

# St. Philip's Church in the Highlands

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING · MARCH 4, 2018 · 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*

2017 Vestry Report and Highlights of the Year

*Dan McEvoy and*

*Terri Akbas, Wardens*

2017 Year End Financials

2018 Budget and

Endowment Update

*Charlie Dupree, Treasurer*

Reports on Our Initiatives

- Introduction:  
*Jan Anderson*
- Restoration Committee:  
*Michael McKee*
- Columbarium/ Churchyard Extension Committee:  
*Charlie Dupree*
- Future Initiative Team:  
*Nat Prentice*

Results of the Parish Election

Final Thoughts and

Closing Prayer

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

**Faith, Hope, and Love:**

**Building a Future for St. Philip's**

Things are much better for me this year. Two years ago in February, I was just out of the hospital, weak and halfway through an extreme course of antibiotics. A year ago, I had improved physically but, as I contemplated retirement, I worried that my illness might have robbed me of the opportunity to bring about the dreams I share with all of you, dreams about the future of St. Philip's Church.

Six years earlier, our parish leadership challenged us all to take necessary steps to insure the financial health of our congregation. The staff took a pay cut. Congregation members and friends from the community responded by matching that cut through an increase in giving. Having put our financial house in order, we set about fleshing out and refining the dreams we share for the future of St. Philip's. We all agreed that we need a new organ. We also wanted to create a columbarium intended to serve our members and friends, a place of quiet reflection that will add to the beauty of our churchyard. We wanted to get started on the process of planning improvements to the church building that would maintain the historic feel of a nineteenth century masterpiece while adding elements necessary in a twenty-first century church. As Anita Prentice produced her beautiful "case" for St. Philip's and last spring, as Nat Prentice prepared for the rollout of the 'Future Initiative', our dreams seemed far, far away. And then a miracle occurred (as is always true, this miracle was accompanied by hard work, expert planning and generous support from unexpected sources). I will leave it to others to make clear the nature of that miracle.

On my first Sunday back, after my illness, Woody spoke to me about the great energy and love shown by so many in keeping St. Philip's not just operational in my absence, but truly living our mission and serving our members and community. **"What I've learned while you were gone is that here at St. Philip's we truly are a community of Christians. I used to think that the secret to Christian community is loving Jesus. It's not, it's loving each other."**

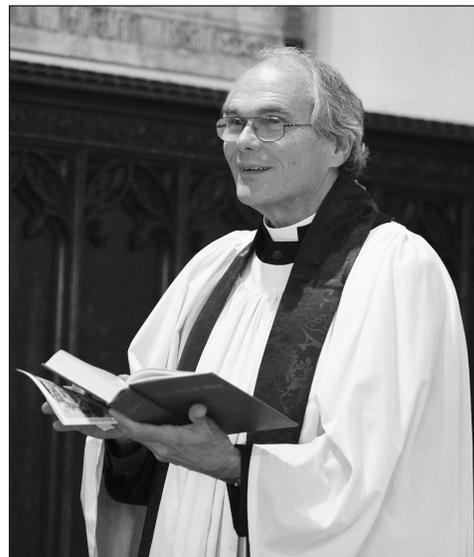


photo: Ross Corsair

**ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH  
IN THE HIGHLANDS**

**1101 Route 9D**

**PO Box 158**

**Garrison, NY 10524**

**845 424-3571**

**stphiliphighlands.org**

*"For thirty years we have been inspired by Frank's leadership. And it is because of him that we have built a thriving church, living its mission of openness and caring in our community and beyond. St. Philip's is as relevant in 2018 as it was in 1770! We know that this doesn't happen by accident. We are tied to the ten generations that came before us in this church, and we share the same responsibilities that they did, to prepare for new generations with strength and purpose. It is exciting to be part of this important effort that will ask something of each of us"*

**-Jan Anderson**

# BISHOP'S MESSAGE

A glowing letter from The Right Rev. Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York to Frank Geer about her visit to St. Philip's on Epiphany, Sunday, January 7, 2018



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

The Rev. Francis H. Geer, Rector  
St. Philip's Church in the Highlands  
1101 Route 9D - P.O. Box 158  
Garrison, NY 10524

January 8, 2018

Dear Frank+,

First and foremost, *thank you*, and the wonderful people of St. Philip's in the Highlands Church for the warm (and it needed to be!) and generous welcome you all shared with me yesterday, as together we celebrated Epiphany. From start to finish, I felt anticipated, engaged, and allowed to be a part of the community. People were open, energetic, and gracious - and I'm grateful. Thank you!

The buildings and grounds are beautiful and well cared for, even if in need of the capital improvements you all are so wisely planning. In any event, it is difficult and particularly challenging to care for older, historic buildings in which the entire community has some stake. The plans for the organ, for making the buildings more accessible, and for the Memorial Garden are just right, and will serve the larger community as well.

I so very much enjoyed meeting with the Vestry! They are an incredibly talented group of people who clearly love the church and are serving Christ's mission with heart. Dan McEvoy put together a perfect agenda - and that optimized our time together. The Vestry is aware of its history, and I very much enjoyed hearing and learning more about Putnam County and Philipstown in particular. Preston Pittman was ever so thoughtful and generous in selecting both the cookbook and *Jesus Loves Me*, by Robert Morgan, which is wonderfully usable for teaching and learning as well as singing.

The worship Service was well attended and appropriately joyful. You certainly have a gem in Durward Entekin and the Choir supported worship in a superb and beautiful way. Lay readers and Eucharistic ministers were well trained and took appropriate pride in their liturgical functions. The bulletin was clear and user friendly.

Frank+, it was an honor and a privilege to make a visitation to St. Philip's in the Highlands, and I'm personally glad that I was able to do so before you retire. It is clear that you have led and nurtured the congregation as a consummate pastor and priest, and are well loved and respected in the larger community of Garrison to boot. Since this isn't a "retirement letter" (whatever that might look like!), I will also say I look forward to serving with you into the future!

Wishing you every blessing and God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Glasspool".

THE RIGHT REVEREND MARY DOUGLAS GLASSPOOL  
ASSISTANT BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1047 AMSTERDAM AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10025 T: 212.316.7442 E: BPGGLASSPOOL@DIOCESENY.ORG



# WARDEN'S REPORT: A HEALTHY CHURCH

Health. Health is defined in the MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY as: (a) the condition of being sound in body, mind or spirit; (b) the general condition of the body; (c) a condition in which someone or something is thriving or doing well.

Are we a healthy church? We asked Frank to reflect on the following question: "What is a Healthy Church and Why is it Important to Have One?" Frank came up with a list of over 10 elements that he feels contribute to the health of a church. Some of these elements include the worship and educational programs, outreach, music, facilities, and the people. Frank has elaborated on some of these thoughts in our monthly e-newsletters.

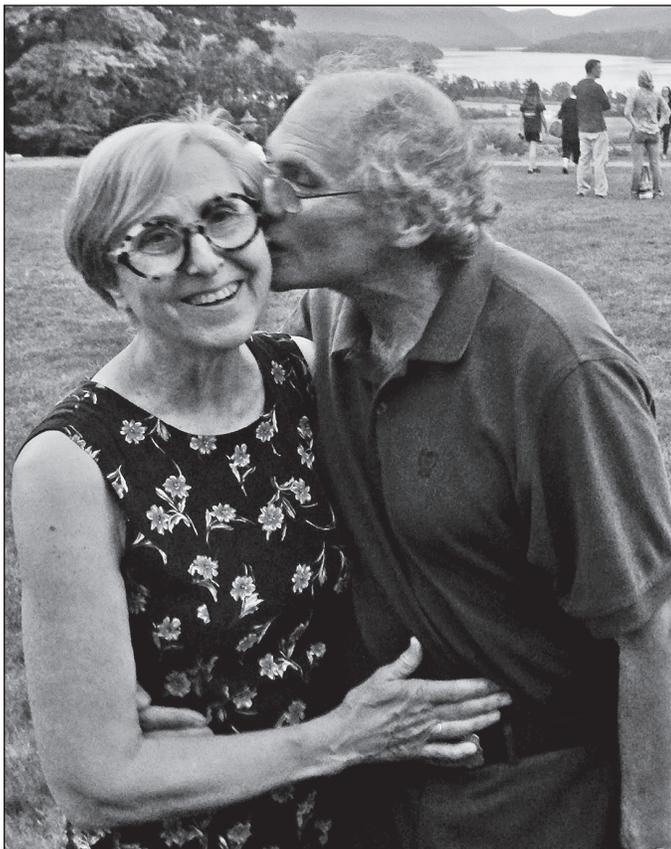
2017 was a year of reflection and preparation. This will continue through 2018 as we begin the process of leadership transition. The Vestry will meet with a representative from the Diocese in April to better understand how the Diocese can assist us during both the transition and the search process which will begin after Frank and Sarah's departure.

Following Frank's retirement on June 1, the Diocese will provide supply clergy for several weeks prior to the hiring of an interim rector. This interim rector will serve at St. Philip's while the search committee is evaluating and interviewing candidates for a new permanent rector. We can expect to have an interim rector for anywhere from 6-18 months. The work to identify a new rector for St. Philip's will be one of the

main focal points for the Vestry in 2018. We all recognize how important this is for the future of our church. We will take our time with this critical process. We will be prayerful, deliberative, inclusive, and mindful of our culture. Additional information regarding the transition and search process will be made available to the congregation following the Vestry's meeting with the Diocese in April.

2017 was a very successful year for St. Philip's. Our membership has grown, with the addition of several new families, including many with young children. Our outreach programs continue to be active and successful, reaching individuals in Philipstown and beyond. Our Creating the Future Initiative is up and running. To date, we have raised \$1.1 million in gifts and pledges towards our goal of \$1.8 million. The new Schoenstein organ has been ordered, the columbarium design has been finalized, and the architectural review and design of the sacred space restoration and addition has begun.

Are we a healthy church? An incoming rector will want a healthy church: A church with a vibrant congregation; a church with successful outreach and educational programs; a church that maintains its facilities; a church that is financially responsible; a church that is generous and supportive to other organizations in the community; a church that adds richness and variety to people's lives; and a church that is open and inviting and inclusive.



## THANK YOU, Frank & Sarah

Thank you for 30 years  
of service to St. Philip's  
Church.

Thank you for your  
friendship, guidance,  
support, and love.

We will miss your  
wonderful spirit.

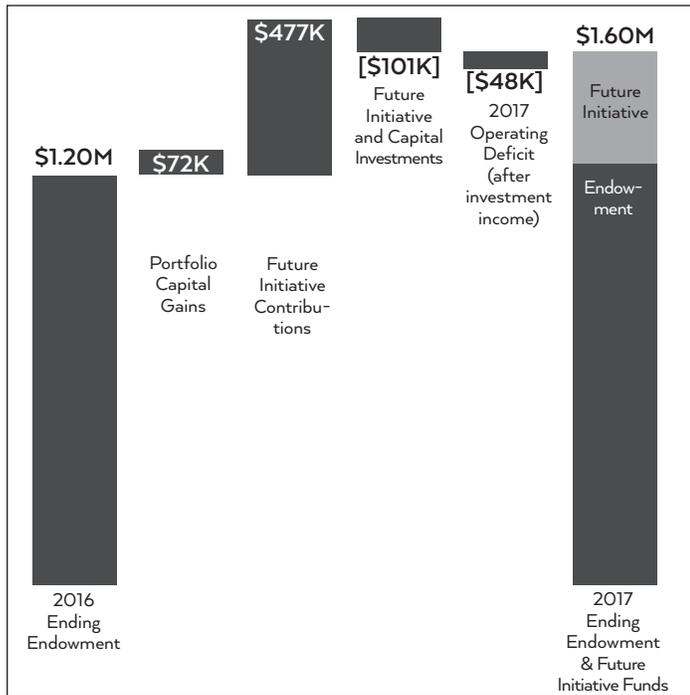
Blessings to you both  
for a healthy and happy  
retirement!

We are a healthy church. Frank has worked for 30 years to get us to where we are today. We are sound; in body, mind, and most definitely in spirit. The general condition of our body is good. We are thriving and doing well. We are grateful and blessed to have had Frank to lead us to this place. And we will work hard to maintain our good health as we move forward together into the future of St. Philip's Church.

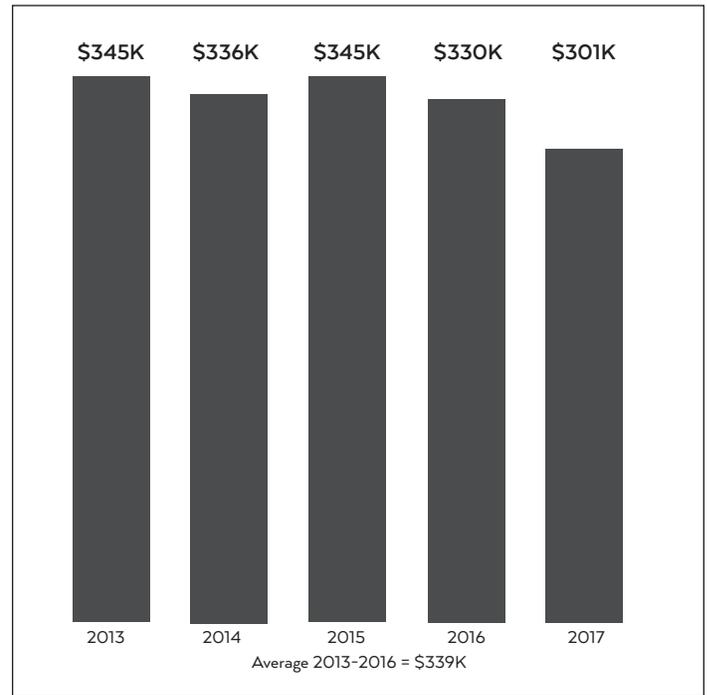
**Dan McEvoy and  
Terri Akbas, Wardens**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

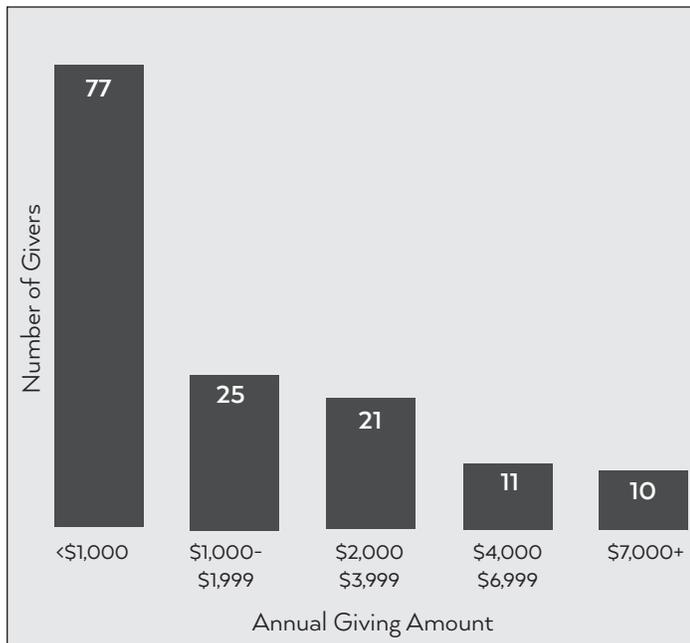
## St. Philip's Capital Position made Historic Gains



## ... but Annual Funding Fell Short



## Profile of Annual Giving in 2017



## 2018 Budget Reflects New Realities

	2017	2018	2018 Rationale
Annual Giving Goal	\$350K	\$335K	Avg. of 2013-16
New Columbarium Revenue	\$0	\$12K	4 interments per year \$3K per niche* *Estimated. Cost TBD.
Endowment Dividends & Interest	\$19K	\$15-20K	Does not include market gains
TOTAL Income (including D & I)	\$320K	\$365K	
Total Operating Expenses	\$369K	\$365K	Reflects Rector Transition

**GOAL = NO OPERATING DEFICIT**

Charlie Dupree  
whitfielddupree@gmail.com

*"We are called to celebrate the present and invest in our future as a congregation and a community. This present challenge is something we joyfully bring upon ourselves. We have decided, as Robert Kennedy instructed us, 'to dream of things that never were and ask, why not!'"* – Rev. Frank Geer

# FUTURE INITIATIVE TEAM

## CREATING THE FUTURE: A ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH INITIATIVE : UPDATE FOR 2018

The St. Philip's "Creating the Future" Initiative has made great progress since this time last year. The needs of the church for which the Future Initiative was begun have taken clear shape: a new organ, a columbarium, improvements to the interior of the church building, an accessible entrance, and an entrance addition and bathroom. Steady progress is being made towards the completion of all these projects, thanks to the generosity of many friends and supporters. This winter, the architect's plans for the church addition have taken shape and are being refined to best meet the needs of the congregation and community.

Last year, the Vestry and Future Initiative Team set a goal of raising \$1.8 million by the end of 2018. The breakdown of this goal is:

New organ	\$700,000	Columbarium	\$200,000
Church interior improvements	\$250,000	Bell tower repairs	\$150,000
New entrance addition w/ ramp & bathroom	\$500,000		

To date, we have raised \$1.1 million in gifts and pledges. The Future Initiative Team continues to meet with potential donors to ask for a commitment over a five-year period to these important projects. The team plans to contact every member of the congregation; if you want to begin the conversation about your gift, please contact any one of the Team members below.

**Nat and Anita Prentice, Co-chairs; Anne and Fred Osborn, Co-chairs; Terri Akbas, Jan Anderson, Jim Bopp, Gil Burke and Sarah Bayne, Charlie Dupree, Frank Geer, Phoebe Geer, Tom Hayden, Marit Kulleseid, Dan McEvoy, Michael McKee, Blake Newton, Suzanne Pearse, Joe Plummer, Amy Roth Prestigiacomo, and Laura Wilson**

*"St Philips has meant so much to me and our family that I am inspired to see the support for the renewal of our spiritual home that has shone forth so far. It is my prayer that we can fulfill our dream for future generations to be as nurtured as I have been nurtured spiritually with a beautiful space and warm community."*

– Joe Plummer

## RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Since 2014, our congregation has worked together to create a vision for St. Philip's, our historic church and its beautiful grounds. The Vestry has now prioritized the projects that mark the beginning of the implementation of that vision. These projects were chosen for their importance to St. Philip's and for the opportunity they provide to further our mission and its impact on Garrison, Philipstown and the Hudson Valley. Included are:

- Restoration of our Richard Upjohn-designed church building and tower, which are in need of immediate attention to secure them from intruding weather and vermin;
- Purchase and installation of a new pipe organ;
- Optimization of our church to make it truly welcoming and accessible to all people through improved access, basic conveniences and climate conditioning.

We are undergoing a Master Plan process with noted architect Thomas Fenniman and have begun to develop ideas about a floor plan and location for an addition to the church which will facilitate access. The addition under discussion is a new narthex, or antechamber, at the west end of the church. This would provide access meeting criteria of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A space for a bathroom and a water source, long identified by the church community as modern necessities, would be included. We would restore and maintain the front door of St. Philip's. Parishioners, including those in wheelchairs, would also be able enter through the proposed new doorway.

We will not begin the design process until our architect and the St. Philip's Vestry adopt the Master Plan. As we look at ideas and begin to refine them, it is our utmost concern that any modifications will be a natural extension of our beautiful church.

Important parts of the restoration are in process: Modern laser measurements of the church have been made. These measurements will be used in the creation of a complete set of drawings for the church, as original drawings have been lost. Organ builder Jack Bethards, President of Schoenstein & Co., and Mr. Fenniman are working together to accommodate the new organ in our space. Mr. Fenniman has also researched the history of our church and chronicled changes in its design over time. And St. Philip's friend, Peter Davoren, has generously offered to provide expertise in the design of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

**Michael McKee, Chair** [mbmckee@bestweb.net](mailto:mbmckee@bestweb.net) 845 424-6069



# CHURCHYARD EXTENSION COMMITTEE



- Under contract with Maple Leaf Associates
  - Competitive bidding process
  - Cost of \$155,000  
(consistent with capital plan forecast)
  - Goal to complete construction by May 2018

- Self-funding over time
  - Proposed Model
    - Price per niche: \$3,000
    - 4 interments per year\*: \$12,000 annual income
    - 13-year pay-back
    - 7% return when capacity is full (~30 years)
  - Potential to widen participation in capital campaign
    - Burial for St. Philip's community members only, at the discretion of the Columbarium Committee
  - Information regarding sale of niches to come
    - Legal research complete
- \* Historical average of 7.5 burials per year

**Charlie Dupree, Chair** whitfielddupree@gmail.com

## LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

### PROGRAMS

#### 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 - 2:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. - 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@stphilipshighlands.com AND warden@stphilipshighlands.com.

#### THE ST. PHILIP'S VESTRY

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 finance, stewardship, budget approval, Diocesan assessment and payment, annual audits, records maintenance and the 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.

#### PROGRAMS



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 rotating off the Vestry this year; Caroline Danford, Suzanne Dow, and Charlie Dupree. We are very grateful for their valuable contributions and thank them for their years of service to St. Philip's. The Junior Warden, Terri Akbas, is standing for re-election and three new members will be elected at this meeting.

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 14 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 and the Junior Choir meets

# LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

## PROGRAMS



every Sunday morning from September until the second Sunday in May.

On Good Friday, the Choir performed Brahms's *Requiem* accompanied by pianists Ruthanne Schempf and Sylvia Buccelli. On Sunday afternoon, December 10, the Choir presented Bach's *Magnificat* and works by Mendelssohn, Rutter and Holst, all accompanied by a professional orchestra. Amy Richter, who continues to offer a superior music program for our younger parishioners, skillfully serves as conductor and administrator of the Junior Choir. A highlight of the year was the terrific performance by the Junior Choir of the musical-drama *Malice in the Palace* on November 19. 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

### JUNIOR CHOIR



Woody, Janet, and I are pleased to have 14 young people registered in the Junior Choir this year, ranging from 5 to 14 years of age. The children

rehearse faithfully at 9AM every Sunday and attendance is generally higher than 75% each week. On November 19, the choir gave a rousing performance of *Malice in the Palace*, which told the story of Esther, complete with staging, props, costumes, and lots of humor. In December, the choir performed "Do You Hear What I Hear" for both the Lesson and Carols service and the Christmas Eve children's pageant. In addition, on Saturday, December 23 members of the choir

sang carols for the clients of the Philipstown Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church in Cold Spring. The choir will sing monthly during the winter and spring of 2018.

Junior Choir serves many functions for St. Philip's young people, and we have a particularly close-knit group this year. The choir 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



On any given morning, the St. Philip's Parish House is filled with the excitement of youngsters learning, laughing, exploring, dancing, singing, loving and growing. As it has for over fifty years, St. Philip's Nursery School continues to be the benchmark of excellence in the education of Philipstown's preschoolers.

St. Philip's Nursery School continues to be an outstanding program for a number of reasons:

- The program is based on solid and innovative educational principles.
- We are part of St. Philip's Church and its beautiful campus.
- We have always had a caring and loving staff, ready to go the extra mile for any child.

Our amazing staff consists of Melissa Angier, Tam Benjamin, Kay Corkrum, Mary Ellen DeAngelis, Judy Dunstan, Hilary Dyson, Allison Jacoby, Sarah Wallis and Pat Weigman. Twenty-four children from Garrison, Cold Spring, Carmel, Highland Falls, Beacon and Stormville made up our Nursery School family in 2017. The number is equally divided between the three groups of two, three and four year-olds.

Our NS parents are committed to raising funds to not only keep tuition cost down, but to also build community and friendships among the families, current and past. Last year along with donations, they raised \$11,262 to help support the Nursery School. Mark your calendars: this year's White Elephant Sale is set for Saturday, March 17. In addition to the Nursery School program, a morning playgroup is offered for five weeks in the summer along with a once-a-week

# LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

## PROGRAMS

“Mommy and Me” program for children not quite two years old in the spring.

St. Philip’s Nursery School continues to be a place of great joy for children, where they learn to be active, confident, creative, curious, and well prepared for further education and lifelong learning.

**JoAnne Wright Chadwick, Director**

stphilipsnurseryschool@gmail.com 845 424-4209

### ST. PHILIP’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has grown this past year into a strong community of 16 children, Kindergarten through Fifth Grade.

We meet regularly during part of the 10:30 service with a group averaging five children of mixed ages. Our program is flexible and aims to accommodate our families’ schedules.

Starting in the Spring 2018, we will offer children who are going to go to Kindergarten in the fall the opportunity to join us if their parents feel they are ready (please contact me to discuss). At the end of Fifth Grade, students move up to Cross Trainers. In June 2017, Olivia Hayes and Durward Entekin, Jr. became Cross Trainers, and this year two more will be promoted.

Our students and Cross Trainers often work together as a group. The children benefit greatly from the relationships developed during our time together. They all grow as they see kindness, leadership, patience, gentleness, articulation during discussion, acceptance, manners, responsibility, and friendship in action. We especially enjoy buddying up with the older students during Advent on such holiday projects as cookie decorating, ornament making, and Christmas pageant practice.

As always, our biggest growth is with our understanding of the Bible and Jesus. Lessons are tied to the Gospel and Readings we hear at the 10:30 service before going down to the Parish Hall. Format for lessons are: a scripture verse or Bible story; an ‘object’ or a familiar item that helps explain the principle or idea we are discussing; a puzzle or craft; and a prayer. I find that the ‘objects’ help make harder concepts easier to understand. We also learn about the Lord’s Prayer, the Sacraments, and Jesus’s life. On the first, third and fifth Sundays children will go back up to church to celebrate Communion with their families. Morning Prayer Sundays we go outside, weather permitting, and parents meet their child in the Parish House when they come down from church.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who help me throughout the year, especially during Coffee Hour and Christmas season! Peace, Miss Beth

**Beth Horan** horanfamily1216@gmail.com 845 661-3489

### SUNDAY CHILD CARE

Supervised child care for infants and preschoolers 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 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 five are welcome!

**Hilary Dyson** hilaryd42@gmail.com 917 716-6397

**Eliza Paris** 845 424-8364

### THE CROSS TRAINERS

The 2017/2018 school year saw a change in leadership as Terri Akbas, who created the Cross Trainers seven years ago, passed the torch to Jennifer Sandlund and Carol O’Reilly.

Our membership is steady at 26 and we welcome all youth in middle school and high school. The Middle School participated in the annual retreat with Young Life at Lake Champion in the Catskills last March. In May and September we participated in the Midnight Run program,

delivering necessary supplies to the homeless in New York City. The Cross Trainers have continued the tradition of reading the Psalm at the 10:30 service. We held our annual Pancake Breakfast in November and raised around \$750 towards the cost of the two retreats. In December, the Cross Trainers delivered the gifts to Hedgewood and sang carols at the service. In January, some of our high school students went on the retreat to Lake Champion. A survey of the group in the fall found that they are very interested in service projects involving the church and we encourage our adult membership to reach out to us if they have any ideas or the need for our help. Please contact either of us for information about joining the group!

**Jennifer Sandlund**

jennifer@thesandlunds.com 845 591-0516

**Carol O’Reilly** carol08@optonline.net 845 424-6060



### THE ADULT CLASS (AKA BOOK GROUP)

The St. Philip's 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 and then joining in spirited discussions about the books and/or any other topics of concern - whether fleeting or obsessive - to one or more 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.

In January 2017, the Group finished up Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* and thereafter selected James Baldwin's semi-autobiographical novel, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*, followed by Toni Morrison's 1977 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Song of Solomon*, and Thomas Wolfe's iconic Look *Homeward, Angel*. The second half of the year was taken up almost entirely by Diane McWhorter's massive and massively researched-2002 Pulitzer Prize history of Birmingham, Alabama's role in the American Civil Rights movement, *Carry Me Home*. This year at the Rector's request, the group embarked upon Charles Frazier's 1997 historical novel, *Cold Mountain*.

Anyone interested in joining the group is encouraged to knock on the conference room door at the southwest corner of the Parish House on any Sunday after the coffee hour. Don't wait for the door to be answered. Just enter; an extra chair is always available.

**Blake Newton, Chair**

bnewton3@optonline.net 845 737-0759

## COMMITTEES

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Our theme for 2017/2018 was 'A balanced budget is spiritual balance.' The kickoff of the campaign highlighted the need for a balanced budget in our stewardship today as we embark on a sustainability effort for our future. Nat Prentice highlighted the Future Initiative goals. The deep metaphor of balance relates to so many frames we use throughout our life: justice, fairness, life/work balance, balanced meals, balance sheets, balanced budgets, and, most important of all, the balance between our material life and our spiritual life.

During the service each Sunday throughout the campaign, we had '5 minute talks' on a major component of our budget in some depth to help us all understand where our money comes from and where it goes to maintain our sacred space and the dynamic community working for God's purpose. Each talk was personal, from the heart, and educational.

There were two posters in the narthex beautifully designed by Lynn Carano and Terri Akbas showing a breakdown of expenses and progress toward a balanced budget. As of 1/28/2018 we have received 55 pledges totaling \$173,193. We need to ask all of you to pray that we can reach or exceed our pledging in 2017, when we had 71 pledges totaling \$181,205. Please help us achieve a balanced budget for 2018.

**Joe Plummer, Chair**

joeplumm@gmail.com 845 265-1004

### CHURCHYARD SUPPORT COMMITTEE

This Committee helps St. Philip's raise funds to maintain our lovely Churchyard. We offer our deepest thanks to the donors who gave a total of \$1,560 to support the Churchyard in 2017. This total is down from \$2,750 in 2016. While those who have family members here have been especially generous, we ask any who are interested to join our effort.

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

### INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee is comprised of the Rector and 5 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 at least once a year with Lazard to review portfolio performance and their outlook on market conditions and trends.

We are approaching the 3rd anniversary of our relationship with Lazard (initiated in 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's goal is for newcomers and returning parishioners to feel welcome at St. Philip's. In 2017 a number of new/returning friends and families joined us and we are so happy they are here.

Greeters and “greeter deputies” are active weekly making a special effort to reach out to new friends and to invite everyone to a time of fellowship at coffee hour. Many in the church contribute by hosting coffee hours. The committee helps to facilitate the schedule and encourage participation. Communicating basics like times of services, sermon titles, music selections, concerts and Sunday School information also has the attention of the committee. Newcomers are added to the Church’s Realm database and Realm is used by Terri Akbas to communicate St. Philip’s information via email to everyone. Jennifer Sandlund updates the general public information posted on the sandwich board on 9D.

The membership committee actively seeks new ideas for reaching potential parishioners and for better communicating with all. Please share your thoughts with Terri, Jennifer, Cary Danford or Jackie Grant.

**Jackie Grant, Chair** grant@highlands.com 845-424-3940

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee organized several events in 2017, starting with the coordination of the pot luck luncheon for the annual meeting that is always well attended with plenty of delicious food items. Our Outdoor service at the Garrison Fish and Game club in June was generously funded by the Friends of St Philip’s for both the clubhouse rental and hamburgers. Parishioners brought pot luck style side dishes and it was a nice day! In August, the picnic and play was enjoyed by all – pot luck picnic before the Hudson Valley Shakespeare play on the West Meadow at Boscobel. Although there was no Harvest Cocktail party, the fall was busy with other activities. Stay tuned for 2018 events!

**Suellen Nelson** snelsonpa@aol.com 914 475-2130  
**Carol O’Reilly** carol08@optonline.net 845 424-6060

## GROUPS/ WORKING GROUPS

### LAY READERS GUILD

The Lay Readers Guild is comprised of 28 men and women of stout heart and stentorian voice who have volunteered to assist the Rector by reading the lessons and psalms appointed for morning worship services and by leading the congregations at those services in such prayers as the Rector may from time to time – often on a moment’s notice – request them to lead. In recent years, they have been ably assisted by some 21 members of the Cross Trainers’ organization who have, among

other things, assumed responsibility for leading the recitation of the psalms during morning worship.

Members of the Guild are, of course, unpaid and selfless in their undertaking but they do acquire (through the fulfillment of their duties, by association with the Rector and their talented fellow readers and by virtue of the Parish’s stalwart avoidance of artificially enhanced speech) 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 email Blake Newton.

**Blake Newton, Chair**  
btnewton3@optonline.net 845 737-0759

### ALTAR GUILD

The members of the Altar Guild work three or four weekends per year setting up the altar for communion and arranging the memorial flowers on Saturday and cleaning up on Sunday, as well as special church holidays. In addition, linens are maintained, brass polished, cushions vacuumed, and supplies ordered.

The following members continue to serve our church in this way:

We are delighted that Amy Moore and Marianne Benjamin

Wendy Bickford -13 years	Liz Heitmann - 5 years
Sara Breen - 4 years	May Hill - 2 years
Judi Dixon - 5 years	Anna Kantor - 1 year
Rhonda Donohue - 4 years	Karen Lindros - 44 years
Judy Dunstan - 25 years	Sue Mihalik - 18 years
Jackie Grant - 25 years	Belle Newton - 22 years
Judy Hayes - 19 years	Jennifer Sandlund - 15 years

joined 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, at Easter and Christmas and to Rev. Geer who has always been there to help when needed.

I have decided it is time for me to retire as Altar Guild Chair. I will continue as a member and am grateful that Sue Mihalik has agreed to become Chair. I have loved every minute of the 44 years I have been able to serve our beautiful church.

**Karen Lindros, Chair**  
ksandll@optimum.net 845 424-3537

### FRIEND AND FUND RAISING WORKING GROUP

In the spring our discussion group looked at the books of the Apocrypha, the books often found between the Old and New Testaments, but not universally considered canonical. We read them, discussed the content, and why they are only marginally accepted.

We celebrated summer with a picnic and play at Boscobel. On August 6, we saw *Twelfth Night*. The event was well attended by extended family members and friends.

Instead of our traditional Fall Fundraiser, there was a going-away party for Reverend Geer and Sarah on December 1 at the Garrison. So, for our fall fundraiser, we put together a "St. Philip's Church Cookbook". There are copies still available at \$20 each.

Another successful outreach project was our ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in conjunction with the Putnam History Museum. The event pulled together many diverse leaders of the community which was followed by a reception in the Parish House.

Joe Plummer brought to our attention a training program through an interdenominational group called the St. Stephen's Ministry. The intention is to train members of the congregation in some basic pastoral skills to assist the church, especially during transitional periods. A few individuals will begin training this spring.

There were two Choir Concerts to which the public was invited: Brahms's *Requiem* on Good Friday, April 14, and Bach's *Magnificat* on December 10. These two concerts were wonderful opportunities for outreach to the wider community and for encouraging "free will" donations.

**Preston Lawrence Pittman, Co-Chair**

preston.pittman@ahrcnyc.org 212 780-2670

**Thomas F. Hayden, Co-Chair**

tfhput@gmail.com

### FRIENDS OF ST. PHILIP'S



The Friends of St Philip's had a successful 2017 Harvest Sale once again! Thank you to all who donated items, set up, worked the sale, cleaned up, cut and wrapped cheese, baked and any other areas that we forgot to mention!

<b>Income</b>	\$3,592.91
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pecans	\$186.00
Cheese	\$312.19
Start-up	\$100.00
Cheese cutter blades	\$ 99.20
PCNR ad	<u>\$50.00</u>
	-\$ 747.39
<b>Profit</b>	\$2,845.52

**New Parish House Chairs:** With the proceeds from the 2016 Harvest Sale, the Friends donated the new chairs for the Parish House. (Chairs: \$2019.60 + ID Labels for the

Chairs: \$69.00 = \$2,088.60 )

**Annual 2017 Summer Service and Picnic – Garrison Fish and Game Club:** The Friends once again covered the costs for the annual June service and outdoor picnic, which is always a good time. (Club Rental: \$250.00 + Food: \$178.73 = \$428.73 Total Expenses)

**2017 Year-End Donations**

Philipstown Food Pantry	\$100.00
Hudson Valley Friends of Mental Health	\$100.00
Putnam County Children's Committee	\$100.00
<b>Total Donations:</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

**Become a Friend!**

We welcome anyone who would like to become a Friend of St. Philip's. Please speak to Karen Lindros or Carol O'Reilly for more information.

**Carol O'Reilly, Chair**

carol08@optonline.net 845 424-6060

### PHYSICAL ASSETS WORKING GROUP

**Parish House:** In spite of best efforts by many, the decrepit 50-year-old boiler finally gave up the ghost: Pidala came in with the low bid and a new one was installed during the summer. We expect real efficiencies (We have been burning an average of 3500 gallons of fuel oil per year in the Parish House; 8000 gallons/year campus wide). The new boiler also serves the hot water needs of the building, allowing for the removal of the substandard propane tank and dangerous venting. We should realize substantial fuel cost savings.

We are optimistic that further savings can be had by: installing a programmable thermostat (simple and inexpensive); continuing to replace broken window panes and installing attractive storms; replacing ceiling fans; and fixing the cupolas so that they open in the summer.

Annual floor maintenance was done by Taggart Lake (responsible for campus maintenance) – removing old wax and redoing. A radiator cover was rebuilt. Taggart is also familiar with the regular maintenance needed on the new boiler.

**The Cottage:** Taggart installed a condensate pump in the newish electric water heater and plumbed it to the waste line (This was required, but never done at the original installation); the basement was whitewashed and good lighting was installed, making it a useful space. Taggart also monitors the building in the renters' absence.

**The Church:** The furnace was cleaned and a rebuilt blower and motor were installed, which should increase efficiencies

# LIFE IN OUR CHURCH

## GROUPS/WORKING GROUPS

and reduce noise. A new front door lock and interim steps to reduce rodent entry will be priority projects in the coming year.

**The Rectory:** A new electric line was installed for the kitchen.

**The Campus:** Miscellaneous maintenance, gutter cleaning, heating units cleaned, branches taken away and a few headstones reset.

It's been a good year! Thanks to all who pitched in when able.

**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 tangible support to those who are homeless or disabled, and empowerment to marginalized communities struggling to be productive, safe, and healthy.

Our monthly meal program – a collaborative effort of the Peekskill Area Pastors Association – provides lunches to hungry people in need in Peekskill. In 1987, Rev. Geer was one of the original organizers of this program, which now has about ten St. Philip's volunteers working with him. By the end of this year, we will have served over 26,000 lunches since 1987.

Our Sunday evening communion fellowship at the Hedgewood congregate living facility in Beacon takes a worship service, prayer and comfort to the residents with disabilities. We have added sacred music to this service, which includes participation by the Cross Trainers as well as volunteer leaders of the service from the Congregation.

For the past four years, Service to Others has supported empowerment through education in inner-city Newburgh, the fourth poorest city in New York. At San Miguel Academy, an independent middle school for boys, eight community members provide weekly tutoring. Our monthly Saturday

Clubs serve the entire school; this year we added a new club – financial literacy – to the other subject areas: film, book, food and hiking. Additional volunteer support provides help to students and their families in the admission process for high school and college. We also play a supportive role at Nora Cronin Presentation Academy (a middle school for girls in Newburgh) primarily through volunteer recruitment for its Summer Program.

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: Two sales

Burials: Two full burials; three cremations

Here at St. Philip's we encourage families to use cremation. From the standpoint of the remaining space in the churchyard and the environment, in general, this makes the most sense. All monument plans/sketches 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 plantings or placing urns or statuary.

**David C. Gordon, Jr., Churchyard Registrar**

gordon@highlands.com 845 424-3369

In 2016, Rev. Anne Mallonee (Trinity Wall Street) led us in worship on March 6th, and gave the opening prayer at our annual meeting. Her sermon that day was to support our launch of our Future Initiative. In the meeting we updated the congregation on the completed research of projects approved and prioritized by the vestry. Here is a quote from Anne:

*"In your vision for the future, you are articulating a sense of St. Philip's vocation beyond your walls, and you discover how even your walls themselves (your beautiful, peaceful campus) are part of your mission in the larger community...The future that is opening up before you is exciting, and it is bold, and it is of God."*

– Rev. Anne Mallonee