

# 2024 Annual Report



Presented at the 149th Annual Parish Meeting  
January 26, 2025



**SAINT MATTHEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## 2024 Annual Report

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### 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of the Minutes for 148th Annual Meeting
3. Special Thanksgivings
4. Report from the Treasurer
5. Election of Officers
  - Vestry Officers & Members
  - Trustees of the Endowment
  - Delegation to Annual Diocesan Convention
6. Address by the Outgoing Senior Warden
7. Address by the Incoming Senior Warden
8. Closing Prayer & Dismissal

**Welcoming all in community;  
joyfully doing God's work in the world.**

# Priest-in-Charge's Report

Submitted by: *The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr.*

Dear Members of St. Matthew's Church,

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. As I reflect on the past year, I am deeply aware of both the challenges we have faced and the new hope that is emerging within our community.

For many months, we've been faced with the painful reality of declining Sunday attendance and financial support. These challenges have been difficult for all and I know that they have created a sense of uncertainty about the future of our parish. I am sure the question of our ongoing viability has weighed heavily on your heart. However, as we have seen time and again in the life of the Church, when one door closes, God opens another. We have begun again. We have embarked on a new chapter of renewal—one built on faith, resilience, and the desire to serve the Lord with all our hearts.

Please know of my sincere gratitude for your generous welcome and hospitality. You have received me with much grace and kindness. Special thanks to Ann and Chris Motogawa for hosting a fabulous musical welcome in their backyard in early September - what fun! Thank you also to Judy Royal and Tim Patenode, Ann Branning and Sue Middleton, Ann and John Searle's and those who attended three "Get to Know, Whayne" Open Houses last Fall. What a great way to get acquainted with y'all. Thank You!!

Since August, we have experienced a notable increase in Sunday attendance. The Spirit has been at work, drawing people back to the church—both those who had been away for some time and newcomers seeking a place of worship. It is with joy and gratitude that I report that attendance has risen sharply for the past few months creating a lovely synergy for our worship encouraging us forward in faith. This is not just about numbers, but about the lives being touched, hearts being transformed, and a deepening sense of community among all of us. Our Sunday services have been filled with renewed energy, and our worship experiences have fostered both spiritual growth and fellowship.

Our Sunday morning open forum between services have been consistently well attended as we discuss issues of the day while practicing to think theologically as Anglicans. In this forum, we have reviewed the nature of our unique Anglican Identity, the liturgical seasons of the church, the history of the Book of Common Prayer, our sacraments, liturgical rites and historical documents. It has been a profitable time of community building as we teach each other about the faith that keeps us connected to God and each other here at St. Matthews.

Alongside our revitalized worship life, we launched an ambitious stewardship campaign. It has been heartening to witness the generosity and commitment of so many of you who have made financial pledges for 2025. I am thrilled to share that our stewardship campaign is projected to increase our revenues by 50% in the upcoming year, a testament to your dedication and belief in the mission of St. Matthew's. The generous support of both long-time parishioners and new members is enabling us to move forward with a renewed sense of hope

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and purpose. While we are not yet out of the woods, the financial outlook for 2025 is brighter. Our budget, while still modest, reflects the increased pledges and new support we have received. This growth in giving is a direct result of your faithfulness, and it will allow us to continue supporting our ministries, outreach efforts, and operational needs. I am particularly excited about the opportunity to expand our outreach into the Evanston community, strengthening our connection to those in need and expanding our role as a center of service and compassion.

I am tremendously grateful to your vestry for their willingness to honestly address the very real sustainability issues facing this congregation. Your wardens, Chris Motogawa and Steve Carr have served you faithfully and courageously giving generously of their time and talent to lead this congregation forward. I am also very grateful to your staff, Gregory, Mark, Julie and Jorge for their dedication and skill in helping you live out your ministry through this congregation. A special thank you to Rev. Terri, your deacon, who held things together during a difficult time of transition. She is a true deacon, one who selflessly serves others so that the glory of God's grace is made visible in our midst. Thank you each for your gifts and gracefulness.

As we move into 2025, we are aware that challenges remain. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that our finances remain stable, our membership grows, and our ministries thrive. We must also continue to listen deeply to God's call and to one another, discerning how best to serve this community and the greater world around us. The road ahead will require each of us to give of our time, talents, and treasure. We will continue to build on the momentum we have gained, but it will require sustained effort, prayer, and a willingness to embrace new ways of being the Church.

As we step into this new year, let us remember that our story is not over. It is just beginning again. We are a church reborn—not in the sense of abandoning our past, but in the sense of rediscovering our mission and purpose in the world. We are a people of hope, a people of resurrection, and a people who believe in the transformative power of God's love.

I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, your prayers, and your dedication to this community. Together, with God's help, we will continue to grow and thrive, serving Christ in all that we do.

In closing, I offer the words of the Apostle Paul from his letter to the Philippians:

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

With heartfelt gratitude and joy,

+The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr.  
Priest in Charge, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

# Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by: *Chris Motogawa*

First, I want to thank all the members of the Vestry for their dedication, hard work, and commitment, during our season of change. This past year we transitioned into a new chapter of our faith community saying farewell to our Rector, Charlie de Kay and welcoming the Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland, Jr. to be our Priest-in-Charge. This could not have been accomplished without the support of our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paula Clark and her staff, especially the Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Andrea Mysen.

As we entered 2024, we faced many challenges: a significant fiscal deficit, declining membership and low participation, and a general malaise in our community. However, our leadership team also realized that our role in the community is vital and that there are still opportunities for us to grow and flourish by re-imagining our role in growing the church, forming the faithful and changing the world.

Last year we began this journey of transformation as we work toward:  
Renewal – Enliven and reawaken our spirit through prayer, programming and formation.  
Reengagement – Reconnect our community with ministries that feed our hearts, soul and mind.  
Re-envisioning – New ways to be church and re-establish our place within our community.

We are fortunate to have an experienced priest-in-charge, Wayne with a proven record of leadership, change management, and passion for leveraging the resources and opportunities we have before us and meet the real world challenges our parish faces.

We can see first-hand that our commitment to St. Matthew's is strong. We can see it in many tangible ways: an increase in attendance and participation, reengagement in adult formation and community building events, and an unprecedented renewal of financial support by you.

While we are still facing many head winds, our faith community has much to offer. As we look to a new vision of the future, I am comforted that we have the right leadership in place to embrace the change needed to grow and prosper as a faith community, becoming the disciples that we are called to be.

There are no simple answers, no instant solutions, no easy ways. Change is inevitable and we need to realize that what may have worked in the past, is not necessarily working now. As we move forward, I ask all of us to be open to change, open to see God's presence, and open to engage our community in new ways, building a community where all are welcome on our journey of faith and discovery.

We are the faith community of St. Matthew's. I thank each one of you for your continued support - your time, talent, and treasure - and look forward to writing exciting new chapters in our journey together at St. Matthew's in the coming years.

Thank you.

Yours In Christ,  
Chris Motogawa, Senior Warden

# Deacon's Report

Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

*The candle that we received at our baptism is the abiding sign for us of what a life of faith is meant to be. Sometimes it burns more brightly than others, but we never see very far ahead. I believe God wants it to be like that. However frustrating it may be, God wants us to take these important steps in life, in faith and trust. It can be frightening to step out and put our hand in the hand of God.*

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram, Society of Saint John the Evangelist

As I read Br. Geoffrey's reflection on faith, his words seemed to echo my own journey with God. It is a journey that has been guided by the promises made in our Baptismal Covenant and the call to love one another as Christ loved us. My faith journey eventually led me to discern the call to become a deacon. My call has been clear and steadfast throughout years of discernment, study, field education, postulancy, candidacy, and ordination to the diaconate. I am thankful for all who have walked alongside me on my journey of faith.

## **What is the ministry of a deacon?**

Deacons have played a role in the life of the church from the early days of Christianity. In Chapter 6 of Acts (Acts 6:1-6), the twelve called together the whole

community of disciples to select "seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom..." There have been many "waves" of deacons since the first seven were called. A renewal of the order of deacons began with the advent of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*. The current role of deacons continues to be interpreted and integrated into the life of the church.

Deacons have a number of roles within the church, in the community and in the diocese. One of the most visible roles that a deacon has is within the liturgy. It is the deacon who proclaims the Gospel, preaches on occasion, sets the Eucharistic table, and dismisses the gathered congregation at the end of the service. In all of these roles, the deacon serves as an icon of Christ's diaconal ministry. The deacon also serves as a bridge between the church and the world, and at the dismissal calls the people of God to a life of service in the world.

*Diakonia* is a Greek word that is defined as *sacred agency*, and points toward the work of deacons among the baptized. One of the roles of a deacon is to lead, equip, encourage, and

support Christian people in their ministry. All Christian people are called to serve Christ by virtue of their baptism and have a responsibility to share in the ministry of Christ in the world.

Deacons are also involved in pastoral care and "hold space" for others through their gift of presence, prayer and their willingness to walk alongside others on their journeys. It is a ministry of meeting people where they are, without judging them, or trying to fix them, or to influence the outcomes; recognizing that in all ministry, we are channels of God's abundant grace.

While the ministry of a deacon shines a light on the needs of God's people, it is also important to recognize that a deacon is called to serve in direct relationship to the bishop. Because of this special connection, a deacon reports annually to the bishop and on occasion serves alongside the bishop. The work of a deacon is also non-stipendiary.

## **Staff and Worship**

Throughout 2024, I assisted with worship, participated in weekly staff meetings, preached somewhat regularly, and recently began attending vestry

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Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

meetings. In anticipation of our rector, the Rev. Charles de Kay's departure at the end of May, our Senior Warden Chris Motogawa gave me the responsibility for scheduling Supply Priests for Sundays in the months of June, July, and for two Sundays in August. I am thankful for the support and leadership of Chris Motogawa and our Junior Warden Steve Carr, the vestry, and our talented staff during this difficult time of transition. Thank you to Gregory and Julie for their help with weekly communication, Sunday service bulletins, and many other responsibilities. In addition, I am thankful for Fr. Emeka Nwachuku from St. Andrew's Pentecost who was willing to be available should I need the assistance of a priest during the months of June and July. With the arrival of +Whayne Hougland, as our Priest in Charge in August, we began a new chapter in the life of our parish.

I am thankful for all of you and all that you share with the community at St. Matthew's!

## **Pastoral Care**

For almost 25 years, and as a deacon, I have answered the call to a pastoral care ministry, which is about

building relationships and walking the path of love with others. I have continued this work with parishioners, families, and caregivers - by phone, and whenever possible, in person. Our former Presiding Bishop Curry would call this "navigating with God's GPS." It's a space filled with God's abundant grace and where transformation can take place.

## **Shared Ministries**

I am a member of the St. Andrew's Pentecost - St. Matthew's Partnership Team, a Co-facilitator for Sacred Ground, a member of the Antiracism Team, an honorary member of the Green Team, and coordinator of our Native Plant and Pollinator Garden Project (see garden report).

I also participated in a number of events, which include but are not limited to: Led by +Whayne, a number of parishioners gathered for a Cleaning of the Church, Chapel, and some of the public spaces in the Parish House on Saturday, September 21. We concluded with prayer and incense throughout. On October 6, +Whayne and I led a Pet Blessing on the Lawn at 3:00pm. It was wonderful to greet

parishioners, and several of St. Matthew's neighbors, and to offer a blessing to their furry companions - mostly dogs, and one turtle. Thank you to Curt Nilsson for taking pictures again this year!! What a wonderful afternoon at the corner of Lincoln and Hartrey! +Whayne and I also attended the Harvest Fest at St. Andrew's Pentecost earlier that afternoon. In celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 14, I attended a Powwow at Evanston Township High School that was sponsored by the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum (Mitchell Museum). And, on the afternoon of October 31, +Whayne and I hosted Halloween Trick or Treat outside the Chapel doors. We welcomed about 100 of our neighbors and almost ran out of treats. Thank you to Joyce Weber, who came to join us in the fun.

## **Partnership Team**

Throughout the year, my continuing education efforts have been focused on the social justice issues that have been identified by the St. Andrew's Pentecost - St. Matthew's Partnership Team, specifically immigration and refugees. Our work around immigration, asylum seekers,

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DACA, recipients, and refugees led us to a Co-Sponsorship with RefugeeOne. In the months leading up to the arrival of the refugee family at O'Hare on June 7, 2022, I participated in RefugeeOne training for Mentors and met with Co-Sponsorship Team members to plan for what the family would need. As a member of the Mentor Team, I took turns visiting Maua and her family with other team members on a regular basis. *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom* from the Book of Common Prayer states "Almighty God...you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them...". God's love has been in our midst and continues to light the way forward. We have been able to communicate with the help of family members who speak some English and in Swahili with the help of Google Translate. I am thankful for Maua and her beautiful family, our Mentor Team, our Partnership Team, our Co-Sponsorship Team, the amazing team at RefugeeOne led by Kelli Wendt, and by the faith communities at St. Andrew's Pentecost and St.

Matthew's. Thanks be to God for all of you! While our formal relationship with the Congolese family has ended, I had an opportunity to visit Maua on October 10, along with Roberta Buchanan, Fr. Emeka Nwachuku, and Sister Bonnie Boilini. The family is doing well, the older children are in school, and the youngest is in preschool. As a congregation, we continue to pray for this wonderful family.

## **Sacred Ground**

The Anti-racism Team's work on the St. Matthew's Land Acknowledgement left me wanting to expand my knowledge on the topic and led to my participation in the BexleySeabury Pathways for Baptismal Living course on the Doctrine of Discovery in 2021. It was eye-opening and forever changed my perspective on history. I was also interested in learning more about racial justice on the local level and the movement to fund reparations. All of these experiences led me to Sacred Ground. Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on race and faith that shifts the way that we understand racial identity and history. Our Presiding Bishop Michael

Curry believes that Sacred Ground matters to the Dream of God and is part of the Episcopal Church's ongoing commitment to becoming Beloved Community. Sacred Ground is an accessible way for us to engage in difficult conversations while being deeply grounded in love. *The Prayer for the Human Family* (BCP, p. 815) applies directly to Sacred Ground. Our engagement with Sacred Ground began in January 2022 when Kathleen Murphy and Gaylord Brynolfson of St. Luke's reached out to members of the Antiracism Teams from St. Matthew's, St. Mark's, and St. Augustine's to see if there was interest in working together. Kristin Jacobsen and I were the representatives from St. Matthew's. After a series of virtual meetings, the group decided to pursue launching Sacred Ground and surveyed members of our individual church communities to gauge interest. There was sufficient interest in all four churches to form Sacred Ground Circles and we had eight people who were interested in being facilitators. The facilitators met in-person over the summer to cover



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Submitted by: *The Rev. Terri Morrissey*

the curriculum and to share resources. Sacred Ground Circles began meeting in September - one at each of the four churches. I co-facilitated a Sacred Ground Circle for a second year at St. Augustine's with Brenda Nielson Schumaker. We completed the 11-session series in March of 2024. I am thankful for the ongoing Sacred Ground Webinars which provide updates and an opportunity to share experiences. Sacred Ground helps us to turn our lives in the direction of God's love and places us on a path toward healing, wholeness, and hope.

I am thankful for the many rich learning experiences that were offered through the Episcopal Church, Sacred Ground, Episcopal Migration Ministries, RefugeeOne, the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, the Diocesan Sanctuary Task Force, the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum (formerly known as the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian).

## **My Ministry as an Artist**

Before I stepped onto the path toward ordained ministry, I spent more than 34 years as an art teacher and a lifetime as an artist. My diaconal formation left

me with little time to nurture my creative spirit and even less time for creating art. Thankfully, that is changing, and I fully recognize my need to be deeply engaged in my own artwork - which includes drawing, painting, designing/making vestments, and iconography. As a deacon, it's important for me to continually discern the gifts that I bring to my ministry, and to help others do God's creative work in the world. I have long recognized the intersection of art, faith, and prayer - and have been working to develop a number of hands-on workshops that will be accessible to artists and non-artists alike. It is my hope to joyfully share this work in small group settings.



# Music Program's Report

Submitted by: Mark Crayton, Music Director

*Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, High as the list'ning skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

-James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) (Lift Every Voice and Sing, No. 1)

We, your choir, do our best every service to lift our combined voices to our creator and thereby, change the world one note at a time. We are always recruiting. Please consider offering your time to this sacred mission remembering the phrase attributed to St. Augustine, "The one who sings, prays twice.

Some music ministry highlights from 2024 were:

- A celebration of African Sacred Music
- Our own resident composer, Francis Lynch's new opera, *The Boor*, and Adolphe Adam's *The Chalet*, fully staged with orchestra, presented by Evanston Chamber Opera, our opera company in residence
- The quiet, sung, Holy Week service of Tenebrae Lessons and Psalms.
- Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* on Good Friday
- Richard A. Nichols' arrangement with brass quintet of "Lift High the Cross" on Easter Day

- A "return to the convent" with anthems from *Sister Act* and *Sister Act II!*
- "Rediscovered treasures" found in the depths of the choral library during our clean out of the library due to mold damage.
- Our All Saints celebration with new music by Michael Larkin and Michael John Trotta
- Indigenous Peoples Celebration (October 13)
- Advent Lessons and Carols
- A choral prelude of traditional favorites for our Christmas Eve Mass

We welcomed our new organist/pianist, Quinn Brann (she/they/them). Quinn is a Senior piano performance major as well as a music education major at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. Quinn is also a student of James Janssen. Quinn had not played organ until September and James has told us that he has never had a student take to the instrument so quickly. We are grateful for the parish's support of Quinn's organ lessons. I am grateful for Quinn's enthusiasm and joy in making music.

We also welcomed Katilynn Meine as our new soprano 1 section leader. She recently finished her master's degree in vocal performance at Roosevelt University Chicago

College of performing arts. She is singing around the city and building her career as well as working as a stage manager.

We also welcomed Louise Floyd as our new Choir one bass section leader period. Louise is in her 2nd year of her performance diploma formerly in partnership with Chicago Opera Theatre. She has performed many roles with Chicago Opera Theatre and is making quite a name for herself as a young bass baritone. She continues to raise awareness of the trans community in the arts. We are so happy that she is here at St. Matthew's. She has a new project coming up at the end of this semester addressing gender issues in opera.

We said goodbye to Megan Cook who was our Choir 1 section leader for 12 years. Jake Engle also resigned as our Choir 1 bass section leader due to a much-deserved promotion at work which takes him out on the road several times a month. Luckily, we get to keep him as a volunteer, and we are grateful for his talent.

An incredibly special thank you to our amazing musicians in the choir and this parish who help us make this ministry so special for our community.

Let us continue to make a joyful noise together. Alleluia, Alleluia.

# Parish Administrator's Report

Submitted by: *Gregory Peebles*

*"Faith is not a question of the existence or non-existence of God. It is believing that love without reward is valuable."* -Emmanuel Levinas

Since the last Annual Meeting, my role has remained much the same; however, I have reduced my physical time at St. Matthew's to one day per week, which seems sufficient to carry out the administration needed at St. Matthew's. This schedule may eventually need to be reconsidered, but for now, it works well both for St. Matt's budget and my schedule outside of this parish.

In my role as parish administrator, I am the primary interface with the community groups that meet regularly on our campus. Currently, I manage this mostly via email, calls and texts. I work with the leaders of those groups, ensuring space for their "ministries" to the community, and I provide any necessary liaison between those groups and the staff and clergy of the parish. I also work closely with Jorge, our handyman, to ensure that the physical space is functional for everyone, and that any issues that parishioners notice receive attention as quickly as possible. Another of my weekly tasks at St. Matt's is to ensure that there are volunteers to help with the liturgy. I am very grateful to those who read, intercede, and bear the holy cup regularly. St. Matt's can always use more volunteers, though, and the volunteers most needed are greeters and live-streamers. In the spirit of sharing successes as well as challenges, I relate that under the leadership of Bob Purse, a new crop of acolytes is active, and that we have plenty of fresh help at the holy table.





# Ministry Reports

## ACOLYTES

*Submitted by Bob Purse,  
Coordinator*

The acolyte program remains small but dedicated at this time. As I continue in my 55th year of being an acolyte at St. Matthews (!), and perhaps my 40th year of running the program, my daughter Molly continues to take part with me, despite her living nearly a half hour further away than I do (and therefore, an hour from St. Matthews). Molly has now been an acolyte for about 23 years. Thank you, Molly. In addition, there are four other team members, all between ages 10 - 14.

Despite this low number of team members, things are working out well at this time. Three of the children are choosing to take part in services. Recently, they have become familiar enough with the role that I have been able to step away from participating every week. I thank these four children deeply for enriching the services and the life of St. Matthews, as well as my own life.

As always, I remain hopeful that more people will join the team, and would welcome any children (4th grade or older) or adults who are interested in taking part.

## ALTAR BREAD MINISTRY

*Submitted by Deacon Terri,  
Coordinator*

After a long hiatus during the COVID years, we are celebrating the return of our Altar Bread Ministry and homemade Altar Bread! Thank you to Ann Motogawa for getting us started, and to team members Rick Worden, Larkin Myers, Jessica Swanson, and Deborah Williams for being part of this important ministry team.

If you would like to give bread baking a try, the recipe for our easy and delicious altar bread is included below. Please let Deacon Terri know if you are interested.

### Whole Wheat Altar Bread

7/8 cup very warm (not hot) water  
1/4 cup honey  
1/8 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 package yeast  
2 cups whole wheat flour  
2/3 cup white (all-purpose) flour

In a measuring cup combine 1/2 cup water with the honey, oil, salt, and yeast. Stir until the yeast is dissolved. Check after 5 to 10 minutes to see if the yeast mixture has formed bubbles

(the sign that it is active).

In a large bowl, combine the whole wheat flour, white flour, and yeast mixture. Mix thoroughly, adding water as necessary. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes, until it is smooth and elastic. If necessary, add a bit of white flour or water.

Form the dough into a ball and place it back into the bowl. Cover with a towel and let it rise in a warm place for about 1-1/2 to 2 hours until it is doubled in size.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 2 to 3 minutes. Form the dough into a ball and place it onto a lightly oiled baking sheet. Pat the dough into a circle about 1 inch thick. With a sharp knife, cut a cross into the center of the loaf.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 18 to 22 minutes. Watch carefully because whole wheat bread doesn't brown significantly. A simple test is to tap the bottom of the loaf in the center with your fingers. If it sounds hollow, it's done. If in doubt, underbake the bread slightly so it isn't crumbly. Allow the bread to cool on a wire rack.



# Ministry Reports

## ALTAR GUILD

*Submitted by Jennie Woodring*

The altar guild ministry continues to prepare for Eucharist each Sunday in the chapel and the sanctuary, on the lawn during summer beach church, and on multiple days during the busy seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week.

Altar guild continues its individual signup structure, begun in 2024 in response to reduced team membership. Each of our eleven active members sign up to prepare for services on Saturdays and to serve at church on Sundays. Each member serves an average of one weekend each month; additional members would lend to the spirit of many hands making light work. We currently have one official leader, though strong leadership support continues from a core of experienced members. We anticipate reestablishing a two-leader system, in which leaders will serve overlapping two-year terms.

With the transition to Wayne Houglands' leadership earlier in 2024, we have welcomed back the

use of baked bread for Eucharist and other small changes in Sunday services.

We are grateful for the dedicated service of all who have been part of altar guild in recent years. They to contribute their time and expertise, which are crucial for the implementation of this essential work for St. Matthew's.

Altar guild welcomes all, regardless of gender, who are interested in this social yet contemplative ministry of setting the Lord's table. Altar guild may be for you if you would like to learn about the behind-the-scenes work of preparing for the Eucharist and are interested in contributing to the successful workings of St. Matthew's with a flexible time commitment – no ironing skills required! Contact Jennie Woodring ([jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net)), Kate Lauderbaugh ([klauderbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:klauderbaugh@gmail.com)) or any altar guild member for more information.

## ANTI-RACISM

*Submitted by Kristin Jacobsen, Leader*

Many prefer to leave racism outside the church, not wanting a subject that seems political to encroach on spirituality. The Antiracism

Team, however, believes that antiracism work is essential to being a Christian. In particular, we all commit to it with our baptismal promises:

- “to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself”
- “to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”

In the case of racism, we love our neighbor and strive for justice by understanding the injustices suffered by people of color and helping to change and make amends for these wrongs.

## Antiracism Activities 2024

- **Antiracism Learning** almost every week in the eblast and Sunday bulletin, including publicizing events related to race and racism
- **500 Hats for Refugees:** helped knit and/or collect hats and scarves for the many refugees who have arrived in Chicago (January)





## SAINT MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Ministry Reports

- **Winter clothes collection:** contributed to Immanuel Lutheran Church's efforts to provide needed items for winter in Chicago (January)
- **Lenten program** to introduce parishioners to Sacred Ground, the antiracism curriculum sponsored by The Episcopal Church (February)
- **Race Card Project** for parishioners to capture in six words their personal experiences with race and identity (<https://michele-norris.com/theracecard/>)
- **Pow Wow at Northwestern University** (April): several members attended
- **Race Against Hate** (June): Secured vestry approval of \$2,500 for sponsorship and set up a tent with food and St. Matthew's stickers and pens to be a welcoming presence
- **For fundraising**, silent auction of tickets to Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre and gift cards to black-owned restaurants (June/July)
- **Discussion of excerpts** from "The Embodied Path to Healing Trauma with Dr. Resmaa Menakem," an episode of the *We Can Do Hard Things* podcast (July)
- **Mitchell Museum benefit** (November): several members attended

### Tentative plans for 2025

- **Research** how St. Matthew's has been involved both positively and negatively in race-related activities during its history
- **Race Against Hate:** Participate in the race, as well as raise awareness and money for the YWCA's antiracism work

If you'd like to know more, join us at our events and at our meetings (7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, either at the church or on Zoom). Contact Kristin Jacobsen ([kejcat@gmail.com](mailto:kejcat@gmail.com)) for questions.



### Matthew's Land Acknowledgement

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa nations. This land was also a place of travel and trade to many other tribes, including the Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Miami tribes. These Native Peoples were forced off their lands with the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829. After a series of land transfers, St. Matthew's acquired its current site within this territory in 1906. Today, Cook County is home to tens of thousands of Native Americans from many tribes. We acknowledge and respect our Indigenous neighbors, as we strive to be good stewards of this Native land.

### **Green Team**

*Submitted by Jennie Woodring*

St. Matthew's Green Team was launched in 2012 under the passionate leadership of Christina Padilla, who led the team until early 2024. Since then, our dedicated members have committed to continuing the important work of leading St. Matthew's in enacting creation care and in setting



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an example for other churches.

In 2024 our members:

- Hosted a trip to the LRS Recycling Center on the south side of Chicago. Team members and others from the congregation attended this very informative outing.
- Continued to collect building waste for composting in order to approach realizing a zero-waste facility
- Maintained communication with Faith in Place, a interdenominational green team organization
- Engaged with the congregation to provide recycling and composting education through St. Matthew's weekly newsletter
- Offered the opportunity to appreciate God's creation by hosting nature walks in nearby locations
- Assisted Terri Morrissey (honorary team member) with planting and maintaining the new native garden in our back yard

We plan to continue action and education through 2025, and welcome new members any time. Contact

Anne Branning, Roberta Buchanan, Craige Christensen, Mary Jo Deysach, Pat Egan, Terri Morrissey, Ann Searles, Deborah Williams, or Jennie Woodring for more information.

### **MOVIE GROUP**

*Submitted by Ann Searles*

The St. Matthew's movie group has met ten times in 2024. Meetings have been held at various times of day, often late afternoon on weekends. They have been in person at member homes, or in the St. Mathew's Assembly Room. Light refreshments are served and the host or another designated person has led the discussions.

We most often discuss current movies but sometimes study older films. The movie choice is the host's. Some discussions have been centered on the technical aspects of the films or the acting performances while others have related the film's messages to our own lives in today's world. All have been enjoyable.

Some of the 2024 films we studied were Maestro about Leonard Bernstein, Origin about Isabelle Wilkerson and her writing of Caste,

Ordinary People, Conclave and Bonhoeffer. Discussions were lively as we considered various social issues and phenomena, oppression of people of different faiths and races, and movie-making techniques.

There are no requirements to participate but it is necessary for attendees to see the film before the meeting. Notices appear in the St. Matthew's communications and all are welcome to attend. For many of us the Movie Group has been an easy, enjoyable fellowship activity which has given us an opportunity to become better acquainted with church members and spouses whom we might not have otherwise known. Average attendance is around 12 adults.

The movie group plans to continue in its current format for the year 2025. New faces are always welcome to participate in this very enjoyable activity.

### **NATIVE PLANT AND POLLINATOR GARDEN**

*Submitted by Deacon Terri Morrissey*

In an effort to foster biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint, the Green Team and members of our



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congregation gathered to begin the transformation of St. Matthew's backyard into a native plant and pollinator garden. Led by Christina Padilla, we began the process of "removing" a large portion of the lawn. This was accomplished with layers of corrugated cardboard, topsoil, and a thick blanket of fallen leaves. The area was then left to overwinter. In April of 2024, we again gathered in the backyard to remove the piles of leaves. With the help of an anonymous donor, we were able to enlist the services of our landscapers to complete the next steps. The landscapers rototilled and added 6 yards of topsoil to what became our 21'x 28' garden space. We are thankful to the Highland Garden Club for donating the large number of native plants that got us started! Thank you also to Jennie Woodring, Anne Branning, Pat Egan, Andy Miles, Steve Carr, Tim Patenode, Pete Meyer, Karen Hertel, and Deborah Williams for all of their help in



making our first year a success! And additional thanks to Craige Christensen and Deacon Terri for donating additional plant material. Getting a native plant garden established is a multi-year process – we are looking forward to seeing what emerges in the spring and adding additional plant material.

## ST. MATTHEW'S CONSTITUENTS

*Submitted by Gregory Peebles*

In my role as Parish Administrator, I am the primary contact for all our building users. All groups with an existing relationship with the parish continue to have access to the spaces they borrow at the rate of the donation agreed on.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

- AA – There are two groups that meet on Wednesday (Gallery) and Sunday evenings (Parish Hall). During 2024, the Sunday night AA group added a "book club" meeting before their regular convening.
- OA – continues to meet on Saturday mornings in the gallery three weeks per month.

## THE PERFORMING ARTS

- Voice and Instrumental Studios – Ms. Judith Haddon uses the Assembly Room to teach voice on Mondays from 11 AM to 3 PM. Choirmaster Mark Crayton also teaches from St Matthew's as needed.
- Fairytale Ballet/Lincoln Street Ballet Studio — Both groups continue to meet without interruption beyond occasional breaks for holidays, etc.
- Evanston Chamber Opera (EChO) — In 2024, EChO offered a successful double bill: *The Chalet*, by Adolphe Adams, and *The Boor*, a premier by EChO founder, composer and parishioner, Francis Lynch. Recently, EChO announced that it will
- Citadel Theatre — In 2024, the time that this group needed the parish hall for rehearsal coincided with Holy Week, so they were not around in 2025; however, Citadel Theatre will return in March of 2025 to rehearse a new production of *Play Name*.
- ESIC (Improv Group) - Peter Civetta continues to use our space for his





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youth improvisation group. His summer camp meets in the parish hall, and outside, weather permitting. The week-long summer camp, which usually happens in August, uses only the back yard, kitchen, and bathrooms and culminates in a performance early Friday evening of the week. They have already reserved for Summer 2025.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

- A La Carte Catering — The largest change to the schedule of building users was the arrival of Chrsi Di Clementi and her catering company, which makes use of St Matt's kitchen most weekday mornings. Not only was A La Carte the caterer of the 2024 St Nicholas Brunch, which returned in 2024 after a long hiatus, but A La Carte will also cater the meal to accompany the Annual Meeting.
- Boy Scouts – Troup 922 has resumed meeting in the parish hall weekly on Thursday nights.
- St. Matt's Stitches – This group of St Matt's parishioners gather monthly in the parlor or

gallery to practice the art of needlework.

- St Matt's Movie Group – This group of St Matt's parishioners meets in the Assembly Room to watch and discuss a movie either monthly or quarterly, depending on availability. Movies in 2024 included "Conclave" and "Ghostlight". The most recent movie group screened *Bonhoeffer*, a film concerned with the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
- Highland Garden Club of Evanston – St Matthew's Parishioners are members of this club which meets monthly on Wednesday nights. Meetings occur either in the Parish Hall or in the Assembly Room, depending on the needs of the group.
- Wiggleworms – Wiggleworms remains our biggest user and one that makes the largest contribution to our operating budget. In 2024, Wiggleworms started by provided sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in the Assembly Room as in the past, but in October of 2024, they added sessions on Saturdays from 10 AM – 1 PM. In

2025, this schedule will continue.

- Yoga Studio – Patrina Dobrish, along with Jennie Woodring, uses the Assembly Room for yoga on Fridays. Patrina added a session on the third Saturday of each month in 2024, and this will continue in 2025.

### STITCHERS AND KNITTERS

*Submitted by Ginger Carr & Jennie Woodring*

The Stitches' Group is a social group open to anyone who does needlecrafts of any kind – knitting, crocheting, embroidering, or just plain mending. The group was conceived at a St. Matthew's Super Bowl party in the early 2000's, and now gathers about once a month at St. Matthew's on an irregular schedule to socialize, share stitching tips, and enjoy light snacks. There are roughly 20 members and about 6 to 8 of us come to any given gathering, determined by members' availabilities.

While we generally stitch personal projects, we stitched and collected a few dozen hats and scarves and donated them to *500 Hats for Refugees* in January 2024. Meetings in 2024 have become more regular than



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in recent post-Covid years, and take place in St. Matthew's library, where the light and seating suit our needs.

The stitchers' group always welcomes new members. For more information contact Ginger Carr (v-carr@northwestern.edu) or Jennie Woodring (jenniewoodring@sbcglobal.net).

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH

*Submitted by Kati Olsen*

We are celebrating 10 years! Since February 1, 2015, the faith communities of St. Matthew's and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches of Evanston have served lunch every Wednesday at St. Mark's to anyone who enters our doors. What began as a simple bag lunch has evolved in to a full meal service with side dishes and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. For the most part, our guests are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or those who have lost their jobs. Many of our guests attend weekly, while others attend at the end of the month when money is tight or during a period of financial strain. Numbers were up in 2024 as food prices have increased, with many new

faces among our guests.

Volunteers prepare the meal on Wednesday mornings. The coordinator shops for food on Tuesdays and delivers it to the St. Mark's kitchen. We prepare lunches for 60-65 and are always prepared with additional foodstuffs if the need arises. Meals usually include sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookie, and beverage, often with extras such as hard-boiled eggs, tossed salad, peanuts-in-the-shell. During the cold months, we offer soup, or sometimes an entire hot meal, and during warm months, we offer ice cream (which is always well received.) Most weeks our guests also enjoy donated items from Bennison's bakery.

We offer a hybrid service, encouraging our guests to remain in Cunningham Hall to eat their meals, but offering "to-go" meals to those who need them. In-house meals are served on red trays, using a minimal amount of packaging. Our sandwiches are packed in compostable bags, soups ladled into ceramic bowls, and volunteers serve sides, fruit, and desserts directly onto the trays, as opposed to using individually

packaged servings. Juice and water are served in glasses and coffee in ceramic cups. Eliminating the packaging from 75% of the meals served has been gratifying.

Many thanks to Joyce Weber, Roberta Buchanan, Deb Williams, Dorothy Wyandt, Kristen Jacobsen, and Harper Olsen who join with members of St. Mark's and many other volunteers from the community in their stalwart dedication to this ministry. Thanks to Nancye Kirk from St. Mark's as well as Jen Kihm and Tad Petrick (community members) who are now coordinating meals once a month.





St. Matthew's lay leaders duly elected and appointed at  
The 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish on January 28, 2024

### **St. Matthew's Vestry**

Christopher Motogawa, *Senior Warden*  
Stephen Carr, *Junior Warden*

Curtis Nilsson, William Widmer, Deborah Williams (2025)  
Kelsey Davies, Jim Kelly (2026)

Dudley Conley, Larkin Myers, Tim Patenode (2027)  
*Clerk of the Vestry*, Tim Patenode

Christopher Motogawa and Rick Worden, *Co-Treasurer* (2025)

### **Trustees of St. Matthew's Endowment**

Don Churchill (2025)    Mary Clark (2025)    Ann Searles (2026)

### **St. Matthew's Lay Delegation to the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago**

ONLINE – All Day, Saturday, November 23, 2024

Delegates: Stephen Carr, Ann Searles, William Widmer

### **Clergy and St. Matthew's Staff**

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *28<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church*

The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, *Thirteenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago*

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr., *Priest-in-Charge*

[whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:whayne@stmatthewsevanston.org)

The Rev. Terri J. Morrissey, *Deacon* | [terri@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:terri@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Mark Crayton, *Music Director* | [mark@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:mark@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Julie Salako, *Communications Director* | [julie@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:julie@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Gregory Peebles, *Parish Administrator* | [gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org](mailto:gregory@stmatthewsevanston.org)

Jorge Lopez, *Handyman*

