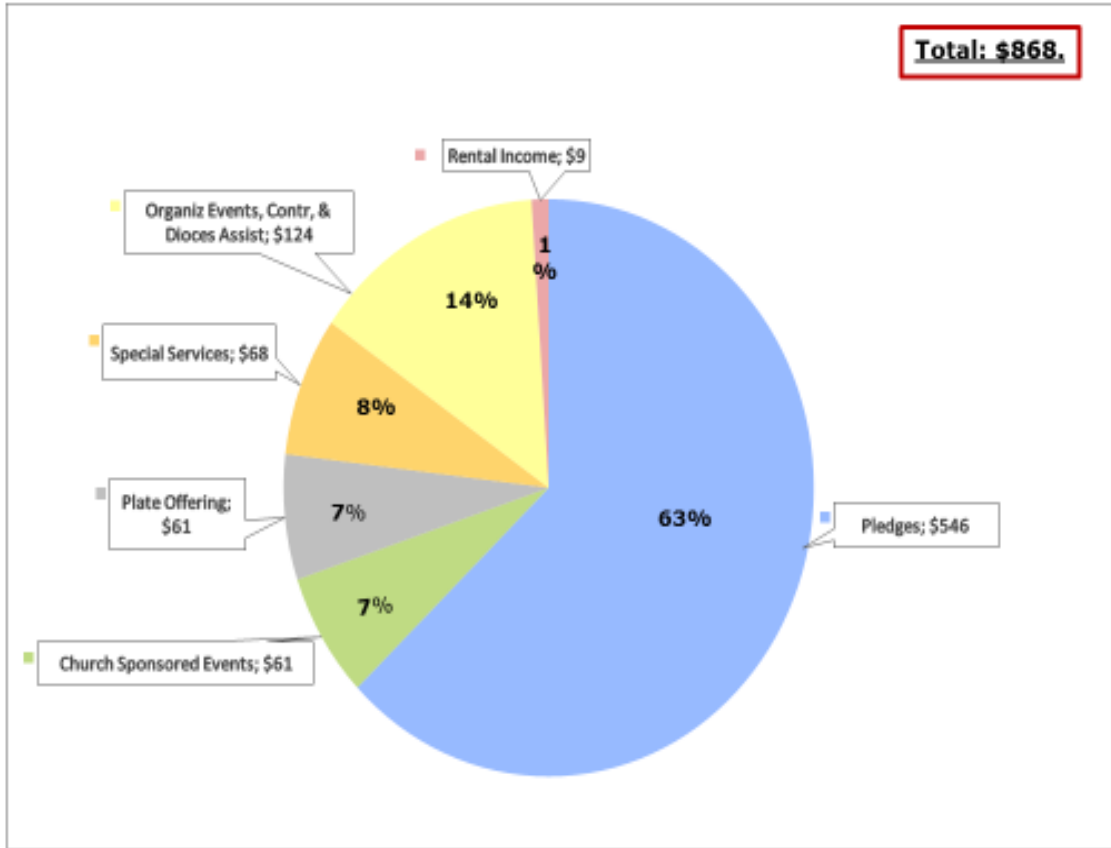
Rental, Church Sponsored, Organized Events, Contributions, and Diocesan Assistance

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016
\$ in Thousands



ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

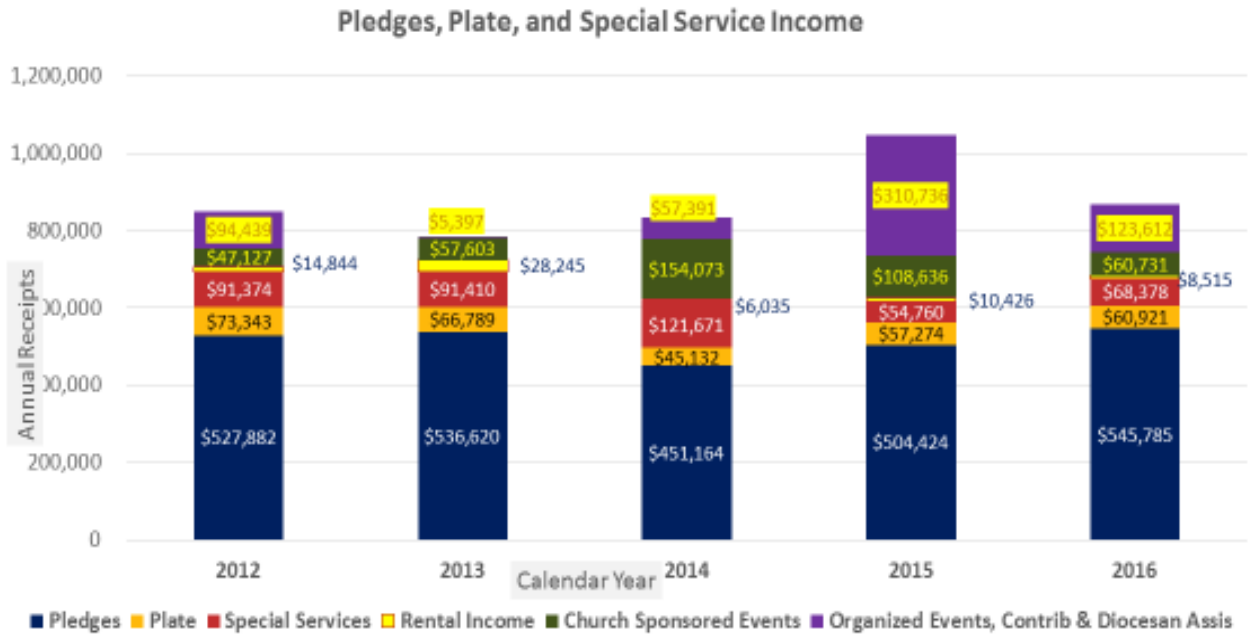
\$ in Thousands



3



INCOME COMPARISON OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS
\$ in thousands



INCOME COMPARISON OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

<u>Income from Pledges, Plate, and all Other Activities</u>						
<u>Income</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>
Pledges	\$ 527,881.95	\$ 536,620.12	\$ 451,164.44	\$ 504,424.00	\$ 545,785.00	63%
Plate	\$ 73,343.08	\$ 66,789.45	\$ 45,132.00	\$ 57,274.00	\$ 60,921.00	7%
Special Services	\$ 91,373.58	\$ 91,410.34	\$ 121,671.25	\$ 54,760.00	\$ 68,378.00	8%
Rental income	\$ 14,844.10	\$ 28,245.45	\$ 6,035.00	\$ 10,426.00	\$ 8,515.00	1%
Church Sponsored events	\$ 47,126.93	\$ 57,602.76	\$ 154,072.73	\$ 108,636.00	\$ 60,731.00	7%
Organizational Events & Contributions	\$ 94,439.16	\$ 5,396.60	\$ 57,391.02	\$ 35,401.00	\$ 123,612.00	14%
Special Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 215,335.00	\$ -	0%
Grant from Diocese of Long Island	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	0%
Total	\$849,008.80	\$786,064.72	\$835,466.44	\$1,046,256.00	\$ 867,942.00	100 %

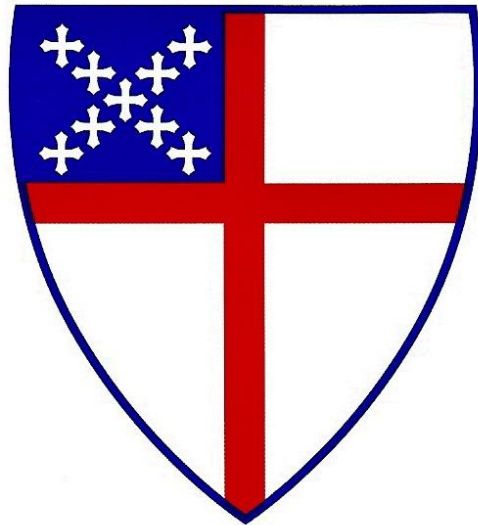


ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Equivalents		24,827	
Contributions receivable		0	
Pledges receivable		0	
	Total Current Assets	24,827	24,827
FIXED ASSETS			
Land		637,015	
Furniture, Equipment & Fixtures		166,375	
Accumulated Depreciation		(\$166,374)	
Building & Equipment		5,977,730	
Accumulated Depreciation (Bldg & Equip)		(2,971,543)	
	Total Fixed Assets		3,643,203
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other receivables		0	
Long-term Investments		17,822	17,822
TOTAL ASSETS			3,685,852
LIABILITIES & CAPITAL			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable		10,000	
Accrued Expenses		0	
Loans Payable Diocese of L. I.		71,414	
Mortgage Payable (ECBF Loan)		360,504	
	Total Liabilities		441,918
CAPITAL			
Capital Fund Balance			3,243,934
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL			3,685,852

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WARDENS' REPORTS



MANAGEMENT & FINANCE REPORT

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the standard of measure, you use, it will be measured to you in return." Luke 6:38.

This bible verse is on each of our offering envelopes. Does this mean that we will receive Gods graces if we give generously? We don't know when that is, but at St. Augustine's we give our offering in anticipation of God's glory.

Our year began with a new rector the Rev'd Lawrence M. Womack and we have been blessed. The Management and Finance team of the vestry oversees the finances of our church. It is our charge to see that our finances are conducted in a professional manner and protects the financial foundation of this church.

Our responsibilities include the weekly offering processing and all other special deposits and ensuring that the monies are deposited in a timely manner. We were accountable for ensuring that our bills were paid, and the payroll processed for our staff.

Looking Back

We attended the City of New York's seminar on Community Emergency Planning at Brooklyn Borough Hall where we learned how to prepare & respond to emergencies in houses of worship and how we can, as a faith community, create our own emergency plan.

With Thanks

This year, we said goodbye to Myrtle Bayne-Vaughan who has faithfully served as our Parish Administrator for 10 years. Myrtle leaves to serve in her other vocations and as a proud retiree and grandmother. Thank you, Myrtle, for your faithful service to St. Augustine's. You will be missed!

Thank you to Joan Mitchell who has served as interim Administrator since July and for her dedication in keeping up the various and sundry tasks connected with the running of the church office. Thank you to our guardian angels Shirley Bonadie and Lorna Potter for volunteering in the office and who are never too busy to greet visitors with a smile and are an excellent first impression for all entering the building.

We are thankful to The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano *Bishop of Long Island* for returning our beloved Fr. Joseph Diele to us. It is indeed a blessing to have you here at St. Augustine's again. Thank you also to The Rev. Marie Tatro, Vicar for Community Justice Ministry for the time that you spent here and for sharing your talents with us and for your dedication to this ministry. Thanks to Mr. Kurleigh Lowe who weekly shares his gifts and talents in music, and goes



above and beyond in leading our choirs, choosing hymns, and making arrangements for special music. As a congregation we are blessed to have you here.

Thank you to Nicole Gardner, Miriam Coombs, Lorna Potter and Claudette Brown for their sincere devotion to the children in their care in the afterschool program and in the Summer camp. Thank you to Cecelia Curtis for continued dedication and concern for our Seniors. Thank you to Noel Roberts for sharing your gifts and talents with us.

Many thanks to Corey Montague and Lamont Noble (Ramon) who go above and beyond their assigned duties and who keep our buildings clean and safe. Thank you to Joseph Hendricks, Keith Eastmond and Kirt Mitchell for their attentiveness in overseeing the care of the property. Thanks to all of them, our buildings and other physical assets are adequately safeguarded and maintained.

Property Report

In 2017 we repaired and capped the parapet wall on the roof, at a cost of \$11,000.00. We installed a new Master lock one (1) key system for the entire facility. The cost was \$2000.00 The hot water heater in the Noel Hall sub-basement cracked and flooded the basement earlier in the year. A new heater was installed the next day. It should be noted that these projects were fixed without asking the congregation to contribute additional funds to cover the cost.

Finance

We have developed stronger control on the monies you have entrusted to us through the offering. Many thanks to the counting team for their conscientiousness in tallying the monies received and for their dedication to our church.

- Our Congregational Support for Diocesan Ministry is up to date and as of October we paid \$37,500.00.
- Earlier in the year we asked for your help with our payments to our commitment for Diocesan Pledge and you have given to date \$15,453.00 and this has helped the church a great deal.
- This year's Lenten offerings increased to \$3876.00. Thanks to all who contributed.



- The fall Energy Rally drive collected \$1668.00

Thanks to our Treasurer James Sisnett and Asst. Treasurers Errol Pryce and Vernon Kirton for their commitment to our financial health

2017 Audit Report

In June the church was audited by Allan G Pope CPA LLC for the year ending December 31, 2016. The examination was made in accordance with the Audit Program as authorized by the Diocese of Long Island and accordingly includes the audit procedures as prescribed in the program.

2017 Diocesan Convention

We participated in the 2017 Diocesan Convention at which time the following person from St. Augustine's was elected to Diocesan offices:

- The Rev. Lawrence M. Womack was elected unanimously to the Standing Committee. The Standing committee's duties include acting as the council of advice to the Bishop.
- Your United Thank Offering this year amounted to \$3327.00 and was presented at convention by Birdie Blake-Reid.
- Two of our youth represented St. Augustine's at this year's convention and took part in the various weekend activities that the diocese had planned for them. They were Deshonte Crafton-Cobham and Shaunya Gibson. Both of these young ladies took part in the Convention Eucharist on Saturday morning November 11, 2017 reading the Prayers of the People. Thank you to both of them, and to Rena Gibson who represented St. Augustine's as one of the Diocesan chaperones.

Fundraising

Our church's fundraising endeavors this year were notable;

- The Bazaar this year netted a profit of \$33,663. A special thank you to Ormond Brathwaite coordinator of the Bazaar and to all the nations who participated.
- The Annual Spring Luncheon at Russo's on the Bay was a great success. It was chaired by Hyacinth Goring and Ormond Brathwaite. The net profit from that event was \$28,000. Congratulations to the luncheon team for a job well done.
- The Communications Group Musicality concert raised \$2,348.00.



- Thirty-two persons went on the church cruise this year and from all reports they had an enjoyable and enlightening trip. Special thanks to Rita Fray, Lana Riviera and Ormond Brathwaite. The net profit from that was \$25,000.00.
- The family picnic was organized again this year by Yvette Wood. The church went to Clementon Park Splash World, Clementon NJ. Even though this is not considered a fundraiser for the church, a profit of \$1,637.00 was realized which is an increase from last year. Thank you to Ms. Wood for bringing us all together for a fun filled day.
- A concerted effort by the organizations raised the sum of \$15,000. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you to Madeline Forde, Chairperson of the Parish Council and to the members of the council for coordinating and maintaining our church's calendar and for keeping the church in a forward direction.
- St. Augustine's Week theme for this year was taken from Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest is plentiful: We are your laborers" The chairperson was Coleen Bascom. This year we extended St. Augustine's Week offering to Harvest Sunday and to date you contributed \$17,271.00.

Thank you to the team for 2017.



SPIRITUALITY & FORMATION

For in Him we live and move and have our being.”(Acts17:28)

Brothers and sisters in Christ we continue to be equipped, inspired and challenged at every opportunity to live out our mission: “To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” Doing this has not been always easy. But, through the God that we serve, we’ve made it this far.

In January, The Rt. Rev. Daniel Allotey, who was the Bishop-in-Residence, left us for St Gabriel’s, after providing months of pastoral care until the arrival of our new Rector. We thank Bishop Allotey for his ministry and the time that was well spent here at St. Augustine’s.

Women’s day was celebrated on March 12, and this was again hosted by our Mother’s Union and the Episcopal Church Women Ministry. To our Women’s ministries we say thanks for your work.

For Lent this year, we participated in the St. Luke’s Deanery Lenten midweek services. The theme this year was from Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.” Here at St Augustine’s, we hosted the deanery service on March 29.

Thanks to our Altar Guild Ministry for hosting another liturgical workshop on April 1. The workshop was very informative and was well attended.

We welcomed The Rev. Mthr. Marie Tatro, who was with us part time, from April through September of this year. Mthr. Tatro was able to provide much needed help at our Sunday services. We do appreciate the time that Mthr. Tatro was here and with that we say thanks.

The Rev’d. Lawrence M. Womack, was installed as our Seventh Rector by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano, on Saturday, June 17. A number of rector’s family members, friends, clergy, civic leaders and members of congregation were present for a rich and spirit filled service. We are indeed grateful for Fr. Womack for answering the call to be our rector.

We welcomed, on September 10, The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf, Asst. Bishop of this Diocese, for the Bishop’s pastoral visitation. It was Bishop Wolf’s first visit here at

St Augustine’s, and she promised



to be back with us for another visit.

Also on September 10, we welcome The Rev'd. Fr. Joseph Diele, who only the day before was received into the Episcopal Church as a priest. Fr. Diele is now our Assistant Rector and again, we welcome Fr. Diele and his family.

Once again, this year, we had our St Augustine's Week Revival at which we celebrated our 142nd year of existence. This was celebrated from September 10 to September 17. The theme was taken from Matthew 9:37-38 "The Harvest Is Plentiful We Are Your Laborers." During the week of revival, we were blessed to have with us: The Rev'd. Dr. Pierre Andre Duvert, The Rev'd. Cn. Terrence Lee, The Rev'd. Mthr. Marie Tatro, and The Rev'd. Dn. Majorie Bowden Edmonds, who came and brought powerful messages. We closed out our revival week with Homecoming Sunday on September 17. Our thanks goes out to Ms. Coleen Bascom and the entire team for coordinating this year's revival.

Also, in October, we recognized Police, Firefighters and First Responders. We were honored and pleased to have all of the officers who came to our worship service. As in the past, those present were treated and entertained outside in front of church after the service. We express our thanks to Ms. Patricia Reddock and her team for the work that was done.

Our mid week Wednesday service at 10:00 AM continues to be well attended and this is followed by an active Senior Program. It is our hope that in the near future our Senior Program will be expanded to more than one day per week. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Cecelia Curtis and her team for the work that they continue to do.

Our **15** candidates were prepared for the Diocesan Confirmation service for this year. Again, we say thanks to Ms. Kennisha Douglas and all those who mentored our candidates as they were prepared for confirmation.

Our Sunday School continues to meet on Sundays. Our thanks go out to Mrs. Lynda Canaii and all the teachers for their work and dedication with our kids' Spiritual Formation development.

We continue to be blessed and be ministered to by our dance ministry the "Vessels of Praise." Ms. Kisha Mullin and the choreographers continue to lead and prepare our dancers to praise God through their dance.



Our music ministry under the leadership of our Minister of Music, Mr. Kurleigh Lowe, continues to lead us with their singing at our worship services. This ministry has blessed us with their concerts that were held and we do look forward to their upcoming Christmas concert. To the Chancel Choir, The Gospel Choir, The Men's Chorus and the Voices of Hope- our children choir, we appreciate you and we thank you.

We had **146** celebrations of Holy Eucharist with an attendance of approximately **39,000** in total worshipping. In addition, there were **19** funeral services and **2** wedding ceremonies held. Additionally, this year, **17** children were baptized and **26** people became new members to our congregation.

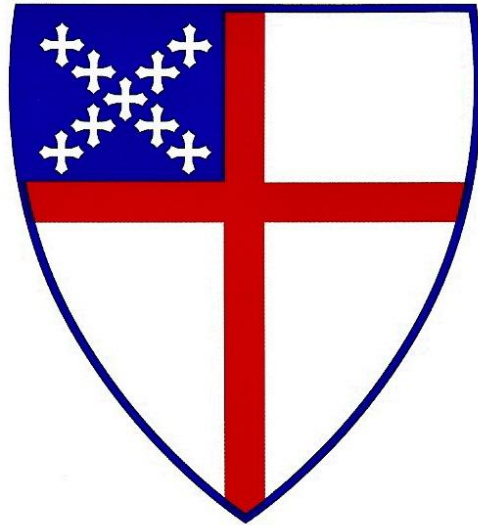
The Lay Eucharist Visitors continue to assist the clergy in visiting our sick and shut- ins. A total of **299** visitations were made. Thanks to Ms. Joy Fletcher for coordinating our Lay Eucharistic Ministry.

We loss a number of our loved ones, friends, brothers and sisters since we gathered at our last Annual General Meeting. For those who were members of our congregation we lift them up:

1. Hollis Chesterfield Duke
2. Marilyn Eileen Plowden
3. Lucille Elaine French
4. Gwenith L. Allicock
5. Ruthlyn Modeste
6. Victoria Inez Knight
7. Joseph Matthias Blaize
8. Cynthia Cecelia Jordan
9. Glenith Anita Greenidge
10. Michael Leon Hope
11. Mavis Yvonne George
12. Ronald Rookwood

May their souls and souls of the Faithful Departed, Rest in Peace.





RECTOR'S REPORT



RECTOR'S REPORT

“The harvest is plentiful... We are your laborers!”

This theme, announced during for this year, during St. Augustine's Week is taken from Matthew 9:37-38, where Jesus said: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9: 37-38:

We have enjoyed another plentiful harvest since our last Annual Parish Meeting. You have read about what we have done: the monies raised, the services held, the events sponsored, the fellowship enjoyed and the tears shed for our departed members.

I have been consistently amazed at generosity and dedication of the congregation – not just those who are able to make it to the services on Wednesdays and/or Sundays, but also by those who can no longer make it out. Our sick and shut-in are a strong asset, even now, to our congregation and provide the foundation upon which we all stand. As such, I would like to remember those who are on our current prayer list:

Mildred Carrington-1392 Troy Avenue (718) 282-4362
Louisa Todd - 1162 E. 38 St, Brooklyn NY 11210 - (718) 338-4073
Julia Edwards - 770 E. 39 St. Brooklyn, NY 11203 - (718) 859-9694
Linda Brown-Hayles - Lehigh Acres, Florida
Ivy Coleman - 236 East 49 Street - (718) 221-6804
Colin Andrews - (718) 258-2099
Nadine McSween - 3500 Snyder Ave. Apt 4F
Jeffrey King- Maimonides Hospital
Nita Hinkson, 1296 E 51st. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234, (718) 251-0436
Helen Forde- Congregational Nursing Home (bet. Bedford & Rogers Ave)
Thelma & Nathan Dunkley
Phyllis Smith, 537 East 40th. Street, Bklyn, NY (718) 451-0502
Attmar Telford, Telephone: (718) 342-4467
Cynthia Cummings, 1167 E 38th Street, Bklyn, NY (718) 377-3530
Edna Hinckson, 877 Empire Blvd. Apt E10, Bklyn, NY 11213 (718) 221-0725
Kathleen Satchell, 484 E 55th. Street, Bklyn, NY 11203, (718) 629-0534.
Gemma Alexander, 40 Clarkson Ave. Apt #5K, Bklyn 11226, (347) 482-5476
Cynthia Carter-CNR Nursing Home, 520 prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238, Rm. 526 (718) 636-1000x 353.
Ernestine Thomas, 3114 Neptune Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, (718) 265-2274
Josephine London, 959 E 56th. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234. (718) 444-4274
Barbara Ashman, 436 East 57th. Street (bet. Beverley & Clarendon Roads) (718)-629-9510
Dulcie Phillip, All Saints Gordon Home, 98A Woodford Street, New Town, POS, Trinidad, W. I. (347) 568-7359.
Edna Fraser
Jean Ackie, 698 Wyonna Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. (718) 272-3681.
Elaine Sylvia Brewster, 5647 kings Highway, Brooklyn, Ny 11203 (718) 629-4314
Beryl McLennon, 1183 Albany Avenue, Bklyn, NY 11203, (718) 629-3176.
Creola Bostic, 32 Dewey Place, Brooklyn, Ny 11233. (718) 451-2079
Walterine Noel, 3714 Farragut Road, Brooklyn, N 11210 (718) 859-4481



Karl. C. Edwards, Ditmas Park Nursing Home, 2107 Ditmas Ave. Bklyn, NY 11226, (718) 462-8100. RM 210.
Millicent Stewart, Cobble Hill Care Center, 380 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY FLR. 240, (718) 855-6789 Olney
King, 201 East 59th. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Grafton Moore, 201 E. 59th. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718) 346-8244

Alfred Sebastian Quashie, 1447 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718)287-6551

Clarence Blue, (917) 803-4486, (718) 758-7950 .

Phyllis James, 750 Lefferts Ave., Apt C8, 3rd. Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718) 953-8428

Leilani Holder

Neiberth Hohenkirk, 838 Lenox Road,

Augustus McMillan

Enid Suknanan, 676 East 45th. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203, (718) 915-2343. Contact: (daughter) (917) 859-8245.

Ena (Albertha) Babb-Rowe, 980 East 49th. Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203 (718) 629-3568.

Inez Caesar, 144-41 230th Place, Rosedale, NY, 11413, (718) 978-0820

Eileen James, 159 E. 59th Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11234, (718)-495-1878

Beryl Brereton 648 Sackman Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Priscilla Stewart, (718) 968-1268

Earl Reid, 1371 E. 101 St., Brooklyn, NY, 11236. (347) 320-1287

David Charles, 612 E. 2nd St., Brooklyn, NY, 11218. (718)438-6814

Thanks to our dedicated Lay Eucharistic Visitors and the addition of Fr. Diele, we are improving in our goal to make sure that we are able to visit each member that requests a visit, in a timely fashion. While we are not perfect, pastoral care is strong at St. Augustine's and those who receive visits are always very appreciative.

We have established and revised some of our standing committees. Through changes to the bylaws, adopted by the vestry on 22 June, we now have the following as Standing Committees, the purpose of the new or revised committees and their leadership, if any are included:

1. Property (Building and Grounds) – Chairs: Mr. Keith Eastman and Mr. Joseph Hendricks

2. Stewardship Committee – Chair: Ms. Shirley Bonadie

The Stewardship Committee promotes the responsible management of our life resources and encourages the practice of tithing and regular giving to the support of the Parish.

3. Education Committee

4. Parish Council

5. Worship Committee

6. Ways and Means Committee

(i) Perform annual reviews of the Bylaws and recommend changes to the Bylaws to the vestry, as committee sees fit.

(ii) Review annual fund raising events and, where necessary, propose the discontinuance of same.

(iii) Advise regarding additional methods of generating funds and propose activities/programs of same.

7. Election Committee – Chair:



Mr. Errol Pryce

(i) Shall be responsible for the coordination of our Annual Election with a team of no more than five members.

(ii) The Committee members shall consist of three (3) of the members of the outgoing vestry class (should they not be running for re-election), a Vestrymember whose term is not expiring and a chair, to be appointed by the Rector.

(iii) No member who is part of the Election Committee would be allowed to be nominated for Warden or Vestry member.

8. Personnel Committee – Chair: Ms. Lenore Brereton

(i) To review and propose job descriptions when necessary

(ii) Review/ update employee manual when necessary

9. Communications Council – Chair: Mr. Noel Roberts

(i) Coordinate all parish communications – print and electronic, including the website and social media accounts – with the appropriate staff person(s).

(ii) Provide oversight and suggestions for parish publications and help to identify a volunteer editor(s) for said publications, in consultation with the appropriate staff person(s).

(iii) Shall offer guidance in creating and maintaining a *Communications Policy Manual*, in conjunction with the Rector.

(iv) Members will be solicited from the congregation, upon consultation with the Rector.

10. Fund Raising Roundtable

(i) Shall consist of the leadership of the ministries/groups responsible for raising funds for the church, including, but not limited to:

The 56 Club,

The Willing Hands,

The Giving Hearts,

The International Bazaar Committee,

The Travel Team,

The Luncheon Committee

a. Shall, in consultation and upon the advice of the Ways and Means, Finance, Stewardship Committees and Vestry, devise and implement fundraising activities and programs for the support of the Parish.

11. Committee on Ministry to Children, Youth and Young Adults

(i.) Coordinate and organize opportunities for education (in coordination with the Education Committee).

(ii.) Coordinate and organize opportunities for spiritual nurture and growth.



(iii.) Construct and promote an annual Children, Youth and Young Adult program in consultation with the Rector, Education Committee and appropriate staff person(s).

(iv.) Provide guidance and support for Sunday School, Youth Forum, the St. Augustine's Children Youth and Families Center, Inc. and other youth-focused activities.

The committees above that do not have a chair have yet to have their initial meeting, save the Ways and Means Committee, for which a chair will be selected at their December meeting.

Your vestry has also begun implementing what I am calling our Mission Support Structure. It has vestry members paired with the various ministries to increase and improve the lines of communication between the ministries and the vestry. Since the names will change with each vestry election, the current assignments are not listed. The Parish Council has been informed and the structure is being implemented, as below.

Vestry Member

Ministry

One vestry member assigned

Pan-A-Praise
Usher Board
Welcoming Ministry

Two vestry members assigned

Cultural Heritage
Episcopal Church Women
Mothers Union
Parish Council
Rector's Guild

One vestry member assigned

Chancel Choir
Gospel Choir

One vestry member assigned

Brotherhood of St. Andrew's
Special Projects

One vestry member assigned

Education Ministry
Lay Eucharistic
Ministers/Visitorss
Lectors

One vestry member assigned

Altar Guild
Health Guild/Senior Program



Two vestry members assigned

Acolytes
Children's Choir (Voices of Hope)
Children's Ministry
Dance Ministry (Vessels of Praise)
Royalz Family
Scouts - Girl and Boy

Two vestry members assigned

56 Club
Bazaar Committee
Luncheon Committee
Travel Committee
Willing Hands

We have contracted with Kelvin Browne to build and maintain a new website – www.staecbk.com - complete with podcast capabilities and increased attractiveness and functionality. Enhancing our new website will be the option for digital/online giving. Our vestry has contracted with the eChurch/Pushpay company to provide these services, as well as develop a mobile app for ease of giving and interaction with St. Augustine's. We will have a full roll-out/training for the new technology, very soon.

We are also counting on each of you, as members and ministers to pay close attention to what you ask of the church. Principally, we need to do a better job of planning our Ministry Activities. It is no longer going to be sustainable expecting the church, alone, to support the pre-event costs. The Finance Team, along with the Parish Council and Vestry are looking at the effect that requiring ministries to have at least 50% of the cost of their event by the time deposits need to be made, e.g. tickets need to be purchased and buses need to be reserved. While this might sound like an onerous task and will need to be adjusted based upon the event, ministries need to be aware of the how the church works. In the same way as you do not receive all of your salary at one time, the church does not receive all of its income at the same time. If several ministries are asking for deposit monies at the same time, that causes a problem in the church budget, just as it would in your home budget.

In light of that, the leadership of the parish is looking for ways to reduce the amount of fundraising that the ministries need to do. According to our financial report, a full 14% of our 2016 budget came from organizational (ministry) events. This level is probably not sustainable, so we will be looking at new and different ideas for functions and events that will help us to tap into



the larger community. We have done a good job of inviting and including our family and friends, but I am talking about creating events that are so compelling that people

on the outside – folks who we don't even know – will be interested in attending. These could be conferences, evangelistic services, leadership training events. We have the expertise and the energy and the most important resource – the people – to do amazing things in Brooklyn. The secret of strong, sustainable and sustaining churches is trusting that the expertise, the talents and the gifts that we need are already among us. Jesus, said (Luke 21:17b): “For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among/within you.” If that is really the case (or if we really believe it), we will trust that God has already brought the ones that we need here, we just have to encourage them to come forward and to share who they are and what they know.

Along with the new, digital options for our future, we are under-girding the traditional, time- honored and effective practices of Christian formation for adults, children and youth. Classes have been (re)established, including Wednesday night Bible Study and Thursday morning and evening spirituality classes. Beginning yesterday, Fr. Diele will be hosting monthly quiet/retreat days to help members of our parish to deepen our connection to God and our individual and collective ministry. We are making strides to reinvigorate our Christian Formation for children, moving to raise the visibility of our children and teachers by them taking Communion together, each Sunday there is Sunday School. We are moving toward re-establishing our Youth Fellowship and working through the Education Ministry to support our current and future students through workshops, educational events.

As well, our Diocese's move toward racial justice and reconciliation is moving forward through the work of our Parish Council and the leadership of Dr. Castro. As many already know, four of our young people traveled to North Carolina to join with youth and young adults from several dioceses in the US and from South Africa and Botswana. There, they had the opportunity to work with, worship with and learn from others about ways to work for racial justice. Relationships were formed and will bear fruit as they plan and implement a similar conference for young people here, in Brooklyn.

I'd like to take this time to thank this out-going vestry, for their leadership and prayerful discernment. I am very thankful for our staff, especially Ms. Joan Mitchell who, after the retirement of our illustrious Parish Administrator, Myrtle Bayne Vaughan, has done a wonderful job, along with our two dedicated office volunteers – Ms. Bonadie and Ms. Potter. Special thanks also goes to our Communications Consultant, Mr. Roberts who has taken on the production of our service bulletins, fliers, video

board announcements and other



communications materials and publications. A huge “thank you” is due to our Stewardship Committee (led by Ms. Bonadie) for taking on the task of organizing

this year’s stewardship information. We should give glory and thanks to God for our sexton Mr. Montague and our part-time custodian, Mr. Noble.

What is abundantly clear is that we desperately need each other to do the work that we are given to do and to be the laborers that are being sent out into God’s harvest. No matter how hard each of us works, our hard work would not realize anything close to what it can be, without an effort that requires us all. The monies that are given and counted, with the food that is cooked, with the songs that are sung and the music that is played, to the candles that are lit and the altar that is prepared, to the floors that are vacuumed and swept, including the prayers that are prayed and the meals that are shared, coupled with classed taught and the insights gained – all require each of us, even if our participation is only being present.

In order to be the laborers that God is sending out, we have to be ready to see one another as vital to the harvest plan. Our common heritage as Anglicans/Episcopalians ties us with a deeper bond that can help us overcome whatever difficulties we might face. We need each other, just as much as we need God. At the end of a revival service at St. Paul United Methodist Church, just down the block, Pastor Jackson mentioned that their community had recently decided to begin singing Hezekiah Walker’s song: “I need you, you need me; we’re all a part of God’s body. Stand with me, agree with me, we are a part of God’s body. It is His will, that every need be supplied. You are important to me, I need you to survive.” Our churches often get to the point where we think that we are ministers unto ourselves and our own opinions, experiences, wants, needs supersede our call to be sisters and brothers and members of the body of Christ. We need to be reminded of how much we need each other. Oftentimes, that is most understood in the stories of those who can no longer be here with regularity, or at all. If you have not had the opportunity to visit with a shut-in that you do not know, talk with one of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors or others who visit our home-bound members, you will hear and see how important the connection to one another, that this parish provides.

The work that our relationships require is holy work that is just as important as serving each other and engaging in the ministries to which we are called. Caring for “the least of these” can also include the relationships that seem less important or less than the work that looms so large in our ministerial minds eyes. The work that we must continue to do is constantly preparing us to go out and harvest the goodness that is abundant in and through the people that God has called us to be with – both here and elsewhere,



so that our hearts can be open enough to be filled, again, with a great and abiding love for one another.

“The harvest is plentiful... We are your laborers!”

