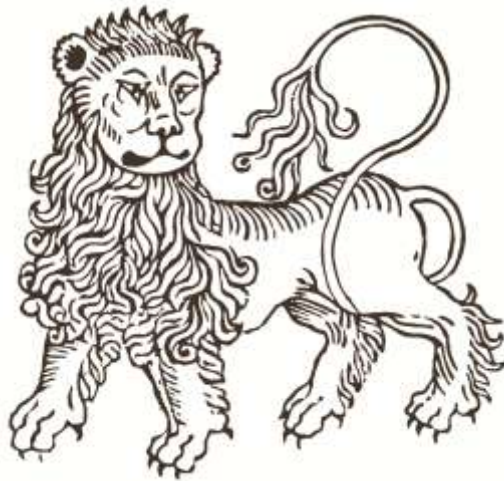


THE CHURCH OF
ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT
2016



Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting
29 January 2017
12:00 NOON

RECTOR'S REPORT
presented at the Annual Parish Meeting
of the Church of Saint Ignatius of Antioch
Sunday, 29 January 2017

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been two years since I last stood before you at the Annual Parish meeting. Last year, I was not, as you had been told, on sabbatical, but rather I was in the midst of the Administrative Leave on which the Bishop of New York had placed me in October 2015 following allegations of misconduct. The Bishop conducted an investigation, which included an audit of parish finances, and on July 15, 2016 cleared me to return to my duties. My first Sunday back with you was July 31 and we have been working together since then to ensure the continued health and vitality of our community.

While my time on leave was not easy for me and my family, and I am most grateful for their love and support, I am indeed so very sorry that these allegations against me had such a negative impact on the parish and so many of you. This was most certainly a difficult time for our church, especially as you were given very little information about what was happening and the process took so many months and what information the parish leadership had, they were restricted from sharing. This created uncertainty and financial hardship for the parish, including additional expenses and reduced revenue, making us rely on our capital reserve funds to bridge the difference.

Nevertheless, the parish was undaunted and our lay and ordained leaders did an extraordinary job guiding the community through this difficult time. You all were resolute in your commitment to our common life and it was clear that the work we have done over the last decade to grow and strengthen our community really paid off. You kept coming, and our 2016 average Sunday attendance remained the same as it had in 2015, at 99. I am personally grateful to our Churchwardens, Charles Knapp and Karen Christian, for their steady hand and wise leadership during this challenging period, and indeed to the whole vestry, who dealt with an almost impossible situation and worked together for the good of the parish. Father Towner and Deacon Khan, assisted by Father Johnson and Father Evans, shepherded you pastorally and liturgically, ensuring the highest quality of worship and pastoral care within our unique tradition.

I returned to the parish with a renewed sense of energy and great optimism about our future, and the last six months have shown me that this parish has all the most important hallmarks of vitality that will ensure that future. Although the Parochial Report we submit to annually to the Episcopal Church will show a decrease in overall membership, this reflects a cleaning-up of our records rather than a decline in membership. Indeed, we welcomed about twenty new parishioners over the past year who have decided to make their church home here. We continue to welcome visitors from around the world who have heard about our work through social media and word-of-mouth. We also remain an intensely local community, drawing about 80% of our members from the Upper West Side. We enact a traditional form of the liturgy that at the same time speaks profoundly to people here in New York City in 2017, and that includes some of the best choral music that you will here in any church. People continue to contribute financially to our work and although we have yet to reach our stewardship goal for 2017, it is on track to exceed last years' numbers. Many people who withheld their giving during the period of uncertainty have decided to reinvest in our work together. We have a lot of work to do, but our foundations are strong.

Internally we have done a great deal of work over the past six months to ensure the smooth and transparent operations of our institution. As we expected, the audit that the diocese conducted found no financial malfeasance. What it highlighted, however, is something we have known for a while: like many small non-profits that have a few professional staff and rely on volunteers, we need to be better organised in our administration, follow more consistent procedures, and keep better records. Since July, therefore, we have been working closely with the diocesan Chief of Finance and Operations, Esslie Hughes, to help reorganise and professionalise our administration.

In September we hired a Communications and Office Coordinator, Catherine Hedberg, who works 12 hours per week in the office. We also engaged, at the diocese's recommendation, the service of Maria Wainwright, a consultant who specialises in helping Episcopal Churches with their financial administration. Ms Wainwright has, with our outgoing treasurer Ravi Rajan, been systematising and organising our financial records and reporting, and has established procedures for a number of financial operations. She has also helped us to recruit and hire a professional bookkeeper, Devon Hallman, who begins work tomorrow. Devon will work one day a week to pay bills and perform tasks that were previously the work of the treasurer, making that position a truly executive one for the first time. Indeed, I am so pleased that given this new organisation, that Eric Moser, a skilled corporate bankruptcy litigator and devoted parishioner, has agreed to come on as treasurer. We will retain Ms Wainwright's services a few hours a month to consult on our financial operations.

With these changes in place, we are poised to better serve you, our community, and the Church, as well as ensure our long-term financial health. You will hear more about our finances in the treasurer's report, but I want to highlight several things, including something that I have said before. We are able to provide for worship, including the extraordinary choral music we experience each week under the masterful artistic direction of James Kennerley, for pastoral care, and for Christian formation for adults and children, all of the highest quality, on a fraction of the budget of other comparable Episcopal churches in New York City.

Our budget is already very lean and we have worked to make cuts where we can and although we have a larger structural deficit than any of us would like, the only way forward for us, in order to maintain what we are able to offer, to stay healthy and do what we are called to do, is to increase our income. To this end, I have been working very hard with the lay leadership, the churchwardens and treasurer, to strategise on creative ways of raising the money we need. Indeed although pledge income was budgeted, as you will see, at \$175,000, it is looking like we will top out at over \$200,000. We have a number of new and renewed pledges and a significant number of parishioners have already increased the amount they give. I will continue to ask those who are able to increase their giving level as we work together at this critical juncture. Now is the time for us to come together and ensure that our financial health matches the other markers of vitality that are so apparent to anyone who comes here. So don't be surprised if you hear from me personally about giving because we can't be shy at this moment.

When asked by a seminarian what it is that we prioritise in our budget, I gave an answer that was a little surprising. I said that a church like ours, that operates on the scale we do with a relatively small budget for a Manhattan parish, can do four things from the top down: provide for worship, give pastoral care, provide opportunities for Christian formation, and maintain our property so that we have a place to do this work. Doing these things allows us to fulfill our primary mission, which is to build up the body of Christ and equip the saints for the work of ministry. That is to say, we

provide a basis, provide the tools you need to go and embrace your Christian vocation in your work in the world, to cooperate with the divine purpose as God works out the realisation of the Kingdom.

I have discussed how we have continued to worship vibrantly in our historic and still relevant tradition, accompanied by liturgical music of the highest quality. Since it has been an important area of focus for me and the vestry this year, I want to tell you a bit about how we have worked to maintain our property so it is here for us to use as a base for the work we do and make sure it is there for those who come after us. This year we have had to focus on several property issues. One of the major accomplishments has been the work we have done to ensure the safety of those who walk to and past our church and the long term stability of our historic property.

As you all know well by now, in 2015 the City of New York cited us for the condition of our sidewalks. We realised that this issue was far more complex than simply jack hammering out the existing pavement and pouring new concrete. Under 87th Street is vault space that had historically been used for coal storage and now is used to store food for our soup kitchen, liturgical supplies, and many other items. This meant that the project became much more complicated. Getting ahead of this early, on the advice of Scott McDermott, whom I asked to lead our work on this project, we engaged Rand Engineering and Architecture to advise us and put together a plan to attack the work. In addition to coming up with a sidewalk replacement plan that included the waterproofing and restoration, if necessary, of the vault, they also advised us that we needed to reset the main steps of the church on 87th Street, as they sit on an arch of the vault and have settled. Their detailed plans and specifications gave us the ability to make the successful grant applications that Holly Hughes carefully and thoughtfully put together. With the project estimated to cost just under \$260,000, we were able to secure a \$70,000 grant from the Diocese of New York Property Support Office, a \$25,000 grant from the New York City Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Program for the steps, and a further \$2,500 grant from Landmarks to help with the cost of engineering and architectural costs. Furthermore, you have responded to our call for assistance with this project to the tune of just over \$43,000. In addition, the Diocese also loaned us \$130,000 to ensure we can get the work done. We are now scheduled to get underway in the early spring and the work is to be carried out by Pratt Construction, the successful low bidder in the process that Rand carried out on our behalf. We are still looking for funding for the project, especially as we want to repay the entirety of the diocesan loan in this calendar year and reduce the sizeable debt service burden that it places on our already tight annual budget. Holly Hughes and Scott McDermott really took the lead in making sure this project got off the ground and got funded and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

We have continued to maintain our property more generally and sexton James Mayanja, often assisted by organist and choirmaster, James Kennerley, have really worked to make sure things are running smoothly. Both, for example, collaborated to find a solution to close the clerestory window that had been open for months. We had been prepared to pay contractors as much as \$8,000 to build scaffolding to get up there, but James and James managed to take care of it at no cost. The pigeons, I am afraid, did some damage to the organ, but we are in conversation with the Church Insurance Company about covering the cost of any repairs and clean-up. Things happen in old buildings and we continue to do our best to address them as they happen and before they become bigger problems.

Before I close, I want to highlight pastoral care and Christian formation, so that they do not get lost in the shuffle of the administrative and property issues that have, by necessity, taken so much of our time this year. I continue to meet with many parishioners for both pastoral care and counselling and in order to keep building up our community. But just as important is the work you all do. Led by Deacon Paul and a group of lay leaders that includes Lucy Kuemmerle, Leanne

Dodge, Nancy Dobi, Helen Jarvis, and others, along with Father Towner, we have worked to make sure that those of us who are vulnerable or ill know and feel that they are loved by God, loved by their parish community, a part of our Sunday Eucharistic worship even if they can not be with us in person. I am so grateful to all our Eucharistic visitors and other Leopards who have taken the time to visit with fellow parishioners and give them a real sense of love and connection.

We have also worked to continue to provide excellent Christian formation for adults and children. In the past few months we have concentrated on our children's program, reorganising the Sunday School and starting a two-year confirmation program for our seventh and eighth graders. I am so grateful for everything Lucy Yates has done for our children's programs over so many years. Indeed we are going to miss her, Leo, Livy, and Ravi (who himself has done so much for us as our treasurer and to whom I am most grateful) when they move to California later this year. In the year ahead we will be offering more programs for adults, including a confirmation and inquirer's class that starts next week.

This past sixteen months have has been challenging for all of us, but we end this period stronger and with a revitalised sense of purpose, of mission and of ministry. This is the moment for all of us to work together. This is the moment to make sure that we do everything we can to keep moving ahead. This is the moment to make sure we can keep growing, keep doing what we do best, to do those very things I highlighted above: to be a fully inclusive community that worships God in the beauty of holiness and forms and cares not just for those who come through our doors, but does this so that we might leave this place to care for and form others in the world and share our vision of God in Christ who loves each and every one of us.

Faithfully yours,
Andrew C. Blume✠

The Rev'd Dr Andrew C. Blume
Rector

TREASURER'S REPORT

	FY14 ACTUAL	FY15 ACTUAL	FY16 Budget	FY16 ACTUAL	VARIANCE	FY17 Budget
Ordinary Revenue/Expense						
Income						
Candle Offerings	\$ 706.00	\$ 1,241.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,285.70	\$ 385.70	\$ 2,000.00
Concert box office/tickets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Income	\$ 36,020.00	\$ 36,020.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,020.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 28,473.40
Music Fund & Concert Support	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 8,807.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,350.00	\$ (7,650.00)	\$ 8,000.00
Music Group Fees	\$ 18,000.50	\$ 27,171.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 24,210.00	\$ (2,790.00)	\$ 30,700.00
Nicoll Trust	\$ 18,419.98	\$ 18,263.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 16,774.00	\$ (1,226.00)	\$ 13,797.00
Other Offering / income	\$ 20,009.00	\$ 11,397.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 26,507.30	\$ 8,507.30	\$ 18,000.00
Other Space Use	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 3,670.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 3,585.00	\$ (4,915.00)	\$ 8,500.00
Plate	\$ 8,092.00	\$ 8,756.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,338.57	\$ 338.57	\$ 8,000.00
Pledges	\$ 191,707.00	\$ 167,600.50	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 158,172.40	\$ (36,827.60)	\$ 175,000.00
Rent - The Other Place	\$ 82,008.00	\$ 86,814.00	\$ 91,892.00	\$ 91,898.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 96,484.00
Reserve Fund to Balance	\$ 86,713.73	\$ 118,546.69	\$ 42,539.60	\$ 76,100.61	\$ 33,561.01	\$ 71,851.79
Soup Kitchen Offerings	\$ 7,839.57	\$ 5,785.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,708.95	\$ (3,291.05)	\$ 8,000.00
Tower Apartment Rent	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 505,905.76	\$ 518,071.16	\$ 493,831.60	\$ 479,950.53	\$ (13,881.07)	\$ 468,806.19
Expenditures						
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Associate Clergy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,804.30	\$ 3,554.30	\$ 250.00
Auditing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ -
Building Maintenance	\$ 9,602.31	\$ 10,901.31	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,086.63	\$ (2,913.37)	\$ 9,000.00
Building Supplies	\$ 4,411.19	\$ 2,771.52	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,586.38	\$ (2,913.62)	\$ 4,500.00
Candles	\$ 3,641.02	\$ 2,717.93	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,560.02	\$ (1,439.98)	\$ 4,000.00
Child Care	\$ 8,668.00	\$ 5,910.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 4,070.00	\$ (4,430.00)	\$ -
Choir	\$ 45,409.73	\$ 56,613.75	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 48,920.00	\$ 6,920.00	\$ 38,750.00
Christian education	\$ 7,821.94	\$ 3,927.75	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 185.66	\$ (9,314.34)	\$ 500.00
Clergy Continuing Education	\$ 121.46	\$ 662.36	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ (1,250.00)	\$ 1,000.00
Concert Series	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Conferences & Conventions	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 130.00	\$ (470.00)	\$ 600.00
Deputy Organist	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,800.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 39,281.96	\$ 34,096.60	\$ 29,655.85	\$ 29,655.84	\$ (0.01)	\$ 29,655.85
Evangelism	\$ 534.29	\$ 625.34	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 410.68	\$ (589.32)	\$ 1,000.00
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,875.00	\$ (125.00)	\$ 1,500.00
Hospitality & coffee hour	\$ -	\$ 31.99	\$ 400.00	\$ 669.56	\$ 269.56	\$ 500.00
Insurance	\$ 31,652.10	\$ 34,222.70	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,899.05	\$ 899.05	\$ 40,000.00
Interest Expense (Loan)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ 7,484.88
Investment Expense & Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,558.47	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Liturgical Supplies	\$ 1,963.06	\$ 1,035.35	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,788.90	\$ 788.90	\$ 1,000.00
Loan (Principal)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,834.31
Office Supplies	\$ 5,799.99	\$ 7,999.65	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,161.90	\$ 161.90	\$ 6,000.00
Organ Repairs	\$ -	\$ 810.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 554.44	\$ (445.56)	\$ 1,000.00
Other Music Expenses	\$ 1,669.28	\$ 4,592.18	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,201.29	\$ (798.71)	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	\$ 310.88	\$ 495.90	\$ 500.00	\$ 607.32	\$ 107.32	\$ 500.00
Printing & Photocopying	\$ 8,027.40	\$ 8,905.47	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,975.17	\$ 975.17	\$ 9,000.00
Professional Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,153.27	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ (164.27)	\$ 3,118.63	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	\$ (1,600.00)	\$ 1,600.00
Rector's Expenses	\$ 13,801.55	\$ 4,439.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 384.54	\$ (2,115.46)	\$ 1,000.00
Retreats & Quiet Days	\$ -	\$ 338.95	\$ 300.00	\$ (292.50)	\$ (562.50)	\$ 300.00
Seminarian	\$ 1,281.43	\$ 142.16	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -
Soup Kitchen (non-coffee hour)	\$ 4,831.78	\$ 6,788.74	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,962.16	\$ (37.84)	\$ 8,000.00
Telephone & Cable	\$ 6,212.39	\$ 7,705.44	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,718.21	\$ 718.21	\$ 7,200.00
Utilities	\$ 34,235.79	\$ 28,705.17	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 21,236.39	\$ (6,763.61)	\$ 24,000.00
Wages and Salaries	\$ 269,492.48	\$ 279,414.85	\$ 264,475.75	\$ 260,705.85	\$ (3,769.90)	\$ 235,831.15
Total Expenditures	\$ 505,905.76	\$ 518,071.16	\$ 493,831.60	\$ 479,950.53	\$ (13,881.07)	\$ 468,806.19
Net Operating Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0.00)	\$ -

	FY14 ACTUAL	FY15 ACTUAL	FY16 Budget	FY16 ACTUAL	VARIANCE	FY17 Budget
Other Revenue/Expenditure						
Other Revenue						
Capital Campaign Receipts	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 42,500.00		
Interest & Dividends	\$ 3.20	\$ 9.51		\$ 14.54		
Other Revenue	\$ 29,442.00	\$ 102,902.65		\$ 20,896.33		
Total Other Revenue	\$ 29,445.20	\$ 102,912.16		\$ 63,410.87		
Other Expenditure						
Capital Expense	\$ 29,677.07	\$ 60,746.86		89,924.51		
Other Expenses	\$ 3,652.00	\$ 24,366.19		1,070.00		
Total Other Expenditure	\$ 33,329.07	\$ 85,113.05		\$ 90,994.51		
Net Other Revenue	\$ (3,883.87)	\$ 17,799.11		\$ (27,583.64)		
Reserve / Endowment end of year value						
	<u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>		<u>10/31/2016*</u>		
Reserve Fund (Fidelity)	\$ 594,428.03	\$ 437,386.14		\$ 337,732.50		
Endowment (DIT)	\$ 743,423.51	\$ 690,219.20		\$ 701,861.57		

*final 2016 reports have yet to be received for these accounts

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship campaign began in late November with a letter from the rector to the parish. Members of the Vestry and parishioner Abigail Franklin Plumer followed up with phone calls to and conversations with parishioners.

As of January 22, we have received 66 pledges for a total of \$143,210.

After a year of unexpected expenses, as we face the costs of paying off the loan for repairs to our sidewalk and vault, parishioners have been asked to consider increasing their pledges if they can. Of the pledges received so far, 24 have increased since 2016; 5 of the pledges are new this year.

The average pledge is \$2203. The median pledge is \$1590.

At the time of the Annual Meeting in January 2016, we had received 61 pledges for a total of \$154,534. Of those, 16 had increased, and 4 were new.

Efforts are underway to follow up with parishioners 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 be delighted to hear from you and to answer any questions you have about stewardship.

All of us involved in the 2017 stewardship efforts are grateful to our fellow parishioners who have pledged this year for their loving commitment to support our community and the work of our church.

Faithfully,
 Holly Hughes
 Stewardship chair

MUSIC

From the Organist and Choirmaster:

As I begin my fourth year as Organist and Choirmaster, 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.

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. In September 2016 the Rector and I decided to create the position of Associate Choirmaster, and we were delighted that parishioner and choir member, Dr. Richard Porterfield, was able to assume that role. Rick will assist by leading the choir in my absence, as well as acting as a consultant in matters of scholarship and other musical matters. Together with Lucy Yates, we have an enviable Music Department team.

Another material addition to our musical forces is the acquisition of a four-stop continuo organ by Henk Klop of Garderen, The Netherlands. The instrument was partly the gift of an exceedingly generous parishioner. The balance of the purchase will be made up in five years from rental fees. Based on the finest examples of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century instruments, the organ is used on a regular basis to accompany the choir and for solo repertoire. It is also an effective draw for our growing base of prestigious early music concert groups.

The core of my responsibility at Saint Ignatius revolves around the parish's renowned professional choir, an ensemble of eight singers that is expanded upon depending on the demands of the repertoire and the liturgy. 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. I was delighted that we performed my *Missa Sanctae Mariae Virginis* for the feast of Corpus Christi in 2016, the *Kyrie* of which was written and dedicated to Saint Ignatius. The choir also offered the world première of my new carol, *Adam lay ybounden*, in December.

The Service of Advent Lessons & Carols was held for the third 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. We were delighted to welcome for the first time members of the Washington Heights Choir School. 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. The installation of a *Flûte Harmonique* stop is almost complete; the pipes are playing and just need regulating somewhat to best project in the building. We are also working towards the repair of the metal pipes in the façade of the organ case.

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 Consort of Young Ignatians is now a lean, mean, all-girl machine—except when we are joined, as we were twice last semester, by the freshly-recharged Washington Heights Choir School (Amaranta Viera, director) in residence at Holyrood Church. We are also supported on occasion by our prodigious musical mentors in the adult choir: having been invited to join them for Lessons and Carols in December, we declared it the most beautiful service in which we'd ever taken part. And we are especially honored to claim a new class of what most choirs call "cherubs": singers under six!

Given the reduced number of middle-school choristers, it made sense to rely on our now-standard "performance" repertoire while we focused for the first time on staffing the choir corner for regular services. Older singers have enjoyed guiding the younger ones through the finer points of music and liturgy, and the younger ones in turn keep us all on our toes with their enthusiasm (and a gallery-worthy collection of drawings made during Mass). We have invited the Washington Heights Choir School back for several more occasions this spring and hope to deepen that friendship even as we search for a new choir director for the Young Ignatians. As always we are grateful for the gentle leadership, magisterial music-making, and nimble accommodations of Maestro James and Maestro David.

SPRING 2016

27 March (Easter)	9 AM	<i>Through the Red Sea brought at last</i> (new junior members; two new descants)
1 May (Rogation)	10 AM	<i>O Jesus, crowned with all renown</i> (quartet of women & girls)
15 May (Pentecost)	9 AM	<i>We are one in the Spirit</i> (two new descants)

AUTUMN 2016

18 October (Patronal Feast)	10 AM	<i>By all thy saints still striving</i> (two revised original descants)
4 December	5 PM	Lessons and Carols: <i>Creator of the stars of night</i> (motet plus hymns and carols with WHCS & St Ig pro choir)
18 December	5 PM	Evensong with "O" Antiphon: <i>O radix Jesse</i> (complete service with WHCS)
24 December	5 PM	Christmas Pageant <i>My heart sings out; Christians, awake;</i> <i>Away in a manger; On this day earth shall ring</i>

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Yates

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Behold! The more we grow, the easier we are to manage! This year has seen quintessential developments in our identity and activity. We are now three full classes, a complete service cohort for the 9 AM Mass, and a regular choir. We maintain our service projects, performing partnerships, and festive traditions. Our families truly love to worship, work, and play together. (During a recent homily I looked about to see every single lap occupied: all the children who weren't enlisted to carry objects or direct traffic were entwined about the necks of mothers and dads, just as if they were huddling up to hear Jesus tell stories. That day's coffee hour conversation lasted halfway through the next Mass.) When my family moves across the continent this summer, my heart will rest in the knowledge that all our Young Ignatians (down to the four freshly-delivered ones!) remain in deeply loving and fiercely capable hands—and arms.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Yates

Junior Class

The students in the junior Sunday School class, comprising ages three through second grade, bring a wealth of ideas and energy to our curriculum, which is a unique blend of Godly Play, The Jesus Storybook Bible, ad hoc liturgical discussion, and age-appropriate textual analysis.

We study Old Testament stories in the fall, which then progress through the prophets and into the preparatory season of Advent, when we focus on serving others by making Christmas cards for the Ellington Shelter families, decorating cookies for soup kitchen guests, and rehearsing our parish Nativity Play. In the winter, we learn about the life of Jesus, His ministries and teachings, and, into Eastertide, His crucifixion and resurrection. Late spring brings the celebration of the Ascension and Pentecost, ending with an end-of-program-year party.

As part of our hands-on work, the children have the opportunity to practice baptizing our baby doll, who was aptly named Baby Jesus by the class; to add their artistic interpretation of the day's lesson to our story scroll; to complete puzzles depicting Bible stories; or to reenact the desert wanderings of the Chosen People in our desert sand box. We have also been welcomed into the Sacristy for instruction on and demonstrations of what we do during Mass and why.

This group always has lively and engaging conversations about every topic, often bringing new perspectives to classic Bible stories. Ninjas are an unexpected, yet surprisingly frequent, addition to the discussion, and our contemplation of transgression always invites a comprehensive cataloguing of sibling wrongdoing, bringing the real-life application of the concept of absolution into clear focus.

We have a keen group of learners in this class who add immense vitality to our parish community. It is a pleasure to serve them, to see them grow, and to benefit from their diverse and fascinating viewpoints.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Strauss

Middler Class

The Middlers, though a wildly divergent group of personalities, display a disarmingly coherent collective skill set in the face of Scripture, spirituality and current events: and their Lectionary-based class invites into play all their keen literary and interpretive skills. Eric Moser maintains a prayerful framework for their animated discussions of one or more of each Sunday's lessons.

Senior Class

We have been given the honor of preparing five 7th-Graders for possible confirmation during the 2017-18 school year. We say “possible” as when the time comes each student will make the decision for him or herself whether to be confirmed. Since these kids are adult enough to make such a decision, we feel it best to treat them as the adults they are quickly becoming. Although we will of course cover the usual confirmation topics – God, Bible, Doctrine, Sacraments, Spirituality, the Episcopal Ethos, and such – the course is not agenda-driven. Through selective use of Scripture, the BCP, and other material, we hope to engage the members wherever they may be on their faith journeys – even if faith seems to be absent at present. We believe that honest discussion in a non-judgmental environment illustrates one of the great hallmarks of the Anglican tradition, and trust that it helps fortify us all in our spiritual – and indeed life – formation.

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

Acolyte Ministry

During the past year, children have become increasingly active participants in worship at the 9 am Mass, serving as ushers, lectors, and acolytes for the church community. Children in all of the Sunday School classes had the opportunity to attend acolyte training sessions during the spring and fall, in which they began learning the particular movements and tasks of acolytes for each portion of the Mass. Some of the children have chosen to acolyte regularly, and they bring a wonderful energy and enthusiasm to their ministry--evidenced by the joy on their faces when they enter carrying their torches.

Children acolytes take on a full role in the service: they carry torches, assist at the altar, and help with setup and cleanup. Excitement about the task of washing the dishes is common. As they grow older and become more comfortable serving at the altar, they are able to take on additional responsibilities as crucifer and thurifer (as at the 5:30 pm service on Christmas Eve, for example). Those of us in the sacristy have been especially grateful for their eagerness, questions, and desire to learn and contribute meaningfully. By helping to facilitate worship, they take their own places as valued contributors to the church community.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr Leanne Dodge

OUTREACH

Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen at St. Ignatius has been serving the needy for nearly 35 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 2691 guests which is a decrease of 397 from 2015. This continues a downward trend: in 2015 we served 100 fewer people than in 2014. We have no explanation for this reduction in guests. Many of those we serve 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 an 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 which he provides, 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 17 parishioners participating in the program, five of whom are new volunteers for whom we are most grateful. In addition to the 25 non-parishioners who regularly make up the teams, there are approximately 30 others who participate as substitutes as the need arises who respond to our 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. Anyone interested in more information about the opportunity to serve is invited to speak with Holly Hughes or David Holkeboer.

Respectfully submitted,
David Holkeboer

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CLERGY

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The Rev'd Dr Philip H. Towner	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev'd Paul S. Kahn	<i>Deacon</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	Ms Nancy Dobi
Mr Scott McDermott	Ms Holly Hughes
Mr Jeffrey Toombs	Ms Alison Howard-Levy
Ms Meredith C. Strauss	Ms Jennifer Udden
Mr David Wahrmund	
<i>Vestry</i>	

STAFF

Mr James Kennerley	<i>Organist & Choirmaster</i>
Mr David Holkeboer	<i>Associate Organist</i>
Dr Richard Porterfield	<i>Associate Choirmaster</i>
Ms Lucy T. Yates	<i>Pastoral Associate for Children's Ministries</i>
Ms Catherine Hedberg	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Mr James Mayanja	<i>Sexton</i>