

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As of Sunday, January 21, we have received 68 pledges for a total of \$151,609.

Of these:

44 are increases(65%)

5 are decreases (7%)

15 have remained flat (22%)

4 are new(6%)

16 pledgers have opted to use our direct debit program. This is an increase from 3 who used the diocesan service. The income amounts to just a little more than \$2,000 per month from ACH collections.

At this time last year we had 65 pledges for \$142,600. By the end of 2017, we closed the year with 82 pledges for \$178,439. As of December 31, 2017 we received a total of \$174,486.11 credited to pledge for 2017, a shortfall of \$3,952.89, or 3% from the pledged amount. This is a significant improvement over 2016 when, although we still had 82 pledges for \$179,980, only \$161,182.40 was received for credit to pledge, a shortfall of \$22,750.49, or 11%.

For 2018 we still hope to see as many as 25 more pledges, which could get us to well over our \$200,000 goal.

Faithfully,
Warren Woodfin
Stewardship chair

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

2017 was a big year for the improvement of our physical plant. Although each of the projects we undertook was done because of necessity, each was meticulously planned in consultation with and supervised by our engineers, RAND Engineering & Architecture PC, and intended to enhance the long term viability and safety of our property.

Since we had not planned on doing these projects, we were forced to be creative in funding them in a way that would allow us to continue our current program and maintain the viability of our Endowment and Reserve Fund. We were grateful for the strong support shown by the congregation of the Sidewalk Project but reluctant to go immediately back to the parish for the heat and sewer replacement. Therefore we sought grant and loan support from both the Episcopal Diocese of New York and Landmarks Conservancy of New York. Both of these institutions came through for us with generous support that you will see detailed below.

Our work was complicated, but unhindered, by staff changes during the year. At the end of the summer, our sexton of nine years, James Mayanja, informed me that because of personal issues, he would be unable to renew his visa and would have to return to Uganda by the middle of October. Despite our helping James with access to legal counsel, there was nothing to be done. We began a search for a new sexton and after interviewing several candidates hired Boniface Nawita, the son of our former sexton Sam Wania, who had recently emigrated to the United States from Uganda. Boniface was able to work with James on a daily basis for over a month before the latter finally had to leave the country. We very much regret losing James, who was a most valuable employee and member of the parish family, who really grew in responsibility from being a janitor to a proper building manager on whom we could truly rely. We will miss him. Boniface has shown himself these past months to be an excellent and responsible employee and we are truly pleased to have him on board, especially through this time of major building works.

Sidewalks

As well the parish knows, in 2015 we were cited by the City for the condition of our sidewalks and we engaged RAND to carry out studies and present us with proposals for the work. We applied for funding to the Episcopal Diocese of New York and to the New York Landmarks Conservancy. We received a \$70,000 grant and \$130,000 loan from the diocese and \$27,500 in grants from Landmarks. Additionally the parish generously contributed \$54,020 to the project.

In the fall of 2016 we received bids from three firms, and began negotiations with the low bidder. As they would not agree to the terms of a standard AIA contract, RAND recommend we move to the second bidder and see if they could match the low bid, which they did. Therefore, on January 12, 2017 we entered into a \$175,000 contract with Pratt Construction & Restoration, Inc. to undertake the replacement of our sidewalks, the restoration and waterproofing of the vault beneath West 87th Street, and the installation of new handrails on the church steps and iron fencing on the expanded tree pits along our sidewalk. We had to wait until spring to begin this exterior work and we were supposed to break ground on May 1. Because of contractor delays, however, work did not get underway until June 12. Work was slow throughout the summer and Pratt exceeded the allotted contract time of six weeks, with two weeks grace period. The work on the sidewalk and sealing of the vault was not complete until after Labor Day and the project has not yet formally reached substantial completion due to the iron work not yet being installed.

The sidewalks and vault, however, are complete and this is very good news for us indeed. We expect the iron work to be installed in the coming weeks. After this we will part company with Pratt and engage a different firm to carry out minor repairs to the steel of the vault structure that were discovered to be necessary in the course of the work. This was not a surprise to us as we knew the structure of the vault could not be inspected until the work was underway. We were gratified, in fact, to discover that the condition of the vault was better than anticipated with only a single issue discovered in one part of one beam. This work was included in our budget and will amount to about \$12,000, including design fees and permits (which are themselves

exceedingly expensive and a fixed cost mandated by the City). Even considering this, the project has come in under budget and we found that we only needed to use a small fraction of the diocesan loan, a little over \$2,000. The remainder of the loan will be used, as we have agreed with the diocese, for the heating project.

Partial Sewer Replacement Program

In early July water began to rise in the vault and mechanical areas. On discovering this, we immediately engaged RAND to explore the issue and suggest a resolution. Ultimately they found that the original 1901 cast iron sewer pipes beneath the Undercroft that serviced the vault drain, mechanical room, and kitchen had deteriorated to the point where they were determined to have reached the end of their useful life. They had corroded and collapsed at several points and likely because of years of saturation and an elevated water table, possibly due to both rain and adjacent construction, the result was water coming up through the slab-on-grade as well as the drain in the vault.

The initial damage caused by the flood was more disruptive than destructive, but it left the Undercroft and kitchen a mess and much of the storage in the vault soaked. At the same time we were left without usable drains for the water in the kitchen and mechanical rooms. This meant that our kitchen became unusable and as a result, our tenant, the Goddard Riverside Community Center TOP program, became unable to run their program in our space. It also left Soup Kitchen and our parish hospitality unable to function as normal.

It took RAND several months to complete the investigation into the cause of the rising water and to formulate a plan for remediation. We had notified the Church Insurance Corporation immediately and they covered the clean up and investigation, but were not able to cover the repairs. On the advice of the Property Support Office of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, we sought emergency loan funding from the Landmarks Conservancy of New York, and they have provided a credit line of up to \$200,000 for this work from their Endangered Building Fund.

The project replaces the underground cast iron sewer pipes that run from the mechanical room and vault and the pipes that run from the kitchen sinks and connects them to an ejector pump system that sends the waste water above ground in pipes at ceiling level to the electrical room, where they are tied into the main sewer lines on the house side of the main trap. As designed, the project in the end is projected to cost about \$100,000, including engineering studies and permits, and we expect that will come in on budget at this level. As soon as RAND produced their report and we obtained funding, we set the project to bid and we engaged Stellmar Plumbing to carry out the work, which was begun in November and was substantially completed on December 29.

Soup Kitchen and Coffee Hour resumed normal operations in early January and Goddard TOP Program is back in the space from January 15, 2018. Although out of the scope of this report, major clean-up operations were undertaken earlier in January and we intend to repaint the whole of the Undercroft once the new radiators are installed in the coming weeks.

Heating

Our heating system has been failing for some time and we have had issues over the past ten years with the radiators, blowers, control system, and the boiler itself. We have tried to effect repairs as we went along with moderate success. However, this past March we determined that the whole system was beyond repair. The boiler that had been installed in the mid- to late-1990s had suffered significant interior deterioration, the control system had become inoperable, and the blowers at the back of the church (installed in the early 1960s) had truly come to the end of their useful life. We had hoped that the worst of the winter weather was over, but alas, we had to suffer with the cold until spring truly came in. We knew that we would need to rely on support from the diocese to fix the problem, and diocesan support required a detailed plan and bids from contractors. We immediately engaged RAND to carry out first a feasibility study and then, once we selected a

replacement program, a full scale design for the solution. The solution we chose involved replacing the boiler, control system, and all the radiators (including removing the air handlers in the nave), but leaving the pipes and exhaust systems intact. Once we obtained bids, we applied for grant and loan aid from the Property Support Committee of the Diocese on their grant schedule. Our request was approved at the end of September, although at a lower level than we had hoped. We were granted \$40,000 and given a further loan of \$120,000. Having spent only \$2,000 of the \$130,000 Sidewalk Loan on the project (and having paid off about \$11,000 in principal), we were expected to use the remainder of that loan to fund the heating project, which has a budget of \$250,000 (including engineering work).

With the money in hand, we immediately began to mobilize the project. We were unable to begin work sooner because Property Support will not fund projects already begun. The boiler was installed with temporary wiring and controls, and connected to the existing pipes and radiators around Thanksgiving. It has taken into the new year to work out the kinks in the system so that heat is being delivered through all the pipes to all the radiators. Production on the radiators from the manufacturer, Runtle, was held up because of several factors, including confirmation of valve sizes, etc. We expect the radiators to be delivered and installed by the end of February. In the meanwhile, as the weather was getting colder, we realised additional heat was required for the nave in advance of the installation of far more radiators that we had previously had in that space. Our contractor, East Coast Mechanical, arranged for temporary heat, at cost.

While out of the scope of the 2017 report, but to bring you up-to-date, East Coast have been continually responsive to our need to maintain heat throughout the building while we wait for the delivery of the radiators. Furthermore, as of this week they have completed much of the electrical work, including the removal of all the obsolete controls and boxes, and are installing the new control system. The results (already evident to some extent from the new, and larger boiler and pumps delivering heat to the existing system) should be a significant improvement in the comfort of the property in winter.

On a side note, speaking of comfort, I want to share that when carrying out the feasibility study, we did ask RAND to consider what it would take to cool the property in summer. We discovered that property cooling the nave, which would be the cooling solution that would make the largest impact on the community and improve our ability to use the church for concerts and other events in the summer that could bring income to the church, was prohibitively expensive and not remotely feasible. This was largely due to the height of the ceiling and the extent of the traditional, leaded glass windows. Cooling the Undercroft and some of the offices would have added at least \$300,000 to the project, and we determined that it was not worth the expense at this time.

---The Rector

MUSIC

As I begin my fifth 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. Together we're working to ensure that Saint Ignatius boasts one of the finest church music programs in the City.

"Came for the music, stayed for the mass." That phrase was first relayed to me by a colleague a decade or so ago, and it has always stayed with me. In our tradition people are often initially drawn by a compelling sense of mystery, a sense of Godliness communicated in some way by the music. For those new to the faith, music can offer a bridge between the seemingly elaborate outward signs of the liturgy and the true meaning of the same. Music at Saint Ignatius, however beautiful or enjoyable in itself, is always an attempt to express something deeper about our faith and about ourselves.

2017 was a year of transition for our music staff. Dr. Richard Porterfield, who has been a parishioner and choir member for many years and for this past year Associate Choirmaster, moved, along with his family to Albany, where he has taken up a full-time teaching position. David Holkeboer, Associate Organist, retired from his duties at Saint Ignatius last Fall. I can not thank him enough for his work at the organ bench; to have had such a noteworthy Associate has long been a point of envy for my organist colleagues! Rick and David have been remarkable associates and I thank them for such dedicated, devoted service to us and to our community.

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.

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. 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 fourth time in December (2014 was the first year any such service had been offered at Saint Ignatius). It allowed us to show off our choir and church community in a glorious synergy of music and readings and the church was gratifyingly full.

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.

Work continues on our Casavant Frères pipe organ. Douglas Keilitz, our erstwhile curator, has recently moved to a new position in Nebraska; we are in the process of developing a plan to complete the many parts that were left unfinished upon his departure. The Klop continuo organ remains in regular use, supporting the choir and allowing for intimate solo keyboard repertoire to be performed.

As in previous years, 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, but also by some of the most renowned music groups from across the City. 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.

I am excited about music at Saint Ignatius, and for good reason. Our future is extremely bright.

Respectfully submitted,
James Kennerley
Organist and Choirmaster

FAMILY MINISTRIES

We continue to strive, as always, to welcome families with children of all ages to St. Ignatius, and to provide programs and opportunities that are meaningful and age-appropriate for all.

For our youngest Ignatians, our Sunday School meets in the playroom between the 9am and 11am Masses. This group of preschool through Grade 3 students learns about Bible stories, liturgical practices, and the life and teachings of Jesus in an engaging and interactive manner. The overarching theme of our lessons is that *God loves us no matter what*. We emphasize serving others, loving all of God's creation, and developing a personal relationship with God. Several members of this class have begun to learn firsthand about our worship and the structure of the Mass by serving at the altar as acolytes, under the patient and expert tutelage of Dr. Leanne Dodge as well as all of our clergy.

Our middle-grade students often participate in the 9am Mass as ushers, lectors, acolytes, and even one intrepid young thurifer. Our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation class, begun in Fall 2016, will be offered again soon, having been on hiatus due in part to scheduling conflicts and building issues.

This year, the Nativity Play was in a new format: a narrated enactment of the Gospel of Luke during the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass. We had participants ranging from age 3 to age 15, with community-sourced costumes and props and vocal support from the choir for the two hymns. The pageant received a warm and enthusiastic response and we hope to continue this tradition in the coming years.

The Family Ministry Committee continues to prayerfully discern, with input from parents and from parish leadership, how best to serve families and children. We are particularly concerned about meeting the needs of older children in middle grades and up. Some ideas under consideration include finding a Youth Leader or Minister to guide middle schoolers and teens in their spiritual formation. In addition, we are actively discussing community-building programming to connect parishioners and deepen relationships. A few ideas include social outings, small-group ministries, new parent brunches, and educational programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith L. Strauss

Adult Education

Over the past year, the program of Adult Education was a bit less routine than usual. Deacon Paul organized and delivered an evening series on the book of Job during Lent 2017. Then, in Eastertide he shepherded a group of parishioners to Holy Cross Monastery for a weekend retreat loosely focused on the Trinity as a model for prayer. But due to the absence of the Assistant Rector (international assignments and travel) and the Deacon (surgery and convalescence), we were not able to organize an autumn evening series or the usual Advent series. Looking forward to Lent 2018, an evening series, with a focus on the passion of Jesus Christ, is in the planning stage (schedule to be announced soon). We are also anticipating offering a short autumn series (if there is sufficient interest) and the usual Advent series in 2018.

During the period from January to May of 2017, we completed the first of a two-year confirmation class which was attended by several middle-schoolers. It must be said that scheduling conflicts in Year 1 (family plans, student sports and activities) proved to be quite a challenge to mounting a sufficiently consistent program; nevertheless, we felt that our meetings in Year 1 allowed us to get to know the confirmands and to make some useful progress in the preparation needed for their possible eventual confirmation. For a number of reasons, it was decided not to proceed to Year 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Paul Kahn
Father Philip Towner

OUTREACH

Soup Kitchen

For more than 35 years, the Soup Kitchen at St. Ignatius of Antioch has served a simple meal of soup, sandwiches, and juice or fruit to anyone who comes to our door, every Monday at 7pm and Saturday at 4pm. In 2017, we served 2695 guests. Our guests include neighbors who rely on us to help make ends meet, and people who come from as far as The Bronx and Queens.

Outside grants to the Soup Kitchen ease the burden of support from the church's budget. Episcopal Charities awarded the Soup Kitchen a Basic Human Needs Grant of \$3,200 in 2017; we hope to receive another grant in 2018. Thanks to our congregation's contribution to the annual Crop Hunger Walk in 2016, we qualified for funding from Church World Service. We had a strong presence in the 2017 Crop Walk. Many people made donations in memory of parishioner Eric Moser. Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides some limited canned food and support. We are grateful to receive donations of peanut butter from a friend of a Soup Kitchen captain. A gentleman in the neighborhood distributes health bars, handing one to each guest personally. From time-to-time, we offer toiletries and 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 15 parishioners and 24 non-parishioners regularly serve on weekly teams; approximately 30 others serve as substitutes as the need arises and respond to our meetup.org appeals. We thank our volunteers for their ingenuity and grace during the kitchen's drain repairs. Following the departure of two long-time Monday captains, David Holkeboer acted as a substitute for several weeks, but is now recruiting and training volunteers to serve as Monday captains. New volunteers who can make a monthly commitment are always welcome.

Christmas Gifts for Ellington Shelter Kids

For many years, parishioners at St. Ignatius of Antioch have collected new, wrapped presents for children spending Christmas in the Ellington Shelter, which provides temporary accommodations for homeless families. This year, counselors at Ellington Shelter said they anticipated they would have more than 90 kids, ranging in age from newborn to 18 years old, at the shelter. Generous parishioners and their friends quickly gathered about 100 gifts. Special thanks to Kristy Milkov and Meredith Strauss for organizing and publicizing this outreach effort, and to Abigail and Derald Plumer, who delivered the gifts on Christmas Eve to many thanks from the shelter staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Hughes

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CLERGY

The Rev'd Dr Andrew C. Blume	<i>Rector</i>
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

Ms Abigail Franklin Plumer	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Ms Holly Hughes	<i>Churchwarden</i>
Mr James E. K. Brown	<i>Treasurer</i>
Ms Jennifer Udden	<i>Clerk</i>

Ms Stephanie Cowell	Ms Kristy Milkov
Mr Scott McDermott	Ms Lucy Kuemmerle
Mr James E. K. Brown	Mr Jeffrey Toombs
Ms Cathryn Phelps	Ms Meredith C. Strauss

Ms Jennifer Udden

Vestry

STAFF

Mr James Kennerley	<i>Organist & Choirmaster</i>
Ms Catherine Hedberg	<i>Office Coordinator</i>
Mr Boniface Nawita	<i>Sexton</i>