



SATURDAY SERVICE

5:00 PM St. Francis Saturday Night
Eucharist

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Historic Church)
Organ, Hymns & Homily

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Church)
Sung Eucharist with choir, Church School
and

Child Care offered during this hour.
Coffee Hour follows.

Church : 2810 Long Ridge Road

Historic Chapel & Parish Office :

503 Old Long Ridge Road

Tel. 203.322.2949

Website: <http://www.stfrancisstamford.org>

E-mail: stfrancisstamford@gmail.com

Clergy

Rev. Mark Lingle, Rector

203.570.6226,

marklingle.pastor@gmail.com

Rev. Debra Slade, Vicar

203.894.9345, debra.slade@gmail.com

Edrice Viechweg, Deacon

203.434.4002, deaconedrice@gmail.com

Richard Weidlich, Co-Minister of Music

203.246.1388, rweidlich@optimum.net

Jim Fredericks, Co-Minister of Music

212.472.3782, jimcfred@aol.com

2016

ANNUAL REPORT
for
St. Francis
Episcopal Church
Stamford, CT



The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled,
as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**St. Francis Episcopal Church
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

JANUARY 22, 2017

71ST ANNUAL

ST. FRANCIS PARISH MEETING

INVOCATION

ADOPTION OF VOTING LIST

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

REPORTS:

RECTOR

DEACON

VICAR

WARDENS

TREASURER

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

UNSUNG HERO/SPECIAL RECOGNITION

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMEMORATION OF THOSE BURIED FROM ST. FRANCIS

SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Rector's Report

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.

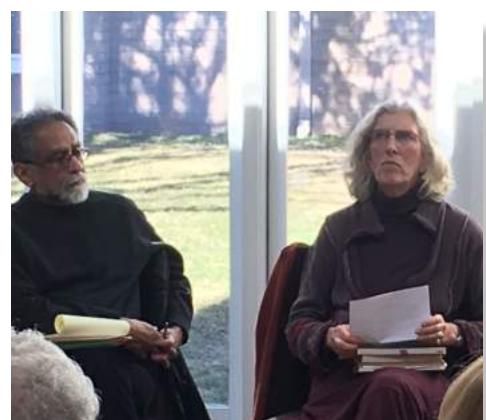
—Cicero

The year that has past has been nothing less than a whirlwind. It is easy amidst the rush of all of our obligations and activities to believe that these things are ends in themselves and to lose sight of the larger reality. Indeed, all of our busyness does not possess some inherent importance. Rather, ideally, these undertakings place us in proximity to the things that truly matter—family, friends, fellow human beings, the larger creation and those experiences that allow us to make meaning, find purpose, and recognize value in this life. When we are overwhelmed with so much to *do*, it is hard to *be* and hard to recognize the gift that we have been given in each moment. Thus, I think that Cicero's reminder about the importance of gratitude and its primacy among the virtues is wisely heeded. Furthermore, gratitude—gratefulness, thankfulness, appreciation—helps us to also remember that our actions are not ends in themselves, but they are the means to our deeper connection with ourselves, others, and the larger world.

Therefore, *thank you* is clearly the appropriate remark as we review the past year. There is not nearly enough space in this report to say all of the *thank yous* that are possible and certainly so fitting. As you review the various reports and see what our ministry together was like at St. Francis during the past year, you realize the amazing amount of energy, skill, commitment, and love that is found in our life together. To begin, I thank you all for your part in ministry at St. Francis. As I look out over the congregation week in and week out, and as I work with you in various settings, I am heartened by the kindness, generosity, and grace that is so much a part of this community, and the desire on the part of so many to embody the better angels of our nature. Thank you!

Furthermore, it is appropriate to continue with the elected leaders of the parish. Particularly, I am indebted and so very thankful for the amazing leadership of Cathy Ostuw, Patricia Lydon, and Sue Rutz. The amount of work that they have done on behalf of the parish is mind boggling, and the skill that they bring to the innumerable tasks that allow us the quality of life that we have and help us live more fully into the various callings we have as baptized Christians is phenomenal.

Along with the amazing leadership of Cathy, Patricia, and Sue, the wonderful individuals who comprise the vestry are a blessing to us all. I give thanks for Maryann Kann and Claudia Bilotti who are stepping down from the vestry and for all the many areas of life that they impact. Dawn Randall, Kim Henderson, Philip Calabrese, Dom Gautrau, Frank Mastrone, Audrey Roco, Eilish Main, Annette Herber, Linda Quinton, Jane Lazgin, and



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Deborah Meyers are a blessing to work with and individuals who represent well the various constituencies of the parish. I look forward to working with Julia Wade and Tyler Stevens as well as the new vestry convenes in February. Along with this group, Alison Quinn needs to be acknowledged for the amazing and selfless work that she does as our bookkeeper. She is a professional and gives so generously. Thank you, Alison.

The next few pages highlight some others in our community who have been extremely generous and involved in strengthening our ministry. There is the work of Tim Butler, Robert Becker and Meredith McBride providing pro bono legal help with our tenant negotiations this past year. There are the amazing individuals who anonymously gave \$125,000.00 to help us through this past year and into 2017, recognizing the shortfall we would experience without a tenant. There are the wonderful members of the outreach committee who help organize the hands-on projects that we do, as well as oversee the \$29,050.00 that we were able to give to social service agencies in Stamford this year. And there are the gracious hosts of our *First 70* fundraising events. Led by organizer and host of the Pig Roast, Margery Irish, these hosts include Lillian Kraemer (Hoe Down), Nancy and Drew Bisset (Two Sails on the Sound), Joe and Rosemary Mygatt (Asian Flair Dinner), Tim and Robert Becker (Power boating on the Sound), and Betsy Adams and Patricia Lydon (John Dugdale Exhibit and Reception). And the *Miles for a Mission* committee gave us an event that was both fun and extended the reach of our community by raising \$13,550.00 for Inspirica.

Scratch a little bit further and there are the members of the marketing committee who labored long to develop the new and attractive website that will help in promoting the ministry here. There are the music committee participants who put on the excellent *Sounds Good* concerts with grace and hospitality. There are the Altar Guild members and Flower committee participants who act behind the scenes to beautify our worship spaces. There are the coffee hour volunteers and Lay Eucharistic Minister volunteers who provide hospitality and a connection to our community in different, yet profound, ways. There is the tireless leadership of master gardeners, Beazie Larned and Alice Smith, who so ably and lovingly guide the landscaping work on the church grounds. They are truly amazing.

I end with a few more thank yous. One is to a member who has moved on from Stamford—Tad Kinne. His work overseeing the Buildings and Grounds at St. Francis was beyond remarkable. He will be missed, and we are indebted to his amazing work. Richard Weidlich and Jim Fredericks have also taken over so ably and gracefully leading the choir with the departure of Darin Lewis. They are a gift to us. Finally, there are the wonderful ministers with whom I get to share the pulpit and altar and worship each week. Debra Slade and Edrice Viechweg are true blessings to our parish. In so many ways they touch the lives of all of us.

Yes, I am extremely grateful. Grateful to be at St. Francis. Grateful for the gifts you so graciously share. Grateful for the model of the Godly life that you offer. Grateful. What else is there to say? Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Thank you, Cathy Ostuw!!

Thank you, Cathy Ostuw!!

In the Jewish tradition there is an important term that is mainly used during the Passover observance. The word *Dayenu* means approximately, "it would have been enough for us." It is used to speak about the amazing and overwhelming benevolence of God toward Israel. That is, it would have been enough for us if God had brought us out of Egypt. . .it would have been enough, if God had led us through on dry land. . . it would have been enough, if God had given us the Torah. . . it would have been enough, if God had brought us into the land of Israel. On and on. *Dayenu*.

It would have been enough for us—*Dayenu*—is a thought that comes to mind when I think of Cathy Ostuw. It would have been enough if Cathy had just worshipped at St. Francis. It would have been enough if she had just led the Outreach Committee. It would have been enough if she had just made our *Miles for a Mission* race and our website projects so successful. It would have been enough if she had just been a warden. And on and on we can list off countless ways that Cathy is involved in our life together and how much she gives and gives and gives. It is overwhelming to think of ALL that she does to make St. Francis so vibrant. She is the heart of our parish.

Indeed, we all know how impressive Cathy is. Her involvement in so many organizations and activities is truly amazing. From being one of the architects of the wonderfully successful Building One Community (formerly Neighbors Link Stamford), to heading up a girl scout troop, to providing tax support services to the elderly and needy and then training and overseeing those who would provide such support, to so many other things. And these are all in addition to her work at St. Francis!

I've commented to others that Cathy is really the rector of St. Francis! She does everything. And she does everything so well, so gracefully, and so kindly. Heading the Outreach committee, participating in the Lay Eucharistic Visitor group, providing at coffee hour, organizing volunteers to help put on a receptions following funerals, being the parish photographer, organizing the details of the *Miles for a Mission* road race, and a key figure in the development and implementation of the website for St. Francis. And then she puts on her Warden hat! Over the past four years, she has shown such great leadership, compassion, and resolve as we, as a parish, have dealt with many critical issues. And she does it with such grace and good humor.

Yes, it would have been enough for us if Cathy had done just one of these things, but she is an amazing woman and a generous soul. She is a model for us all, an example of God's love, justice, and hope, and we are truly blessed by her.

Thank you, Cathy! God bless you!!



Thank you Tim Butler and Robert Becker



We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Tim Butler and Robert Becker for their pro bono support of St. Francis while we were dealing with the legal issues surrounding the departure of Canaan Ridge School as our tenant. Tim's colleague at Tibbetts, Keating, and Butler, Meredith McBride, took on direct work with us in consultation with Tim. The result was more than we could have expected and allowed for the smoothest transition for Canaan Ridge that was possible. In the process, St. Francis saved thousands of dollars. Thank you so very much, Tim, Robert, and Meredith!

THE PLAQUE PRESENTED READS:
On behalf of everyone in the congregation of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Stamford, Connecticut, we express our gratitude to Tibbetts Keating & Butler for the fine work done by attorneys Timothy Butler and Meredith McBride in guiding our parish over the past year through an extremely difficult legal situation.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Mark Lingle, Rector
Cathy Ostuw, Senior Warden
Patricia Lydon, Junior Warden
April 2016

Thank you 70 for 70 Donors

The extreme generosity of a few members of St. Francis has allowed us more budgetary breathing room as we moved through the process of the departure of Canaan Ridge School and the search for a new tenant. With a goal of \$70,000 to cover the mortgage for the new church building for two years, half to be donated by one parishioner, and the rest to be matched by others, pledges quickly rose to a total of \$125,000. The additional \$55,000 will be used to replenish the Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund. The leadership and generosity of this group is a model for us all, and we are forever thankful.



Planned Giving

An opportunity to have a lasting presence in the mission of St. Francis Episcopal Church



This past year Dom Gautrau took on the mantle of inviting members to remember St. Francis in their wills. Presentations were made by Dom and Frank Baker about options that exist to support St. Francis beyond this life. If you are at all interested in this, please speak to Dom or one of the wardens.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Outreach is a core belief and activity within the ministry at St. Francis parish, and is supported in many ways by our parishioners. Whether through organized activities within the parish or personal actions and contributions outside the parish, the generosity and caring of St. Francis parishioners continues to be a guiding force in the Stamford area and beyond.

The Outreach Committee is one important part of the “formal” outreach of St. Francis. The Outreach Committee organizes and coordinates various events and activities within the parish, and researches and distributes grants to various organizations who serve Stamford and the wider community.

2016 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MEAL PREPARATION AND SERVING

We have traditionally prepared and served several dinners each year various shelters or other residential organizations in Stamford. This year, we served a meal at Inspirica's women's shelter and one at Pacific House, the men's shelter. We will continue working these and other organizations in 2017 as well, if appropriate dates/times are available. As soon as opportunities are defined, they will be publicized. Adults and older children are encouraged to participate!



THE FOOD BANK OF LOWER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

The Outreach Committee coordinates food drives to meet the growing needs of the greater Stamford community. Non-perishable food is collected throughout the year (clearly marked receptacles are located in the back of the Church and the Chapel) and delivered to the Food Bank on a regular basis. In May, we participated in the second annual “Load a Truck” competition with First Presbyterian Church and St John's Lutheran Church, and St. Francis Episcopal Church, to collect food for the Food Bank.



MIDNIGHT RUN

Midnight Run, a Westchester County based nonprofit organization, is a consortium of religious and civic groups in the NYC Metropolitan area. St. Francis and St. John's Lutheran churches joined forces again in 2016 to participate in this organization's critical mission. Our Midnight Run volunteers distributed food, clothing, and personal care items to the homeless poor on the streets of New York City on May 6th and November 4th, 2016. As important as the tangible goods that are distributed is the opportunity for volunteers to see the homeless as real people, and for the men and women served to see that many “mainstream” volunteers are willing to reach out with hand and heart to those in need.



DOVE PROGRAM

A longstanding social-service program that is coordinated by Person-to-Person in Darien, St. Francis is one of 19 area churches and schools that prepare food boxes for very low-income families at Christmastime. St. Francis parishioners provided 24 Stamford families with Christmas meals, and also made generous cash gifts to Person-to-Person's scholarship fund through the Green Dove program. We are grateful to Jane Lazgin and Richard Lee for graciously and ably coordinating this program in 2016!!



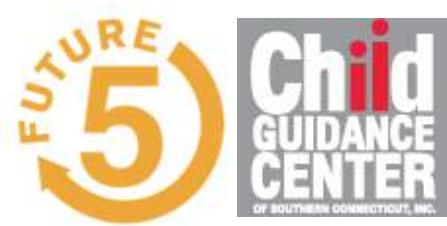
ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Organization	2016
Americares Free Clinics	\$2,000
Child Guidance Centers	\$2,000
CT Food Bank	\$1,000
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	\$1,000
Domus Foundation	\$2,000
Future 5	\$1,000
Laurel House	\$1,000
Liberation Programs	\$1,000
Neighbors Link Stamford	\$2,000
Pacific House (Shelter for Homeless)	\$2,000
St. Kitt's Book Drive (Support for Edrice's Work)	\$500
Sub-Total	\$15,500
Inspirica/St. Luke's Lifeworks (from Miles for a Mission Road Race)	\$13,550
Sub-Total	\$13,550
TOTAL	\$29,050

GRANTS

The original Outreach Committee budget was set to be the proceeds from the 4th Annual Miles for a Mission road race. Typically race proceeds have been approximately \$10,000. This year, the Vestry, Marketing and Outreach Committees decided to select one beneficiary for the proceeds from the race, and to work collaboratively with that organization. Inspirica was chosen to be the race beneficiary. In addition, a \$15,000 grant from a foundation was applied for and received, that allowed us to continue to offer grants to other organizations. Proceeds from the race (which all went to Inspirica) were \$13,550. The Outreach Committee was very positive about having a single beneficiary for the 2016 Miles for a Mission Race, and would recommend that practice going forward, as long as additional funds are available to make grants to other organizations. Additional grants were awarded to: Americares Free Clinics, Child Guidance Center, CT Food Bank, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Domus Kids, Future 5, Laurel House, Liberation Programs, Neighbors Link Stamford, Pacific House. Additionally, a special grant was made during the summer to support Rev. Edrice's work supporting education in St. Kitts.

**CONNECTICUT
FOOD BANK** FEEDING AMERICA



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

OUTREACH continued . . .

SUPPORT IN ADDITION TO GRANTS

Total Outreach expenses for 2016 were \$29,050 which was all distributed in grants. Note that this does not include the additional generosity of parishioners who donate to Second Collections, and who purchase food for Dove Boxes, Midnight Runs, Shelter for the Homeless meals, Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County Food Drives and other “in-kind” donations. We estimate that these in-kind donations total approximately \$4,000 in additional support.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Outreach Committee Members are Julia Wade (chair), Alison Quinn, Betsy Adams, Bud Prenevost, Edrice Veichweg, Chuck Harless, Joseph Cornacchia, Cathy Ostuw, Kim Henderson, Patricia Lydon, Ralph Nazareth, and Richard Lee. While this wonderful committee coordinates the parish's outreach efforts, dozens of others enthusiastically participate in the many activities we undertake. Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in outreach work this year. If you would like any information about the work of the Outreach Committee, please contact Julia Wade at juliagwade@gmail.com.



OUTLOOK FOR 2017

The Outreach Committee will continue to plan events that involve parishioner participation, such as dinners at Inspirica and other residential facilities, and site visits to our current grantees and other important organizations serving Stamford. The Outreach Committee will continue to update the parish on the critical needs facing our community.

The Outreach Committee welcomes inquiries from any parishioner who would like to learn more about our work and help us expand our efforts. If you would more information, please contact Julia Wade at juliagwade@gmail.com.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



As usual B & G had another busy year with both planned and emergency projects. Tad Kinne, Joe Mygatt, Pete Weber, Chuck Harless, Alice Smith, Beazie Larned, Russ Davis, and Mark Lingle all contributed extensively to our seemly endless list of activities.

NEW CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE – With the departure of Canaan Ridge School as the tenant at 2810, the parish hall received a needed paint job to clean up the building and make it presentable to potential new tenants. Joe Mygatt also led an effort to understand the possible ways, scope, and cost of putting air conditioning into the parish hall. The need for air conditioning in this building is critical to finding a new tenant. Finally, the sanctuary floor was refinished over

the summer. It was the original floor of the building, and it was ready for a face-lift. The generous donation to this project by a member of the parish made it possible.

RECTORY – Because of a leak in the shower at the rectory, it was decided that a new shower and bathroom work would be necessary. Along with this work, the outside of the rectory received a fresh coat of paint. It had been 9 years since the last painting, and there were areas on the exterior in need of paint. Finally, the rectory hot water heater failed and was replaced this year.

HISTORIC CHURCH—The steps to the Historic Church were quite weathered, and they were painted this past year. Along with the painting, there were two prominent trees on the north and west side of the Historic Church that were compromised and could create a great deal of destruction to the building if they came down in a wind storm. They were removed.



Thank you, Tad Kinne!

It cannot be overstated how much Tad Kinne has meant to the St. Francis parish. A huge debt of gratitude needs to go to Tad who has so ably and faithfully managed the Building and Grounds committee over the past decade and saved the church an untold amount because of his technical skill, creative problem solving, and dogged attention to detail and follow through. Tad has moved with his wife, Patty, to Miami, FL, and while we will miss them, we wish them all the best in their new environs. Thank you, Tad, for ALL that you have done for us and for ALL that you have meant to us. We are blessed by you. Blessings be with you!

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Altar Guild @ the Church



Thank you to all who help to keep the altar at the church beautiful and appropriately set each week. We are blessed by you. Along with the weekly duties of preparing the altar, the guild also undertakes:

1. a twice yearly silver polishing in preparation for Christmas and Easter;
2. monthly setting up for the Service for Pets and their People;
3. Cleaning up the altar after the Saturday evening services;
4. And preparing the sanctuary (e.g. aisle candle holders, etc.) for Christmas and Easter.

Because of gluten intolerance among some members of St. Francis, the decision was made this past fall to go entirely gluten free with our communion wafers. Betsy Adams makes the wafers and keeps the sacristies in both churches stocked. It is a wonderful expression of hospitality and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claudia Bilotti



Altar Guild @ the Historic Church

The altar guild is a ministry, a gift of time and talent to serve God in His house. At the 8 am service at the Historic Church, six women are responsible for the care of linens, polishing the brass and silver, and the set up and take down each week. Each member serves 2 times a month, about 4 times a year. New members always work with a "veteran".

Carol Rice continues to serve both altar guilds as a liaison for ordering wine for both buildings. Betsy Adams has been making gluten-free communion wafers for the whole parish. Patsy Whitman, who co-ordinated the flowers at this service, died this past year and is very much missed. Valerie Mead stepped in and beautiful flowers or plants are

often on the altar. Beazie Larned is in charge of the cleaning of small linens, while the large altar cloth is cleaned by New Dollar Cleaners.



The annual Altar Guild Breakfast Meeting was held on Saturday, October 8th at the meeting room. Both the guild from the Church and the one from the Historic Church meet to address changes in procedure, scheduling and other problems.

The Altar Guild would love to have some new members! If you are interested in serving at the Historic Church, please contact Beazie Larned (203) 322-0294 or beazie@aol.com.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016



A Message from The Rev. Debra Slade, Vicar St. Francis Episcopal Church

It has been my privilege to minister within our wonderful community of St. Francis as your Vicar in 2016. In addition worship assistance, I continued to coordinate the areas of Prison Ministry, our Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) Ministry, and facilitated a labyrinth evening during the 2016 Holy Week.

Except for the summer months, three members of St. Francis, Carol Rice, Audrey Roco and Moira Snover joined me, as registered prison ministers, for a once a month worship service on Saturday morning at the Regional Medical Unit (RMU) of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Our monthly visits allowed the women inmates to attend a Holy Communion worship service in their chapel, as well as receive fellowship and support from our prison ministers. In addition to the visits, members of St. Francis contributed items of need such as magazines, books, stationary, and greeting cards to the women inmates of the RMU. Prayer cards are permissible for us to give out to the women. This year's "pop up" Christmas card from us was a lovely Nativity scene from the Metropolitan

Museum's Christmas crèche. I am so grateful to our prison ministers who participated in the visits, and supported the program. I know that your presence was greatly appreciated by the women of the RMU. We also thank Sister Mary Ann Collins, the RMU's chaplain, and Sister Kathleen O'Brien, a longtime RMU volunteer for helping us with our services and gate clearances. We pray for Sister Kathleen's successful transition to retirement at her Order's community in Chicago, but will miss her at our services. We would love to have more prison ministers join our team, so please contact me if you are interested.

Our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry program at St. Francis continues to thrive thanks to the compassion, loving care of our enthusiastic ministers. In 2016, eight members of St Francis: Carol Rice, Alice Smith, Kimberly Miller, Cathy Ostuw, Jamiss Sebert, JoAnne Cone, Iskah Singh, and Diane Riffelmacher ministered as LEV's and visited our regular shut-ins on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, as the need arose, other members of our congregation also received communion in their home or at the hospital. Through this powerful and important ministry, those members of our parish who were unable to attend church received visits, were able to feel part of our community, and had the opportunity to receive Holy Communion with bread and wine consecrated at our Sunday services. Please contact Mark or me if you would like to receive a home or hospital LEV visit. Many thanks go out to our LEV's for their dedicated efforts in meeting the pastoral needs of our shut-ins, and others who needed a home or hospital visit. We sincerely thank and wish Jamiss well in her new home in Arizona. And we are grateful to Alice and Kimberly for their past service, and who will



If you are interested in joining us in any aspects of our LEV or Prison Ministries, please contact me at Debra.Slade@gmail.com, or (203) 512-0215, and I would be happy to provide you with more information about them.

Thank you all for your support of my ministry in 2016. I continue to thank God for the blessings I receive from being a part of our church family, and thank all of you, but especially Edrice, and Mark, for supporting me in our ministry together. I am so blessed and grateful to be a part of the wonderful and kind community that is St. Francis Episcopal Church!

In God's love,
Debra

Debra's Blessing

Life is short,
And we don't have much time
To gladden the hearts
Of those who travel with us.
So be quick to love,
And make haste to be kind.

And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
By upon you, and remain with you,
And all those you love,
Now and forever,
Amen.

Adapted from the words of Swiss philosopher, poet and critic, Henri Frederic Amiel, and written in his journal, December 26, 1868.



*I was in
prison
and you
visited
me.*



Coffee Hour

This is a wonderful aspect to the hospitality at St. Francis. We try to offer the coffee hour on a weekly basis after the 10 AM service (and on a more periodic basis after the 8AM service). Parishioners prepare coffee, tea, baked goods, fruit, and vegetables for others to enjoy. Beyond simple sustenance, these moments offer a chance for members to catch up with each other, and this time is invariably a lively exchange among our Franciscans! Thank you to all who have helped with this ministry over the year, and a special thanks to Linda Quinton for organizing it during 2016. If you would like to help, please contact Linda at lquintonq@aol.com. Thank you!



Deacon's Report

Looking back at 2016, the thought that comes first to mind is, "Thank God it's over." When I think of what was happening in our country, I realize what a special place St. Francis is.

While the outside world was in turmoil, St. Francis was the only place where I could come and be totally at peace, where I would be recharged to go out and face another week of whatever was happening out there.

I am truly thankful to God for leading me to St. Francis, and to all of you for accepting me as your Deacon over the last four years. It has been a wonderful experience working with our Priests, Mark and Debra who have taught me, by their example, how to be more alert to the needs of others and how to be a kinder, gentler person.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to be a blessing to us and to those who receive our shawls.

Thanks to each of you who make this Ministry so special.

I would also like to thank you for your generous support of my St. Kitts and Nevis Ministry. In 2016, we were able to purchase a security system for the St. Christopher Children's Home and to give them much needed school supplies, toiletries and other necessities. In addition to this, we were able to equip thirty four children with uniforms and school supplies ensuring that they were able to attend school, and knowing that there are people at St. Francis who care for them. They also send their appreciation for your love and support.

I do not know where 2017 would lead me, but I will be forever thankful for your love and fellowship. I will endeavor to continue to live up to my vows, to serve all people, especially the poor, the marginalized, the sick and the lonely, and to make Christ's love known by word and example.

Let us continue to walk in love, to share one another's burdens and to be the light of Christ in whatever we do, wherever we go.

Your Deacon,
Edrice Viechweg

Report on Music at St. Francis

The year in music was filled with a great deal of change. Sadly, for St. Francis, beloved minister of music, Darin Lewis, found work closer to his home in Pennsylvania. The contributions of Darin and his family—Ellen his wife and two children, Grace and Ben—were considerable for our small parish. Darin's talent for leading the choir, developing music for worship, finding quality musicians to lead the choir, and his organ musicianship were all a blessing for those who participated in worship. We said goodbye to Darin following the Easter services, and we wished them Godspeed in their transition.

With Darin's departure, a hole was left in the music leadership of the parish. With our budget situation, it was unclear how to proceed. Thankfully, we

were able to develop a solution that has allowed quality music in worship over the fall and into 2017. Section leaders, Richard Weidlich and Jim Fredericks currently co-lead the choir, with Jim accompanying on piano and Richard providing direction. We welcomed two new section leaders to our choir, soprano Norene Bueti and alto Sarah King have fit in wonderfully to the life and rhythm of St. Francis. The choir sings at most 10:00 AM services and provides special music at Christmas Eve and Easter. Thank you to all who sing in the choir, beautify our worship, and work to enhance our life together through the ministry of music. Along with the choir, the music committee has worked very hard to enhance life at St. Francis through the popular *Sounds Good* concert series. In January, the *Simpatico* chamber ensemble delighted a packed house. In May, the perennial favorite *Broadway Revisited* was another success, and in October, Alistair Reid showed off the scope and beauty of the organ in his recital. Thank you to all for the flexibility shown during this transition year. The grace expressed over these past months is in keeping with the spirit that is St. Francis. Blessings.



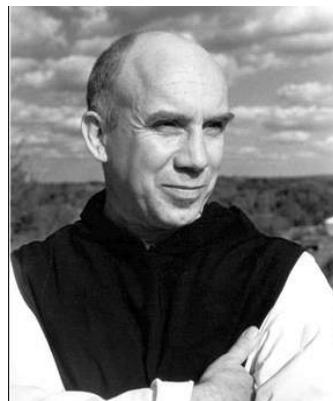
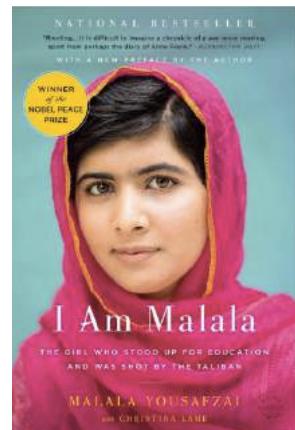
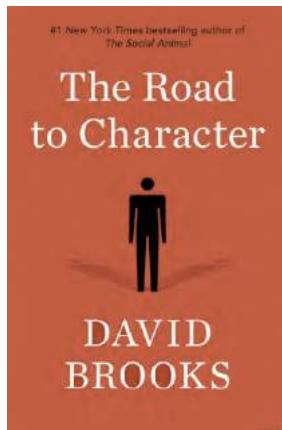
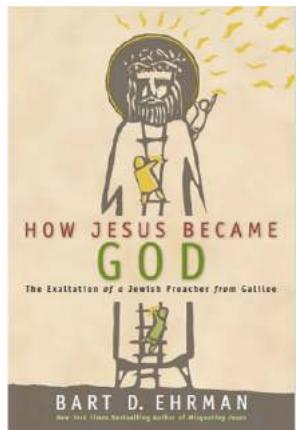
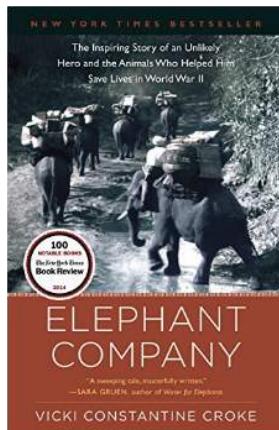
ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Continuing Education at St. Francis

Over the past year, periodic opportunities are created to question ideas of faith and life and to deepen our understanding of the Christian tradition and our own spiritual journeys. Almost monthly book club meetings were held. We were blessed by the insights of Ralph Nazareth during a weekly Lenten program that he led on Thomas Merton. We also joined with St. John's Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and Church of the Archangels Greek Orthodox to provide two excellent programs. The first was a four week analysis of the parables in Luke during the month of January. The second was a fall program on the archetypal narratives in the first part of the book of Genesis: Creation, Fall, Flood, and the Call of Abraham. We continue to be guided by the wisdom and faithfulness of so many who offer insights in gatherings, their own written material for weekly reflections, and lay sermons from time to time. All of this is intended to enrich the life of faith and remind us that faith doesn't call us out of life, but, indeed, more deeply into it.

Book Club Offerings



Finance Committee

Committee members: Sue Rutz, Brian Murphy, Jim Quinn, Cathy Ostuw, Maryann Kann, Lillian Kraemer, Patricia Lydon, Mark Lingle and Lindwood Faxon.

The Finance Committee's key roles are to monitor the financial results and assets of the church, to participate in developing the annual budget, and to provide guidance and input for all important financial decisions.

Overall, the committee met quarterly to review the church's finances. In January, we reviewed the year-end finances, discussed the 2016 Budget, and announced the Treasurer transition from Brian to Sue. The committee met in May to review the YTD finances, the Merrill Lynch investment performance, the Cooper Trust Fund, the Payment Processing Procedures, and signers on all accounts. It was decided to investigate potential alternative investment options with Merrill Lynch. In September, the committee again reviewed YTD finances, and agreed to go ahead with the proposed investment changes that would decrease our investments in cash, and increase our investments in fixed income and equity funds. Our Merrill Lynch Investment Advisor suggested we wait until after the New Year to make changes to the account to maximize our year-end results. In December, the committee reviewed YTD finances and discussed proposals for the 2017 Budget. As recommended by the Diocese, an independent accountant reviewed the financial records for 2015 and found them to be in excellent condition.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sue Rutz, Treasurer



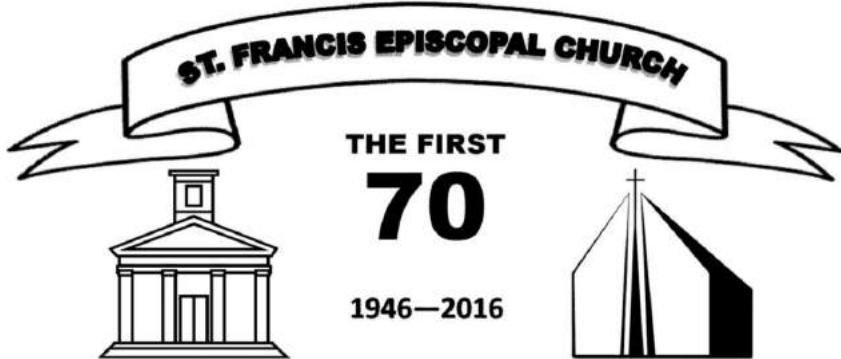
Flower Report for 2016

The flower arrangements in the Church and the Historic Church are created throughout the year (except for late-July and August when plants are substituted) by the enthusiastic and dedicated members of the Flower Guild. The varied and diverse arrangements beautify our worship space, highlighting the bounty and seasonal diversity of the natural world. Please consider dedicating flowers on a specific date in honor of a special event - births, anniversaries, graduations, remembrances.

For more details and the cost, contact Kimberly Miller for the Church (kmiller3060@gmail.com) and Valerie



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016



FIRST 70 KICK OFF PICNIC

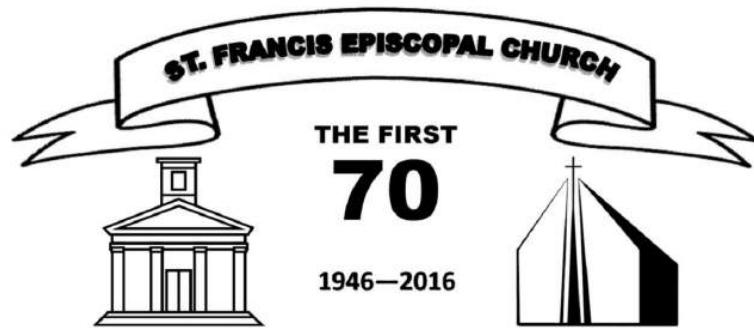


JOHN DUGDALE EXHIBIT



FUNDRAISING

PIG ROAST



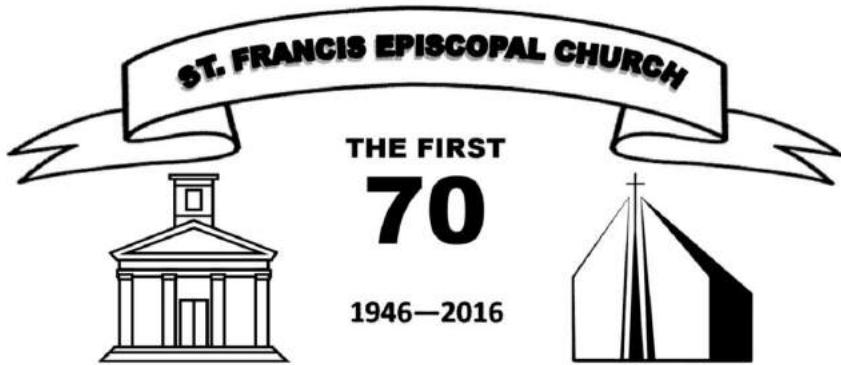
HOE DOWN



SAILING ON THE SOUND



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016



ASIAN FLAIR DINNER



70TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON



Scrip Gift Card Fundraising Program



The Scrip Gift Card Fundraising Program continued in 2016, but with significantly less volume than in prior years, declining from \$2,479 in 2013 to \$926 in 2016. Due to this declining demand, the purchase of plastic gift cards will be discontinued. The program will still be available for families who purchase e-cards. Contact Cathy Ostuw, Scrip Program Coordinator at cathy.ostuw@gmail.com or at (203) 595-0556, with any questions or to set up an e-card account. Thank you!!



legged friends to make a highly successful Dogapalooza; Eilish Main, who once again prepared all of the marketing materials; Claudia Bilotto, who secured terrific media coverage; Frank Mastrone, who gave a rousing rendition of the national anthem; and, last but never least, Margie Irish, who organized and ran the overflowing hospitality tables, devised a successful new category of race entrant – the Cheering Squad – and is now hard at work on a recipe for a Miles for a Mission banana bread. It was a wonderful day filled with the joy and energy that St. Francis parishioners can generate like no others, and we were able to raise almost \$14,000 for Inspirica. So mark your calendars for September 24, 2017. You won't want to miss the Fifth Annual Miles for a Mission.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Geary

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Presenting Sponsor



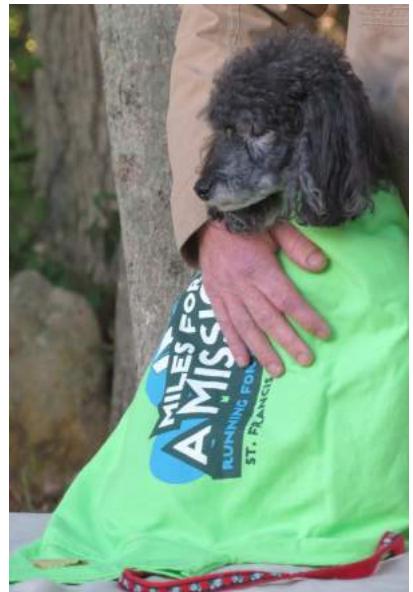
Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Dogapalooza a Hit!



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to Melanie & Michael Carroll and Tyler and Uli Stevens for planning and making the annual Easter Egg Hunt such fun and a lively time. And thank you to all who helped with preparations and crafts. Youth from the neighborhood and a wonderful contingent from Neighbors Link Stamford filled the church and grounds with energy and excitement!

It was a wonderful way to prepare for the season of Resurrection that was soon to be celebrated!



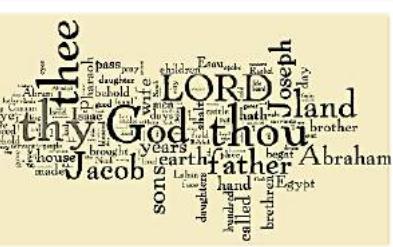
EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Lenten Retreat



Vigil to Remember Orlando



Cross & Crescent

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS' FAITH &IFTAR MEAL



Landscaping

The Landscaper volunteers consist of members who give 2 hours on a Saturday once a month to maintain the grounds at both the Church and the Historic Church. Each month a list of chores is tackled – weeding, planting, and maintaining the flowers and shrubs.

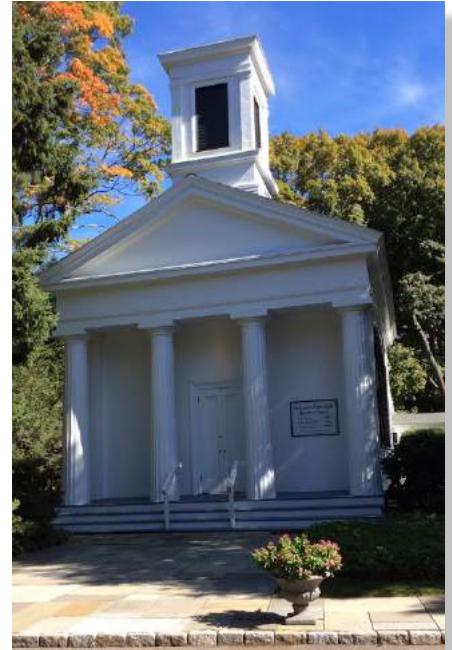
At the entrance to the Church, an Easter container is planted and it is followed in summer by a large container planted with annuals which last until frost. More annuals are planted in the cloister as well as a container filled with geraniums. These are all easy care plants, not requiring too much attention.

At the Historic Church, the 4 cement containers were planted with donated multi-colored vinca, that lasted all summer. They were replaced by mums, followed by Alberta spruce trees.

There was a good turn-out for these landscaping meetings most of the time, especially when the daffodil foliage needed to be cut down which is a huge job.

I greatly appreciate all the help I receive, especially from Alice Smith. Also a big thank you to those of you who put in extra time to tend to a special chore and to those who watered during the summer while I was away.

Do join us this coming summer. No gardening knowledge is necessary and have fun meeting others while weeding or planting! If you are interested, please contact Beazie Larned (203) 322-0294 or beazie@aol.com.



2016 Marketing Report

Committee Members: Claudia Bilotti, Jane Lazgin, Rich Lee, Gerianne Delaney, Maryann Kann, Marjory Irish, Terry Murphy, Brian Murphy, Cathy Ostuw, Mark Lingle, Dom Gautreau, Eilish Main

The Marketing Committee completed and launched the new St. Francis website in 2016. The Committee, made up of 12 members with a diverse array of talent and expertise in marketing, communications and planning promotes the vibrancy of St. Francis to the larger community. The committee met several times over the course of the year to work on developing a new website for St. Francis. Organized around 3 themes, “Grow”, “Serve” and “I’m New” the new website is mobile responsive, includes recordings of Mark’s and the other clergy’s sermons and highlights the active calendar of events and activities of our parish. A new “Parishioner Login” contains the parish directory and other useful tools.



The Marketing Committee promotes and supports many of the events and activities throughout the year including the Sounds Good Concert Series, the Miles for a Mission Road Race, the Stewardship Campaign, and the significant services of the liturgical year. Due to the diligent posting of articles and copy to print and online sites by Claudia Bilotti we have frequent print and photo coverage in The Stamford Advocate, Stamford Plus and online sites like The Stamford Patch, Moffly Media Insider and others.

“Rally Sunday” is hosted by the Marketing Committee under the capable leadership of Gerianne Delaney to create better awareness and participation in the more than 24 committees that make up the volunteering opportunities at St. Francis.

We welcome any and all good ideas, and invite you to join the Marketing Committee if you have interest in copywriting, event planning, communications and/or marketing expertise.

Respectfully submitted,
Eilish Main
Marketing Committee Chair



Music

Simpalicod



Organ Recital:

Alistair
Reid



St. Francis Prayer Shawl Ministry

Four years ago, our wonderful Deacon, Edrice Viehweg, introduced the Prayer Shawl Ministry to St Francis.

I had heard about it from other friends many years before, and was always moved by the concept of gathering in small prayerful groups, to work individually or collectively on projects, which were designed to bring warmth and comfort to folks in need. Little did I know that our projects would engender so much joy and comfort to those participating in stitching and knitting, and that while our mission was to embrace others with care and prayer, we ourselves would become the beneficiaries.

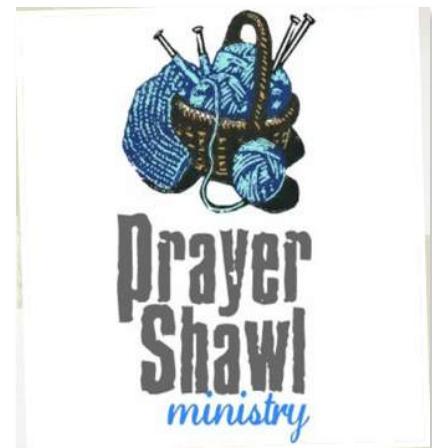
This is partly due to companionship and laughter, which seems to be corner stones of our monthly meetings. I've had the privilege of hosting groups from six to twenty-five attendees, some of whom do beautiful work, and others are truly beginners, anxious to learn to knit or crochet. Then there is my work, which I habitually urge Edrice to save for the blind. It is indeed "holy or hole-y".

We gather at 6:30 and stitch until I call the assemblage for a bowl of soup and a slice of frittata, and what ever other goodies

our stitchers decide to bring. We gather around the table and either Edrice offers a prayer or each of us in rotation offers one. While we like to think of ourselves as inclusive, these treasured evenings frequently find us delving into women's issues, and sharing stories which gentlemen might not comprehend or appreciate, thus it is probably best left as a women's group. Prayer Shawls, chemo caps, blankets, hats, and scarves are

produced with eager fingers and full hearts. We are pleased to fill requests from individuals or out agencies, and equally pleased to welcome newcomers to this happy group. We have a few followers who cannot conceive of stitching at all, but are delighted to join the merry little band in prayer and friendship.

Margie



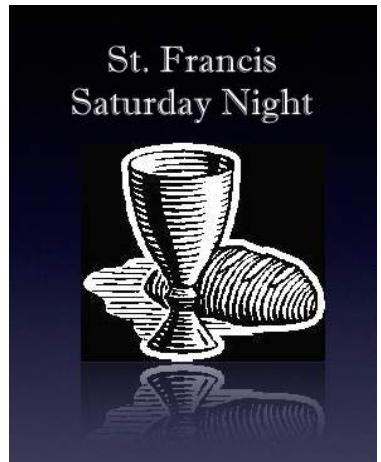
Worship in the Meeting Room from this past summer...



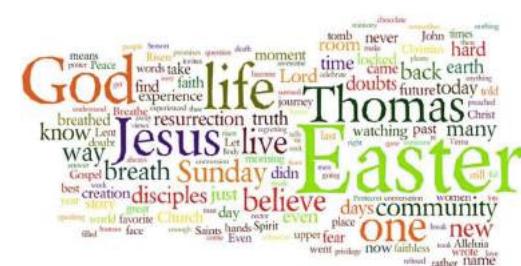
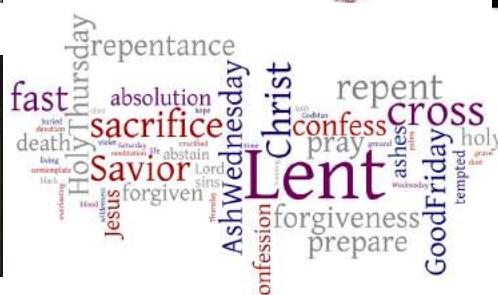


ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Worship at St. Francis



Lessons & Carols



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

Below we will provide brief bios of candidates for the next vestry class. The Nominating Committee is putting these names forward for approval at the annual meeting on January 24.

We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Along with the new vestry class, Kim Henderson is being nominated to serve with Patricia Lydon as warden. She will replace Cathy Ostuw who has served so faithfully, gracefully, and amazingly over the past four years. Thank you, Cathy!

The slate of officers and vestry classes include:

WARDENS

Patricia Lydon
Kim Henderson

TREASURER

Sue Rutz

CLERK

Dawn Randall

CLASS TO END 2018

Philip Calabrese
Dom Gautrau
Frank Mastrone
Audrey Roco

CLASS TO END 2019

Eilish Main
Annette Herber
Linda Quinton

CLASS TO END 2020

Jane Lazgin
Deborah Meyers
Tyler Stevens
Julia Wade

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Kim Henderson—For Warden



Kim earned her BA at Wellesley College and her MBA from Columbia University. She worked for Consolidated Edison Co. of NY as a procurement specialist, and WR Grace & Co., New York, in financial planning before moving to the UK to work as a consultant for DC Gardner & Co. in London. She currently consults for the Sherman Fairchild Foundation. She has served on the Board of Long Ridge School (Treasurer and other positions) and the King and Low-Heywood Thomas School's Parent Association as Fundraising Chair. Kim has served on the St. Francis Episcopal Church Vestry and chaired the Outreach Committee for five years (has been a member of their outreach committee for the past 14 years). She has served on the Executive Committee of the Southern CT Wellesley Club as Treasurer and the Phillips Exeter Academy Parent's Committee. Kim serves on the United Way of Western Connecticut's Stamford Grant Review Committee. She currently is a member of the Inspirica Board of Directors and chaired the Inspirica Governance Committee for 4 years. She is a member of the Inspirica Strategic Planning Task Force and is the Inspirica Board Representative for their Advisory Council. She is also a teaching naturalist for Greenwich Audubon. Kim resides in Stamford with her husband; they have a daughter, Alison (27 years) and son, Jack (23 years).

MEET THE NOMINATED VESTRY CLASS . . .

Deborah Meyers

Deborah was born and raised in New York, in Brooklyn and on Staten Island. She attended Florida Atlantic University, where she majored in economics. She has worked in assisting the investment department at a bank full-time while in college. After college, she was employed at Merrill Lynch in Boca Raton, Florida, for 14 years; that is where she met and married her husband.

After 16 years in South Florida, Deborah's husband's career path took them to Rochester, NY (3 years), Rochester, MI (2 years), and then Stamford, where she has lived since 2002. Deborah has one child who is now a freshman at Boston University.

Deborah was married 19 years, and became widowed in May 2015.

Deborah was raised in the Catholic religion. As an adult, she ventured away from the Catholic Church in search of a Christian community that was more comfortable, more progressive, logical and welcoming. Her spiritual journey was such: Unitarian Universalist, Episcopal, Lutheran, back to Unitarian Universalist, and then finally back to Episcopal, where St. Francis Parish and Mark Lingle make complete and clear sense to her, offer her comfort, acceptance, diversity, understanding, clarity, and a community she wants to call "family".

Deborah's near-term goals are to sell her house and downsize to a smaller residence in Stamford, secure a job in the real estate profession, and provide valuable service on the vestry at St. Francis.



ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

MEET THE NOMINATED VESTRY CLASS . . .



Jane Lazgin

Taking me beyond the sights a girl from Staten Island could see, has been my 30-plus year career with Nestlé Waters North America, the third largest beverage company in America, based here in Stamford. It's a great story about corporate citizenship and healthy brands such as Poland Spring and S. Pellegrino that I have the opportunity to tell in my role in executive speaking and programs. My passion for communicating began as an education major at SUNY New Paltz and McGill University back in the 1970's. In January 2012, Richard Lee, our kitty and I landed in North Stamford from elsewhere in Connecticut, and found St. Francis on Easter Sunday a few months later. Every week, St. Francis raises our spirits, challenges our thinking, renews our community of friends, and sends us off with a refreshed perspective as we embark on our busy work lives, enjoying our home together, or time for Tai Chi, bicycling, history, sports and cooking.



Tyler Stevens

Tyler and Ulli joined St. Francis looking for a place to raise their children in an open and welcoming Episcopalian environment. They started attending in 2014 and Romy was soon baptized in the summer of 2014. Tyler grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin just down the street from St. Christopher's Church and has fond memories of church and bond that it created in their family. He was involved with the Canterbury House while attending Northwestern University, where he received his BA in Economics and Sociology as well as an MBA in Finance. After living at a variety of places, from Kansas City, Houston, Washington D.C and a couple stops in New York and London intermingled as well as a half dozen towns in Fairfield county he finally settled down in North Stamford. Tyler's primary experience is as an investment professional trading commodities and bonds. He has also spent time as a Math teacher at The Forman School in Connecticut, where he also served as a trustee on the board for six years. Tyler is involved with the Sunday school given Til is 4 and Romy is 3. You might have seen him around, with Til and Romy nipping at his heels and jumping into help when needed to setup, move and clean at most major events, and now oversees the Easter Egg Hunt. Tyler is thankful for all the smiles and joy Til and Romy give and receive from the congregation, as well as Mark's smiles when the Packers beat the Vikings.



Julia Wade

Julia joined St. Francis in the mid 80's, looking for a place to help her 3 young children learn about service, love, and nothing less than right and wrong. While her children are in various stages of questioning God's existence, she found a home for her own faith journey. In her 30 years with St. Francis, she served on the vestry, became a Chalice bearer and occasional reader, joined the old WOSF (Women of St. Francis), provided coffee hour refreshments, washed robes, moved furniture, delivered food during Midnight Runs; and recently became chair of the Outreach Committee. Julia is Director of Volunteers for Domus and served on the Board of Education for 7 years. She counts among her many blessings, the St. Francis friends who have become her extended family.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

TREASURER'S REPORT

2016 Financial Summary

- 2016 ended with a Net Income of \$84,306 versus a budgeted amount of \$5,054.
- Total revenue was \$467,050 which was \$82,300 above budget. Many thanks to our generous congregation for their pledge contributions. Additionally, we were very fortunate to receive several Bequests, Memoriams, Special Offerings and other Non-pledge income. Canaan Ridge also made rent payments of \$41K prior to their vacating the Parish House at the end of June. Great efforts by all in providing \$14K from the fund-raising 70TH Celebrations, \$14K from the Miles for a Mission event, and \$32K in 2016 revenue from the 70 for 70 Campaign.

INCOME	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	Difference
Pledge	\$260,136	\$250,000	\$10,136
Non-Pledge, Bequests, Special Offerings	\$72,963	\$26,750	\$46,213
Music & Flowers	\$17,135	\$19,100	(\$1,965)
Rent (including CRS)	\$51,100	\$30,500	\$20,600
Fundraising	\$61,029	\$54,000	\$7,029
Interest & Dividends	\$4,687	\$4,400	\$287
TOTAL INCOME	\$467,050	\$384,750	\$82,300

- Total expenses were \$382,743 which was \$3,047 above budget. 20% of our expenses were related to maintenance and projects on the church properties. Administration expenses were less than expected due to less funds and hours spent on the website than budgeted. Our Music expenses were reduced without a formal Music Director for part of the year, yet remains a priority totaling about 10% of our expenses. Outreach grants totaled \$29K, continuing our good works in the community.

EXPENSES	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	Difference
Ministry	\$124,817	\$121,300	\$3,517
Administration	\$29,948	\$42,275	(\$12,327)
Education & Worship	\$4,051	\$4,800	(\$749)
Music	\$34,568	\$39,000	(\$4,432)
Utilities	\$27,093	\$27,321	(\$228)
Maintenance	\$49,610	\$53,200	(\$3,590)
Non-Recurring Projects	\$17,000	\$15,000	\$2,000
Diocesan Pledge & Outreach	\$63,863	\$44,800	\$19,063
Mortgage	\$31,794	\$32,000	(\$206)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$382,743	\$379,696	\$3,047

With sincere gratitude to Audrey ~~Roco~~, Financial Secretary, and Alison Quinn, Professional Bookkeeper, who so generously offer their time and talent to the finances of St Francis Church.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sue ~~Rutz~~, Treasurer

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

2017 Budget

- This budget has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and the Vestry.
- 2017 proposed budget has expenses of \$356, 997 exceeding revenue of \$324, 950 for a deficit of \$32,047. We propose a deficit budget recognizing that, without a tenant for the Parish House, we must be very conservative in our spending, but continue to support the activities that are critical to the life of the parish. The positive net income for 2016 will be enough to cover the anticipated 2017 deficit.

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	Difference	Comments
INCOME				
Pledge	\$260, 136	\$230,000	(\$30,136)	2017 reflects actual pledges to date; loss of several members
Non-Pledge & Other	\$72,963	\$24,000	(\$48,963)	2016 reflects one-time donations
Music & Flowers	\$17,135	\$7,400	(\$9,735)	
Rent	\$51,100	\$5,550	(\$45,550)	2017 - AllAS rent
Fundraisers	\$61,029	\$52,000	(\$9,029)	2017 - \$10K fundraiser + \$10K Race + \$32K 70 for 70 Campaign
Interest & Div.	\$4,687	\$6,000	\$1,313	
TOTAL INCOME	\$467,050	\$324,950	\$142,100	
EXPENSES				
Ministry	\$124,817	\$121,630	(\$3,187)	
Administration	\$29,948	\$37,325	\$7,377	2017 – increased website work
Education & Worship	\$4,051	\$3,550	(\$501)	
Music	\$34,568	\$25,060	(\$9,508)	Continue with Music Professionals, Richard, Jim, and occasional supply organist
Utilities	\$27,093	\$25,850	(\$1,243)	
Maintenance	\$49,610	\$51,435	\$1,825	2017 – includes Property Manager, reduced services
Non-Recurring Projects	\$17,000	\$7,500	(\$9,500)	2017 – reduced budget; will source from Restricted B&G Funds if needed
Diocesan Pledge & Outreach	\$63,863	\$52,647	(\$11,216)	2017 Outreach Grants - \$15,000
Mortgage	\$31,794	\$32,000	\$206	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$382,743	\$356,997	(\$25,746)	
Net Operating Income	\$84,306	(\$32,047)		

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Minutes of St. Francis Episcopal Church 70th Annual Parish Meeting – January 31, 2016

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 11:13 AM with an invocation by Rector Mark Lingle. Mark noted that the Annual Report had previously been circulated electronically; there were a limited number of hard copies available at the meeting, and the Agenda was available as well.

ADOPTION OF VOTING LIST

The Voting List as circulated, reviewed and approved by the Vestry, was voted upon and approved.

MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the 69th Annual Meeting, held on January 25, 2015, which were circulated prior to the meeting, were approved as presented.

REPORTS

RECTOR

Mark notes that, as he put together the Annual Report, he was reminded of all that had happened during the year. Mark then asked Eilish Main to give a brief update on the parish's new website. Eilish reported that the new St. Francis website is close to completion. It will be "mobile responsive" which means it will work well on phones and tablets as well as PCs. She commended Randy Herbertson, of The Visual Brand, who has been very generous with his help in designing the site. The new site will have a calendar, ability to make online donations, and sermons will be accessible online.

Mark reported that Dom Gautrau and the B&G Committee had successfully negotiated new fuel contracts, which will allow us significant savings.

Mark thanked several groups for their work during the year:

the B&G Committee, the Vestry (recognizing Melissa Frazier, who is moving to Boston) and the Wardens.

DEACON

Edrice Veichweg thanked Mark for making her feel so at home at St. Francis, thanked Margery Irish for welcoming the Prayer Shawl Ministry into her home, and all at St. Francis who have supported her work in St. Kitts and Nevis.

VICAR

Debra Slade noted that she is serving in her 8th year at St. Francis. Her day job keeps her very busy, and she loves to come to St. Francis on Sundays, where she is spiritually renewed. She especially loves the Prison Ministry and the LEV Ministry. She is grateful to the volunteers who have endured the administrative hassles of the Prison system, and she reminds us that the women there are so grateful for our support.

WARDENS

Cathy Ostuw noted that Patricia Lydon was not able to attend the rescheduled meeting, since she had prior travel plans.

Cathy reported that the highlight of the year was the installation of Mark as rector, which was a long process, but well worth the effort. On June 2 we celebrated Mark's installation as 5th rector of St. Francis Church.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Cathy recapped the Canaan Ridge School situation:

The school has been struggling financially, and had only been making partial rent payments since the Fall of 2012. In June we signed a stipulated agreement in court with Canaan Ridge School, with them agreeing to resume payments to us and to leave at in June 2017. But things did not go well, and in November we went back to court and were successful in getting the school to agree to leave at the end of this school year – June 2016. Now, with a date certain, we can plan for the future.

In early January we entered an agreement with a commercial realtor, Pyramid Real Estate Group, to market the property for us. But, until a tenant is in place, we must budget very austere. We are planning for a two-year period of transition.

The Vestry realizes that, while having a stable tenant who will provide us with steady rent payments is critically important, there are many other approaches that we must take to ensure our sustainability. In October, the Vestry started a series of Sustainability Planning meetings, exploring all kinds of ways to increase revenues and attract parishioners.

- Revenues -- There are two initiatives that Dom Gautrau has brought to us: Planned Giving and Li\$t for St. Francis. We will be sending you information in the next few weeks about both of these, and we have scheduled parish meetings on April 10 after the 10:00 service to discuss these with you.
- Parishioners – we are taking steps on a number of fronts, some of which you are hearing about today:
 - new website,
 - more emphasis on marketing generally,
 - more collaborations with other faith organizations,
 - more hands-on outreach activities.

Finally, 2016 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Parish, and plans for that celebration will begin soon.

TREASURER

Brian Murphy reviewed the sheets that were handed out at the meeting, pointing out that our net income was \$77,858 versus a budgeted loss of \$8,950, total revenue was \$480,828 which was \$87,528 above budget, and total expenses were \$402,970 which was \$720 above budget.

Total revenue was above budget by primarily due to 3 reasons:

- A \$25,000 bequest from Molly McGreevy in December, and parishioner donations (pledge and non-pledge) were higher than anticipated
- We received more from Canaan Ridge School than we had expected to get: we received some overdue rent from 2014 in 2015, and in the court agreement we were able to demand \$1,000 more per month than we have been getting.
- The reMARKable fundraiser, celebrating Mark's installation as rector was a huge success and we raised more than expected, and Miles for a Mission revenue was higher than expected

The 2016 budget was originally planned to have a \$27,000 loss, but a parishioner has generously offered a "70 for 70" matching gift campaign, which in celebration of our 70th Anniversary, will raise \$35,000 from parishioners, and will be matched by another \$35,000 from that parishioner. This will be spread over two years, yielding an additional \$35,000 per year for 2016 and 2017, which is approximately what it takes to pay our mortgage.

Brian noted that he has seen a lot of transition in his 37 years at St. Francis, and he knows we will emerge from this situation as an even stronger parish.

Mark thanked Brian for his years serving as Treasurer, which Brian said was a labor of love.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The 2016 budget was then approved unanimously.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Eilish Main is fulfilling a 2nd term on the vestry, Philip Calabrese has agreed to remain on the vestry and fulfill a two year vacancy, and Claudia Bilotto has agreed to remain and fill out a one year vacancy. New Vestry members are: Deborah Meyers, filling a vacancy left in the class of 2017 and Kim Henderson, Annette Herber, Linda Quinton and Sue Rutz. Full bios are available in the Annual Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Senior Warden: Cathy Ostuw, Junior Warden: Patricia Lydon, Treasurer: Sue Rutz, Clerk: Maryann Kann. The Vestry and Officer slates were brought to a vote and unanimously accepted.

UNSUNG HERO / SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Jim and Alison Quinn were recognized as our unsung heroes, for Jim's work on the Vestry, as Warden, on the Finance Committee and on the Discernment process, and for Alison's amazing bookkeeping work, and child care and Sunday School coordinator. Alison is behind so many of the reports that we receive and rely on. Thanks to Jim and Alison!!

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Margery Irish thanked Mark for all he does for the life of the Parish. .

COMMEMORATION OF THOSE BURIED FROM ST. FRANCIS THIS PAST YEAR

We said a prayer on behalf of the following:

Courtney Byrnes

Norma Hart

The Rev. Robert Dresser

The Rev. Molly McGreevy

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

We ended by all reciting the Prayer of St. Francis. Mark then gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 12:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Ostuw, on behalf of the Clerk