

St. Philip's Church in the Highlands

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING · MARCH 5, 2017 · GARRISON, NY

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Report of the

Nominating Committee

- Nominations from the Floor
- Election of Secretary and Ballot Counters
- Nominations Closed
- Polls Open

LUNCH

Our Rector's Report

The Rev. Francis Geer

2016 Vestry Report and Highlights of the Year

Dan McEvoy and Terri Akbas, Wardens

2016 Year End Financials

2017 Budget and

Endowment Update

Charlie Dupree, Treasurer

Celebrating a Legacy: Building the Future

Dan McEvoy and Terri Akbas, Wardens

Reports on Our Initiatives

- Future Initiative Team:
Anita Prentice
- Restoration Committee:
Michael McKee
- Churchyard Extension Committee:
Charlie Dupree

Results of the Parish Election

Final Thoughts and Closing Prayer

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS

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Garrison, NY 10524

845 424-3571

stphilipshighlands.org

RECTOR'S MESSAGE: A ROAD MAP TO YOUR FUTURE

Thirty years ago right now, I was midway through the process of becoming Rector of St. Philip's Church. The previous fall I had met with the Bishop of New York. I told him that I thought I was ready to be Rector of my own church. He read aloud the list of parishes in the Diocese that were looking for Rectors. When he got to St. Philip's in Garrison, I remembered having visited there often when I was a boy. I said, "That's a good church." The Bishop said, "Yes, it is." He said that he would pass on my résumé to their search committee. "If they're interested," he said, "they'll contact you." They called a few days later.

I mention this to make it clear that finding a new Rector is very much like any other hiring. The church lets the right people know that they are looking. They put together a search committee. Candidates prepare résumés. These are passed on to the search committees and, if they are interested, they contact the candidate and set up a meeting. In my case, because I was working as an assistant at a large urban church, they sent a small group to listen to me preach and meet me afterwards.

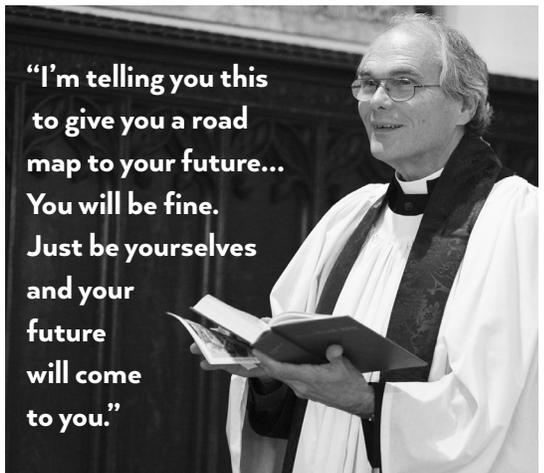
Sarah and I had had long discussions about what sort of churches we might be interested in. We wanted a church in a community where we and our two small children could settle in for the long haul. We wanted good public schools. I wanted a church that was on the 'low church' end of the Episcopal liturgical spectrum. St. Philip's filled the bill on these and many other items on our wish list. We didn't mind living in a church rectory. St. Philip's had a magnificent old rectory. The kitchen needed to be redone, but the Building Committee said they would take care of it right away (that was thirty years ago!).

In anticipation of their Annual Meeting that March, I was asked to come and preach at St. Philip's so that the entire congregation could get a sense of who I was. The sermon went well, but my most vivid memory of that day was the meeting I had after the service with the search committee, the wardens, and the Vestry. They asked me all sorts of questions, and then it was my turn. The Senior Warden asked, "Do you have any questions for us?"

"Yes", I replied. "Why do you come to St. Philip's?" I went around the room and asked each person that same question. The answers were fascinating. "I live nearby," one person said. "The church is very active in the community," said another. "I love the music," said a third. Other responses were, "My grandparents are buried here" and "My family has been coming to this church for three generations."

All in all, I got the sense that St. Philip's was a rich and varied community of wonderful people that had the potential to explode upon the greater Philipstown community as a source of spiritual strength, meaningful outreach, and educational excellence. It was clearly a community of generous people ready to serve each other and their neighbors.

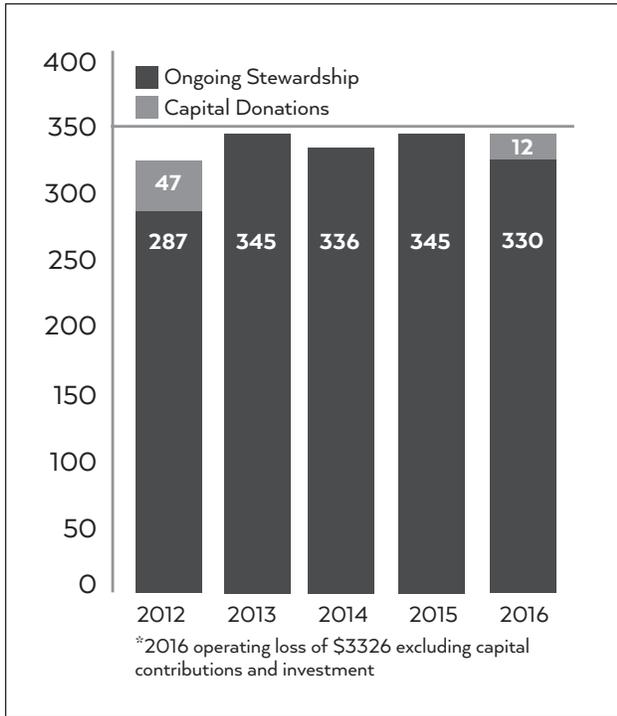
Again, I'm telling you this to give you a road map to your future. You are still that group of generous people. You will be fine. Just be yourselves and your future will come to you.



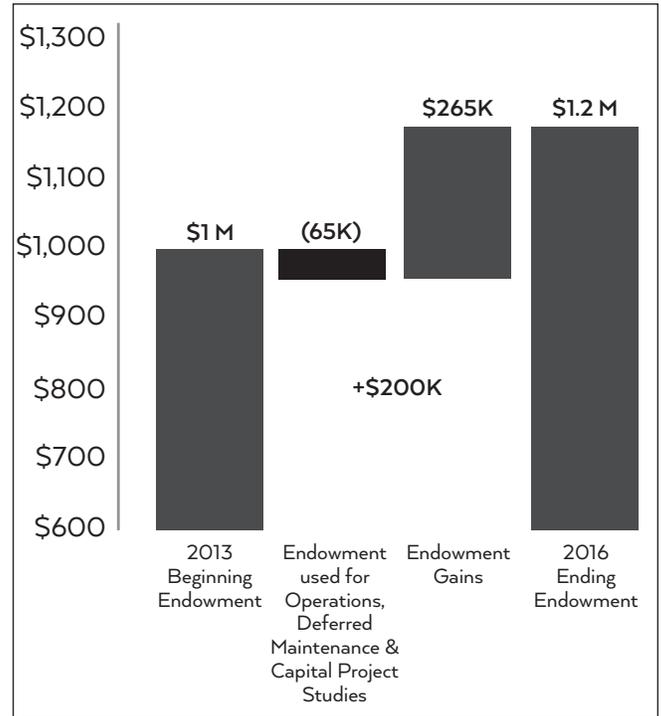
**"I'm telling you this
to give you a road
map to your future...
You will be fine.
Just be yourselves
and your
future
will come
to you."**

photo: Ross Corsair

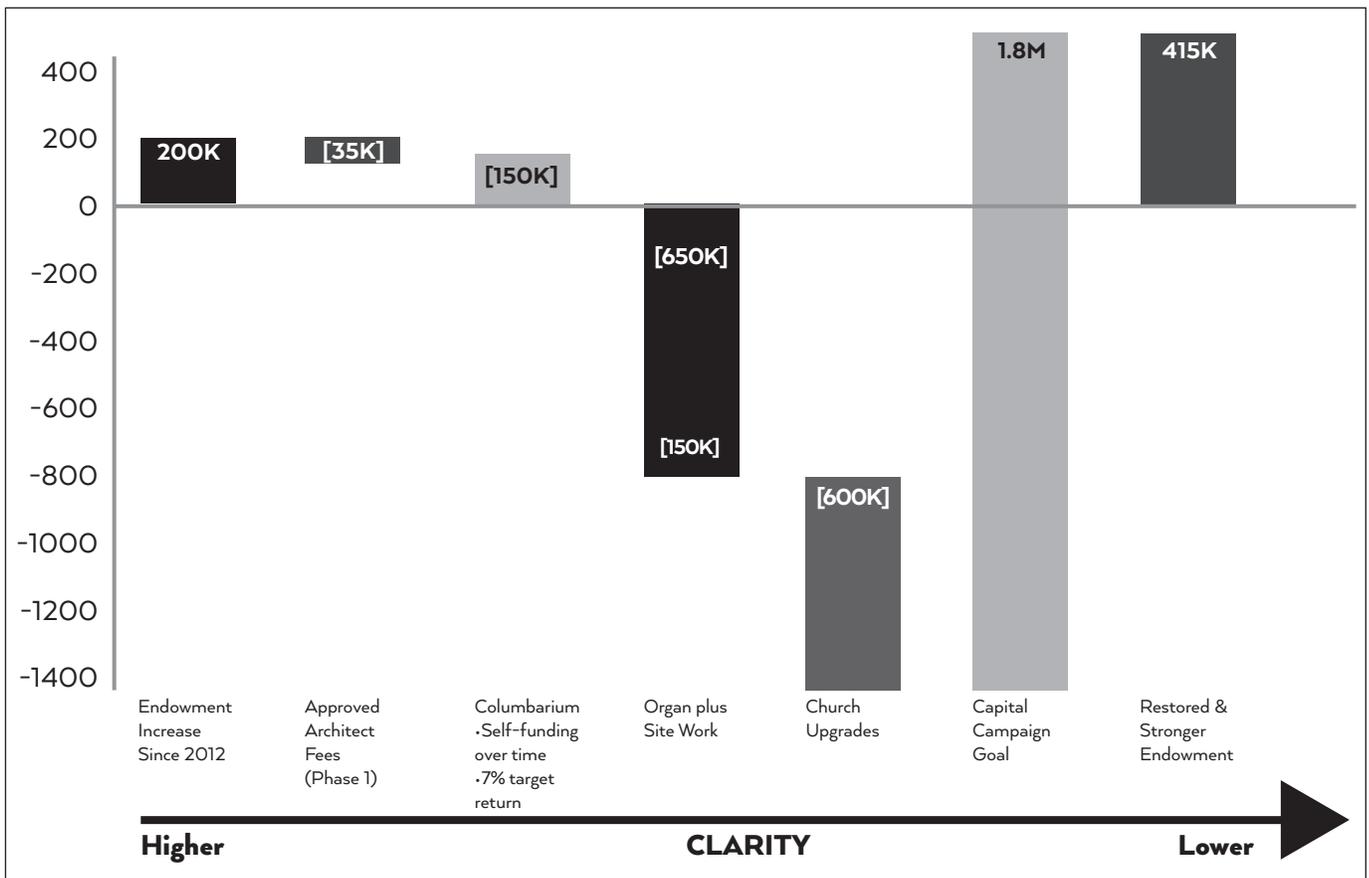
1 Consistent Support with \$350,000 Annual Goal...



2 ... and Expense Discipline Allowed our Endowment to Grow ...



3 ... and Established a Foundation for a Capital Campaign and Plan.



CELEBRATING A LEGACY: BUILDING THE FUTURE

As we begin 2017, we are all excited, and maybe even a little nervous, to be moving into the next critical stage of building our shared future together. However, with that focus, it's hard not to be mindful of the past. With Frank's announcement of his impending retirement, we can't help but reflect that it is Frank's 30 years of stewardship here that has led us to this point. Frank inspired us to dream of new ways in which St. Philip's could continue to grow, and to envision that growth in ways we might not have imagined just a few years ago.

We are now ready to begin the hard work of funding the initiatives announced at last year's Annual Meeting. We know there will be many months ahead of dedicated effort to raise the funds we need to begin these projects. That effort comes after months of hard work by the Future Initiative Team (FIT) in building the case we are about to take to the broader community in our Capital Campaign. The beautiful brochure that's been created represents the values we collectively hold about what makes us, the St. Philip's community, so unique.

These projects are much more than the building materials we will need. They are at the heart of who we are, what we value, and how we serve our greater community. It is up to all of us to invest in the future so that St. Philip's can continue its long tradition of worship, spiritual nourishment, and community giving. This is the St. Philip's community Frank has helped us build—one that is always looking out, as well as in.

As we move forward, there will inevitably be differences of opinion about priorities, but we're confident that all of us agree on the greater vision. This vision emerged from two years of work to build consensus around specific plans put forth by many different voices with many different ideas. To make those ideas a reality, we have taken concrete steps:

- We have hired an architect to design our Church to be safe from the elements and incorporate the new instrument selected by our organ committee.
- We have secured design plans to construct a new memorial garden and columbarium open to the community.
- We are working with the architect to develop plans to update and restore the worship space to improve access, comfort and historical esthetics.

WE HAVE BIG DREAMS, BUT SO WE SHOULD!

This year will be a year of celebration, in which we begin not only our Capital Campaign, but also our transition to future leadership. The Vestry will prayerfully consider how best to build consensus around the search and will work closely with the Diocese in preparation. However, the actual search process

will not begin until 2018. This year will be a time to celebrate the past 30 years. We'll begin to think about finding the right person to lead us over the next 30 years, but that is something for next year.

2017 is all about looking to the future and celebrating our collective past. Surely the best way of celebrating Frank Geer and his great legacy at St. Philip's is to move ahead with these projects as a lasting tribute to his 30 years of devoted stewardship of our parish. We invite you to join in the Campaign with faith, prayer and gratitude!

**Dan McEvoy and
Terri Akbas, Wardens**



RESTORATION COMMITTEE

For two years, our congregation worked together to create a vision for St. Philip's, and last year the Vestry prioritized the projects that will mark the beginning of our implementation, chosen for their importance to our campus and the opportunity they provide to further our mission and impact our community. They are the restoration and optimization of our historically significant Church Building, which is in need of some immediate restoration and repair to secure it from intruding weather and vermin; the purchase and integration of a new pipe organ; and the optimization of our church to make it truly welcoming and accessible to all people through improved access, basic conveniences, and climate conditioning.

We have now engaged the services of a church restoration architect, Thomas A. Fenniman of New York City. Mr. Fenniman is widely recognized for his work in the restoration of historic structures. Of recent note is his work at the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City, for which he received a Merit Award for Excellence in Renovation of Religious Architecture from the AIA Interfaith Forum for Religious Art and Architecture (IFRAA). Our Restoration Committee also had the opportunity to view his work at St. Elizabeth's Church in Ridgewood and speak to parishioners about their experience with Mr. Fenniman, which was excellent. In addition, Mr. Fenniman is an Episcopalian and an admirer of the work of Richard Upjohn, the architect and St. Philip's parishioner who designed our church.

No architectural drawings for St. Philip's Church have survived, so the Master Plan that Mr. Fenniman will devise will include the creation of a complete set of drawings. Members of the Restoration Committee and members of the church community will work closely with Mr. Fenniman to prioritize and guide the process of repair and restoration.

Additional projects are based on the availability of sufficient funding, and include restoration and renovation of our Parish House and Rectory to create sufficient office space for our Church Leadership, Rector, Music Director and Nursery School Director, improved meeting space, an updated kitchen, and enhanced access and restrooms.

Through the restoration and renewal of our Church Building (and ultimately the Parish House and Rectory), our congregation seeks to preserve the essential materials and design of St. Philip's as created by Richard Upjohn, while enhancing the compatible use of the structure through repairs, alterations, and additions. As we consider this Church to be living structure, we do not intend to restore it to a particular point in time, but rather to adapt it to the present and future needs of our parish and community.

Michael McKee, Chair

mhmckee@bestweb.net 845 424-6069

CHURCHYARD EXTENSION COMMITTEE

- **Ready to start – can be completed within a season**
 - Architecture plans are complete
 - Construction bids have been received
- **Estimated cost: \$150,000**
 - 86 in-wall niches
 - 30 in-ground burial plots
- **Self-funding over time**
 - Price per niche: \$3,000
 - 4 interments per year*: \$12,000 annual income
 - 13-year payback
 - 7% return when capacity is full (~30 years)
- **Potential to widen participation in capital campaign**
 - Could attract interest from members of St. Philip's community who do not regularly attend services
 - Burial for St. Philip's community members only, at the discretion of the Rector

* Historical average of 7.5 burials per year



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CHURCH OFFICE

The Rector's Office is in the Parish House to the right of the front door. At present, our Parish Administrator Pat Weigman keeps office hours on Mondays from 12:30-2:00 p.m. and Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Messages can be left for Pat, the Rector, or the Wardens by calling the office at 845-424-3571 or emailing office@stphiliphighlands.com. During 2017, the Vestry plans to expand these office hours with a modest addition to the administration staff.

THE ST. PHILIP'S VESTRY

Mission Statement: St. Philip's Church is a welcoming community of faith serving as a center of caring, outreach, and worship for Philipstown and beyond.

The Vestry is a group of 12 people—11 Vestry members (including two Wardens, all elected by the congregation) and the Rector—that represents the parish in matters of finances, stewardship, annual budget approval, Diocesan assessment and payment, annual audits, maintaining records and attending to the general business of the church. The Vestry works with the Rector to carry out the mission of the parish, and supports the Rector as head of the parish. As liaison between parish members and clergy and staff, the Vestry supports and promotes good communication in the church.

Current Vestry members are: Terri Akbas (Junior Warden), Caroline Danford, Suzanne Dow, Charlie Dupree (Treasurer), Evan Hudson, Dan McEvoy (Senior Warden), Peg Moran, Preston Pittman (Clerk), Terry Platz, Joe Plummer, and Jane Thornquist. Three members are standing for re-election at this meeting, including the Senior Warden, and no members are rotating off this year.

The Vestry meets on the third Sunday of each month in the Church Office. Please feel free to approach any of us at any time with questions or suggestions!

MUSIC PROGRAM

The music program at St. Philip's plays a vital role in the life and ministry of our church. With 26 talented and dedicated members in the Adult Choir and 12 faithful and enthusiastic members in the Junior Choir, both groups continue to be an important presence in our church and at our worship services. The Adult Choir meets every Thursday evening from September through June; the Junior Choir meets every Sunday morning from September until the second Sunday in May.

On Good Friday, the Choir performed Mozart's *Requiem* accompanied by a professional orchestra. During our morning worship service on December 11, the Choir presented Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by harpist Joy Plaisted. Amy Richter, who continues to offer a superior music program for our younger parishioners, skillfully serves as conductor and administrator of the Junior Choir. Finally, I would like to thank Carolyn Smith for kindly volunteering at the organ when I am away.

Woody Entrekin, Music Director

Durward Entrekin@msmc.edu 845 851-8211



photo: Reiss Corsair

JUNIOR CHOIR

We are pleased to have 12 young people in the Junior Choir this year, ranging from 8 to 13 years of age. The children rehearse faithfully at 9AM every Sunday and attendance is generally above 75% each week. On November 20, the choir gave a rousing performance of *The Sailor's Bible*,

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which focused on the stories of Noah and Jonah, complete with staging, props, and costumes. In December, the choir performed *Go Tell it on The Mountain* for both the Service of Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Eve children's pageant. The choir sings monthly at services during the winter and spring.

Junior Choir serves many functions for the young people of St. Philip's. It helps to bring families to church, is a vehicle for learning the Christian story through music, and serves as preparation for further choral experiences once the children "age out" of choir. Older choristers mentor younger ones, bringing them into the culture of choir. As they learn about the Christian message through music, the children develop strong friendships that last beyond their time in choir.

Amy Richter, Junior Choir Director

richter@highlands.com 845 424-8308

ST. PHILIP'S NURSERY SCHOOL

Mission Statement: The mission of St. Philip's Nursery School is to provide a preschool experience for the two-, three- and four-year-old children of our community that will encourage them to be active, confident, creative, curious learners, well prepared for further education and lifelong learning. We affirm, respect and nurture the uniqueness of each child as we help our students to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We carry out our mission with the support of St. Philip's Church. With a daily prayer, we acknowledge and respect all religious traditions.



Since 1960, the St. Philip's Nursery School staff has been committed to providing a dynamic curriculum. In addition to offering weekly music, science and Spanish classes, this year we've added a movement class. We've also incorporated our beautiful church campus by taking the school day outdoors for a week each season. Our dedicated staff consists of Melissa Angier, Kay Corkrum, Mary Ellen DeAngelis, Judy Dunstan, Allison Jacoby, Connie Rotardier, Sarah Wallis, and Pat Weigman.

Our families this year hail from Garrison, Cold Spring, Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery, and Ossining. The Parent Committee plays a leading role in our fund raising efforts,

which this year totaled \$10,389, in addition to tuition. We held a Family Movie Night, a Holiday Bake Sale, a Quilt Raffle and our annual White Elephant Sale.

The summer morning playgroup has grown to 5 weeks of mornings with ample enrollment. We also will offer a "Mommy and Me" program Tuesday mornings, concurrently with our regular pre-school program, to introduce families and "not yet ready for pre-school" children to our school.

Looking ahead, we will graduate six Ducks in June and expect eighteen children to return in the fall. Enrollment renewal forms went out the first of March and applications have already been received for new admissions for September. We thank Frank, the Vestry and the entire congregation for your sincere and continued support.

JoAnne Wright Chadwick, Director

stphilipsnurseryschool@gmail.com 845 424-4209

ST. PHILIP'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We combined the two Sunday School classes into one this year, resulting in slow and steady growth in several areas. First of all, membership has increased from 8 children in September to 13 children now. The average group showing up is 5. We're especially lucky this year to have Anna Northrup volunteer as my assistant.

Secondly, we have grown in our relationship with the Cross Trainers. During Advent, the Cross Trainers joined us in three special activities: making ornaments, wrapping gifts, and decorating cookies. We especially enjoyed wrapping gifts for Hedgewood residents as a service to church members! A special thank you to Amy Roth, Hilary Hayes and Carol O'Reilly for their contributions and helping hands. My students loved working with the 'big kids' and I'm sure the feeling was mutual.

Last, and most importantly, we have grown in our understanding of Jesus, the Bible, and our church. I work with Rev. Geer to coordinate our lessons with the readings and themes of each weekly Service, and use a Bible story and craft to explore the ideas with the children. In the fall, we learned about Creation, Ezekiel, Namaan and the Ten Lepers, and Esau and Jacob. I tied in the stories of Noah and Jonah to go with the Junior Choir's performance in November. In 2017, we've covered 'Love your neighbor as yourself', the Twelve Disciples, and the Sermon on the Mount. During our lessons, we also learn about the sacraments (Communion, Confirmation and Baptism), and the words of the Lord's Prayer. Whenever possible, I display our artwork and on the beautiful bulletin board that Jennifer Sandlund designed and mounted next to

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the Church Office. It truly takes a village, and we look forward to continued growth for the rest of the year!

*** A request: We've been working on our manners, specifically on waiting politely until the adults come down to Coffee Hour before 'partaking' of the bounty on the table. Please help me gently remind the children of this, and use positive reinforcement when they mind their manners. Thank you!

Beth Horan bah1366@yahoo.com 845 661-3489

SUNDAY CHILD CARE

Supervised child care for infants and pre-schoolers is provided in the basement level of the Parish House on Sunday mornings. We are there at 9:30 to provide supervision during Adult Choir Practice, and we keep an eye on the Junior Choir children from 9:45-10:15. Our main focus, however, is to care for the little ones while their parents are in church. There are plenty of activities to entertain and engage multiple children, and we strive to ensure that they each have a positive and nurturing experience. We play with the children, do puzzles and read books, and when it is nice outside we visit the playground. We stay until 11:45 or when the service ends. We always clean up before the parents arrive after the service, and we appreciate everyone's efforts in leaving the playroom tidy after Coffee Hour. All children under 5 are welcome!

Hilary Dyson 917 716-6397 **Eliza Paris** 845 424-8364



THE CROSS TRAINERS

The 2016/2017 school year marks the 6th year that the Cross Trainers have been an active group at St. Philip's Church. The group has more than doubled in size and now has 28 members. We welcome any youth in middle school and high school who are interested in joining us. Attendance at St. Philip's is not a requirement.

The Cross Trainers had another eventful year consisting of numerous community service opportunities, fundraising, and fellowship. We traveled to NYC in April and October to participate in the Midnight Run program. This continues to be an enriching and fulfilling opportunity for the youth members and their adult chaperones. A number of our youth were confirmed by Bishop Shin during his visit to St. Philip's in November. Our pancake flippers helped to raise over \$500 at our annual Pancake Breakfast. This money was allocated to our annual retreats at Lake Champion. Our high school members attended their retreat in January, and our middle school members will go on their weekend retreat in March. Please contact either of us for information about joining the group!

Terri Akbas takbas@optonline.net 845 424-6153

Jennifer Sandlund

jennifer@thesandlunds.com 845 265-3767

THE ADULT CLASS (BOOK GROUP)

The Adult Class, which meets weekly with the Rector following the regular 10:30 Sunday Service, is a group of 20 parishioners, more or less, known as the "Book Group". It is so called because of its principal activity: reading books that reflect the diversity of its members' interests, from fiction to mythology to history to poetry to general nonfiction to mysticism, and then joining in spirited discussion about the books and/or any other topics of concern to members of the group. The Rector often succeeds in maintaining order and keeping the assembled participants moving forward so that good humor softens potentially thorny debates and yawns are kept to a minimum. Opinions are given ample opportunity to be voiced; fisticuffs are rarely resorted to.

During 2016, in the spirit of the national election, the Group read Robert Penn Warren's monumental study of politics and demagoguery, *All the King's Men*, followed by Eudora Welty's Pulitzer Prize winner, *The Optimist's Daughter*, and William Faulkner's masterpieces, *As I Lay Dying* and *The Sound and the Fury*. These were followed by an undertaking to read Dostoevsky's challenging *The Brothers Karamazov*, which was finally completed by a stalwart subset of our number in the first week of January, 2017. For our next book, we selected James Baldwin's semi-autobiographical novel *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, to be followed by a number of titles still under consideration.

Anyone interested in joining the group is encouraged to join us in the conference room at the northeast corner of the Parish House on any Sunday after Coffee Hour. An extra chair is always available.

Belle and Blake Newton

bnewton3@optonline.net 845 737-0759

COMMITTEES

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

“St. Philip’s: The Gift That Keeps on Giving”

This is the theme of our 2017 Stewardship Campaign, which kicked off on September 11, 2016. Over the next three months at the 10:30 a.m. service, someone gave a personal “5-minute talk” on how gifts from God show up in their lives through St. Philip’s. The stories were powerful and inspiring. One Sunday was dedicated to a congregational brainstorming at the end of the service on (1) gifts from God in our lives, and (2) how St. Philip’s gives to the broader community of Philipstown and beyond.

Many thanks go to the committee: Terri Akbas, Peg Moran, Jane Thornquist, Lynn O’Malley, Charlie Dupree, and Rev. Frank Geer. Also great appreciation goes to all our 5-minute speakers and all who have returned their intention-to-give cards.

Thus far, we have 70 intention-to-give cards returned for a total pledged amount of \$170,437. We had two goals for our campaign: (1) 100% participation, and (2) meeting our break-even budget for 2017 of \$350,000. We are hopeful that a few more members will give, as we are very close to achieving 100% participation. We also hope more members will increase their giving during the year. Over half of our members are pledging less than \$100 per month—an amount smaller than most cable TV or mobile phone monthly payments. The gifts we receive from God through St. Philip’s surely play a bigger role in our lives.
“St. Philip’s: The Gift That Keeps on Giving”

Joe Plummer, Chair

joeplumm@gmail.com 845 265-1004

CHURCHYARD SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Committee helps St. Philip’s raise funds to maintain our lovely Churchyard. While those who have family members here have been especially generous this past year, we ask any who are interested to join our effort. In 2016, we received \$2750 from several donors, up from \$2100 the previous year. Our deepest thanks to them.

When you read this, I actually hope that the Churchyard will be covered with snow. But when the weather is warmer, you are all invited to join us in a spring cleaning of the Churchyard. David Gordon will supervise us. We’ll let you know the date.

Robert Cutler, Chair rbcutler@mac.com 917 826-0826

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee is comprised of the Rector and 6 parishioners with experience in the investment industry. We review the investments of the church’s endowment and make adjustments regarding asset allocation, quality constraints, liquidity reserves, diversification and concentration, and anything else relevant to prudent management. The Committee does not pick individual securities for investment, relying instead on a professional manager (Lazard Asset Management) to make those decisions within our general portfolio guidelines.

We meet quarterly to review the recent performance of the endowment and to discuss any potential changes to the investment guidelines. We also meet twice a year with Lazard to review portfolio performance and their outlook on market conditions and trends.

We are approaching the 2nd anniversary of our relationship with Lazard (initiated May 2015), which is coordinated by our parishioner Dyke Benjamin. Current guidelines and reports are available for review. Questions and new members are always welcome.

Nat Prentice, Chair natprentice@mac.com 845 661-8937

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues its efforts to roll out the welcome mat at St. Philip’s. Greeters and “greeter deputies” are active weekly, making a special effort to welcome newcomers, add them to the email list, and send them a St. Philip’s Welcome Packet.

Communication is key! The new Realm Database is now our online directory. It also allows for online donations and pledges. This year we activated the email feature of Realm. Terri Akbas sends weekly emails that share basics including the titles of the sermon and the anthem, the times of Sunday services, junior choir rehearsal and Sunday school, the availability of child care and coffee hour, and information about special events. Jennifer Sandlund helped add another communication feature this year—a sandwich board that is posted on 9D with information about upcoming events, services, and concerts.

Coffee Hour is an important time of fellowship for everyone. An ad-hoc Fellowship Group co-hosts these gatherings as their schedules allow. Jackie Grant communicates with the group by email three or four times a year. Additional volunteers are very welcome. The Membership Committee is also actively seeking to add new members and new ideas.

Jackie Grant, Chair

grant@highlands.com 845-424-3940

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

2016 was once again a busy year for the Program Committee! We started out the year by organizing the potluck luncheon for the Annual Meeting, always a delightful event. Our Outdoor Service at the Garrison Fish and Game Club in June was generously funded by the Friends of St. Philip's. Parishioners brought potluck side dishes and it was a nice day! The summer was busy with a Shakespeare play and a production of *Our Town* with some friendly church faces in the cast. The picnics are always a success on the west meadow of Boscobel. A very nice brunch with Bishop Shin was organized following Confirmation. It was a beautiful event! The Fall Harvest Cocktail party was a special night with a generous oyster donation from Suzanne Dow and a donated print by Garrison's very own Don Nice. If you would like to join our committee or take it over with some new program ideas, please be in touch with us.

Suellen Nelson snelsonpa@aol.com 914 475-2130
Carol O'Reilly Carol08@optonline.net 845 424-6060

GROUPS/ WORKING GROUPS



Photo: Ross Corsair

ALTAR GUILD

The members of the Altar Guild work three or four weekends per year. They set up the altar for communion and arrange the memorial flowers on Saturday, and clean up after services on Sunday and special church holidays. In addition, they maintain linens, polish brass, vacuum cushions, and order supplies.

The following members continue to serve our church:

Wendy Bickford (12 years)	Judy Hayes (18 years)
Sara Breen (3 years)	Liz Heitmann (4 years)
Judi Dixon (4 years)	Karen Lindros (43 years)
Rhonda Donohue (3 years)	Sue Mihalik (17 years)
Judy Dunstan (24 years)	Belle Newton (21 years)
Jackie Grant (24 years)	Jennifer Sandlund (14 years)
	Sara Yano (3 years)

We are delighted to have Anna Kantor join us this year and welcome anyone who would like to serve the church in this special way.

Thank you to all who donated memorial flowers during the year and at Easter and Christmas, which decorated our church so beautifully. Thanks also to Rev. Geer, who has always been there to help when needed.

Karen Lindros, Chair

ksandll@optimum.net 845 424-3537

FRIENDS OF ST. PHILIP'S

The Friends of St. Philip's support the church by organizing our annual Harvest Sale and using the proceeds and other donations to fund immediate church needs and contribute to outreach in the community. We had another fantastic year! The Harvest Sale on November 19th was both fun and successful with proceeds of \$2633.51. Thank you to all who contributed items, worked the sale, and shopped at the sale! The Friends were happy to make donations as listed below. The Friends also recently purchased the comfortable new chairs in the Parish House (a 2017 expense). Please thank a Friend for those! If you would like to join the Friends of St. Philip's, please speak to Carol O'Reilly, Suellen Nelson, Judy Hayes, or Karen Lindros.

2016 Donations:

Tables for Parish House	\$577.95
Parish House paper supplies	67.31
Fish & Game Club rental	250.00
Nursery School scholarships	200.00
Outdoor Service picnic	90.08
Shakespeare picnic	32.36
Our Town picnic	94.61
Cheese slicer for Harvest Sale	240.25
Path to Parish House	418.05
Refrigerator for Parish House	459.75
Putnam County Children's Committee	100.00
Philipstown Food Pantry	100.00
Hudson Valley Friends of Mental Health	100.00
Gift	50.00
TOTAL	\$2,780.36

Carol O'Reilly, Chair

Carol08@optonline.net 845 424-6060

LAY READERS GUILD

The Lay Readers Guild is comprised of 28 men and women of stout heart and stentorian voice who volunteer to assist the Rector by reading the lessons appointed for morning worship services and by leading the congregation at those services in prayers. They are ably assisted by members of the Cross Trainers, who lead the recitation of the Psalms.

Members of the Guild are, of course, unpaid and selfless in their undertaking but they do acquire such invaluable public speaking skills as posture, projection, and pronunciation, not to mention the pleasure of being associated with a highly disciplined and good-looking corps de réserve. Those who would inquire about lending a hand in the Guild's endeavor should call or e-mail Blake Newton.

Blake Newton, Chair

btnewton3@optonline.net 845 737-0759

FRIEND AND FUND RAISING WORKING GROUP

Last spring, our discussion group reviewed more of the historical writings that almost made it into the New Testament. We looked at the struggles of early believers in Jesus trying to decide whether or not they were reformed Jews, or something altogether different. We reviewed the Gospel of Truth, the Infancy Gospels, the Gospel of Peter, the Secret Gospel of Mark, the Acts of John, the Epistle of Barnabas, and the Apocalypse of Peter.

On May 24, a community pot luck dinner was arranged by Suellen Nelson and Carol O'Reilly to provide dinner for migrant workers on their way to Albany, in support of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act, accompanied by the Rural Migrant Ministry Director, Rev. Richard Witt.

We celebrated summer with two picnics and plays at Boscobel. On July 17, we saw *As You Like It* (we did!). The second, in August, was a production of *Our Town* directed by John Plummer.

Our Fall Fundraiser on Nov. 5 was well attended and brought in over \$3,000. Suzanne Dow made an abundant gift of oysters, and Suellen and Carol coordinated the bountiful repast. Jennifer Sandlund designed the flyer and ad. Don Nice donated a special signed work of art for auction.

There were two successful Choir Concerts to which the public was invited: Mozart's *Requiem* on Good Friday, March 25, and Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* two Sundays before Christmas.

Preston Lawrence Pittman, Co-Chair

preston.pittman@ahrcnyc.org 212 780-2670

Thomas F. Hayden, Co-Chair

thomas.hayden@corizonnyc.com 917 545-1842

PHYSICAL ASSETS WORKING GROUP

This is a summary of the work done around the St. Philip's campus during 2016 by Taggart Lake and John Benjamin with the occasional, but able, assistance of Avery Anderson.

Parish House:

- stripped off old wax and restored hardwood floor
- repaired hot water heater vent pipe
- repaired and painted damaged entry door and trim
- replaced rear door by upstairs bathroom
- several miscellaneous plumbing repairs
- sealed off two broken windows in basement
- cleaned out soot from boiler chimney and replaced cast-iron door
- assisted Frank Ricci in servicing boiler
- vacuumed and repaired cast-iron registers in main room

Cottage:

- rebuilt decayed basement carriage doors, set foam block to seal, and filled with concrete
- repaired washer and dryer
- set two A/C units
- removed old hot water heater
- infilled eroded driveway with gravel
- insulated various water pipes and windows
- installed new shower enclosure and fixtures in bathroom
- repainted bathroom
- installed new venting
- added insulation in attic to help lower heating costs
- added new gable vent to keep out critters
- repaired gutters

Campus:

- replaced air filters in Church furnace
- met with three contractors re columbarium project, and conferred with Doug Logan, manager of Cold Spring Cemetery, on fee structure there
- met with Polhemus on berming up north retaining wall, which was done in a timely manner as bid
- met with window contractors re Parish House windows
- dug and poured foundations to reset several displaced headstones
- cleaned out shed and made several dump runs
- misc. and varied snow removal by Taggart

We continue to work to reduce the carbon footprint of the St. Philip's campus with regard to fuel expenses and our impact on the environment.

John Benjamin, Chair

benjaminjohn52@gmail.com 845 424-4276

SERVICE TO OTHERS WORKING GROUP



Through Service to Others, St. Philip's brings spiritual comfort and support to those who are homeless or disabled, and empowerment to marginalized communities struggling to be productive, safe, and healthy.

Our monthly meals program – a joint, interdenominational effort – provides lunches to homeless people in Peekskill. Rev. Geer helped start the program in his first year: 1987. Since then, we have served over 25,000 lunches! That's a lot of chicken and vegetables. Our Sunday evening communion fellowship at Hedgewood congregate living facility in Beacon brings comfort, often through our Cross Trainers, to residents with disabilities. One goal for the past year – to establish leadership from our congregation for those two programs, rather than sole reliance on Rev. Geer – has been accomplished, and will continue.

For the past three years, our efforts to support empowerment through education has focused on inner-city Newburgh, the fourth poorest city in NY. At San Miguel Academy, an independent middle school for boys, our community members provide weekly tutoring to the entire 5th grade, and monthly Saturday Clubs in film, books, cooking, and hiking, open to the entire school. Additional volunteer support provides help to students and their families in admission process for high school and college. We also play a supportive role to the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy (a middle school for girls in Newburgh), primarily through volunteer recruitment for their Summer Program.

This past May, we supported the Rural and Migrant Ministry's March for Justice for Farmworkers. Our members coordinated local logistics, provided lodging for

the marchers, marched, and hosted an educational potluck gathering of music and conversation at our Parish House. One other activity this past year involved our long-standing commitment (20 work trips over 10 years) to post-Katrina New Orleans. Collaborating with environmental agencies we met through our visits, we produced a 6-minute video, *Come on Down*, making the case for the national implications of wetland loss and the need for volunteers. The video, by Ross Corsair and Greg Gunder, is a key element in a national environmental volunteer recruitment campaign that was planned later this year.

All our efforts benefit from more volunteers. We welcome single-day participation (with no longer-term commitment) in all our programs, so volunteers can determine if the activity is the right fit.

Jim Bopp
jhbopp@gmail.com 845 424-4510

CHURCHYARD REGISTRAR'S REPORT

FACTS:

Plots: No sales

Burials: Two full burials, One cremation

Last January we lost Mort Williams, my predecessor as Registrar. He was most meticulous about keeping the records and, yes, he used lots of yellow pads. I miss his sage advice. As a matter of record, since the 1930s there have been four Registrars: Taylor Belcher till his death in 1970, Milt Powers 1970-1986, Mort Williams 1986-1989, and David Gordon 1989-present.

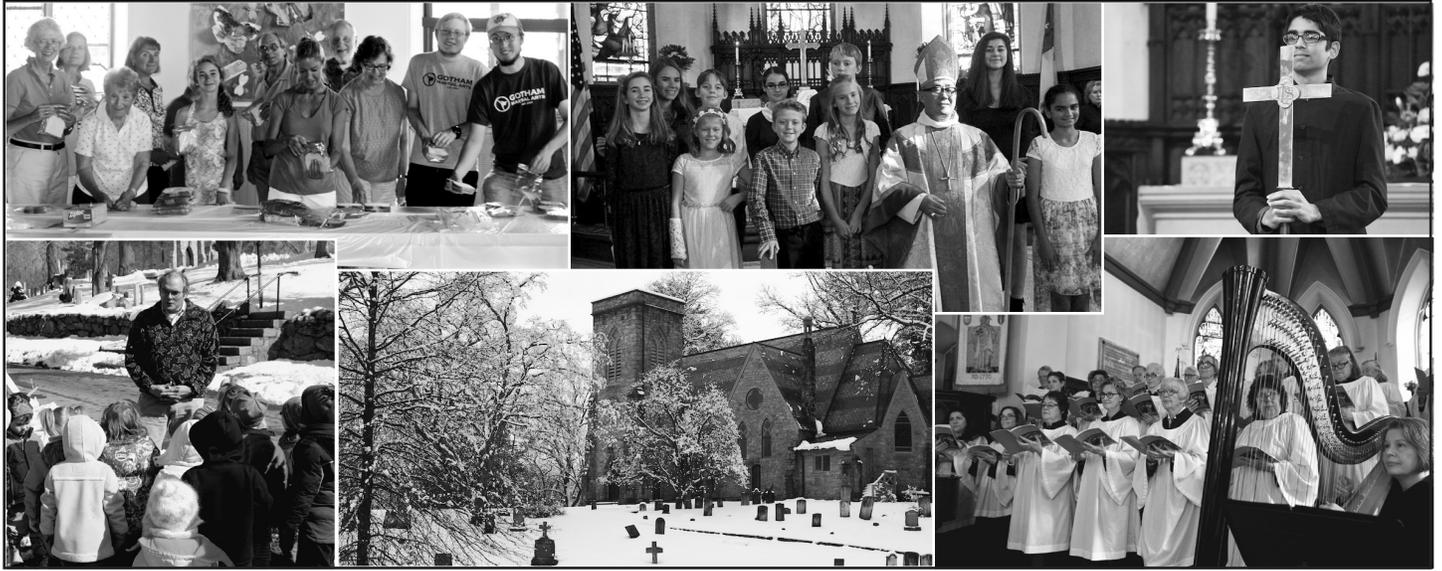
On another note, we encourage families to help St. Philip's maintain their grave sites. We are pleased to report that last summer the Michalis/Fahnestock family undertook a major reclamation of its plot in the northwest corner of the Churchyard near the shed. Work included polishing stones, leveling and reseeding the ground, and clipping back ornamental bushes. We thank Clarence Michalis for enhancing the beauty of our Churchyard.

We encourage families to use cremation. From the standpoint of the remaining space in the churchyard, this makes most sense. All sketches/plans must be shown to the Churchyard Registrar and approved by the Vestry. No mausoleums are permitted. Please obtain permission from the Vestry before installing any new plantings or placing urns or statuary.

David C. Gordon, Jr., Churchyard Registrar
Gordon@highlands.com 845 424-3369

FUTURE INITIATIVE TEAM

CREATING THE FUTURE: A ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH INITIATIVE



St. Philip's in the Highlands is a place of purpose, a center for worship, community, music, education and service to others. For nearly 250 years, St. Philip's has been building lasting relationships with families and individuals in our community. We want to ensure that it is here for future generations, serving the families of the future in life's transformational moments of worship and celebration—sharing, helping, healing and teaching; doing our best to improve the lives of others.

But today, St. Philip's needs restoration and renewal—with the goal of securing and expanding our relevance to the community now and for future generations. We are focused on the issues of safety, preservation, and mission.

We have a carefully thought-out plan for our church's future.

Our last major capital project was in 2002, when the slate roofs of the Church, Parish House, and Rectory were replaced and the Rectory was refurbished. In the years since then, our Vestry has focused on sustainability and preserving our endowment.

Despite many smaller-scale improvement efforts, the wear and tear of many years have taken a toll on the historic church interior, and most tragically, on our organ. The lack of climate control and a secure building envelope have effectively ended the useful life of the instrument and must be addressed before a new organ is installed.

In order to continue to play our critical role in our community, St. Philip's will:

- Support the beautiful St. Philip's buildings, listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Celebrate our commitment to the creation of great music by making a long-term investment in a world-class organ
- Enhance our church building interior and basement space with air-conditioning and plumbing, including a bathroom; and build a ramp
- Construct a columbarium and memorial garden

The planned improvements to the church will preserve the history of St. Philip's while better preparing the church to welcome congregations of the 21st century.

The new Schoenstein organ, specially designed for the St. Philip's space, will complement the aesthetics of the church and will attract more people to worship at St. Philip's and celebrate with music. We cannot begin to install an organ without first installing a climate conditioning system, adding a sound system, and restoring the interior of the church.

JOIN US AND BUILD THE FUTURE OF ST. PHILIP'S

As part of a ten-year operating, capital, and endowment funding scenario, we will set financial milestones. Our first goal is to raise \$1.8 million by June 2018. This scenario includes funding for two major purposes: to restore the interior of St. Philip's Church and construct improvements along with the installation of a new organ; and to build an outdoor stone wall columbarium that will provide much-needed space for cremated remains.

The impact of St. Philip's on you and your family is lifelong. Because of the importance of the Church and its fellowship to you and yours, St. Philip's is a source of support, personal solace, religious celebration, and beauty.

In our St. Philip's family, every gift - and especially yours - is needed and valued. The Vestry and the Future Initiative Team are committed to achieving our fundraising goal. Your gift will make it possible for St. Philip's to serve us all for many decades in the future.

Nat and Anita Prentice, Co-chairs

Fred and Anne Osborn, Co-chairs

Terri Akbas, Jan Anderson, Gil Burke and Sarah Bayne, Charlie Dupree, Frank Geer, Phoebe Geer, Hillary Hayes, Marit Kulleseid, Dan McEvoy, Michael McKee, Blake Newton, Joe Plummer, Amy Roth Prestigiacomo, Laura Wilson