

Smatterings

Saint Matthew's
Episcopal Church
November 2017



Fr. Frank

Reporting on a summary of the diocesan listening session

*Report prepared by Susan Czolgosz at Holy cow! Consulting

*Bishop Jennifer shared these results at the 180th diocesan Convention

"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets doing good work rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." Pope Francis, 2013

These are the words that Bishop Jennifer chose to frame the results of the diocesan-wide Listening Sessions that were held with her from June – October 2017. The purpose of the sessions were to:

- Provide opportunity for community building across the diocese
- Provide opportunity and occasion for the Bishop to meet with and listen to a broad variety of constituents across the diocese with regard to their hopes, dreams, concerns, and needs
- Gather important data by which Bishop Jennifer and the Executive Council can shape decision making for the future of the diocese.

Sessions were held in the various geographic areas of our diocese inviting lay participation, and key constituents gathered centrally (lay leadership, youth, priests, deacons, and Bishop's staff). In all:

- 10 sessions were held
- Participants included: Laity, lay leaders, youth, priests, deacons, Bishop's staff
- Almost 400 participants
- Engaged in conversation with the Bishop around the present and future work of the diocese, by addressing three questions to stimulate conversation and listening:
 - What excites you about this work?
 - What hurdles may get in the way of this work?

What do you need from the Bishop and the Bishop's staff to do this work?

Overall Listening Session Results

- Be beacons of Jesus for central and southern Indiana and the world
- Articulate a generous invitation and welcome
- Connect and deepen relationships within the church and with the world
- Stand with the marginalized and vulnerable; transform systems of injustice
- Develop and support leadership for the church of today and tomorrow

To focus on:

- Strengthening our relational and spiritual connections
- Examining and changing roles and structures
- Creating clarity of unity around our vision for the future
- Being responsible stewards of all the resources of the diocese to derive maximum benefit from them.

Surprises/Positives:

- Bishop's openness to listening and learning
- Bishop sees herself as our pastor and spiritual leader

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All of us yearning to be heard and feel that we are being heard
The excitement and hope these meetings are generating
Concern about the spiritual and prayer life of the diocese
The hope we have for the future given our new leader despite the challenges that face us
Facing our fears and openness to new things

Concerns:

Our disconnectedness across the diocese
Our need for the Bishop’s staff to serve our needs effectively
Financial situation of the congregations
Lack of priest preparedness and accountability
Our resistance, avoidance fear of change
The need for leadership training for clergy and laity
Stuck in our old mindsets and stuck in our locales
Lack of vision and branding for the diocese
The need to attend to divisiveness, inclusivity, and racial issues
Lack of youth involvement and strategies to be more inclusive with our youth
Geographic isolation beyond the Indianapolis circle
Poor transition and deployment practices
Bishop not having enough time to devote to all we need
Staying rooted and connected to the Spirit moving in us and through us

Role of deacons
Power of the affluent congregations
Struggles of the smaller congregations

Hopes:

Create compelling vision and focus including relationship-building, excellent communications across the diocese, and transparency in decision-making.
Develop an effective Bishop’s staff that is responsive, strategic, and knowledgeable
Bishop will remain attentive, supportive, and provide follow-through in the midst of so many needs
Building trust and acceptance/reconciliation
Creating new ways – of worship, stewardship, inclusiveness, relationships between congregations
Do imaginative visioning together
Develop more effective clergy and lay leadership partnership
On-going conversations with the Bishop
Engender openness to change
Develop resources (money and people)
Move forward strategically – creating a road map and an effective structure together
Improve youth involvement
Develop partnerships between churches
Emphasize evangelism
Enough resources for the future

Reports

VESTRY

Vestry has October meeting

Vestry Members Present: Natalie Palmer, Celeste Sheets-Eaton, Phil Sowders, Greg Staab, Jeff Weir, Angie Wilkinson. Priest-in-Charge Frank Impicicche and Vestry Clerk Dale Caldwell were also present.

Vestry Members Absent: None

Consent Agenda

Minutes from September Meeting
September Financial Statement
Approved unanimously.

Feedback from Congregation

Congregation-wide workdays. Possibility of local men’s group to help with tasks that are more physical; Altar Guild workdays could include additional people for the many tasks that need to be accomplished.

A request came in from a member who wonders if we can resume the 8:00 Sunday service with a lay minister. Fr. Frank feels there currently is not a need for two services

given the size of the parish and to fill a particular pastoral need. Once he becomes full-time, Fr. Frank said he will re-evaluate the needs of the congregation and assess worship needs to determine what is best for the community of the parish. The Vestry backs this approach.

Old Business

- Kitchen Water Heater – is on borrowed time. Has reached normal lifespan - 10 years old. Jeff Weir moved, Greg Staab seconded, that St. Matt’s commit to buy a new water heater. Part of the process will be to research the size of the main water supply line and see if there an interior water supply shut-off valve. Passed unanimously.
- There was some leftover concrete/construction materials from recent Boy Scout sidewalk project; its removal should take place soon.

- Community Day debriefing: about 100 people attended; 20 or so from community at large. The remainder were from the congregation and vendors. Good response from ARPO, Eastgate Christian Church/Still Waters, Florek; they want to continue partnership. We need to take advantage of and be more creative with social media. Revive ox roast as part of Community Day? **Needs:** more food. Should there be a shorter time frame? Pony rides and drum circle were short-lived; retiring soon; one is perhaps a staggered scheduling of major events would be beneficial. Should we have a band at la St. Joan of Arc's French Market?
- 2018 Stewardship – Greg shared a proposed 2018 Commitment to Community Card; additional possible categories were discussed; Steve Albrecht has agreed to chair stewardship program.
- St. Matthew's Welcome Center Update – positive discussion has begun to coordinate the construction with a Scout project.

Update on Hope Counseling: two counselors are retiring soon; one is in poor health. The future existence of the Center is uncertain.

October Financials reported

Dear friends in Christ,

In reviewing the financial results for October, the only item of significance that varies from historical results is the \$4,900 we spent for an HVAC system for the rectory. We saw a slight catchup in individual contributions for the month, and we see a few of our pledges made annually at year's end. I am conservatively projecting we will have individual contributions for the year of \$125,000.

The vestry has discussed how we transition back to a full time cleric. It's a "chicken and egg" question. How do we continue the good work we have been doing this last two years and do so with more intensity and purpose without a full time priest? How do we hire a full time priest without a higher level of giving? What would we need to "invest" to have a full time priest before the increased giving occurs?

OUTREACH

St. Matt's ministers to local shelters

It's time for the occasional call out for funds. Each year, ICAN and the Irvington Area churches call for special monetary offerings. St. Matthew's typically provides \$300 each fall. In addition, as you are able, please consider giving to ICAN. You can mail personal checks made out to ICAN c/o IAM and mail to ICAN, c/o Emerson Ave. Baptist Church, 308 N. Emerson

soon; one is in poor health. The future existence of the Center is uncertain.

New Business

- The sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors will be part of Sunday worship at the end; symbolically and actually sent out on behalf of the parish.
- Discussion: what role can Episcopal churches playing a role in the opioid crisis? The Vestry watched a short video produced by the West Virginia Council of Churches about the opioid crisis in that state. It offered the foundation for how churches might become a positive force is dealing with the crisis. The Vestry was asked to pray for discernment on how St. Matthew's might respond.
- Vestry was asked whether they might commit to reading *Reclaiming the Great Commission* or another book?
- Celeste Sheets-Eaton is making cards for St. Matt's veterans to be presented in November. It was recommended we do a pitch-in after services on 11/12. All agreed.

If we assume a consistent level of giving in 2018 and hire Father Frank as our full time priest in charge, we would have a \$36,000 shortfall; if Father Frank increases his hours to full time in July, the shortfall would be \$18,000. As of the end of October, we have \$26,000 in the Founders Fund, \$16,897 in Memorial Funds, \$13,247 in the Centennial Fund and \$1,057 in the Children and Youth Fund (which dates back to when Barb+ Kempf was with us). These funds support the general fund deficit of \$2,240 and provide \$59,106 for us to consider investing in our future by hiring a full time priest.

As always, if you have any questions about the financial statements, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Natalie Weir

Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46219 or you can give on line at: <http://rally.org/ICAN>.

Thank you all, and please continue to help St. Matt's to help stock several neighborhood shelters and pantries on the far east side with toilet paper and other toiletries.



Smatterings

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship calls to us as a community

by Steve Albrecht

It is my honor to serve as Saint Matthew's Stewardship chairperson this year. Each fall we reflect on stewardship individually and as a community, taking the opportunity to think about our role in caring for the well being of Saint Matthews. **This year's stewardship campaign will kick-off on Sunday, November 5 and conclude with an ingathering on Sunday, November 26.** This is a time when we are asked individually to reflect and act on how we can support the ongoing ministry of this parish as a community of faith.

The Episcopal Church's website provides the following description of stewardship:

The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.

I have frequently witnessed how the people of Saint Matthew's

come tougher as a community and put their stewardship into action. When we come together as a community - whether it is during worship, coffee hour, in prayer, in music, or as volunteers, to name just a few, we are engaging in stewardship.

You will be receiving a letter in the mail asking you to reflect on your role as a steward of Saint Matthew's for the upcoming year. This includes not only your consideration of a financial pledge but additional opportunities for you to volunteer your time and talents to serve members of the parish and the community at-large.

The ability of Saint Matthew's to continue to offer the good news of Jesus Christ and to thrive in its second century calls each of us individually and in community to pledge our time and talent. I hope you will find that Saint Matthew's continues to serve you in ways that speak to your heart and to your faith and that you will join me in pledging however you feel called. Peace.

Announcements

The Feast of All Saints

On Sunday, November 5, we will observe the Feast of All Saints. Many things are planned for this service, including :

- Renewal of our Baptismal covenant,
- Remembering names of those who died this past year,
- A candle-lit procession to the Columbarium.

If you have not already done so, PLEASE take an opportunity to list the names of family, friends, and loved ones who died this past year. The names will be read during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. THE LIST IS ON A CLIPBOARD ON THE ROUND TABLE NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY.

Remembering our Veterans

On Sunday, November 12, we will honor our veterans service to our country. After the service we will have a Pitch-in lunch. Please remember to bring a favorite dish.

Adult Forum continues each Sunday 9:00-9:45am

Come join us at the Cozy Corner! We explore a wide range of topics that will help inform your faith. Everyone is welcome!



DON'T FORGET NOVEMBER 5 IS THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF NOVEMBER 26 IS THE INGATHERING

Standard Time Returns

Don't forget to **turn your clocks back** an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, **November 4.**



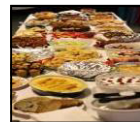
Annual Crop Walk successful once again
THANK YOU walkers and donors. Your efforts raised **\$900!**

St. Matt's walkers Jenny Lloyd-Jones and Joe Hauptmann



Monday, November 20 is the **deadline** for sending in any calendar events, meeting dates and times, articles, and announcements for the November issue of **smATTerings.**

The next **Wednesday Pitch-In** will be on **Wednesday, November 29** following the 10am service. Come join the fun. Bring whatever; there's no set menu.



Remember:

Please sign up for Coffee Hour. Bring some of your favorite pastry and fix the coffee. Thank you.



November Birthdays

November 1 Dennis Palmer
 November 2 Martha Cooper
 November 2 Tom Miltner
 November 3 Bonnie Godfrey
 November 9 Nathaniel Trabel
 November 11 Ashley Robbins
 November 12 Cathy Krauser
 November 12 Jenny Lloyd-Jones
 November 14 Julia Bell
 November 16 Ronald Cooper
 November 17 Devon Teague
 November 20 Bob Booth
 November 21 Zella Rosene
 November 22 Missy Ellis
 November 22 Amanda Lloyd-Jones
 November 26 Frank Impicciche
 November 26 Jeff Weir
 November 28 Katie Bell
 November 30 Phyllis Crooks



November Anniversaries

November 11 Trevor and Jenny Lloyd-Jones
 November 13 Denny and Cathy Krauser



Book, Yarn, and Prayer will meet MONDAY, November 6th at 7:00 PM.



No new book this month. We are going to focus on our outreach crafts. Bring your knitting needles or crochet hooks or looms and yarn or plan to help Jan cut strips for making a quilt. Or any project for busy hands. We'll still have prayer and, of course, lively discussion. All are

welcome to join.

Photograph is entitled: Four Children Crocheting. This [photo shows Dora Atkins](#) with [classmates, Sophronia Dyer, Aline](#) ?, and [Herbert Nelson](#) at [Indianapolis Public School #26](#) in [1910](#). At this [time](#) in [Indianapolis](#), most [elementary schools](#) were [segregated](#) while [high schools](#) were [integrated](#). When [Crispus Attucks High School](#) opened in the [fall](#) of [1927](#), all [African American students](#) were [required](#) to [enroll](#) there. <http://images.indianahistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16797coll34/id/14>

December meeting will be Monday, Dec. 4th.
 Contact: Alice Moody and Jan Higbie

Sunday Ministry Schedule November 2017

Ministry Schedule	November	November	November	November	December
	5	12	19	26	3
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
	All Saints	Pentecost 23	Pentecost 24	Christ the King	Advent 1
Lectors	Phil Sowders	Bonnie Godfrey	Crystal Black	Natalie Weir	Andy Wilkinson
	Missy Ellis	Vicki Mansfield	Steve Albrecht	Joe Hauptmann	Suzanne Kissling
Intercessor	Vicki Mansfield	Joe Hauptmann	Missy Ellis	Jeff Higbie	Bonnie Godfrey
Chalice	Elaine Mattson	Joan Porter	Jan Higbie	Andy Wilkinson	Joe Weaver
Crucifer/	Bonnie Godfrey	Joe Weaver	Cody Lock	Brayton Leswing	Devon Teague
Ushers	Andy Wilkinson	Natalie Palmer	Nancy McFarland	Joe Weaver	Jan Higbie
	Angie Wilkinson	Denyse Palmer	Jeff Higbie	Bonnie Godfrey	Tom Higbie
Oblations	S. Albrecht Family	Missy Ellis	Natalie Weir	Nancy McFarland	Vicki Mansfield
		Greg Staab	Jeff Weir	Celeste Sheets-Eaton	Suzanne Kissling
Counters	Zella Rosene	Greg Staab	Natalie Palmer	Missy Ellis	Angie Wilkinson
	Andy Wilkinson	Joe Hauptmann	Jennifer Albrecht	Jon Robbins	Julie Hauptmann
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and advise the Parish Office. Thank you.

Smatterings



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Smatterings

November 2017

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St. Matthew's clergy and staff:

The Revd Frank Impicicche, *Priest-in-Charge*

Dale Caldwell, *Parish Administrator*

Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*

Dale Caldwell, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Services

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00am
- Wednesdays : Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Nursery available on Sundays starting at 9:45

Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 8am-1pm, Wed. 8am-2pm

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The mission of St. Matthew's is

"to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

We do this through worship of God,
education of ourselves and our children,
care for each other and outreach to others,
sharing faith stores with others,
and caring for all our resources (our time, treasure,
and talents).

Smatterings is published monthly except in the summer.

The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's publication.