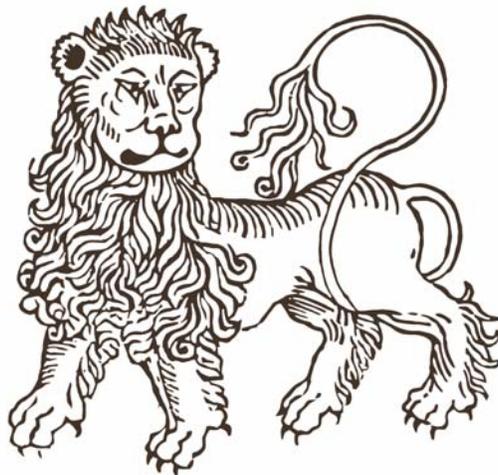


THE CHURCH OF  
ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT  
2015



Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting  
31 January 2016  
12:00 NOON

A REPORT TO THE PARISH

BY THE PRIEST IN CHARGE, THE VERY REV'D HARRY E. KRAUSS  
on the Occasion of the Annual Parish Meeting  
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, 31 January 2016

27 January 2016

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As William Cowper said, "God moves in a mysterious way." (#310 *Hymnal 1940*). There I was happily enjoying my retirement from active parish ministry when the telephone rang. The Church wardens wanted to have a talk. I managed to get some tea together by the time they arrived at my apartment. By the time they left, however, I had consented to be the Priest-in-Charge of this fine parish, that is, of course, with the approval of your Vestry and our Bishop. Our rector, Fr. Blume, was going on a sabbatical immediately after the Masses and the Blessing of the Animals on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and I was asked to keep everything moving ahead until his return.

So it is that this report cannot cover the usual scope of Fr. Blume's annual reports. But there are some things I want to say to you, nonetheless.

In this Epiphanytide the theme is making Christ known to the larger world and to the communities in which we live. It is good to see that this definitely is part of the life which this parish embraced in 2015 and continues to do this morning. Here there is obviously a very high regard for the rich gifts of "the beauty of Holiness." Careful and powerful liturgy wrapped in a robe of glorious music is a great foundation stone for The Church of Saint Ignatius. Here there is a high regard for the theological traditions which enliven the Church Catholic each and every day of the year. Here there is a high regard for Biblical preaching, study and understanding. What a treasure chest stands at this corner of 87<sup>th</sup> Street and West End Avenue. And I know through almost 40 years' experience as a priest that this asset is all too often absent from quite a few parish communities. Bless you for cherishing it.

But now I want to make bold and say some things which may be unexpected on a peaceful Sunday morning. Last week I found the second lesson from St. Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians* enormously compelling. If nothing else, it gives us clues to having a rich life in Jesus Christ. And I enjoyed making some remarks about it at the 8 and 9 o'clock Masses. But I want to make a few more about it now.

"Trinity" Church Corinth, we are told in *The Book of Acts*, was set up by Saint Paul himself. Yet the fact is that Saint Paul and that gathering of Christians didn't always hit it off. There were often doubts and suspicions on both sides. There were often doubts and suspicions within the parish.

But, there can be no doubt that Saint Paul rejoiced at his confidence in a very richly gifted congregation. In his letters to the Corinthians Saint Paul gave to each one of us some of the most cherished advice and encouragements ever offered to "the Body of Christ."

And this, at last, is what I want to talk about, "the Body of Christ."

In *First Corinthians* 12:12 ff. St. Paul grapples with an issue that is always before a congregation. Just how is it that each of us as individuals and all of us as a parish move forward to live the exciting life of perfect service to which we are called by Jesus?

You will remember that St. Paul listed the marvelous gifts which God has lavished upon us. Things such as the utterance of wisdom or knowledge, prophesying, faith by the Spirit, and so on.

The Corinthians didn't make these gifts. They didn't even deserve them. They were freely given by God. The Corinthians were to be loving stewards of them.

But St. Paul went further.

In one of the great spiritual anatomy lessons he describes a parish, and indeed the whole Church Catholic, as "the Body of Christ" Each of us with each of our gifts is necessary for the good of the Body. None of us has all of the gifts, but each is crucial for the health of the body. St. Paul is saying that we are a mixed bag: some charming and a delight. Others, well I will just say, less so.

The thing to remember about being the Body of Christ is that we don't make it. God does. We don't provide the gifts which keep the body alive. God does. We don't define who or what belongs to the Body. God does.

If we "get" this there can be no holding us back. But back from what, you might ask? I am convinced to the bottom of my heart that if a parish, not just the vestry, but each and every one of us, does not have an achievable goal, or let's be churchy, a vision, which we joyfully and purposefully hold up before ourselves and our neighbors, we will accomplish not very much. The Body of Christ will become self-satisfied, uninvolved, dare I say it, lax.

At my first vestry meeting in October I asked the vestry members to give me a one-page statement of their vision for this parish. They were a very good read. But it is my hope that before too long each of us will be able to weigh in and put together a corporate vision statement from which all blessings may flow and through which this Body of Christ will move ahead. It needs to be something short and snappy. It needs to be something the youngest or the oldest of us can remember and unembarrassedly share. If we are wise, we can craft a way that this can be thoughtfully done. If we are prayerful we will follow through on it. If we "get real" about it nothing will hold us back.

Last week we also heard that Jesus went to Nazareth "To bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Just think of it. Jesus calls you and me to the very same tasks. He calls us, not isolated individuals, not on our own strength, not with our own wisdom, but arm in arm with those whom he has bound into his own body. How can we fail?

Faithfully and fondly,

Harry E. Krauss

## THANKS FROM DEAN KRAUSS

It is my pleasure to offer thanks for the marvelous assistance which so many offer to our parish family. Much of what is recorded in this report gives the scope of lots of hard work and faithful service. Each ministry and activity more than deserves our thanks. When you see these folks really thank them for their service.

First, I would be lost without the help of our distinguished non-stipendiary clergy: The Rev'd Dr. Philip H. Towner, Assistant Rector; The Rev'd Paul S. Kahn, Deacon; The Rev'd John Miles Evans and The Rev'd Dr. Kent W. Johnson, Honorary Associates. Each brings remarkable gifts and care to us.

At the Altar, in addition, we are much blessed by our Servers' Guild under the guidance of Charles Knapp, Warren Woodfin and Jeff Toombs. Behind the scenes this year we have created a Sacristans' Guild under the dedicated leadership of Rita Johnson.

The Music Department is singular. Mr. Kennerley is a treasure and guides our excellent choir. The range and quality of what we are given for our worship is truly remarkable. And his associate, David Holkeboer is ever faithful, steady and encouraging at the 9:00 am Masses.

Very much behind the scenes is James Mayanja, our Sexton, whose duties are many, but whose spirit is more than willing.

Christian Education is of course of great importance. I highly commend tireless work of Lucy Yates and Meredith Strauss in the Sunday School and Family Ministries. They are extremely creative and focused. We also enjoy the teaching of Fr. Towner and Deacon Paul in the adult department.

I trust that you will agree with me that thanks are due to our Wardens and Vestry. Charles and Karen are a very great blessing to us. You have no idea how much they do. Ravi keeps up with things financial. And the other members pitch-in in all manner of ways. The Stewardship Chairs, Holly and Eric are tireless; Nancy Dobi, Chair of Outreach, does so much for others in our behalf; and John Metcalfe with Karen Christian keeps us more than well fed at Coffee hour and receptions.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

	FY14 ACTUAL	FY15 Budget	FY15 ACTUAL	VARIANCE	FY16 Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Candle Offerings	\$ 706.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,241.00	\$ (619.00)	\$ 1,900.00
Concert box office/tickets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Income	\$ 36,020.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,020.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 36,000.00
Music Fund & Concert Support	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,807.00	\$ (11,193.00)	\$ 15,000.00
Music Group Fees	\$ 18,000.50	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 27,171.00	\$ 2,171.00	\$ 27,000.00
Nicoll Trust	\$ 18,419.96	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,263.00	\$ 263.00	\$ 18,000.00
Other Offering / income	\$ 20,009.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 11,397.00	\$ (13,603.00)	\$ 18,000.00
Other Space Use	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 3,670.00	\$ (4,830.00)	\$ 8,500.00
Plate	\$ 8,092.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 8,756.00	\$ (5,244.00)	\$ 8,000.00
Pledges	\$ 191,707.00	\$ 207,000.00	\$ 167,600.50	\$ (39,399.50)	\$ 195,000.00
Reach Out	\$ 82,008.00	\$ 87,520.00	\$ 86,814.00	\$ (706.00)	\$ 91,892.00
Reserve Fund to Balance	\$ 86,713.73	\$ 43,897.04	\$ 118,546.66	\$ 74,649.62	\$ 42,539.60
Soup Kitchen Offerings	\$ 7,839.57	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,785.00	\$ (2,215.00)	\$ 8,000.00
Tower Apartment Rent	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -	\$ 24,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 505,905.76</b>	<b>\$ 518,777.04</b>	<b>\$ 518,071.16</b>	<b>\$ (705.88)</b>	<b>\$ 493,831.60</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Associate Clergy	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)	\$ 250.00
Auditing Fees	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 7,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 9,602.31	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 10,901.31	\$ 1,901.31	\$ 9,000.00
Building Supplies	\$ 4,411.19	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,771.52	\$ (1,728.48)	\$ 4,500.00
Candles	\$ 3,641.02	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,717.93	\$ 217.93	\$ 4,000.00
Child Care	\$ 8,668.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 5,910.00	\$ (2,590.00)	\$ 8,500.00
Choir	\$ 45,409.73	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 56,613.75	\$ 16,613.75	\$ 42,000.00
Christian education	\$ 7,821.94	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 3,927.75	\$ (5,572.25)	\$ 9,500.00
Clergy Continuing Education	\$ 121.46	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 662.36	\$ (587.64)	\$ 1,250.00
Concert Series	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conferences & Conventions	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Deputy Organist	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 7,800.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 39,281.96	\$ 40,586.84	\$ 34,096.60	\$ (6,490.24)	\$ 29,655.85
Evangelism	\$ 534.29	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 625.34	\$ (374.66)	\$ 1,000.00
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,000.00
Hospitality & coffee hour	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 31.99	\$ (368.01)	\$ 400.00
Insurance	\$ 31,652.10	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 34,222.70	\$ 2,222.70	\$ 35,000.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 1,963.06	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,035.35	\$ 35.35	\$ 1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 5,799.99	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,996.65	\$ 2,996.65	\$ 6,000.00
Organ Repairs	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 810.00	\$ (190.00)	\$ 1,000.00
Other Music Expenses	\$ 1,669.28	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,592.18	\$ 3,092.18	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	\$ 310.88	\$ 500.00	\$ 495.90	\$ (4.10)	\$ 500.00
Printing & Photocopying	\$ 8,027.40	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,905.47	\$ 905.47	\$ 8,000.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ (164.27)	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,118.63	\$ 318.63	\$ 1,600.00
Rector's Expenses	\$ 13,801.55	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,439.42	\$ 1,939.42	\$ 2,500.00
Retreats & Quiet Days	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 338.95	\$ 38.95	\$ 300.00
Seminarian	\$ 1,281.43	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 142.16	\$ (857.84)	\$ 1,000.00
Soup Kitchen (non-coffee hour)	\$ 4,831.78	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,788.74	\$ (1,211.26)	\$ 8,000.00
Telephone & Cable	\$ 6,212.39	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 7,706.44	\$ 1,106.44	\$ 7,000.00
Utilities	\$ 34,235.79	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 28,705.17	\$ (5,294.83)	\$ 28,000.00
Wages and Salaries	\$ 269,462.48	\$ 279,690.20	\$ 279,414.85	\$ (275.35)	\$ 264,475.75
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 505,905.76</b>	<b>\$ 518,777.04</b>	<b>\$ 518,071.16</b>	<b>\$ (705.88)</b>	<b>\$ 493,831.60</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

	FY14 ACTUAL	FY15 Budget	FY15 ACTUAL	VARIANCE	FY16 Budget
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Other Income</b>					
Interest & Dividends	\$ 3.20		9.51		
Other Income	\$ 29,442.00		102,802.65		
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 29,445.20</b>		<b>\$ 102,912.16</b>		
<b>Other Expense</b>					
Capital Expense	\$ 29,677.07		60,746.86		
Other Expenses	\$ 3,652.00		24,366.19		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>\$ 33,329.07</b>		<b>\$ 85,113.05</b>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>\$ (3,883.87)</b>		<b>\$ 17,799.11</b>		

Reserve Fund / Endowment / Trusts	Reserve Fund (Fidelity)	Nicoll Trust (Bank of Am)	Endowment (DIT)	TOTAL
Beginning Value 1/1/2015	\$ 594,428.03	\$ 423,640.58	\$ 759,167.69	\$ 1,777,236.30
Cash In / Accrued Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cash Disbursements	\$ (142,500.00)	\$ (18,365.42)	\$ (36,020.00)	\$ (196,885.42)
Investment Fees/Loads/Taxes	\$ (5,685.05)	\$ (6,127.35)	\$ -	\$ (11,812.40)
Change in Market Value	\$ (8,856.84)	\$ (4,644.17)	\$ (21,978.81)	\$ (35,479.82)
<b>Ending Value</b>	<b>\$ 437,386.14</b>	<b>\$ 394,503.64</b>	<b>\$ 701,168.88</b>	<b>\$ 1,533,058.66</b>

Cash / Temporarily Restricted	Cash	Gifts & Memorials	Rector's Disc Fund	TOTAL
Beginning Value 1/1/2015	\$ 37,015.50	\$ 34,526.70	\$ 160.99	\$ 71,703.19
Ending Value 12/31/2015	\$ 38,542.35	\$ 52,027.04	\$ 1,442.69	\$ 92,012.08

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

This year’s stewardship campaign began in November with a letter from Dean Krauss soliciting pledges from every member of the parish community. The campaign was co-chaired by Holly Hughes and Eric Moser, and was conducted with substantial assistance from the Wardens and Vestry members.

As of January 24, 2016, the results of this year’s stewardship campaign are as follows:

Number of pledges received: 61

Total amount pledged: \$154,534

Increased pledges: 16

Decreased Pledges: 12

New Pledges: 4

At the time of the Annual Meeting in January 2015, we had received 79 pledges for a total amount of \$194,821. The primary reason for the decrease this year is that we have not yet received pledges from a substantial number of parishioners. Efforts are underway to follow up with those who have not yet submitted pledge cards in order to increase our overall response rate. In the meantime, if you have not pledged already, please know that, regardless of the amount of your gift, we would very much like to hear from you. To that end, pledge cards will be available at the annual meeting, and will be gratefully received by Holly, Eric, or either of the Wardens.

In closing, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our fellow parishioners who have pledged their loving and prayerful support for the work of Saint Ignatius of Antioch.

Faithfully,  
Holly Hughes and Eric Moser  
Stewardship Co-Chairs

## MUSIC

From the Organist and Choirmaster:

As I enter my third year of service, it continues to be a distinct honor to serve this magnificent community. To that end, I would like to express my sincere gratefulness to the Rector, to the Wardens, and to the Vestry for enabling such a rewarding synergy. It is hard to imagine that level of mutual understanding, respect, and admiration existing elsewhere. I would also like to thank my direct predecessors, Douglas Keilitz and the late Dr. Harold Chaney, whose excellent work has done so much to ensure that Saint Ignatius boasts one of the finest church music programs in the City.

For the past few years we have enjoyed having Christopher Houlihan as Artist-in-residence. Chris maintains a busy solo concert career, and accompanies our choir on many occasions throughout the year. Chris played his last service here with the choir at Corpus Christi 2015, and is now Organist and Music Director at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea. We wish him the very best, and look forward to welcoming him back to perform in the near future.

I am ever thankful for the work of Associate Organist David Holkeboer. As many of you will know, David plays for the 9 A.M. service on Sunday mornings, as well as a number of other services during the year. Having such a reliable and accomplished colleague is a blessing. Together with Lucy Yates, we have an enviable Music Department team.

The core of my responsibility revolves around the parish's renowned professional choir, an ensemble of eight core singers that is expanded upon depending on the demands of the repertoire and the liturgy. It is usual nowadays to see the director conducting the choir from a music stand placed in front of the ensemble. Not so for the majority of services at Saint Ignatius. In order to make the best use of our resources, I have decided to direct the choir from within, and sing tenor as part of the ensemble. In fact, this is a much more natural way to lead a small group of musicians—one would never dream of a conductor leading a string quartet, for example—and it is proving most successful.

It is a delight to be able to add yet more marvelous music to the choir's extensive repertory, many editions of which have been prepared exclusively for the use of the choir and which often receive their first performances during the liturgy. This season, we will be singing newly discovered and seldom performed works by Francisco Correa de Arauxo, Girolamo Frescobaldi, Joan Heugel, and many others. The choir's repertoire is firmly rooted in the works of the Renaissance, with sprinklings of the finest works of the English cathedral school, and contemporary works.

The Service of Advent Lessons & Carols was held for the second time in December (2014 was the first year any such service had been offered at Saint Ignatius). It allowed us to show off our

choirs in a glorious synergy of music and readings and the church was gratifyingly full. The reception afterwards was equally welcoming and enjoyable. What a marvelous gift to our community!

It remains a real challenge to locate singers of the impeccable standards that our choral tradition requires. These demands, particular in terms of sight-reading, render the pool of available musicians extremely small. Unlike many choirs, we have no separate weekday rehearsal. Instead, the choir arrives and rehearses intensely for two hours prior to each service. This frequently results in quite literally hours of singing—a feat unknown even in the most extensive Grand operas—and I am extremely grateful for the excellent and unrelenting work of our magnificent professional singers.

As many of you know, I make archival audio recordings of all of our choral services. As time and technology permits, I also record and produce videos of the choral and organ music performances, many of which are available via our YouTube channel. These videos form an important part of our wider ministry, and do much to promote the extraordinarily rich musical life of our parish to the outside world. They are also made available on our website and on our Facebook page.

The Children's Choir, directed by Lucy Yates, continues to flourish: please see her report below.

As in 2014, we have decided not to present any concerts of our own this year due to budgetary restrictions. However, the church remains a center of music making with the 50 or so concerts that are held throughout the year principally by our Ensembles-in-residence. Our enviable location, acoustics, and surroundings make Saint Ignatius a concert venue of the highest order. It also acts as a dynamic and powerful form of outreach to the wider community, and as a significant way of attracting potential parishioners. I look forward to expanding this important mission.

Work continues on our Casavant Frères pipe organ. Projects include the continuing installation of a *Flûte Harmonique* stop, and the repair of the metal pipes in the organ case. We are also continuing the work necessary to completing the instrument's original design, which will involve the addition of some essential sounds that were not originally installed due to financial restrictions. Nevertheless, the organ continues to thrill with its powerful French reeds and vibrant Principal choruses. Most exciting is the commissioning of a chamber organ for the church from the Netherlandish builder Henk Klop. Used for accompanying small ensembles and for performing modest solo work, the organ will add much to our liturgical and concert life. The instrument will be delivered to the church in May 2016.

I am excited about music at Saint Ignatius, and for good reason. Our future is extremely bright. My most grateful thanks go to Father Blume for his unequalled support, enthusiasm, and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Kennerley  
Organist and Choirmaster

## Report from the Children's Choir

Our Choir of Young Ignatians continues to pursue its ideals of musicianship, discipleship, fellowship, and final consonants. The ensemble is growing, and so, of course, is each member, with some voices winging upward and others taking root. Such growth makes for a very exciting time vocally and musically: everyone is singing surprisingly well, learning quickly, reading well (a huge advantage when rehearsal time is limited to forty-five minutes a week.). I am able to pencil a new descant, have children read it once, and perform it the next week with considerable success. If our singers continue in this way they will place themselves, we hope, on the path of their splendid role models in the professional choir of Saint Ignatius—role models not only in making but in sharing music, as they have done so generously throughout the year. We are grateful to all of them and especially to Maestro James and Maestro David, for their authority, ingenuity and unfailing kindness.

Our 2015 performance calendar strongly resembled that of 2014: repeating some pieces (like repeating Bible stories!) allowed children to deepen their familiarity with text and music, and to polish their presentation more securely than they might have with new repertoire. One happy new event which we hope to make a tradition was a Lenten Solemn Evensong to which we invited the Washington Heights Choir School, in residence at Holyrood Church. Those young singers (one of whom has joined our Sunday School!) are now under the direction of Maestro Ellen Wright, and we look forward to singing with them again this spring.

(<http://www.whcsnyc.org>)

### SPRING 2015

1 March	5 PM	<i>Service in E-flat (Mag/Nunc)</i> by E C Bairstow (with Wash Hi Choir School)
5 April (Easter)	9 AM	<i>Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord</i>
18 May (Rogation)	10 AM	<i>Now is the cool of the day</i> (sung by combined choirs)
(Pentecost)	9 AM	<i>We are one in the Spirit</i> (two new descants)

### AUTUMN 2015

18 October (Patronal Feast)	10 AM	<i>By all thy saints still striving</i>
6 December	9 AM	<i>Blest be the king whose coming</i> (two new descants)
13 December	5 PM	Lessons and Carols: <i>Adam lay ybounden</i>
24 December	5 PM	Christmas Pageant <i>Gabriel's Message; Christians, awake; Away in a manger;</i> <i>The Coventry Carol</i> (new arrangement); <i>On this day earth shall ring</i>

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Yates

GUILD OF SERVERS

Charles Knapp  
 Warren Woodfin (*in absentia*)  
 Jeff Toombs  
 Leanne Dodge  
 Andrew Fink  
 Lucy Kuemmerle  
 VK McCarty  
 John Metcalfe  
 Eric Moser and family  
 Beau Reynolds  
 Mark Schultz (*in absentia*)  
 Kathleen Stolarski  
 Jennifer Udden  
 Alan Wong

GUILD OF SACRISTANS

Rita Johnson, *Head Sacristan*  
 Kennedy Fraser  
 Carolina Kiggins  
 Lucy Kuemmerle  
 Nancy Dobi

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

## Adult Education Report 2015

Over the past year, we were able to plan and offer a number of events for interested adults in the parish.

For a time during Epiphany, a small group met following the 9:00 service in the undercroft to read and reflect on the day's Gospel text.

During Lent, led by Fr Towner and Deacon Kahn, a small gathering met midweek in the evening to read and reflect upon the Psalms of Lament. The focus was on the Psalmist's expressions of honesty in giving voice to pain and despair, and on the ways in which glimmers of hope often broke through the gloom.

In Eastertide Deacon Kahn shepherded a group upstate for the biennial retreat at Holy Cross Monastery. Br. Scott talked about the rule of St Benedict, in particular the four types of monks he describes, and its relevance for spiritual and parish life today. While off-duty, the group soaked up some sun, skipped rocks in the Hudson, and ate very well.

Fr Towner and Deacon Kahn led an Advent midweek series that looked at the story of the Incarnation as remembered and told in the Apocryphal Gospels, texts that emerged in the second to fifth centuries of the Christian era. We sought to read these often rather peculiar stories to attempt to get at the thing that motivated their authors: a thirst to know more about the Holy Family, and to fill gaps left by the canonical Gospels.

Two additional classes had been planned for 2015, but these fell by the way due to unanticipated conflicts of schedule and changes encountered by our Seminarian and Curate.

We made an important decision in the early part of the year—namely, to cease attempts to meet together as a “class” in the undercroft (or anywhere else in the church) between services on Sunday. Due to the shortness of time and the commotion of the between-service coffee hour, this had never been an ideal slot anyway. Consequently, we have decided that Adult Ed offerings will be held midweek in the Rector’s office.

Our plan is to offer a number of 3-4 session classes during 2016. Presently (Epiphanytide 2016) Deacon Kahn is leading a class titled “God in Man made Manifest,” in which, with the central portion of the Nicene Creed as framework, we are reflecting on the revelation of God-in-Christ in our own lives. Other series are planned for Lent and for Eastertide.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev’d Dr Philip H. Towner  
The Rev’d Paul S. Kahn

## Report from the Sunday School

The rhythm of this liturgical year has sustained us through seasons of plenty and of want. The festal pace never slackens: We flipped our pancakes on Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras. We hosted our first Evensong Invitational (and sang our faces off!). We led the Stations of the Cross and the Passion Reading for Palm Sunday. We reveled in the Easter egg hunt and Pentecost Party. We marveled at the Solemnity of the Trinity (and the tres leches cake we brought in to celebrate it). Reunited in September, we extolled our adorable Lady at the Sapphire Party, with magnifying glasses (“My soul doth...”), bubbles (“and my spirit hath rejoiced”), and rock candy pops like deep Alpine skies. Saint Nicholas came to us in wondrous array, bearing gifts and tales. So intent were we on preparing our Nativity play that the famed Family Party became a rehearsal. (We are not told whether anyone missed the hundreds of cookies.)

The Christmas pageant just gets crazier. This year's was by far our most ambitious, beginning with the War in Heaven (nearly a dozen Archangels dancing to the music of the spheres, then the flash of swords as the brightest angel was expelled), followed by a sparkling Annunciation, hilariously skittish shepherds, and a majestic, lean and moody Herod—and at literally every turn, an eerie and glamorous trio of female Magi who functioned now as mystics, now as midwives, now as monarchs, now as fugitives like the babe they came to praise. Not everyone went in with all the lines memorized, but everyone came out with ideas and improvements for future productions. The greatest blessing was our two new members who came to play parts in the pageant and decided to stay and join the Sunday School and Choir!

Another highlight of the season was the Christmas cards Meredith and the children made for the residents of Ellington House, to accompany the hundreds of gifts donated by parishioners. Nancy Dobi writes that the Ellington staff created a separate card tree so that children could pull

off and exchange the cards, and that they caused even more excitement than the gifts themselves. In this simple handwritten way we were able to touch our neighbors' hearts in love.

### **Senior Class (Lucy Yates)**

From the 2014 report:

*We are also, like any family, growing in many directions at once—some of us into a serene acceptance in matters of faith, and some into serious doubts or comprehensive agnosticism. And that is where this gets interesting.*

Between the parties and costume fittings we have the arguments. The great Moses didn't hide it, nor did the Apostle Paul. When the family struggled, they said so. And prayed. And yelled some. And kept walking. The Seniors recently played a relay game, based on a reading from Numbers, in which they took turns being Moses and carrying the people on their backs while trying to reach the proffered manna. How apt was the exercise: after seven good years, this eighth seems to be our Wilderness of Zin.

We saw it coming. Last year we wrote, *Our cherished intimacy and freedom present both our greatest strength and our greatest challenge: we know one another very well, and we struggle to maintain order. Though we tend to talk over one another, and we hear plenty of offhand remarks in and out of class, our kids are keenly observant and intellectually honest, and ready for a spiritual growth spurt.* Now we are reminded that growth spurts are often associated with moderate to severe joint and muscle pain. We try to keep in mind that every body, even Christ's body, feels such pain. We may require some stretching and rebuilding, but these are the discomforts characteristic of normal, healthy people.

Last spring, instead of turning toward the Flood, we kept straight ahead and pursued the Creation/Fall unit right through Rogation Day. We studied up to the building of Cain's city of Uruk, stopping just before the Noah narrative. Then, over the summer, we planned a unit on "Building the City of God," to be carried out through Minecraft, the children's favorite video game, which many classroom teachers have used to construct urban centers past and future (think Roman plumbing, etc.). The field of urban theology is especially rich and resonant for New Yorkers, and it intersects beautifully with the biblical theology the kids had been learning. This project seemed a good way to focus the attention of middle-schoolers on problems of design, distribution, and ways of serving one another in God's Kingdom.

But meanwhile our "house rules" were being ignored, our Covenant was never ratified by its constituents; and then our plans were brought up short by worries about the children not spending enough time in church: the class schedule changed abruptly at the beginning of the school year to the "children's chapel" model. Since September, kids have reported to the Blue Room at 9 AM for half an hour of lesson material (part liturgy 101, part lectionary), finished out the hour in church, taken a break (read: raided the coffee hour table), and continued on to 45 minutes of choir practice.

This keeps things neat on paper and frees everyone up by 11 AM; but it has created its own problems. Of our projected altar rota we have maintained one lone server, whom the new schedule prevents from ever attending Sunday School. We have lectionary-based lessons that are assembled and delivered in equal haste, as kids struggle with a complicated service leaflet and then race back up the stairs in time for Eucharist with no Consecration.

Several children have decided they'd rather stay in the 9:00 service from beginning to end. Several more strongly resent being brought to church, class and choir at all. Some long for the crafts of yore. Some complain every time they see a sheet of construction paper. Some just walk out when they've had enough. None seem particularly attentive to our long-touted concept of "the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the Kingdom of God." Parents talk much more about logistics and behavior than any content—despite the fact that when the kids ARE engaged in discussion they still do it brilliantly, and occasionally find some respect for one another's opinions or classroom protocols.

We still have space problems: though the Blue Room is our regular meeting place, and the kids do feel at home there, it is less than ideal for a group with such a strong need for a positive identity. We also need more storage space (though we are extremely thankful for James Mayanja's thoughtful contributions of shelves, corner chair and heater!!!). It would be very helpful to have a cabinet in the Blue Room to lighten our burden on the Acolyte Closet.

The only thing we all agree on is the lighting of our three candles at the beginning of every session. (We never agree on what happens to the wax afterward.) A single flame can remind us that the liturgy itself is stronger than preteen angst (or a teacher's lack of discipline), and that restoring their presence at Mass will help students absorb what they need to make their professions of faith in the next year.

We are also cheered by the imminent reconstitution of the Family Ministry Committee. Perhaps it will be here that the Lord will bring water out of the rock for us, whether or not each of us (beginning with the team leader) has proved obedient in our tasks. We hope to craft a vision-mission-values statement that will help us focus our expectations for children's spiritual growth, Scriptural knowledge and liturgical skills over the next two years.

We ask your prayers as we seek God's guidance in creating a culture so winsome, so solid, so dynamic, that it can recapture and hold the interest of some of our most vital members. I want to be able to insert the name of any of our Young Ignatians into Saint Luke's verse about the boy Jesus (2:52): "And *N.* increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man."

**Quotable 2015:**

***Creating Adam:*** "Let's try just putting hair on its head, not all over. And leave off the tail this time. Wings? Nah, no more wings. Remember what happened with the pigs?"

***Refusing the role of the Blessed Virgin:*** "No, I wouldn't feel prepared to talk to an angel about being pregnant. I don't have those hormones yet."

***The Fall of Lucifer:*** "Thou art CAST DOWN FROM HEAVEN!!!... Um, could we try this scene with a light saber?"

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Yates

**Juniors (ages preschool through Grade 2):**

This is the second year of our unique Sunday School curriculum for the Younger Ignatians, which incorporates elements of Godly Play along with Bible stories from supplemental sources, including the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. In the fall, we explore Old Testament stories such as Creation, Daniel and the Lion's Den, Joseph and the Pharaoh, and the Prophets. This leads into Advent season, during which we emphasize acts of kindness (such as the cards we made for the Ellington House shelter) and opening ourselves to the mystery of the Birth of Christ (plus rehearsing for the Christmas pageant whenever we are able). In the winter and spring, we blend stories from the life and teaching of Christ with lessons about Mass and the Sacraments (i.e., what we do in church and why we do it). We have an incredibly perceptive, intelligent, and attentive group of young children here at St. Ignatius. They absorb a great deal from sitting in Mass as well as from our Sunday School time, and each one of them contributes much insight and thoughtfulness into our class discussions. We look forward to growing and deepening this aspect of our Family Ministry in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meredith Strauss

OUTREACH

## January, 2015 Outreach Report

Christmas gifts for Ellington Shelter: We were able to deliver approximately 200 gifts to 100 children ranging in ages 0 - 14. Our Sunday School made 45 Christmas cards for the shelter. Ellington made a Christmas card tree so that everyone could take advantage of reading the cards. While the gifts were exciting, it was the Christmas cards that really moved the children! They took the cards off the tree and shared them with each other. When you think about it, how many children in shelters receive cards? Thank you to Meredith Strauss and Lucy Yates for suggesting the cards and for leading the charge in getting so many made. Our congregation kept me informed of the gifts they were buying so that updating the Sunday bulletin was easy. The gesture was thoughtful and very much appreciated. A very special thank you to John Lord who was kind enough to drive the gifts from SI to Ellington House.

Looking ahead to 2016, we may be working with the International Rescue Committee in assembling school back packs for the children of Syrian refugees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Dobi

## Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen at St. Ignatius has been serving the needy for nearly 34 years. Every Monday evening at 7:00 and Saturday afternoon at 4:00 including all holidays and regardless of weather, we serve anyone who appears at our door. During the past year we served 3088 guests which is a decrease of 100 from 2014. Many of our guests are regulars whom we have seen almost

weekly for years, and each week there are usually new faces as well. Our menu includes tuna and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, soup, fruit, juice and various other treats. We periodically distribute toiletries which have been donated by parishioners who deposit them in the plastic bin next to the West End Avenue door. At Christmastime we distribute some combination of gloves, socks and hats. A gentleman in the neighborhood often distributes health bars on his own volition, handing one to each guest personally. From time to time we also make available copies of *Street Sheet*, a publication which lists various social services available in the area. It takes roughly 36 volunteers a month for the soup kitchen to function. Currently there are 12 parishioners participating in the program. In addition to the 24 non-parishioners who regularly make up the teams, there are approximately 30 others who participate as substitutes as the need arises and who respond to our [meetup.org](http://meetup.org) appeals. We again received a grant from Episcopal Charities which eases the burden of support from the church's budget. We continue to receive food supplies from the City's Human Resources Administration. We are especially grateful that in recent weeks three parishioners (included in the figure cited above) have stepped forward to meet a longstanding need for regular volunteers on Monday evenings, so that for the first time in recent years, all our Monday volunteer positions are filled. Anyone interested in more information about the opportunity to serve is invited to speak to Holly Hughes or David Holkeboer.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Holkeboer

### Hospitality

John Metcalfe and Karen Christian wish to thank all those who have contributed their time, catering talents and resources to our Sunday Coffee Hours and other festive events during the season. This year the response to our appeal for more volunteers has been most encouraging. But more help is still needed so that our current roster can serve with less frequency. Even if you can only help out from time to time, please sign up. Also you can do the Coffee Hour with a friend. Many of our visitors have commented on our sense of gracious hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Metcalfe and Karen Christian

### BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The parish's last Capital Campaign, which took place from approximately 2003 to 2008, raised funds for several large, badly needed building improvement projects. Having raised approximately \$750,000 in that period, the parish made significant repairs: to the roof over the apartment and organ loft, including replacement of the bell tower; a repointing and cleaning of the entire building's façade, including repairs to certain of the south-facing clerestory windows and a cleaning of the interior masonry around those windows; and a rewiring and upgrade of the backbone of the building's electrical system, addressing safety conditions and other potential problems. In the wake of that work, the organ was refurbished, its pipes removed and cleaned, and its wiring and blower replaced. Since that time, physical plant improvements have been reactionary rather than planned, the most notable of which was arguably the construction of a room in the undercroft for exclusive use by the building's tenant, freeing up what is now the Sunday school room and nursery for the exclusive use of the parish.

Two maintenance projects completed in the past year are noteworthy. The upgrade of the nave's lighting to use LED bulbs resulted in both a brighter interior and lower electricity bills. And in several rounds of visits, technicians have cleaned or replaced filters in the heating system, and repaired or replaced broken valves and controls, resulting in a warmer and more comfortable building. It was mentioned at the last annual meeting that the church had received a citation for repair of our sidewalks on West End Avenue and 87<sup>th</sup> Street. Since then, we have appealed that citation, the appeal was denied, and we have engaged an architect-engineering firm to design and manage the project. The work is complicated and expensive, for the West End Avenue sidewalk covers a below-ground storage space, intended for coal storage when the building was first constructed, that we now use as a storage area for seasonal displays, supplies, and other materials. The work will involve repair and waterproofing of the ceiling over that space, as well as sidewalk and curbstone replacement. The total cost is expected to be approximately \$225,000. Annual building and maintenance budgets have historically been guided more by available funds than by needs. As a result, maintenance tends to get deferred and repairs tend to be made on an emergency basis only. We are in the process of negotiating with a consultant to prepare a scheduled maintenance program for the building and its systems that would allow us both to improve the ongoing maintenance of the building and to make more realistic budgets to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott McDermott and Charles Knapp

# THE CHURCH OF SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

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## CLERGY

The Rev'd Dr Andrew C. Blume	<i>Rector (on sabbatical)</i>
The Very Rev'd Harry E. Krauss	<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>
The Rev'd Dr Philip H. Towner	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev'd Paul S. Kahn	<i>Deacon</i>
The Rev'd Dr Kent W. Johnson	<i>Honorary Associate</i>
The Rev'd John Miles Evans	<i>Honorary Associate</i>

## VESTRY

Mr Charles N. Knapp	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Ms Karen Christian	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Mr Ravi Rajan	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ms Jennifer Udden	<i>Clerk</i>
Ms Stephanie Cowell	Mr Scott McDermott
Ms Holly Hughes	Mr John Metcalf
Ms Meredith C. Strauss	Mr Ravi Rajan
Ms Nancy Dobi	Mr David Wahrmond
Ms Jennifer Udden	

## STAFF

Mr James Kennerley	<i>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</i>
Mr David Holkeboer	<i>Associate Organist</i>
Ms Lucy T. Yates	<i>Pastoral Associate for Children's Ministries</i>
Mr Beau Reynolds	<i>Seminarian and Administrative Intern</i>
Mr James Mayanja	<i>Sexton</i>

