

Kingston Parish Annual Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the (Episcopal) Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” As members of Kingston Parish, we will involve ourselves in sharing God’s gift through worship, serving, giving, evangelism, education, and pastoral care, reaching out to all people.

AGENDA

January 21, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

VESTRY ELECTION

- Presentation of the Candidates
- Nominations from the Floor
- Balloting

READING OF 2017 MINUTES – Carol Swartz, Recorder

PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 BUDGET – Mac Butler

STATE OF THE PARISH – Senior Warden, Mary Chapman

CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN REPORTS AS SUBMITTED

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR – Fr. Gary Barker

RECOGNITION OF SERVICES RENDERED

RECTOR’S COMMENTS AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

LIGHT LUNCHEON

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Mary Kathryn Diggs	18
Shannon Kirschbaum	18
Valerie Lewis	18

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Gary Barker at 11:47 AM in Kingston Chapel immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist service. Copies of the Annual Report were distributed to attendees. Fr. Gary opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: Communicants in Good Standing Present: 70. Fr. Gary declared that a quorum was met.

ELECTION OF INCOMING VESTRY MEMBERS

Jackie Ingram, Rachel Morris and Hunt Thompson have been nominated by the vestry to run for the three vestry openings (short bios are included at the end of this Annual Report). A motion was made, seconded and approved to close nominations. A motion was made and seconded to approve the three candidates. The slate was affirmed by acclamation.

READING OF THE MINUTES FROM 2016 MEETING

A motion was made, seconded and approved that a reading of the January 31, 2016 minutes as presented in the Annual Report be waived. The minutes were then accepted without change.

PRESENTATION OF 2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

The financial status of Kingston Parish for 2016 and the 2017 budget approved by the vestry on January 16, 2017 were presented by Mac Butler (published in the Annual Report). We have nine new pledgers this year.

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

In addition to the written report, Josie Thorpe thanked everyone for stepping up this past year to help whenever needed.

REPORT FROM PARISH DELEGATE TO THE 2015 ANNUAL COUNCIL: Mary Chapman gave a brief overview of the Diocesan Convention held last weekend in Reston, Virginia. A written report was also included in the Annual Report.

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR: Fr. Gary

Fr. Gary commented that we are in a beautiful phase in our church life right now. It has been a difficult year with the amount of members we have lost due to death or to moving to retirement homes but we have also seen many members added to our parish. He referred the congregation to his written report.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS

Fr. Gary recognized Josie Thorpe (Senior Warden) and Reed Lawson (Communications) for their service and presented them with a gift. He then called the entire Vestry to stand to thank them and pray for them.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed with thanks to all those who prepared the meal and thanks to God for his many blessings.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Swartz, Register

Treasurer's Report

	2018 BUDGET	2017 Actual
Income		
0109 · GENERAL OPERATING INCOME		
0100 · PLATE OFFERINGS (Unidentified)	4,000	3,947
0102 · ID OFFERINGS (Check Writers)	8,000	9,211
0103 · PLEDGE OFFERINGS	238,992	201,307
0103 · ANTICIPATED PLEDGES	16,280	10,675
PREPAID PLEDGES - PRORATED		33,150
0104 · CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST	600	554
0106 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (copier,rentals,Lobster Dinner)	7,500	8,102
0105 · ENDOWMENT INCOME (Corr & Goldsborough) (pro-rated)	6,803	6,244
0105 · ENDOWMENT INCOME	28,000	20,600
Total 0109 · TOTAL GENERAL OPERATING INCOME	310,175	293,790
Expense		
2190 · STAFF		
2001 · RECTOR'S SALARY	59,258	58,096
RECTOR'S HOUSING	20,148	19,462
2030 · RECTOR'S CONTINUING EDUCATION		46
2035 · RECTOR'S RESOURCE FUND (Books, other teaching aids)		
2040 · RECTOR'S PENSION	15,387	15,028
2050 · RECTOR'S SECA	6,075	5,933
2060 · RECTOR'S MEDICAL	17,220	17,383
2080 · HOUSEKEEPING	16,646	16,520
2090 · SECRETARY SALARY	26,257	25,742
2101 · SECRETARY PENSION	2,363	2,316
2120 · STAFF FICA (Fica-6.2%--Medicare-1.45%)	5,000	5,051
2121 · STAFF GROUP LIFE	200	197
2130 · SUPPLY PRIEST	900	795
2140 · SUPPLY ORGANIST	400	400
2150 · MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST	15,651	15,344
2151 · MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST IRA	1,409	1,381
2155 ORGANIST	8,830	8,657
2180 · BOOK-KEEPER (1.5 days/week)	13,370	13,108
2188 · Staff Christmas Bonuses	500	433
Total 2190 · TOTAL STAFF	209,614	205,892
2290 · TRAVEL		
2200 · RECTOR	2,000	1,782
2201 · SUPPLY ORGANIST	50	35
2210 · SUPPLY PRIEST	100	74
Total 2290 · TOTAL TRAVEL	2,150	1,891
2390 · OFFICE		
2300 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,400	1,436
2320 · COPY MACHINE	3,200	3,105
2330 EQUIPMENT		
2340 · POSTAGE	1,000	997
2350 · TELEPHONE	4,500	4,491
2360 ·COMPUTER SOFTWARE	110	110
Total 2390 · TOTAL OFFICE	10,210	10,139

2490 · INSURANCE		
2400 · COMMERCIAL PROPERTY & LIABILITY	13,717	13,451
2410 · WORKERS COMPREHENSIVE	1,640	1,517
2460 · EXCESS VOLUNTEER AUTO	500	483
Total 2490 · TOTAL INSURANCE	15,857	15,451
3090 · PARISH HOUSE		
2920 · REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	2,000	1,103
2923 · FIRE ALARM MAINTENANCE	200	57
2950 · GROUNDS	5,000	4,179
2960 · PEST CONTROL	660	720
2980 · TRASH REMOVAL	860	794
3010 · WASTE WATER TREATMENT	700	560
3020 · ELECTRICITY	5,500	4,211
Total 3090 · TOTAL PARISH HOUSE	14,920	11,624
3250 TRINITY		
3260 GROUNDS	9,000	9,230
3290 · CHRIST CHURCH		
3120 · REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	500	
3121 · TERMITE INSPECTION	250	180
3150 GROUNDS	9,600	9,665
3180 · ALARM	1,000	1,069
3181 · TELEPHONE	600	622
3200 · ELECTRICITY	2,000	1,504
3210 · PROPERTY TAX ON FIELD	230	230
Total 3290 · TOTAL CHRIST CHURCH	14,180	12,236
3490 · RECTORY		
3350 · WASTE WATER TREATMENT		
3400 · ELECTRICITY	230	230
Total 3490 · TOTAL RECTORY		230
	230	
3590 · WORSHIP - KINGSTON CHAPEL		
3580A · ALTAR GUILD/Miscellaneous	100	232
3580B · MUSIC MATERIALS		
3580F · MUSIC LICENSE	500	471
PIANO TUNE	150	
Total 3580 · KINGSTON CHAPEL	750	703
3581 · CHRIST CHURCH		
3581A · ALTAR GUILD	100	83
3581B · MUSIC MATERIALS/MISC.	100	163
3581C · ORGAN TUNE/REPAIR	500	318
3581E · SOLOIST/GUEST MUSICIAN	225	
Total 3581 · TOTAL CHRIST CHURCH	925	564
3582 · SPECIAL SERVICES		
4300 · PARISH PICNIC	500	492
6110 · SHRINEMONT RETREAT	100	
3582 · SPECIAL SERVICES/OTHER (Agape)	100	538

Total 3582 · TOTAL SPECIAL SERVICES	700	1,030
RESERVE FOR SABBATICAL		5,000
3790 · CHRISTIAN ED.		
3700 · SUNDAY SCHOOL	100	
3721 NURSERY CARE	1,600	1,515
3720 · CHRISTIAN ED. OTHER	100	90
3810 · VA. EPISCOPALIAN	750	730
3820 · FORWARD MOVEMENT	120	120
Total 3790 · TOTAL CHRISTIAN ED.	2,670	2,455
3890 · COMMUNICATIONS		
3800 · ADVERTISING	1,000	1,034
Total 3890 · COMMUNICATIONS	1,000	1,034
4000 · HOUSEKEEPING		
4001 · HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES	1,700	1,683
Total 4000 · HOUSEKEEPING	1,700	1,683
4090 · STEWARDSHIP		
3901 · HARVEST DINNER		
3920 · PLEDGE ENV.	270	267
STEWARDSHIP OTHER/POSTAGE	150	125
Total 4090 · STEWARDSHIP	420	392
4290 TOTAL PLEDGES		
4100 · DIOCESAN	20,705	20,889
4110 · REGION II	300	300
Total 4290 · TOTAL PLEDGES	21,005	21,189
4390 FELLOWSHIP		
4310 · BISHOP VISIT	100	50
4350 · MISCELLANEOUS FELLOWSHIP (ex: Lobster Dinner Exp)	3,000	3,081
Total 4390 · FELLOWSHIP	3,100	3,131
4890 CONFERENCES		
4830 · ANNUAL COUNCIL	700	684
4840D · VESTRY RETREAT	200	183
4840 · CONFERENCES - Other	400	823
Total 4890 · TOTAL CONFERENCES	1,300	1,690
Total 4990 · TOTAL EXPENSES	309,731	305,564
NET	444	-11,774

Kingston Parish Endowment Fund Committee

In accordance with the Kingston Parish Endowment Fund Committee Plan of Organization (dated April 20, 2006), Section A. 10. – Organization, Operation and Authority of the Endowment Fund Committee: Annual Reports to the Parish, the Committee reports as follows:

The Committee is charged with the oversight of eight endowment funds: (1) General Endowment, (2) Christ Church Cemetery Fund, (3) Corr Fund, (4) Goldsborough Trust, (5) Scholarship Fund (6) Trinity Church Cemetery Fund, (7) Pamela B. Machen Memorial Fund and (8) The William Garland and Virginia Leary Youth Christian Education Fund. Complete summaries of these funds are available from the Parish office and the Chairman of the committee.

Members may serve two consecutive three-year terms. We are pleased that immediate past Treasurer Mac Butler and Men's Sunday School Class Leader Ron Lambert have agreed to join our committee this year. Josie Thorpe was ineligible for reappointment, and we say goodbye to our good friend Ken Brown. We are grateful for the service of these dedicated individuals.

Recommendation(s)

This committee encourages and supports the limited distribution of monies from the endowment funds. Amounts distributable should be drawn for specific purposes as approved by the Vestry. Any available monies remaining should not, as a matter of practice, be transferred to the Parish for use as general operating funds. That any particular fund might allow for distributable amounts to be used in this manner, does not necessarily validate the practice of doing so. Monies which are not expended in any one year would, thereby, revert to the corpus of each endowment, and accrue towards the perpetual growth of those funds.

In accordance with TOTF policy, and authority derived from Kingston Parish Endowment Fund Committee Plan of Organization (dated April 20, 2006) – Organization, Operation and Authority of the Endowment Fund Committee: Section A. 6. Authority and Discretion, and Section A. 7. Distribution Policy, the Kingston Parish Endowment Fund Committee recommends a distribution policy of 4.5%.

As regards the endowment funds specifically –

General Endowment Proceeds of this fund are to be used to support “Parish programs, properties and outreach ministries” with the understanding that these monies should not be used for routine expenses incurred in the normal day-to-day operations of the Parish. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$26,657.79. The spendable amount is \$1,026.10, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Christ Church Cemetery Fund Proceeds of this fund are to be used principally for the upkeep of Christ Church Cemetery. If the Vestry deems all needs of the Cemetery to have been addressed, remaining funds from the annual spendable amount may be used to maintain Christ Church. Any remaining monies may be used to maintain the Parish House and grounds. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$546,587.26. The spendable amount is \$21,100.61, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Corr Fund Established by the will of William E. Corr in 1969, proceeds are designated for “the long term and perpetual viability of Kingston Parish” and may be deposited in the Parish general fund. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$122,122.41. The spendable amount is \$4,714.45, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Goldsborough Trust Created in 1934 by Ellen Goldsborough for the benefit of Trinity Church and its Sunday School, funds now are used to support Kingston Parish Sunday School specifically or Christian education

programs in general. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$54,119.70. The spendable amount is \$2,089.25, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Scholarship Fund Established by the Vestry in 1996, and amended in 2015. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$141,492.37. The spendable amount available is \$5,462.21, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Trinity Church Cemetery Fund Established to provide perpetual care of Trinity Church cemetery and grounds, “once all current and projected expenses are met of Trinity Church on an annual basis, the balance of the fund income may be used for the benefit of the greater Kingston Parish...” As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$ 434,333.86. The spendable amount is \$16,767.15, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Pamela B. Machen Fund Established in 2008 in memory of Pam Machen, proceeds are devoted to insuring the continuation of outreach programs of Kingston Parish. Therefore, monies available from this fund are to be transferred annually to the Outreach Committee of the Parish. As of September 30th 2017, the market value this fund is \$29,129.28. The spendable amount is \$1,124.52, which is available to be transferred to the Outreach Committee.

The William Garland and Virginia Leary Youth Christian Education Fund Established in 2013 by William G. "Bill" Leary, Jr. in memory of his father and mother, to support Christian Education for the youth. Proceeds are to be used to support the Kingston Parish Preschool. If there is no pre-school, then the distributable funds are to go to the Kingston Parish Outreach Committee and are to be used for the education of Episcopal youth. As of September 30th 2017, the market value of this fund is \$27,692.11. The spendable amount is \$1,069.03, which is available to be used for the specified purposes in the current year.

Spendable Income Summary

This represents a total of \$53,353.32 in total *distributable* income.

Investment Summary

(Mike Kerr, CEO, Trustee of the Funds, October 20, 2017)

“At the present time, it looks like the 2017 distribution will mean a total cash payout of approximately \$2.559 million and a per unit payout rate of about \$56.58. As most of you know, this is calculated on a trailing 20-quarter average market value and a 4.5% spending rate. At month end, the portfolio was weighted at 80.13% in stocks, 19.60% in bonds, and 0.28% in cash.”

In summary, performance results as of September 30, 2017:

September	+ 1.1%
Year-to-date	+ 11.5%
12 months	+ 11.9%
36 months	+ 5.1% (annualized)
60 months	+ 6.5% (annualized)

The opportunity to provide further information on any of these subjects would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Black (2019), Chairman
Ken Brown (2018), Vice Chairman
Josie Thorpe (2018), Secretary

Vicki Carter (2019)
Morris Busby (2020)
Valerie Lewis (2020)

PAROCHIAL REPORT	2017	2016
Active Baptized Members	228	219
Others (attend but not members)	5	5
Children (active baptized under 16)	20	20
Average Sunday Attendance	104	108
Celebrations of Holy Eucharist (Sunday, weekday and private)	161	182
Number Baptized	0	1
Number Added by Transfer or Statement	9	21
Number Confirmed	5	6
Transferred Out	0	1
*Burials	8	12
Marriages	0	0

*Burials are actually Burial services conducted by Fr. Gary during the year, which may or may not include an actual burial. This number will not match the Burial numbers given by the Cemetery Report, which will count not the services but actual burials in Christ Church and Trinity cemeteries.

VESTRY REPORTS

Rector's Report (Fr. Gary Barker)

Was that 2017 that just blew past? Whew!

This coming March 15, I will be celebrating the beginning of my sixth year of ministry with you all at Kingston! I am so grateful that God has called us to serve together in this community and at this time! Thank each of you for your commitment to God, to Kingston, to our larger community and the work of the Gospel in the world!

In addition to our usual marvelous ministries within our community and beyond, you will see a number of new ways we are being people of God's Kingdom this year in the reports of others. I would highlight two of them. We have added a quarterly Celtic Evening Service to our schedule of worship. The Celtic Service includes candlelight, silence, healing, beautiful Celtic music, and a "vibe," if you will, that is open and welcoming to people seeking the divine but who might not find our "ordinary" services to serve them very well. Our first offering of the Celtic service had an overwhelming attendance, confirming our worship group's commitment to give this thing a go. If you haven't been to one yet, try a Celtic Service. The other new thing I want to highlight is our prayer shawl ministry. You can look at Kippy's pastoral care report for specifics, but I want you all to know how grateful I am for those who started this and have been making prayer shawls for those who are in need of a special sign of healing and our love. Thanks to Eleanor Woolard, Nan Cross, and Julie Crabill! If you see someone in the congregation or beyond who needs the love of a Christian community's prayers in a prayer shawl, let us know.

The ministry of our Parish Discretionary Fund is an amazing "undercover" community service. Working with Social Services and Hands Across Mathews, we seek to care for the needy in our community first with a compassionate listening ear and concern and then with financial help as we are able. What a blessing it is to me to be available to offer this congregations love and concern to the most vulnerable in and beyond our congregation! In 2017, we disbursed about \$24,900. More than a third of that was donation to a single family who incurred special expenses after a young man in our high school received a horrible sports injury. In all, we helped 118 people or families over the course of the year to ensure they had their prescription medications, food, telephone (especially important for folks living alone), heat and

a home. Kingston's commitment to the larger community and especially the poorer members of our community is one of our greatest ministries in so many ways, and I am honored to make this ministry of you all a daily blessing to so many. Thanks to our Outreach Committee that disburses the monies we make at Fall Fair and supports the Discretionary Fund generously! And thanks to so many of you who have also written an extra check to make sure I can help when the rent is due and the cancer has made working impossible and all the myriad other ways folks among us have needed our compassion.

Our parish family has grown this year from 219 in 2016 to 228 members in 2017. This is remarkable especially because we have also had to say goodbye to many members of our family because of their need to move closer to children or to live in retirement homes. We have also lost four of our members to resurrection. Sadly, partially because of our ages – some folks aren't getting out every Sunday – and partially because younger families have so many other commitments on Sundays, Sunday attendance is down a bit; our average for a Sunday slipped from 108 to 104. Two groups of people these numbers do not reflect, but which are important are the people who have been touched by our faithfulness either through the discretionary fund and other outreach or through our classes/worship that reach beyond members to include so many others.

We are a welcoming congregation. If you have not met some of the new folks among us, make a point of getting to know them. We are a fascinating bunch of Christians – the long-time members and the new!

In 2018, I hope to initiate the recording of sermons and some other parts of services for our shut-in population. I have purchased a simple digital recorder to make this possible. If you know someone who would like to receive a recording, let the office know.

I continue to help the Mathews Ministerial Association happen to support the various clergy of our county and offer programs like our Baccalaureate Service for Graduating High School Seniors, our opening prayers at the Board of Supervisors meetings, services for Riverside Convalescent Home, speakers for Soup with Love, and weekday services during Holy Week.

I also serve at the request and appointment of our Bishop Johnson as Dean of the Middle Peninsula Region of our Diocese. We have gone through a transition recently rearranging the churches in the regions to find a better "fit" of churches in our own day and time. This has taken some extra time and energy on my part, but we are starting to make sense of the changes! Thanks to Josie Thorpe, our new Region President who is also working on this. As Dean, my main job is to serve on a monthly counsel of support for Bishop Johnson (my monthly travel to Fredericksburg) and a monthly meeting of the clergy of our region to find ways to work together in ministry and especially simply support the clergy in their work. [On the side, one of the fun things about being dean is getting a new title! I have become the Very Rev. Some just call me the Very Gary. And a few folks have addressed me recently as the Most Rev. (a title reserved for Archbishops and our Presiding Bishop) and the Right Rev. (the title used for Bishops). I am not sure our Lord cares much for the titles anyway. I am just happy to be doing this ministry.]

There is so much more happening! So many blessings here at Kingston and beyond our walls but of God. My heart overflows when I think about it. And my head spins some days when I try to keep up! Blessedly, God has called me to work with you all, but I don't have to do it all! I want to offer a special thanks to our staff at church for their hard work and faithfulness: Karen Jones our Parish Administrator extraordinaire, Cathy Johnson, our Blessed Bookkeeper, Rachel Musick, our amazing nursery care teacher, and our wonderful Preschool teachers.

I offer special thanks to the members of our vestry going off this year: Michael Hobert, Amy Christopher, and our senior warden, Mary Chapman. Your three years of serving God on vestry have been very rich and each of you have offered very special ministries! Thanks to you and be to God.

Mac Butler has been our treasurer for most of my tenure as Rector. He has tightened procedures, clarified policies and reports, and been a very faithful treasurer for those years. You will be missed, Mac! Thank

you. Thanks, too, to Tom Reed who will be taking on the ministry of church treasurer at the close of this annual meeting.

2018 is already looking to be a year for glorious good things for us at Kingston Parish. Your new vestry will be meeting soon to explore where God is calling to be the Kingdom in 2018. Together and in prayer, I don't doubt that the poor will be served, the sick will be healed, and the Good News of our Lord will bring new joys and fullness of life for us all.

God's Peace, Gary+

Senior Warden (Mary Chapman)

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Senior Warden this past year. It is quite remarkable what we accomplish as a body in Christ through worship and stewardship and care for one another. Gary has guided and encouraged us through the year with his love, gentleness and wisdom, giving us the tools to carry out our faithful work. This year has been a year of strengthening existing ministries, reaching out beyond our walls, creating new opportunities, and imagining the possibilities of the future.

At the beginning of the year, the Vestry spent a day together in retreat. Through prayer and thoughtful discussion, we began to formulate a vision for the year. We set our sights high and, although there is still much to be done, I believe a great deal has been accomplished. Our goals for Kingston Parish included strengthening what we do well, and reaching out a little farther to each other and to our community....to build a bridge....to be more inviting.

Fall Fair, Soup with Love, Snack Pack, and The Christmas Store are just a few ways we reach out to assist others; each serves in some way to sustain the community spiritually, nutritionally and practically. While continuing to grow these ministries and others, Kingston has also initiated new ones.

With the support and encouragement from several parishioners, and led by Mary Ann Carr, worship warden, Kingston Parish now offers a community Celtic Worship service. This service is not intended to replace what we already have, but to enhance our worship opportunities and be open to new ways to serve the spiritual needs of many. Two well-received services this year have paved the way for continued growth of this ministry.

Kingston Parish has also joined in strengthening ties with Ware and Abingdon parishes (Wabingston) by combining to worship together, to share ministries for the community at large, and to celebrate together at our Shrine Mont Retreat. Two additions to the Wabingston shared ministry this year was a family gathering and picnic at New Point Campground this summer, and a joint All Saints Worship, Eucharist and simple meal at our community Labyrinth.

The Vestry also hoped to offer opportunities for spending more time together as a parish. Gary's Monday classes not only bring our church family together for education and discussion, but they also bring in a number of people who are not members of our church to experience meaningful time together. In addition to our established combined services, the Vestry wanted to introduce another all-Parish event on All Saints Sunday. The support, encouragement and assistance from many parishioners for this Fall Picnic and Oyster Roast was wonderful. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the fellowship of many made it an event worth repeating.

Improved communication within our congregation and out to the public was yet another undertaking. Although our beloved Karen Jones and Lori Black have done an outstanding job over the years, it was the Vestry's intention to relieve them of some of that responsibility. That has been successfully undertaken by Rachel Morris with continuous updates to our Facebook page and Kingston Parish Website, as well as mid-week email with reminders and announcements.

Your vestry has worked hard to oversee the business of Kingston Parish. From Stewardship and Worship to Outreach, Christian Formation, Evangelism, Communication and Hospitality, each Warden has taken

faithful watch over his or her responsibility. And our Junior Warden, John Lee Machen, has been ever-present and busy fixing the old and implementing the new...what a blessing he is.

Vestry work is important, but there is no way that this Parish could survive and thrive as it does without each of you. I cannot begin to thank publicly each person who keeps us up and running. There are so many. We are a very unique parish in a unique community. The way we live out our faith for the good of the whole is remarkable. Who does wash those dish towels, empty that dishwasher, put up and take down Advent and Christmas wreaths and greens? How do we put together with such grace our beautiful receptions? And what about our music and the Sunday School and special events....I could go on and on.

As you can see, Kingston Parish is in a wonderful place.

Although we have had to say good bye to some very dear parishioners this year, we have also been blessed to welcome new friends into our family. As we move ahead, please continue to be good stewards of each other and our parish. Only through your good work can we grow, as God would like, to our potential to love and serve all.

Thank you again for the honor of representing you as Senior Warden. These past three years on Vestry have been a time of personal growth in my own faith and for that I am truly thankful. I shall miss the regularity of the monthly meetings, but I will continue, as always, my involvement with this, my church home and my church family.

Junior Warden (John Lee Machen)

One of this year's themes has been cleaning up the grounds around the worship spaces.

In the Spring Granville Ambrose and his crew removed approximately 40 square yards of low hanging branches, weedy shrubs and vines from Trinity Church to make cutting grass easier and improve the general appearance of the cemetery. Similarly, Granville and his crew removed approximately 40 more yards of low hanging limbs and overgrown shrubs at Christ Church creating a more open appearance. Later in the year Brian and his crew from Whispering Tree Service used a 'Cherry Picker Lift' to remove approximately 60 yards of dead limbs poised to fall on grave sites, cars or people. Surely more limbs may fall but the most dangerous ones have been removed. And this year's clean up should last a while.

At the Parish House the Vestry decided to create a unisex handicap accessible 'family' bathroom by combining the small bathroom and the Vestry Room located to the right of the Altar. The new space will have a baby changing station and will be large enough to accommodate another person for someone requiring assistance. The project design has been approved by the County Building Official's Office and deemed it met the standards established by the American Disabilities Act. Completing the project will bring the building into compliance with current regulations. Carter Construction (Charlie and Vicki) have been selected to do the work they expect to begin after Christmas. Once this project is finished, renovation of the women's and men's bathrooms will be revisited and hopefully initiated soon.

The Vestry also approved the construction of a covered concrete apron located at the right rear door. It is intended to make access to the building more convenient for wheelchairs and preschool children, especially during inclement weather. A building permit has also been granted for this project and will begin as soon as weather and work schedules allow.

Christian Formation (Amy Christopher)

Rachel Musick continues to provide nursery/Sunday school care for the elementary-aged children during the 10:30 worship service.

Men's Sunday School Class (Ron Lambert) – The Men's Class meets weekly at 9:20 AM in the large room off the right hallway. The class normally follows the Revised Common Lectionary and uses a number of different learning techniques such as small group discussions, in depth study, questioning and short lectures. There are breakfast snacks and coffee every week along with lively and amusing topics. All ages of men are invited to attend. The class averages 10-12 men per Sunday.

The Adult Sunday School Class (Nina Buzby) welcomes everyone; men and women. Based on the Lectionary for each Sunday, the class offers an opportunity to expand worship experiences by developing a better understanding of the scriptures read during the 8:00 and 10:30 services. The curriculum, "Living The Good News" was originally developed by the Diocese of Colorado, but has been expanded recently by Church Publishing Incorporated to include the Revised Common Lectionary. Because lessons are not based on one topic or a sequential series, attendance in this class can be flexible without worrying about having missed previous instruction. The class of five-twelve participants is led by Nina Buzby and meets in the Kingston Chapel library on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 AM. Discussion and shared leadership is encouraged, but not required.

Preschool Report (Patsy Hemp, Preschool Board Chair)

The Kingston Parish Preschool Board certainly realizes that change is a constant, but in 2017 they experienced more change than usual. We ended our 40th year in operation with the retirement of our Director of nine years, Kelsey Desmond. We were fortunate to find and hire Mathews resident, Suzanne Moughon, who had been teaching early childhood education for over fifteen years. She received her BS in Psychology graduating Cum Laude from Christopher Newport University. She then received Early Childhood Credential in 2006 from Northeast Montessori Institute. She continued the child centered approach to learning that has always been the foundation of Kingston Parish Preschool. The Board was elated that Rachel Musick, Assistant Teacher, returned bringing a familiar face, youthful energy and, most importantly, her commitment to education back to our special preschool. Mrs. Moughon spent August updating forms, parent handbook, and procedures/processes necessary for maintaining state licensing in order to prepare for our license renewal in early 2018. Mrs. Moughon, with the Board's approval, implemented a policy of integrating all ages (2.5 to 5 years old) into one classroom allowing parents to have option of five days attendance a week.

Rachel returned as Assistant Director of KP Kidtime, the after school child care program associated with KP Preschool. KP Kidtime moved into a second room in Parish House allowing the children using this program to have variety in their day and a place to lunch/nap per state licensing requirements. By October, the Board hired Lily Poulson, Assistant, to complete the staffing needs of this afternoon program. With up to six children using the afterschool child care program weekly, this two year old program has become financially successful.

As the Owen's Foundation dissolved in late 2016, their Board endorsed the Kingston Parish Preschool's mission by endowing the Preschool with a check for \$20,000. The Preschool Board voted to add this money to the investment fund the Preschool already had at the Diocese. This fund allows for the sustainability of the Preschool in the years our enrollment is low. Such was the 2016-2017 school year. The Preschool Board, with the approval of the Vestry, did take \$3, 115 from this fund to balance the deficit in the Preschool's account in August 2017. The Board, to prevent such a deficit in the future voted to increase tuition for the 2017-2018 school year.

Kingston Parish Preschool began the school year (Fall 2017) with an enrollment of 12 children with one of them attending five days a week. Three of these students receive tuition assistance provided with monies from Kingston Parish's Outreach Committee. We continue to face the challenge of reducing attendance due to the diminishing number of young families in the county that might send their children to our outstanding program and the competition of other preschool/day care establishments in the county.

Outreach (Hunt Thompson)

The Outreach Committee, chaired most effectively by Amanda Taylor, has once again worked diligently to determine how to best distribute the proceeds from the 2017 Fall Fair. In several cases, increases over the previous year were possible and a new organization was able to receive funding. As a leader in charitable giving, Kingston Parish continues to support the Mathews Community. Parishioners involved in this effort are Mary Kathryn Diggs, Bill French, Hank Furniss, Kippy Gilbert, Peggy Hudgins, and Trish Reed.

KP Outreach Allocation for 2018 (Distribution of the 2017 Fall Fair Income)

KP Preschool Tuition Assistance	3000.00
Hands Across Mathews	3000.00
Social Services Christmas Store	500.00
Christmas Blessing Fund	1500.00
Rappahannock Comm. College Scholarship	1000.00
Mathews Vol. Rescue Squad	1000.00
Mathews Vol. Fire Dept.	1000.00
Avalon Center (formerly Laurel Shelter)	500.00
4-H Camp Scholarship	500.00
Gloucester- Mathews Care Clinic	1500.00
Habitat for Humanity	500.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	5000.00
Mathews Meals on Wheels	1800.00
Mathews Co TRIAD	300.00
MHS Robotics Team	800.00
Mathews Family YMCA	500.00
Episcopal Relief and Development	200.00
Mathews Boys and Girls Club	200.00
NIE (Newspapers in Education)	150.00
Unallocated Fund for unforeseen needs	1189.00
TOTAL	\$ 24,739.00

Worship Support (Mary Ann Carr)

Kingston Parish offers two worship services each Sunday, one at 8 AM at Christ Church, the other at 10:30 AM at Kingston Parish Chapel. On special occasions such as the Annual Meeting and the 5th Sunday of the month, these two services are combined and are held at Kingston Chapel. The services are also combined for the annual Bishop's Visit, this year with Bishop Susan. A midweek Eucharist is offered each Wednesday in the Meditation Chapel at Noon. In addition to these services, Kingston Parish offers many others throughout the year. These include special services during Holy Week, Pentecost, the Blessing of the Animals, the Hanging of the Greens, the children's Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve Eucharist.

This year Kingston Parish offered two Celtic Services, one in August and another in November. Both services were held at 5:30 p.m. at Kingston Chapel. Future Celtic Services will be held every three months in 2018, the first being in February.

During the year, Kingston Parish continued its collaboration with Ware and Abingdon Episcopal churches. The "Wabingston" group held a variety of worship experiences for the parishioners of the three churches. These included the Easter Vigil service in Yorktown, a Mass on the Grass at Abingdon in July, the Shrine Mont Retreat in July, and an All Saints service at the Kingston Parish Community Labyrinth. In addition, Kingston Parish hosted a Wabingston Women's Spirituality Group in March, featuring both a program about the Labyrinth and breakfast. The choirs from Abingdon and Kingston Parish joined together for a special Advent Lessons and Carols service at both Christ Church and Abingdon.

The Kingston Parish Labyrinth is available throughout the year, offering a sacred space for solitary meditation and prayer or for group activities. Many gathered at the site during the 2017 Solar Eclipse to experience the sight with their friends.

Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM), Acolytes, and Lay Readers are an integral part of our worship services. Training is offered to anyone who is called to serve Kingston Parish in this way.

At Kingston Parish, we are always exploring new opportunities for meaningful worship. We welcome your input, comments, and ideas for programs or worship experiences we might offer in the future.

OTHER PARISH REPORTS

Altar Guild at Christ Church (Mairi Furniss, Nina Guy)

The Kingston Parish Altar Guild prepares the Altar for all services at Christ Church. Preparation includes many important but mundane chores in order that the Lord's Table is both inviting and set properly. Pam Viens regularly orders the wine, wafers, liquid candle oil and anything else the Altar Guild needs. Reed Lawson painstakingly launders and irons the fair linens for the Altar and all smaller lines required for the Eucharist. They have done this ministry for years, quietly, behind the scenes and with great love and care. No Altar Guild could exist without people like them.

The aforementioned and 23 other woman make up our teams. They work in groups of five to a team, cleaning silver, changing hangings when appropriate to the season and Holy Days. They place the wine in the flagon, wafers in the bread box, water in the cruet, place the priest host on Paten, place the Paten on the Chalice cover the Paten with the silk veil and burse and place this on the Altar along with the book stand and candles. In addition they place the host box and wine flagon in the entranceway to be brought to the Altar on the Sunday morning. They place the Altar Book, Gospel book on the Altar and the weekly readings book on the Lectern stand with the book open to the passages for that particular Sunday. They are in attendance at funerals and weddings to make sure things run smoothly and assist the Rector if needed. We are pleased to have six new Altar Guild members.

Many of our Altar Guild also arrange the weekly flowers for the Altar. We are blessed to have their talent. We are always on the lookout for new members. If you feel a calling to this ministry, please contact either Mairi or Nina. We need more members; men and women are invited to serve.

Altar Guild at Kingston Chapel (Suzy Jones)

Kingston Chapel is fortunate to have five "teams" of women who care for the altar, set up for services, clean up after the services and take care of the flowers. The faithful members of this altar guild are: Marti Bowen and Valerie Lewis, Janet Bullen and Donna Jemmison, Pat Neiger and Nan Cross, Lisa McCann and Shannon Kirschbaum and Lynn May and Suzy Jones. Many thanks to these volunteers, a real gift to the 10:30 service at Kingston Chapel. Any interest in this service to the church would be most welcomed.

Crisis Prayer Chain (Ginger Richards)

Our Crisis Prayer Chain prays daily for those who are in an emergency or crisis situation, physically or emotionally. The intercessory prayer is given for those needing immediate prayer and are not on our weekly prayer list. We hope that you will use us whenever you have a crisis in your life that you would welcome the prayers of others on your behalf. All on the prayer chain are blessed in numerous ways by praying for these individuals. We currently have eight members on the prayer chain and invite anyone with a heart for prayer to join us.

Kingston Parish Women (Sally Bridgforth and Suzy Jones)

Absolutely, positively and impossible to sufficiently thank the Kingston Parish Women for their support of our parish in 2017. All we have to do is ask, and there are volunteers to aide and assist. We were privileged to be a part of 4 funeral receptions this year, always a time to remember our dear friends, to celebrate their lives and to help families with their loss. Soup with Love is another tradition that keeps on rolling. We had five Lenten offerings of soup, and bread (with homilies provided by local clergy), fellowship, meeting of new friends and a gift to the Mathews-Gloucester Care Clinic of \$1,735.62 from the donations given.

Kingston Parish Women never cease to amaze...all we have to do is ask, whether it is a special meeting of the congregation or a need for Kingston Parish's homebound. We have had a good year, and look forward to the opportunities, offered by God, in 2018. If you are a newcomer, don't be surprised if you are called to help with a project...we want everyone involved in the life of Kingston Parish. Love to all and remember that God is sooooo good to us.

Lay Visitors/Lay Eucharistic Visitors (Kippy Gilbert)

The Lay Visitors again had a full and busy year visiting the sick, sharing the Eucharist and helping to keep the love and fellowship between the congregation in the pews and the members of the congregation who are unable to attend regular services.

Pat Elliot and Peggy Hudgins continue to do a fine job with the card ministry, sending cards for birthdays, special holidays and during times of sickness. Suzy Jones and Martha Story make hospital and home visits.

25 poinsettias were delivered by the lay visitors and friends during the holiday season.

A new part of the lay visitors ministry is in delivering prayer shawls. So far twenty-five of these beautiful handmade shawls have been lovingly made by Nan Cross, Eleanor Woollard and Julie Crabill, then blessed by Fr. Gary during a worship service before being delivered to those in need and their caretakers.

In 2017, 31 home communion visits and 15 other home or hospital visits were made.

We welcome Lois and Alan Biddison and Donna Jemmison to the lay visitor ministry. They are working on the steps required to become licensed to give home communions.

Please feel free to join us in this important and fulfilling ministry.

Memorial Scatter Garden (Reed Lawson)

The Christ Church Memorial Scatter Garden Committee has continued its work of maintaining the garden at Christ Church on a weekly basis. Those involved are the Keiths, the Viens, the Jennettes, the Busbys, , Becca and Johnny Brown, the Wilsons, the Websters, the Hubbards, the Lamberts, Josie Thorpe and me. We said good-bye to Duffy Crowe and thank her for her tireless work over the years. We added Hunt Thompson; he had no choice and thank him for being so agreeable. John Machen and John Lee Machen are our consultants. We are always looking for additional help with weeding, mulching, snipping and general upkeep. Thank you.

Music (Eleanor Woollard)

Our faithful Choral Choir continues to lead worship services at both services alternately. Additionally, we joined with Abingdon Episcopal Church in White Marsh to present an Advent Lessons and Carols at both churches for the first Sunday of Advent, and it may happen that this becomes a continuing tradition. We are a small but mighty choir and welcome anyone who wishes to sing with us. Reading music is not a necessity. Practices are at 3:45 PM on Thursdays, and once monthly in the summer.

Our Chime Choir, which performs hymns during the Christmas and Easter seasons, is growing and we are delighted with that. They make a joyful sound and anyone interested in joining should check with Eleanor Woollard. Reading music is not necessary, and all practices are directly after the 10:30 service when scheduled.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (Eleanor Woollard)

In the late winter of 2016 two Kingston Parish women happened to see each other in the Walmart yarn section and began chatting. They discovered that each of them had an interest in making prayer shawls, and decided then and there to begin a prayer shawl ministry. Fr. Gary was equally excited about this, having had such a ministry in a former church. The prayer shawl ministry is going strong and people have contributed shawls. A particularly special woven shawl was given to Bishop Susan during her visit.

Anyone who can knit, crochet or weave is invited to participate in this ministry. Simply make a shawl – your choice of color and yarn. Fr. Gary determines who receives a shawl and shawls are blessed by the congregation before going to the recipient. Being part of this ministry is an introvert's delight as there are NO meetings. For questions or to get a woven tag to sew into a shawl, along with a small metal cross, contact Nan Cross or Eleanor Woollard.

Report on Diocesan Convention and our New Region (Josie Thorpe)

“To You All Hearts Are Open” was the theme of the 223rd Annual Convention held in Glen Allen, VA this past November. As reported in the November Crier, the Convention passed a resolution to support the need of a third, full time, elected, Suffragan Bishop who would primarily focus on bringing youth into our midst. The new full-time Suffragan Bishop will have specific tasks in the diocese, among them ministry with and for younger people.

At the 222nd annual convention a resolution was passed to rearrange the state’s regions to make them more concise and close in the number of churches in each region. Our “Number 2 Region” became the Middle Peninsula Region having 15 churches instead of 17. Even though we lost some of our Northern Neck churches we will still gather together for Evensong at Grace Church in Kilmarnock, September 26. Our first Executive Committee meeting was held in November to organize, elect officers, set upcoming dates for meetings and to create new by-laws for our new Region. The by-laws will be voted on at our first Regional meeting in early February. Our dream is to enthusiastically find ways we can minister together. Regional leaders, including our new President, Josie Thorpe, were elected at the first meeting of the new Middle Peninsula Region in November. An executive committee of the newly elected leaders has met to create new by-laws which will be voted on by the region at our next meeting in early February.

Scholarship Committee (Martha Story)

In 2017 the Scholarship Committee was pleased to award scholarships totaling \$5000 to three Mathews High graduates (including one Kingston Parish communicant.) The Committee expects to be able to award \$5000 in scholarships again in 2018.

Snack Packs (Debbie Lambert and Tuggie Hutson)

This year we are delivering fewer packs to Thomas Hunter Middle School, but the need is still great. We are delivering 18 packs every Friday. St. Francis and St. Paul’s also deliver 18 packs each. The elementary school and the high school are served by other church groups. It is hard to imagine that there are so many children in our community who are food poor.

We will have delivered 720 packs by the end of the school year, at an average cost of \$5.55 per pack. Each pack is intended to provide 2 breakfast, lunch and dinners for the child to supplement any nutrition they get at home and to tide them over until they get back to school, where they get breakfast and lunch at a reduced price or free.

We have been very fortunate to receive grants to help cover the cost of the food items, but your donations are always welcomed. Donations are tax deductible, if your check is made out to Kingston Parish and a notation is made in the memo line “for snack pack”.

Thank you to all who have helped with the bag packing and delivery. The kids appreciate it.

Trinity and Christ Church Cemeteries (Josie Thorpe and Hank Furniss)

	<u>Christ Church</u>	<u>Trinity Church</u>	<u>Scatter Garden</u>	<u>Columbarium</u>	<u>Total</u>
Interments	3	3	1	1	8
Endowments					

Kingston Parish cemeteries continue in good repair. Headstones have been repaired in both cemeteries. New cemetery sites are approximately 4 x 10 feet in size. Each site will accommodate one burial vault or up to four cremation urns. At this time, the price per site is \$750. Cornerstones must be purchased to define the site(s) at current market cost (approximately \$250 just now). Columbarium sites cost \$300

each. The Columbarium adjacent to Christ Church is completely sold out; however a second Columbarium was constructed in 2013, near the Scatter Garden, and it has 134 remaining sites available for purchase. There is a \$100 charge for the scattering of ashes in the Scatter Garden. Copies of the Rules for Kingston Parish Cemeteries (May 2009 revision) are available in the parish office. Parishioners are reminded that Article 7 of these rules stipulate that decorations placed on individual plots are to be removed no later than eight weeks following Christmas Day and two weeks after Easter Sunday. Persons who place decorations on individual plots during the period following removal of Easter decorations until the completion of mowing operations, except in relation to a burial service, shall limit their decorations to those that will not interfere with the performance of cemeteries' maintenance activities, i.e. mowing.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Mary Kathryn Diggs

I transferred my membership from Ware to Kingston about 3 years ago. I joined Ware Church after moving to Gloucester and got involved with the youth group and later helped to serve at our services. In 1987 I took a year's leave from teaching to join YWAM, Youth with a Mission, an international Christian mission organization. Most of my time was spent onboard our flagship, the M/V Anastasis, traveling between Europe and West Africa serving the poor and needy in developing countries. It was July of 1999 when I returned to the states and ended that phase of my life.

I have been warmly received at Kingston Parish and currently help serve with Gary on Sunday mornings and help on the outreach committee. Sharing our love for the Lord is vital, whether across the world or across our community. I am thankful to be a part of a parish that exemplifies service.

Shannon Kirschbaum

I joined the Kingston Parish family over 16 years ago. What interested me the most was the friendliness of the parishioners and the wonderful children's programs. That was the year that Cole started Kindergarten with Mrs. Van Emmerik. Barbara asked if she could send home some Kingston Parish info for me to review. Good Idea! I found a happy place for us all.

I have raised two terrific sons in Kingston Parish and taught Bible study for 3 years. I typically attend the 10:30 service. We as a parish have a wonderful community outreach serving so many. We have seen a lot of changes and we have also seen many things stay the very same. I served on vestry nearly 10 years ago and although my personal life had many changes, my wonderful church family kept me grounded. I again look forward to both the challenge and the reward. Thank you

Valerie Lewis

A member of Kingston Parish for 20 years, I primarily attend the 10:30 a.m. service. Over the years I've loved serving my church family from the kitchen: I coordinated the fellowship breakfasts for three years and help with receptions whenever possible. I currently serve on the Endowment Committee as well as prepare the Lord's Table at Kingston Chapel as a member of its Altar Guild. I was a member of the search committee that found our priest, Gary. Most importantly, the sense of mystery and wonder I get serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister fills me with awe and reverence for God's love.

My boys, Thomas and Jon Lewis, have grown up surrounded by the Kingston Family. I'm always humbled by the things they notice about each one of you. The values shared, the lessons learned, and the love received are becoming manifest as they reach adulthood. I am forever grateful and would be honored to serve as a member of the Kingston Vestry. I am a professional coordinator and have over 30 years of experience working with groups to achieve goals. My hope is that I will continue to learn more about how our church functions in the day-to-day and be able to make a positive contribution to that effort. I do know that God speaks clearly to me when in service to others and that's when I feel the loving presence of our Creator most vividly.