

Annual Report St. Matthew Episcopal Church 2025



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Annual Meeting Agenda January 25th, 2026

Opening Prayer	Fr. Eric Kimball Hinds
Welcome & Opening Remarks	Fr. Eric Kimball Hinds
Election of New Vestry members	
Steven Cupps	3 year term
Christopher Kalb	3 year term
Inka Noonan	3 year term
Mary Quinlan	3 year term
Election of Deanery Members	
Kirk Baldwin	
Deb Crawford	
Bill James	
Gary Perkins	
Recognition of Vestry service	
Head of School Remarks	Quincey Grieve
Treasurer's Report	Michael McNally
Bequests and Planned Legacy Giving	John Stephenson
Youth, Children & Families	Fr. Jay Sapaen Watan
Closing Prayer	Fr. Jay Sapaen Watan

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Prayers

[The Book of Common Prayer pp. 816-818]

For the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

For the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For a Church Convention or Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel [in _____] for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Annual Report of the Rector 2025

Near the very start of the year, our hearts and prayers were directed towards the horrific southern California wildfires that decimated large swaths of the Pacific Palisades and Altadena. The end of the year was likewise punctured with the tragic news of a shooting at Brown University and the Bondi Beach Hanukkah massacre in Australia. In between these events, 2025 was marked by an increasing level of global instability and conflict. Through these turbulent and uncertain times Saint Matthew's has been a gathering place for the faithful, a sanctuary for prayer, and a source of vibrant community. Today, more than ever, Saint Matthew's serves as a beacon that provides in the words of the Prayer Book "...that peace which the world can not give."

Beyond our regular Sunday worship and special services (Feast of the Holy Name, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter, 4th of July, All Souls, Thanksgiving Day, and Hiker's Eucharists) our parish ventures to establish deeper connections through a series of events that focus upon fellowship. The day of our Annual Meeting at the end of January gathered together parishioners for a single service followed by a beautiful lunch while we conducted the business of our church. On Shrove Tuesday, over 100 parishioners attended the revival of a parish Talent-Share—where members of both our Church and School community offered their talents for the delight of the large audience. On Sunday, September 21st our celebration of the Feast of Saint Matthew was followed by our annual Parish Picnic. Just a few days later our Latin American themed *Fiesta* with dinner, dancing, and a mariachi band was likewise a great success. On the first Friday of November members of the League for Service and St. Catherine's Guild hosted our annual parish Thanksgiving dinner with Julia Beylard Hall again filled to capacity.

During the liturgical year we also provided for several events to enrich the fabric of our parish life. On March 2nd our School community joined the 10:15am service to celebrate Day School Sunday. Head of School, Quincey Grieve preached and our combined choirs from Church and School contributed to a beautiful service. For the season of Lent, a faithful group of travelers participated in a series titled *Journey to the Holy Land*. With a combination of photos, maps, and lecture—participants learned details about the complexity of the region from ancient times to the present day. During the summer our parish hosted a performance by the Sidney Sussex College Choir visiting from The University of Cambridge, with the League for Service and St. Catherine's Guild providing refreshments. On Friday, September 5th, we welcomed Bishop Rios to Saint Matthew's for the 3rd time during his episcopacy, to preside over the service of *The Celebration of New Ministry* as Doug Jolly was formally welcomed as our new School Chaplain. In December our Church and School communities gathered again with joint choirs to celebrate Advent Lessons and Carols. Also during the season of Advent parishioners engaged in a three session Bible Study titled *Women introducing the Birth of Jesus*.

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Our relationship with our School remains strong. Together we saw the completion of a joint project to refresh and renovate the fireplace room. We continue to coordinate on the maintenance of our property, and both of our institutions are in strong financial positions. The completion of the Memorial Garden last year was the final project of our joint Capital Campaign. 2005 was the first full year of its availability for use by parishioners. Our Thrift Shop under the leadership of Diana Dykes continues to serve our community and contributed over \$20,000 to various charitable causes.

In the course of tending to my responsibilities as Rector, I have received incredible support from our parish wardens. For three years Ron Gantvoort has faithfully served as Jr. Warden and has done a fantastic job in keeping our Vestry organized as well as spearheading a string of incredibly successful parish events. For the past two years, our Senior Warden, Carol Kalb has rendered incredible service while wearing many hats. Carol has faithfully led our Vestry gatherings; attended Church Staff, School Board and Joint Property Committee Meetings, and Leadership dinners. She has spearheaded many property projects, reenergized the Garden Guild, hosted Vestry dinners, and in her spare time continued to serve on the Altar Guild. Above all both Carol and Ron offered tremendous support, guidance and friendship to their Rector who is appreciative beyond words.

I am blessed to share the work of ministry with a dedicated and capable staff. Philip, Fr. Jay, Tracy and I collaborate on an almost daily basis, while Suki, in addition to her role of soloist, does amazing work on her own leading our youth choirs. In parish ministry it is rare for a staff to work so well together and I deeply appreciate the talent, generosity, commitment and good humor of our entire staff. I also thank my wife Anne, for taking on the incredible ministry of hospitality. With such a talented staff and devoted volunteers It is no accident that our parish continues to flourish and welcome new parishioners to our community of faith. I look forward to serving together in the upcoming year.



Faithfully, Fr. Eric+

Associate Rector's Reflections

Dear Friends,

God's is good.... All the time. And in that goodness, this year will mark my 8th serving and sharing in ministry at St. Matthews. Being a partner in ministry at St. Matthews has truly been a gift.

In my role as Associate Rector and Lower School Religion Teacher for our Day School, I am so grateful for the ways you have welcomed my family and I, and for the many profound and powerful ways the Holy Spirit has been present in our of work to make God's love a reality in our broken and beautiful world.

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While the world feels more anxious about the future, and attracted to the ideological and social energies polarizing our people, Jesus reminds us, “*Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.*” (Matt 12:25, NRSV). People of faith stand at a crossroads. It would be too easy to jump on the bandwagon of division, clinging hard to our own truth as if it’s the only right answer. But I do not think we’ll find much goodness there. The glory of God calls us to embrace the a wider reality of family... a truth that feels like kinship.

One of my favorite hymns was penned by William Arthur Dunkerly, aka: John Oxenham, who understood that unifying power of God:

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide world.*

Inspired by Galatians 3:28, the hymn celebrates a love supreme that speaks to our wholeness in who we are together in Christ. The second verse of the hymn concludes, “*who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.*” Kinship acknowledges the irrefutable interconnection we have together. Fr. Greg Boyle, the founder one of the most lasting and life-giving gang rehabilitation ministries, believes kinship is a way of being human. He said, “*Kinship—not serving the other, but being one with the other. Jesus was not ‘a man for others;’ he was one of them. There is a world of difference in that.*” It’s a difference that makes our circle wide and our intention for each other.

I’ve believe the only path to depolarize our divisions will come in our willingness see how we belong to each other. Relationships matter. And it’s in that kinship, the wider sense of family, were the power of love will help us overcome. The vibe of kinship continues to be a signature of St. Matthews. As a faith community we gather over 75 times in the year to celebrate God happening in our lives and in the world. This includes Christmas, the beginning of Lent, Holy Week, weddings and funerals too. We assemble for socials, study, and service projects. And if we count the times our Day School gathers to educate and elevate... it’s a lot good work happening to inspire and empower goodness in the world. And it’s in that goodness I consider you like family.

Facing forward in ministry together in 2026, may we continue to welcome and to celebrate goodness in the world. Thank you again for all you to live into love, and to make the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew a warm and welcoming place of light and love in Christ.

Blessings,

Fr. Jay+

Sr. Warden Annual Report

Carol Kalb

I have been privileged to serve as Fr. Eric’s Senior Warden for the past two years. During that time the vestry, staff and parishioners have accomplished the following:

1. Completion and dedication of the Memorial Garden.
2. Trimming of the redwoods in the garden and the oak trees.

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3. Painting and refinishing of the porte cochere.
4. Interior repair and painting to the back door area of the Ambulatory.
5. Replanting of the Baldwin Street side of the church.
6. Updating and re- installation of the League for Service and Vestry plaques in the Fireplace Room.
7. New flowering trees planted in the inner courtyard.
8. Planned installation of new rope and walkway for the labyrinth.
9. Reinstated Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
10. Increased responsibilities of the Garden Guild for the Memorial Garden as well as working with the Day School in maintaining the grounds.
11. New Parish Directory.
12. Encouraged parish involvement and growth.

We are blessed to have a growing viable and loving parish and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life to serve as Senior Warden.

Carol P. Kalb

Day School Report

Quincey Grieve

Dear Episcopal Church of St. Matthew Community,

The 2024-25 year carried on the beautiful traditions of Episcopal Day School: Fall Festival, Blessing of the Animals, Donut Day, overnight retreats, and May Day. Our eighth graders inspired us with their poise, grace, wisdom, and humor in their Chapel Talks.

We also celebrated the extraordinary successes of our eighth graders and their impressive matriculation to a broad range of exceptional high schools across the Bay Area. They leave us as kind, confident, and courageous leaders, ready to make their mark on the world, as evidenced by the accomplishments of our alumni. In the spring we honored Dario Ghamgosar, from the class of 2019, with our 2025 Agent of Change Award. Dario's work with ParaRow, a program that makes rowing accessible for athletes with disabilities, and his service with Grassroots Ecology, a local nonprofit focused on community-based environmental restoration are both reflections of Episcopal Day's mission in action. At graduation, we were thrilled to welcome alumnus Michael Churich back to campus to deliver a captivating graduation address. Drawing on his experiences as a Mustang and his football journey at UCLA, Michael delivered a compelling and heartfelt address that reminded us how Episcopal Day's lessons endure long after students leave our campus.

We also engaged in transformational work in our academic program: We revamped our schedule, recreated our English Language Arts program in Lower School, invested in our faculty evaluation and feedback systems, welcomed an Associate Head of School for Academics, a Dean of Students in Middle School, and a DEIB leadership team.

A signature accomplishment of the school year was the launch of our Strategic Plan, *Tradition and Transformation*, the vision for the bright future of Episcopal Day, a vision grounded in our powerful past.

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The first two pillars of the Strategic Plan are *Transformative and Purposeful Education* and *Curiosity and Critical Thinking*, which call on us to create a program founded on depth and complexity in thinking and an interconnected and purposeful program – tied together through the arts, through our study of religion, and through a commitment to external connection through service learning. The third pillar, *Access and Belonging*, amplifies our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Vision Statement that commits to a program where students see themselves in the curriculum, where they challenge assumptions and interrupt bias, where they see how advantage and power may diminish a just world. The vision statement also commits to ensuring that we are a diverse community in our student and parent body, in our faculty and professional community, and in the Boardroom.

The fourth pillar, stewardship and strength, outlines our goals for our finances and facilities: We must have healthy enrollment; we must have a financial assistance program that continues to make Episcopal Day School broadly accessible; we must have facilities that support the innovative teaching and learning of our signature academic program. In this pillar, we state that we are committed to a capital campaign, and in the spring of 2025, we engaged CCS to conduct a feasibility study. Additionally, we exceeded our annual Mustang Fund goal, raising \$1,081,000 to support vital aspects of our program, including math and learning specialists, teaching assistants, differentiated math instruction, field trips, and a robust Chapel program.

The last pillar, one more about tradition than transformation, asserts that we will continue to be a school that, at its core, is all about community. That is who we have always been, that is who we will always be.

We could not have the school that we have without the boundless devolution of our parent and volunteer community and without the stalwart support of the Church, Fr. Eric, Senior Warden Carol Kalb, and the entire Vestry. Under the thoughtful and steady leadership of President Katharine Wilson, the Day School Parents Association made magic happen for our students throughout the year, and I'm grateful to the Board of Trustees for their partnership and for the steadfast leadership of Board President Chris Chadoir.

I'm awed by the beautiful connection between the Church and the School, and I'm deeply appreciative for your care and support of our shared Mission.

Very sincerely,



Quincey Grieve
Head of School

School Chaplain's Report

Doug Jolly

Greetings from the Day School! I am loving my first year as School Chaplain and my fourth year at Episcopal Day. This has been a tremendous year of learning as a Chaplain of connecting beautifully with both the church and school. I am so grateful for the work that has been done and for the work ahead.

Chapel: Chapel continues to be based on a morning prayer model, students read, acolyte, and usher, and most Mondays and Thursdays eighth graders preach. The joy, wisdom, and sense of connection that our students exhibit is particularly clear in our chapel services. We gather with grades 1-8 on Mondays and Thursdays, while Tuesdays are Middle School only chapels and Fridays are PreK through grade 4. Everyone in the church and school community is invited to attend in person, or if you prefer, we continue to live-stream chapel via [our school Youtube channel](#).

Religious Education: Rev. Jay continues to teach PreK-Fourth grade, and I teach religion to the Middle School. Fifth Grade students are studying the Hebrew Scriptures with a focus on building community. Sixth Grade students are studying World Religions as they learn to understand, appreciate, and respect different cultures and viewpoints in our community and in our world. The Seventh Grade religion curriculum is focused on the New Testament, and this year we are focusing on parables. We primarily focus on Jesus' parables, but we are also looking at parables from outside of Christianity, as we try to understand the meaning of the parables and how they might apply to a 7th grader in San Mateo, California in 2026. In Eighth Grade, students develop their leadership in a religion class focusing on their Chapel Talks, as we as the study of religious leaders from around the world.

Our 7th and 8th-grade spiritual retreats continue at our diocesan conference centers, St. Dorothy's Rest and Bishop's Ranch. They are joyful bonding opportunities for students and their advisors. Our Episcopal Values are especially demonstrated in our community service and service learning program, where students engage academically with issues of social and economic justice.

Service to Others: We've held our family community service events at the Bayview Mission and with the Pacific Beach Coalition, and we've partnered with St. Vincent De Paul to make sandwiches for their clients once a month, with each grade taking a turn. We have also continued to support PARCA as our 8th graders continue to host both a Halloween party and a Christmas party on campus for the PARCA clients, local adults with developmental differences. Our students sing and read with our friends from the Peninsula Regent. We continue to contribute to Samaritan House's Wee-care drives of essential items through collections organized by our fifth graders. We also completed our annual Christmas gift drive for children in foster care in partnership with CASA. This year we have also added a relationship with the Heart and Home Collaborative, a cold-weather women's shelter in Palo Alto that rotates between places of worship. Our Middle School Baking Club is providing healthy muffins for these women each week and is learning about poverty in our community. Our 6th grade class is in the midst of working with local shelters to assess their needs and create a project where their classroom learning about hot/cold and wet/dry can be applied to serving others.

It is a pleasure to serve the Episcopal Church and Day School communities! I am grateful to be learning from Father Eric and for the relationships I am developing with church leaders.

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Music

Our musical resources:

The Chancel Choir lead the music at our regular 10:15 Sunday morning services. The Choir also sing for all the Holy Week and Easter liturgies, as well as on Christmas Eve. Membership includes four lead singers and a cadre of volunteers, mostly parishioners.

The historic Crocker Memorial Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ serves as our primary musical accompaniment for services. The instrument is lovingly maintained by the Swain & Kates Pipe Organs firm of San Francisco.

The Children's/Youth Choir, directed by Hyun Suk Jang, rehearse weekly and sing once monthly, augmenting the music of the 10:105 am service.

The William Howard Memorial Tower Chime of 15 bells, located on the north side of the church building, rings a daily Westminster Chime at 12 o'clock noon. The bells are integrated liturgically at most of our services, and are also heard playing tunes at other times to delight the surrounding community.

The Parish Handbell Choir have resumed their program, since pulling out from the Covid recess. The ensemble is directed by Stannie Holt.

Special music events of the year:

#Two joint services with the Day School, featuring multiple choirs:

Springtime Day School Sunday; Advent Lessons and Carols

#Music program at the Thrift Shop's Spring Tea in May, with our own "Trapp Family," the Von Bargaen family

#Fourth annual Summer Festival Choir in June

#Evensong and Concert in July, sung by the Sidney Sussex College Choir of Cambridge University in the U. K.

#Presentation of solos and choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, sung by our staff soloists and chancel choir, Advent Sunday

Faithfully, Philip Keil, Precentor, Organist and Music Director

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Ministry with Children, Youth and Families and Christian Education.

Submitted by The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

In my role as Associate Rector I take responsibility for organizing our ministry with Children, Youth and Families. Linda Friedlin provides childcare during Sunday services and special events, while



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facilitating Children's Chapel, offering pastoral care to the community, and assisting our rector, the Rev. Dr. Eric Hinds in the liturgical and spiritual leadership of the parish. In addition, I serve as a specialist teacher for the Lower School Religion program at our Day School (Episcopal Day School of St. Matthew).

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL & CELEBRATE SUNDAYS: Children's Chapel offers a space for young ones to pray together and learn the stories of God's great love found in Holy Scripture, Church tradition, the Sacraments and in popular culture. We met in the school library during the 10:15 AM service in the school library and religion room, with the children joining the service for Holy Communion. Our Children's Chapel continues from January to June with a break for summer, and returns from the end of August through December. Due to full schedules, sports, and split households, our attendance varies from 3 to 18 students throughout the year. Celebrate Sundays continued a St. Matthew's tradition of families worshiping together on feast days and parish celebrations. These days included The Baptism of our Lord, Day School Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Mother's Day, Pentecost, the Feast of St. Matthew, the Feast of St. Francis, All Saints Sunday, and Advent Lessons and Carols.

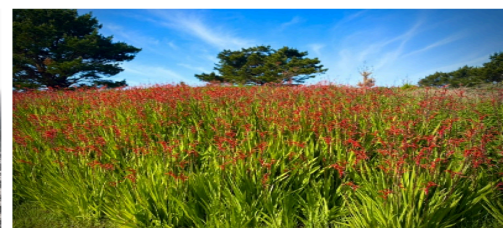


CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR: Children's Choir director Hyun Suk "Suki" Jang organized the Children and Youth choir throughout the year singing on Easter, Christmas Eve, and on our Celebrate Sundays. They occasionally added their voices to the Chancel Choir. This faithful group rehearsed regularly on Sundays at 11:30 AM.

ST. MATTHEW'S GOT TALENT: On March 4, 2025, with the leadership of Ron Gantvoort and our vestry, we brought back the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and added a fun-filled talent show. The event incorporated families from our Day School and parishioners offering their gifts in music, dance, and poetry. It was a sold out show that filled JBH to capacity.



LENTEN PHOTOLANGUAGE: For the Season of Lent we invited our youth and families to reflect on God's presence in the world through photography and train our senses to see and celebrate what is right in the world. Two of the guiding principles were to "*see the good things, to be the good things*" and "*comparison is the thief of joy.*" We had over 20 submissions that were posted in a reflection gallery in the Fireplace room during Holy Week and Easter.



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EASTER & EGG HUNT: We had a full house for the morning of Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, that included Easter Brunch and an Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt was organized by our parish families, and filled over 900 eggs and commenced during brunch with over 60 children from the church, day school and community in the search. A special gift card and toy prizes were given for children who found *Golden Eggs*.



BEACH BBQ PICNIC: On May 17, 2025, we came together to share burgers, BBQ, and good story at Blufftop Coastal Park on Poplar Beach in Half Moon Bay. It had been raining all week, but a window of sunshine appeared for us to gather in the early afternoon.

CAMP ST. ANDREWS: From July 19-26, 2025, I served as chaplain at Camp St. Andrews in the High Sierras with an amazing team of volunteers. The camp offers children ages 8 to 13 opportunities to meet new friends, be in nature, and to discover God and community away from home, along with leadership training for high school students. Themed on old westerns time travel, we provided a ministry of presence for over 130 staff and campers. In addition, the CSA team were so grateful to use JBH for their training event earlier in July.



FEAST of ST. MATTHEW: On September 21, 2025, we celebrated our patronal feast day with worship, a baptism, and a parish wide picnic and games. We had a delicious BBQ meal catered by Obvious Choice Catering from Modesto, CA, combined with a potluck of salads by our congregation. Children and families enjoyed crafts and picnic games, including Cornhole, Connect-4, Egg Relay, Three Leg Race. The Tug of War championship between parents and their kids was dominated by our young ones this year, Benny Harris won our Whiffle Ball Home Run Derby, and quite a few parishioners took home a prize from our *Jesus Loves You* scavenger hunt. It was a blessed day!

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DIOCOCESAN PARTICIPATION: This year we partnered with other congregations in our diocese to join in service projects and in sharing resources. On September 13, 2025 I participated in our Diocese of California Youth Ministry planning event hosted by Lyle Griner of Peer Ministry. On November 8, 2025 we joined with our diocese at the Renew the Zoo event in San Francisco. St. Paul's in Burlingame also gave us the frames for making Filipino Parol Lanterns that we decorated for the Children's Chapel during Advent. We're planning more events together in 2026, including a Nightwatch event at Grace Cathedral, and future service projects. In addition, the bishop's office has committed itself to supporting children and youth ministry leaders in providing education, resource sharing and retreats. As such, I attended the Asian American Pacific Islander Leadership Retreat in Kansas City, MO on April 2-5, 2025.



PARISH SOCIALS: One of the blessings of our kinship at St. Matthews comes in the frequency of our fellowship together. For our children and youth it offers special moments to experience the gift of community, to break bread with generations, and to see what the Kingdom of God looks like. These times include the Thrift Shop Tea on May 10, 2025; the Viva St. Matthew's Parish Fiesta on October 4, 2025 ; First Friday Thanksgiving Dinner on November 4, 2025.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT and REHEARSALS:

The pageant continues as a favorite tradition sharing the story of Jesus' birth. Our organist, Philip Kiel, assisted in the hymns, while Linda Friedlin helped to shepherd the young ones and organize costumes. We held rehearsals on Sunday, December 21, 2025 right after the Sunday service, and at 2pm before the Christmas Eve service. The Pageant was incorporated as part of the 4pm Christmas Eve service and was well attended. A total of 20 children, youth and young adults, joined our ensemble. Special thanks to our ushers who also joined in as shepherds.



FACING FORWARD in 2026: As we seek and serve Christ as a faith community that blesses and backs our children and youth, and really all people, with a kinship and kindness, who we are together becomes a faithful guide for our young ones to navigate this world with the courage and confidence. How we live into love becomes the glory of God revealed to the world. As we enter

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2026, we will have more opportunities for fellowship and to serve, such as with the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition and our wider community. We will also be starting a youth confirmation program in the year too. I am grateful for all our families and parishioners for your support in helping our faith community offer children, youth, and families opportunities to give and grow through our worship,



gatherings and in sharing the love of God in all the places we are called to be. *God is good...*



Annual Report of the Altar Guild 2025

Members of this ministry serve with dedication and devotion for God's work, and His church.

The Altar Guild is responsible for the care of the Altar, assisting the clergy and preparing for all services. This year we added beeswax candles to the Advent Wreath as well as the floral arrangements in the window boxes.

Responsibilities are many and include:

Preparation for all scheduled services and special events such as weddings, funerals, baptisms and memorial services

Care and condition of all altar appointments

Care of vestments, chalices and other elements

Ordering of supplies such as linens, wafers and wine for Holy Communion

Ordering and arranging of the altar flowers

Preparing the church for the Easter and Christmas services, for weddings, baptisms and funerals

Preparing for the Episcopal Day School special chapels

Setting up for all outdoor services including the Summer Services and the Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis of Assisi Sunday

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Members work in teams with tours in two-week increments. All members are expected to be “on hand” in the preparation of the church for Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

The Altar Guild does not raise funds or require its members to pay dues. All funds necessary to purchase wine, wafers, vestments, linens, flowers and maintenance of the vestments, all silver and brass are from donations.

Without the work of the dedicated men and women who volunteer, the various services for the church would be incomplete.

Presently, there are 9 members who are “Sacristy” trained. We welcome warmly any man or woman who is searching for this quiet and dedicated ministry at St. Matthew’s.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Perrando, Secretary

THE ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS -2025

Boll, Marianne: duty schedules

Chow, Barbara

Doherty, Linda: Acolyte Chair

Doherty, Tom

Kalb, Carol: Memorial flowers, wedding coordinator, linens

Martha McKenna

Perrando, Kay: Secretary

Pesutich, Troy: supplies

Peterson, Susan: Treasurer

Quinlan, Mary

Stafford, Luna: Flowers

Ushers Report

Ushers serve one Sunday per month at both the 8am and 10:15am services. They assist in welcoming Parishioners and Newcomers, pass out bulletins, take the plate collection, and assist the Congregation with Communion.

Currently, we have four (4) Head Ushers and fifteen (15) full time Ushers.

We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for each of the following Ushers, who unselfishly offer their time to assist at the 10:15 am Sunday Morning Services:

Head Ushers

Kirk Baldwin

Ron Gantvoort

Jeff Hagerty

Michael McNally

10:15am Ushers

Sally Adeniyi-Jones

Joanna Cui

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Steven Cupps
Roger Dewes
Kassandra Edwards
Nancy Eurotas
Dan Harrigan
Erin Harrigan
John Hendricks
Jon Karesh
Michael McCall
Michael Pluchar
Peter Sortwell
Luna Stafford
Gayle Youlden

Faithfully Submitted,
Ron Gantvoort
Usher Chairperson

Acolytes

Linda Doherty, Coordinator

In 2025 we expanded our team from 3 to 7 young adults that serve at the 10:15 AM service. We continue to have 3 adults for the 8 AM service. We are always looking for new volunteers. The time commitment is low: 1-2 services per month.

Through the generosity of parishioners, two scholarship funds exist to offer a one-time scholarship to graduating high school seniors in appreciation for their service, commitment and dedication to the worship of the community as an acolyte.

We had no seniors in 2025.

Phyllis Molinari Fund: Phyllis Molinari, a long-time parishioner and active member of the League for Service, established this fund to provide a yearly award for graduating high school senior boy acolytes. The fund was created in her memory in 2006.

Irene Miura Fund: Irene Miura had a passion for education and was a role model for women in all aspects of society. The fund was established in her name to recognize senior girl acolytes in 2009.

Parish Outreach Committee
Linda Doherty, Thrift Shop Treasurer

The Parish Outreach Committee was established by the Vestry in 2023. Its charter is to promote and support various forms of outreach on a local, national and international level. The committee is charged with discerning where to best distribute funds raised by the parish Thrift Shop. The committee meets quarterly to determine which organizations or projects merit financial support.

The committee is composed of nine members from the following areas:

- Three active volunteers of the Thrift Shop
- Three members from The League for Service and the corresponding guilds
- The Rector of the parish
- A Vestry member
- A person from the parish, as member at large

The Rector, Head of the Thrift Shop, and Thrift Shop Treasurer are Ex Officio members of the committee (members of the committee by nature their office with no limit to length of service). All other members serve on the committee at a maximum of three consecutive years (a parishioner may rejoin after at least a one year absence).

In 2025, due to a very busy first quarter, the committee only met 3 times: May, September and December. We provided funds to the following organizations:

Organization	Donation
Saint Mark's Altadena	\$2,500
Holy Family Backpack Drive	\$1,000
FAME	\$1,500
CORA	\$2,000
Police Activities League of San Mateo	\$2,000
CALL Primrose	\$1,000
Friends for Youth	\$2,500
CASA of San Mateo County	\$2,500
Samaritan House	\$1,665
Episcopal Community Services (Interim Housing)	\$1,665
Holy Child & St. Martin Food Pantry	\$1,670
Total	\$20,000

ST. CATHERINE'S SECTION REPORT 2025

The St. Catherine's Section of The League for Service had a strong year that focused on in-reach, outreach and strengthening our community. St. Catherine's welcomes new members who wish to share in the joy of friendship, fellowship & service. All our members contribute to the community according to their talent and time.

The first quarter of 2025 was a busy time for St. Catherine's. Our first meeting was hosted January 27th by Judy Darland and Cathy Johnson in the Villa Del Sol common room where we planned our activities for the year. In February we held a Pre-Valentines Day bake sale where we raised \$375. Gayle Youlden hosted our February 24th meeting at her lovely home and treated us all to a delicious light meal.

Our March meeting was held after the 10:15 service in the school conference room. We voted to donate: \$300 to Friends for Youth organization which provides mentoring for at risk youth; and \$300 for diapers for newborns of families in need at San Francisco's CPMC Mission Bernal Birth Center (formerly St. Luke's Hospital); a part of the Episcopal Impact efforts.

Our in-reach activities included assisting with both the popular First Friday Parish Thanksgiving Potluck and hosting several summer coffee hours. In addition, we continued to provide meals for parishioners in need throughout the year. We had a special evening in July where the Choir of Sidney Sussex College (Cambridge University, England) performed both an Evensong service and a Concert. They sang beautifully and St. Catherine's Section & the League for Service prepared dinner for all the Choir members (before the Evensong service) as well as a reception for everyone following the Choir's performance. It was a pleasure to have the Choir as guests

In March we held a new socks and underwear collection for Samaritan House which brought in 227 pairs of underwear and 239 pairs of socks which were desperately needed. Our second collection, in September, brought in another 152 pairs of underwear & 80 pairs of socks. In November, we collected and donated newborn clothing for families-in-need served by San Francisco's CPMC Mission Bernal Birth Center (formerly St. Luke's Hospital). We thank our parishioners for their generosity.

In addition to the nine meetings we collectively attended, Gayle Youlden hosted our annual summer cocktail party, we gathered for multiple dinners at local restaurants, including ringing in the new year together. Our annual Christmas potluck dinner closed the year with a wonderful celebration of food, friendship and Christmas cheer. We also held another bake sale in December that raised \$530 towards our in-reach and outreach programs. Special thanks to our members and several parishioners who contributed delicious items for this sale.

I would like to thank last year's officers for their guidance of St. Catherine's. Welcome to those officers that will be leading us in the coming year. If you are interested in learning more about St. Catherine's, please reach out to any of the women below.

St. Catherine's 2025 Officers

Cathy Johnson – President
Helen Schwab – Vice President
Judy Darland – Treasurer
Kathleen Gantvoort – Secretary

St. Catherine's 2026 Officers

Stannie Holt – President
Judy Darland – Treasurer
Victoria Wolcott - Secretary

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Johnson, St. Catherine's President, 2025

League for Service Board of Directors, 2025

The League for Service continues to provide opportunities for the women of the parish to deepen friendships, support each other and work for the benefit of the parish and broader community. The League itself and its active section, St. Catherine's, hold regular meetings to organize fundraising projects, plan social events, reach out to parishioners who may need assistance and share fellowship together.

The board of directors met eight times in 2025, with attendance by representatives of the Altar Guild, Garden Guild, St. Catherine's section, Thrift Shop, Vestry, Special Events, Church Outreach, and Sunshine committees. The group helped plan and coordinate activities and special occasions including memorial receptions, some summer and winter coffee hours, the annual parish Thanksgiving potluck and a dinner and reception for the visiting Sidney Sussex Choir.

The League is St. Matthew's branch of Episcopal Church Women (<https://ecwnational.org/>) and all female communicants are considered to be members. Interest and participation are welcome! To learn more, talk to an active member or email leagueforservice@episcopalstmatthew.org.

League for Service Officers - 2026

President	Gayle Youlden
Vice President	Carolyn Hodges
Secretary	Jane Dunbar
Treasurer	Judy Darland

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Wolcott, President, 2025

Annual Report

League for Service – Treasurer’s Report Year Ending December 31, 2025

Beginning balance, January 1, 2025		\$ 8330.59
Outflows		
Boy Scout Food Drive	50.00	
First Friday Thanksgiving Potluck	837.26	
Sydney Sussex Choir Dinner & Reception	350.79	
Update League for Service Perpetual Plaque	<u>68.24</u>	
Total Outflows		1306.29
Ending Balance December 31, 2025		\$ 6846.41

Submitted by Jean Garcia, Treasurer, 2025

Annual Report: *Tau Cross*

The *Tau Cross*, our parish newsletter, circulates 3-4 times a year and continues to supplement the weekly *Ivy Leaf* with articles from clergy and leadership, announcements, photos, and updates about the life of our church community. For example, St. Catherine’s group provided informative articles and photos of both community support activities and social/fellowship events. Other articles reported on parish musical offerings (such as the Cambridge choir performance) and social events (such as Shrove Tuesday and Viva St. Matthew’s Fiesta); other thoughtful contributions included book discussions and some background on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

We continue to invite articles of interest and photos of parish activities and events, and we invite parishioners to join in with writing, editing, and photographic submissions. We also invite all groups in our parish to provide announcements relevant to our community. Although *Tau Cross* is primarily an online publication, we printed hard copies to distribute at Christmas services for visitors to get a snapshot of parish life.

If you are not on the CCB circulation list, please get in touch with the church office to receive your online copy.

Ann Watters, for Tau Cross Staff

Annual Report

Thrift Shop

Diana Dykes, Thrift Shop Manager

The Thrift Shop is open Saturdays from 11 AM – 2 PM, from late August through June. It has made its home in the basement of St. Matthew's since 1949 and resells gently used donated items.

The proceeds from sales are distributed to local, regional and national non-profit organizations. The Shop is staffed and run by parishioners and friends of the church. In 2025 we had 15 active volunteers. We welcome donations of clothing, jewelry, small furniture items, household goods, children's toys and small electronic devices that are known to be functional. Donations are limited to 3 bags per visit and can be dropped off on Mondays from 10 AM to noon or when the shop is open.

To drop off on Mondays, please text Tom Doherty @ 650-229-9837.

If you would like to volunteer at the shop, or have questions about donating items, please contact Tom Doherty: tom_doherty@sbcglobal.net with **Thrift Shop** in the subject line.

The 2025 Thrift Shop tea was an amazing success. We welcomed 80+ people to celebrate Spring. A glorious time was had by all. The tea is made possible through the efforts of many who have managed or volunteered at the shop over the years. We will be taking a break in 2026 and will be looking at new options for 2027.



Diana Dykes retired as the shop manager in December 2025. We will celebrate her on February 1, 2026 after the 10:15 AM service. The Shop will be co-managed by Tom Doherty and Tulip Mahaseth. Tulip started as a regular customer and now provides guidance on stocking, displaying and pricing.

The proceeds from the Shop are distributed by the Outreach Committee. This committee is made up of 3 Thrift Shop representatives, 3 League for Service representatives, the Outreach Vestry member, one parish member at large and the Rector. They meet quarterly. The committee distributed \$20,000 in 2025. Please see the Outreach Committee report for the details.

If you haven't visited the Shop recently, please stop by. Deb Crawford, an Outreach committee member, designed the new signage that informs our customers about the organizations we have supported over the past 4 years. This insight turns one-time buyers into regulars!

Linda Doherty, Thrift Shop Treasurer for Diana Dykes

Cornerstone Society
2025 Bequests & Planned Legacy Gifts

In 2025, St. Matthew's received bequests and legacy gifts totaling more than \$339,000 from the estates of three dedicated and farsighted Parish members who made planned legacy gifts part of their estate plans. These planned gifts were received from the estates of Ann Coleman, Jerry Franco, and Phil Mitchell. All of these parishioners supported St. Matthew's during their lifetimes and made provision in their estate plans to provide significant long term financial support to the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew.

The nature of planned gifts can include such easy to implement opportunities as charitable gift annuities, other life income programs, designations of IRA or insurance beneficiary, or bequests from estate assets. If you have made or are interested in making similar plans, then please contact Fr. Eric Hinds or John Stephenson of the Parish Planned Giving Committee.

Closing Prayer:

People respond: And also with you.

Let us pray

Dear Lord, we have come here today to lift up and honor all of the good works that we have accomplished at St. Matthew's over the past year. And even though we have faced some challenging times during the Pandemic, we have continued to worship and grow together in God's name. Please continue to show each of us the best way to spread the good news of love and hope out in the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Clergy and Staff of St. Matthew's Church and Episcopal Day

The Rev. Dr. Eric Kimball Hinds	Rector—(650) 342-1481 x 1
The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan	Associate Rector—(650) 342-1481 x 2
Doug Jolly	Chaplain (650)274-0700 x 741
Philip Keil	Organist/Precentor—(650) 342-9553
Hyun Suk Jang	Director of Children's & Youth Choirs/childrenschoir@episcopalstmatthew.org
Cherie Patterson	Finance—(650) 342-5436 x 712
Tracy Reeves-Fletcher	Parish Administrator—(650) 342-1481 x 0
Office Fax Number	(650) 342-5760
Website	www.episcopalstmatthew.org
Office Email	office@episcopalstmatthew.org
Church office/All inquiries	(650) 342-1481
Day School office/All inquiries	(650) 342-5436
Quincy Greive	Head of School—(650) 342-5436, press 5
Tish Scola	Director of Admission—(650) 274-0728

MISSION STATEMENT

The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew
is a family called by Christ

- to live God's love, • to share the Gospel, • to grow spiritually

Vestry

Carol Kalb	Sr. Warden—(650) 578-9855
Ron Gantvoort	Jr. Warden(650) 823-8912
Michael McNally	Treasurer(415) 741-7009
Gary Perkins	Secretary(510) 264-9743
Mary Delong	(650) 759-7455
Kassandra Edwards	(650) 340-8866
Erin Harrigan	(831) 588-5305
John Hendricks	(650) 345-1351
Troy Pesutich	(650) 504-1481
Luna Stafford	(650) 349-5634
Tom Watters	(650) 218-5758