



2016 Annual Report

*St. Benedict's
is a welcoming
community
sharing and spreading
Christ's love
through worship,
education,
fellowship and
outreach.*

Photo by Stanley Coker

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
September 18, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ OPENING PRAYER
- II. LAST YEAR'S MINUTES
- III. RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT-see insert
- IV. TREASURER REPORT
 - A. Financial Overview
 - B. Budget Review
- V. DAY SCHOOL REPORT-see insert
- VI. KAREN SAWYER, SEMINARIAN & PASTORAL CARE
- VII. MINISTRY REPORTS
 - A. Music Ministry
 - B. Adult Formation
- C. Youth Ministry
- D. Children's Ministry
- E. Parish Activities
- F. The Guild of St. Clare
- G. Mission & Outreach
- H. Spanish Speaking Ministry
- I. Building & Grounds
- J. Registrar
- K. Stewardship Campaign
- L. Sound Ministry
- M. Flower Committee
- N. Altar Guild
- O. Acolyte Ministry
- VIII. DISCUSSION
- IX. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER

III. Rector's Annual Report

By The Rev. Brian Sullivan
See Insert.



IV. Treasurer's Report

By Brook Garrett and David Oliver

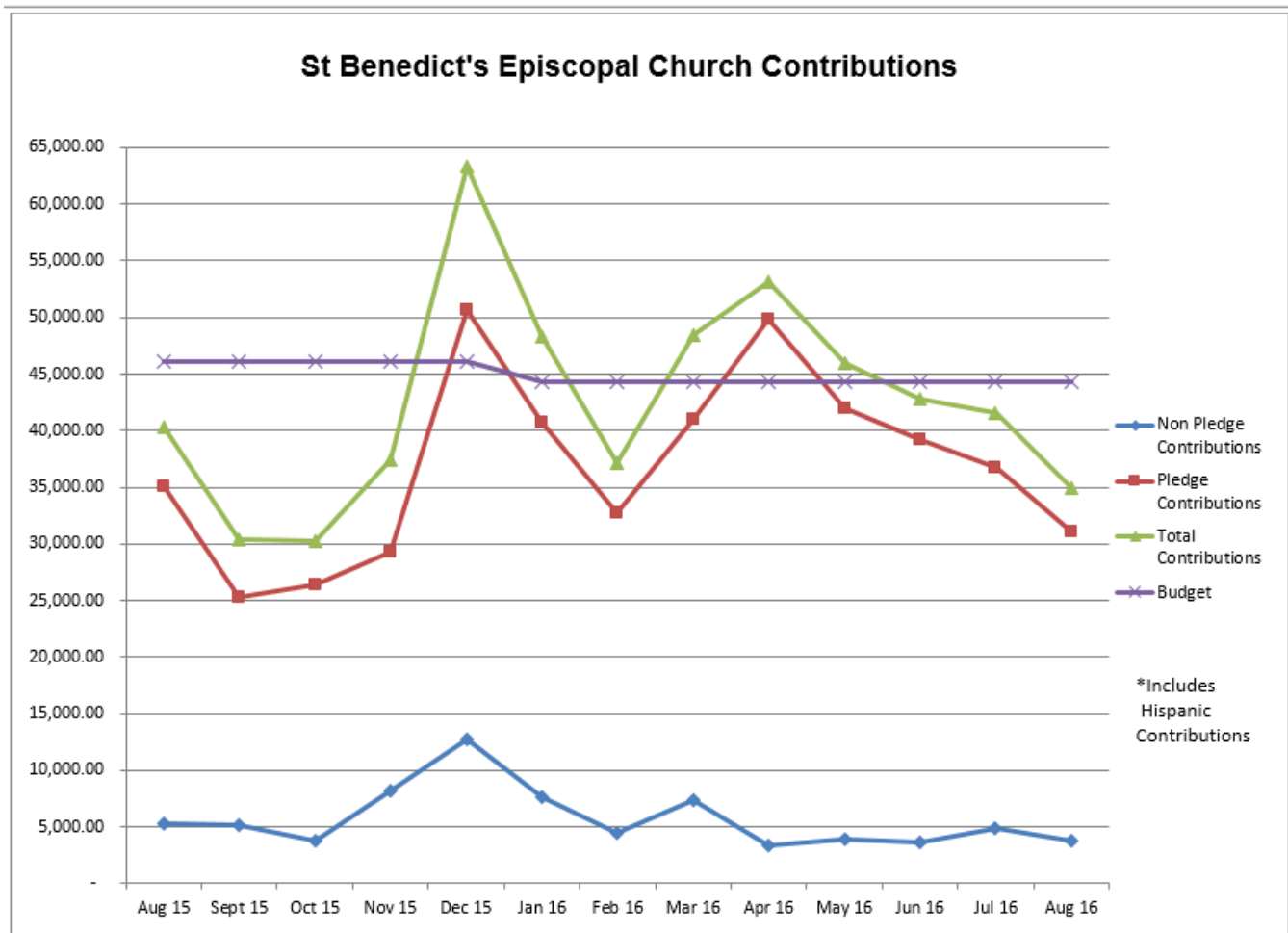
A. Financial Overview for annual Meeting September 18, 2016

Unrestricted Operating Fund Summary As of 9/4/2016	Year to Date		Annual	Year to Date		%	Annual	%
	Year to Date	Budget	Budget	Variance	Yr to Date	Variance	Annual	
Pledge Contributions (Regular stewardship)	\$ 290,975	\$ 315,000	\$ 455,000	\$ (24,025)	92%	\$ (164,025)	64%	
150-150 Pledge Contributions *	28,580	-	-	28,430	100%	28,580	100	
Non Pledge Contributions	39,650	53,308	77,000	(13,658)	74%	(37,350)	51%	
Other Income	20,959	5,608	8,100	15,351	374%	12,859	259%	
Total Operating Revenue	380,164	373,916	540,100	6,098	102%	(159,936)	70%	
Total Operating Expenses	347,196	373,724	539,823	(26,528)	93%	(192,627)	64%	
Net Income/Loss	\$ 32,968	\$ 192	\$ 277	\$ 32,626		\$ 32,691		

* 150/150 Pledge Contributions were not budgeted for in 2016 and are listed separately from Regular 2016 Pledge Stewardship Contributions. There is approximately \$300 left to collect on 150/150 Pledge Commitments.

Church Cash Balances as of 09/04/2016	
Operating	\$ 127,695
Capital	12,512
Building	73,630
Total Church Cash	\$ 213,837

Recap of Total Operating Cash	
Unrestricted Cash GL Balance	\$ 76,708
Restricted Cash GL Balance	50,987
Total Operating Cash	\$ 127,695



St Benedict's Episcopal Church
Summary Operating Budget

	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Revenues		
Contributions	532,000.00	642,700.00
Other Income	8,100.00	8,100.00
Total Revenues	540,100.00	650,800.00
Expense		
Personnel & Administration		
Salaries & Benefits	356,873.00	414,183.03
Professional Fees	1,300.00	1,500.00
Audit Fees	0.00	10,000.00
Administration	48,347.00	49,165.00
Technology	15,788.00	17,400.00
Parish Wide Ministries & Programs		
Adult	500.00	500.00
Youth	3,200.00	3,200.00
Children's	6,000.00	7,820.00
Music	22,000.00	27,989.00
Worship	3,450.00	3,450.00
Parish Life & Member Support	1,650.00	1,800.00
Pastoral Care	300.00	300.00
Missions & Outreach	1,700.00	1,700.00
Diocesan Pledge	55,312.00	56,992.97
Buildings & Grounds	23,680.00	54,800.00
Total Expenses	540,100.00	650,800.00
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	0.00	0.00

V. Day School Report
 by Brian Sullivan Head of School
 See insert



VI. Karen Sawyer, Seminarian & Pastoral Care

My main work at St. Benedict's over the past two years has been with the Pastoral Care team. After a time of discernment in August through December of 2014, in January 2014 the Pastoral Care team decided to broaden their ability to serve the parishioners of St. Benedict's by choosing to create a Community of Hope group and go through lay pastoral training. Community of Hope is a program to train people to become lay chaplains that is based on the Rule of St. Benedict.

The Community of Hope group at St. Benedict's has completed their training and will be commissioned in October. The training has been a great opportunity to bring a group of people together to learn the importance of presence and self-understanding that allows each person to better walk alongside people who are suffering. Community of Hope at St. Benedict's provides an opportunity to be a part of ministry in a new way and connect with people in a form that reminds us all of the presence of God. We look forward to see how the mission of Community of Hope will shape the parishioners of St. Benedict's within and outside the central group of Community of Hope. It has been a privilege to work with the Pastoral Care team these past two years. I have also worked with the youth and with adult education. I will continue to work with the youth this fall by leading Confirmation classes through December. Formation and education are important to my call in ministry and I am grateful to continue to learn about teaching and forming people in the Christian life especially through preparation for Confirmation. Finally, I will continue to preach throughout the year and appreciate all the feedback I have received and will continue to shape and grow in my preaching ability.

VII. Ministry Reports

A. MUSIC MINISTRY

By Lynn Swanson

Music Director and Organist, Lynn Swanson, begins her sixth year of ministry at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church.

The Choir of St. Benedict's continues to invite new members into its fold by offering community singers the opportunity to participate in large scale master works performances. We have hosted six performances for chorus and orchestra since 2011. They include Handel's MESSIAH, Haydn's THE CREATION, Bach's MAGNIFICAT, Faure's REQUIEM and John Rutter's REQUIEM as a part of an All Saints' service. We will continue with the Annual Community Messiah Sing Along with orchestra. Because of its great success, we will be able to continue offering this to our church and the broader north Atlanta area. We will begin offering monthly choral evensongs for our parish and community. They will be led by the Choir of St. Benedict's and the Trinity Youth Choir.

Our children's and youth choirs continue to grow. We have three choirs, the St. Cecelia Choir for Kindergarten - First Grade, the Grace Choir for Second - Third Grade, the Trinity

Choir for Fourth - Eighth Grade singers. In January, we added the part time positions of Associate Music Director and Assistant Children's Choirs Director to our staff. Each choir rehearses weekly preparing anthems monthly for worship and a concert at the end of April. The children's choirs are learning to read music through the use of solfege, Kodaly handsigns, percussion instruments, Schulmerich handchimes and our three octave Schulmerich handbells. All three children's and youth choirs have been an integral part of the The Feast of Nine Lessons and Carols, the 5:00 Christmas eve service and the spring concert.

The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers of The Choral Foundation continue to call St. Benedict's their rehearsal and concert home. Several of the singers offer their time and talents to our parish choir on a routine basis and make their membership with the parish.

St. Benedict's Parish and The William Baker Choral Foundation continue their great partnership. The church has supplied a rehearsal and performance space for the Lynn Swanson Festival Singers and the Cobb Summer Singers, two ensembles of the Foundation. The Lynn Swanson Festival Singers and the Cobb Summer Singers have enjoyed presenting concerts in our lovely nave. In turn, our church has welcomed the opportunity to greet so many newcomers to St. Benedict's through these performances which often brings hundreds of people into our church for one event. The Choral Foundation is privileged to share its resources including music and orchestral scores, singers and instrumentalists for use at all of our worship services and concerts.

The music ministry continues to be blessed with a small, but growing group of benefactors and volunteers that support the music ministry's dreams and goals. Because of the creation of the Friends of St. Benedict's Music we have been able to develop a relationship with many of the guests that come to our church to experience the performances of the Festival Singers, Summer Singers and Parish Choir.

Friends of St. Benedict's Music has begun hosting receptions following the concerts and also serve as door greeters before and after these performances. Thanks to the financial and volunteer support provided by Friends of St. Benedict's Music have funded the performance of the Faure Requiem, Rutter Requiem and Annual Community Messiah Sing Along. Friends of St. Benedict's Music has also provided funding for our new Music Room which is in the south wing room 302. The Parish Choir has enjoyed making this our rehearsal home and our children have enjoyed having a designated space to practice handbells, play musical games and sing songs. Because we have increased designated space, we have been able to properly store our anthems and other instruments and accessories.

It continues to be a joy and privilege to work with the great staff and parishioners of St. Benedict's Episcopal Church. I look forward to a long and happy tenure at this parish

knowing God will continue to bless our church as we continue serving the community of Smyrna/Vinings.

B. ADULT FORMATION

At St. Benedict's, the common theme that undergirds our spiritual formation and Christian education programs is "Grow in Faith." When we use this deceptively simple phrase, we are speaking of this renewal, this transformation in both our personal lives and our common life of faith.

As a community, we share the common prayer to continually grow in our understanding of what it means to be the beloved children of God in this world--children called to serve others, pray continuously, worship God, and develop a deeper understanding of our faith.

St. Paul knows that this process of transformation, of spiritual growth, is not easy. This is why he then uses the language of discernment and reflection in our relationship with our Creator. Spiritual growth, growth in our relationship with God, is a process that takes time, honesty, prayer, and community - all done with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is our prayer that you find the spiritual formation programs at St. Benedict's enriching, challenging, encouraging, and renewing.

Adult Formation opportunities at St. Benedict's use a dynamic approach that encourages questions, discussion, and sharing in a safe, inclusive environment. Our offerings include:

- Adult Forum with TED talks discussions
- Bible Study on the lectionary readings of the day
- Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings discuss the Gospel of the week
- Theology on Tap meets the second Tuesday of each month discussing interesting theological topics ranging from Elections to Ancient theology. Lead by Brian Sullivan and Aaron Caldwell.
- St. B's Book Club meet monthly and discuss current books of interest and occasionally provide discussions with local authors or guest speakers. Leaders: Carolyn Elsner, Gail Sickling and Adrienne Wilson.
- Education for Ministry (EFM) program is a four-year Christian education program administered through Sewanee School of Theology of the University of the South. Trained mentors guide participants through scriptural study, theological reflections, church history, and Christian theology. Participants may choose to commit to one year of study at a time. Classes will meet September through May. One of the key aspects of the program is the community formed between participants in the group and the exploration and discernment of one's own personal ministry, both in the church and the world. The entire program spans four years but participants are asked to commit one year at a time.

C. YOUTH MINISTRY

By Hayley Tyler

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC):

The Episcopal Youth Community is a fellowship group for 6-12th graders that meets for service and fun at St. Benedict's. The goal of EYC is to engage our youth in a welcoming faith community where they are invited and allowed to expand their beliefs as Christians and Episcopalians. We hope to encourage them along their spiritual journeys and to prepare them to live Christ-centered lives. This group will meet once a week on Tuesdays for dinner, devotion, and fellowship. We also have opportunities for special events and activities throughout the year such as, lock-ins, retreats, and Diocesan events sponsored by the DYC.

Tuesday Small Group

During the school year all youth in 6th-12th grade gather on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM for dinner, devotion, and fellowship. We meet in the parish hall for dinner and then moved up to the nave for small groups. Our Tuesday small group has been successful at welcoming all youth into fellowship on a weekly basis. Our attendance consistently averages between 14-24 youth. Youth are asked to bring 3-5 dollars to contribute to the cost of dinner.

Youth Sunday

In May our youth lead the 10:30 service for Youth Sunday. Youth spent the night at the church for a Lock-in and then lead worship on Sunday morning.

Retreats and Diocesan Events:

St. Benedict's youth continue to be involved in diocesan events including:

- Diocesan Service Day
- Annual Council Lock-In
- Happening
- The Hunger Walk
- Walk the Road at the Emmaus House
- Summer Tubing Trip to Helen
- Summer Camps:
- This summer youth from St. Benedict's attended JYP (Youth Week) at Kanuga in Hendersonville, NC and Camp Mikell in Toccoa, GA.

Youth Formation:

Youth in 6th-8th grade met in the youth corner during the formation hour for Rite 13 and closed out the year with their Rite 13 Ceremony. Our 7th grade youth will remain in Rite 13 and be joined by the incoming 6th grade youth. Our 8th - 12th grade youth will move up to J2A (Journey to Adulthood) and confirmation classes will begin for those who wish to be confirmed.

Outreach:

Each year the Emmaus House sponsors a Thanksgiving at home program for their neighbors in Peoplestown. Our youth collected and delivered over 50 bags of Thanksgiving side items to the Emmaus House. We also made sandwiches during our lock-in for the Emmaus House.

Volunteers and Youth Advisors:

As this ministry continues to grow we will need more volunteers to serve as youth advisors for EYC and Sunday morning formation teachers. We are very thankful for our current Youth Advisors and our new youth formation teachers.

D. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Courtney Vaughn

At St. Benedict's, our spiritual commitment to our children is deep. We recognize that as members of the body of Christ, we are responsible for the nurture and development of faith in our children. In planning, implementing, and maintaining our programs we follow the Children's Charter for the Church, which incorporates three aspects: the nurture of the child, the ministry to the child, and the ministry of the child. Knowing that children already have a relationship with God, we seek to provide the space where they can explore and grow in that relationship.

Nursery

The nursery at St. Benedict's saw some big changes this year. We remodeled the old PE room into two beautiful new nursery rooms! We are now able to offer separate rooms for infants and toddlers. We also ended our contract with the referral agency that we had used since we started. We have hired our own Sunday caregivers who are already building relationships with our youngest parishioners. With the change to staff caregivers we are now able to offer a Sunday school class and Chapel service for our toddler age children.

Sunday School

Preschool - 2nd graders "soared" through the Bible last year with a curriculum written in house. Their theme was Super Sundays, and each week they learned about a different "superhero" from the Bible. They also learned how Jesus taught them to be "superheroes" in their own lives.



We started a new Sunday school class for the 3rd - 5th graders last year. Named "Rite in the Middle" this class serves as a bridge from the children's program to the youth program. We spent our time together in this class building relationships, exploring our faith, and eating doughnuts!

Children's Chapel

We continued using the Godly Play approach in Children's Chapel. There were many Sundays where Chapel was bursting at the seams. During our time together in Chapel we explored the sacred stories from the Bible and the mystery of God's presence in our lives. Our 3rd - 5th graders continue to take leadership roles in Chapel and are building relationships with the younger children. Many



times it is one of our young volunteers who can help soothe a nervous newcomer!

This year we had to say goodbye to a familiar face in Chapel, Mr. Chuck (Ebbets) and his family moved to Greenville, SC, he will be greatly missed.

PreYC

We started a new 3rd-5th grade youth group this past year. On the last Sunday of the month (unless interrupted by a holiday) we were hanging out in the youth room eating pizza, sharing fellowship, and building friendships. Our meetings involved outreach, games, fellowship, and worship. We began the year by making scarves and toys for Pennies for Paws and Halloween treats for our Path to Shine friends. In November we helped set-up for the Advent Wreathing Making and celebrated Christmas with an Elf themed movie day. We lead the parish's first Souper Bowl of Caring event and raised \$187 dollars and collected 43 food items for MUST Ministries. In February we took a field trip to St. Anne's for a bowling match. We made communion bread for Children's Sunday. In April we created ice cream sundaes and played games. To finish out the year in May, we helped create the decoration for Spirit Week.



Spirit Week



Spirit Week 2016 at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church was an amazing week of fun, fellowship, and faith. We spent the week hearing stories from the bible about how people discovered Jesus in surprising places and how we can

discover Jesus and God in surprising places today! We welcomed 126 children from St. Benedict's and the larger community to Spirit Week. We were especially excited to have children from Path to Shine join us again this year. During the week the children made 930 ham and cheese sandwiches for MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program. This is the most sandwiches we have ever made at Spirit Week! The backbone of Spirit Week is the Spirit Week Planning Team: Laura Bracci, Amy Lancaster, Isabel Lancaster, Katie Loadholtes, Jen Moss, Jenn Sharrow, Jonathan Sharrow, and Alice Vaughn. This year we also welcomed Ms. Kate & Ms. Niccole as our new Spirit Week music leaders. Of course, Spirit Week could not happen without the wonderful volunteers who give their time and talents to the children of St. Benedict's. We had over 50 adult and youth volunteers this year

Special Programs

We continued to enjoy celebrating the seasons with special programs including: the Blessing of the Halloween Costumes, Breakfast with St. Nicholas, Advent Wreath Making & Spaghetti Dinner, the Paper Bag Christmas Pageant and new this year the Children's Candlelight Service, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and an Easter Egg Hunt. We once again offered the Holy Eucharist Exploration Class for children in K – 2nd grade to explore the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

Volunteers

Children's Ministries would not be possible without the support of all of the volunteers whose dedication, enthusiasm, and creativity are unmatched. Our amazing volunteers lead Sunday school, assist in Chapel, prepare and clean-up for special events, welcome new families to the church, fill more cups of goldfish crackers than they probably ever thought they would, clean up spilled water, stand outside bathroom doors, find lost crafts, roll up Chapel curtains, most often sit on the floor instead of in chairs and pews, keep our children safe, and nurture the faith of the young members of our church. In short, without these volunteers Children's Ministries wouldn't be the thriving ministry that it is. Thank you!

E. PARISH ACTIVITIES

By Davis Loftin

Our Parish is always bustling with activities and there are many opportunities for our members (new and not-so-new) to get involved:

- St. Frances Day – pet blessing
- The re-launch of the Parish Retreat was a huge success and the next retreat is January 27-29, 2017
- Parish Work Days
- Concert Series– Receptions
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Ugly Pants Brunch & Golf Tournament – be sure to sign up now!
- MUST Sandwich making for Mission and Outreach
- Rally Day 2016-2017

- BBQ on St. Benedict's Day, July 2017
- Parent's Night Out
- Trunk or Treat
- Lemonade and/or donuts after church
- Hispanic Mission Fall Festival
- Our Lady of Guadalupe

Please feel free to say hello after church or send me an email at dkloftin@gmail.com if there are any activities you would like to see added or if you would like to volunteer to help out.

F. THE GUILD OF ST. CLARE

By Adrienne

Contact: Toni Hufford, Vera McCabe and Adrienne Wilson
Various needlework projects have been completed for St. Benedict's. Time shared with other members of our parish aids in the growth of new fun and friendships.

Many blankets have been created and given to new babies in our church.

Twelve kneelers were designed and crafted by members.

The wedding kneeler is almost completed and will be soon be available.

G. MISSION & OUTREACH

Pennies For Paws

By Sandy Meier

Pennies for Paws is an outreach program that both the church and school do together, to raise funds for cats and dogs; all proceeds collected in the month of September are donated to a local non kill shelter, Atlanta Pet Rescue. The outreach consists of collecting change throughout the month of September and ending with the Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis's Day. Last year we raised a combined total of \$1201.83. For more information you can contact Sandy Meier at lynn_meier@hotmail.com.

MUST Ministries

By Carol Kirshner

Fifteen people participated in the MUST Toy Shop Staffing led by Ginny Parrino.

We collected 175+ stuffed socks for distribution through the MUST Toy Shop.

We had 3 people help deliver the socks to the MUST collection center in Kennesaw.

Path To Shine®

By Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake

Beginning October 2016 there will be 13 Path To Shine® programs, serving about 170 children, involving volunteers from 21 different churches and 8 denominations. Programs are located in: Acworth, Avondale Estates, Canton,

Columbus, Lawrenceville, Macon, Marietta, Morrow, North Atlanta, Perry, Roswell, Smyrna and Warner Robins.

We visit each location during the year to provide support and ensure quality standards. We also provide resources such as books (new and used) and school supplies, as well as 5 years of curriculum focusing on life skills. This past summer we gave 2 grants of \$500 each to fund summer activities in Perry and Marietta.

In May we watched our first student “graduate” middle school from an independent school; he had been given financial support through our Fund the Gap program. We have 2 student candidates who are applying for the next school year, and we hope to support 2 – 3 new students annually for their 3 years of middle school. Deacon Edith Woodling works as the Educational Consultant, and has been a wonderful addition for the work being done.

Path To Shine® —St. Benedict’s

We support 2 separate Path To Shine programs at St. Benedict’s, as well as the Back To School supply drive and the Angel Tree. Details follow.

San Benedicto program

Sandy Meier is the director for this program which meets from 1 – 2:15pm in the Parish Hall on Sundays. Last year we served nine children and had nine volunteers. The program supports children from the San Benedicto community. Although time is short, we are busy with reading and learning life skills. Consistent student and volunteer pairings each week foster trust and encouragement. We have seen a lot of growth in the children since we began in January 2013.

Marietta/Olive Springs program

We met on Mondays, after school, at Olive Springs Baptist Church for our 5th year supporting children from Fair Oaks Elementary. During 2015-2016 we had 19 children and 11 adult volunteers, ably led by Jim Ell and Ellen Mauzy. As we have the last few years, we took the children bowling on the MLK holiday – a day when there is no school, but there is Path To Shine, so we have an opportunity to do something special with them. During the summer, a dozen of our children were able to participate in St. Benedict’s Spirit Week, and an additional 2 weeks of fun at Olive Springs brought as many as 18 children. We took the children on a field trip to the Dunwoody Nature Center, which was a great learning experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A highlight was when Andreas Wilder, St. B’s parishioner, and Sunday PTS volunteer, came to visit our program as a guest speaker in his U.S. army uniform. He was a big hit!

Back to School Back Pack Project

This year St. Benedict’s sent 30 children back to school with back packs filled with the supplies they needed to start the year off right!

Angel Tree

Last year the St. Benedict’s community supported 20 families in the Smyrna area by giving them gifts, clothes, shoes and gift cards for Christmas. The mothers of the families are invited to a Christmas luncheon where volunteers from the church also gather for fellowship and Christmas joy, and help the Mothers wrap their family’s gifts . For more information about either of these projects contact Sandy Meier.

Contact information

Sandy Meier lynn_meier@hotmail.com

Jim Ell jell7@gmail.com

Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake lesleyann@pathtoshine.com

Deacon Edith Woodling edith@mysaintb.org

Holy Comforter Ministry

By Peggy Kessler

St. Benedict’s has hosted Wednesday night suppers for the Holy Comforter community three times during the past year. The dinners are hosted by various Episcopal churches throughout the Atlanta community. We have wonderful support from St. Benedict’s members through provision of food, cooking and serving the meal. At our July dinner, we had twice the usual number of guests including the Diocesan Youth Group and other special supporters. The St. B’s volunteers came through with increased food donations, plus new volunteers coming to serve. We have managed to remain well under budget this year due to the generosity of our St. B’s family.

Church of the common Ground

By Ray Jack

I went to Sunday school last fall and met Mary Wetzel, priest, and Eddie, the music director. Then I went to EFM, and got support. The week before we went down, Brain announces our effort. We all made lunches, and 3-4 of us went down.

New people are coming into the fold each time. We've been taking 100+ lunches, and 8-12 Benedictines with us. It's so easy to do so much good, and so gratifying to witness the good being done. So, let's make some more sandwiches, bring some more socks, magazines, books, shoes, shopping bags, and Love. Our prescience, being there, satisfies a different hunger, and has been commanded by Jesus. When you can, please come down with us.

Our next scheduled visit is September 25, 2016. Spread The Word.

Hunger Walk

The 2016 Hunger Walk/Run was an incredible success, and with your help the Episcopal Charities Foundation has received \$23,307.26 to give to hunger-related ministries and organizations!

As a special way of saying thank you to the parishes who were most instrumental in our success, we have decided to distribute these funds in a different way this year. Rather than selecting a single organization to receive these funds, we would like to work with the top fundraising parishes overall and in each convocation to identify hunger-related ministries and organizations throughout the Diocese who are deserving of these funds.

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that St. Benedict's was one of our top fundraising parishes overall! **In recognition for your significant efforts, we would like for St. Benedict's to help us identify a meaningful hunger-related ministry or organization to receive a grant of \$1,000 from Episcopal Charities Foundation!** This can be a hunger-related ministry at your parish, or can be a hunger-related organization that your parish works with in your area.

We are happy to announce that the funds are going to Path To Shine Marrow and Canton locations for snacks.

H. SPANISH SPEAKING MINISTRY

Hispanic Mission

By Jose Betances

Attendance

During this past year, our attendance has averaged 100 members on Sunday, this includes adults, youths and children. Compare to prior years the attendance has dropped. We contribute the drop to many factors such as, social economics and many of our members live outside the Smyrna area. Another thing affecting the numbers is that we don't count the music team or the children and leaders in day care during service.

Father Ramon

He continues providing assistance to the community with pastoral care. Many of members are suffering from divorce, domestic violence and immigration situations. He has contacted them with the proper institutions, and most importantly he had provided them with personal support and prayers.

Community Formation

On Sundays the Spanish ministry offers two classes before the service (11:45-12:45). An adult class which is taught by Ruben Gonzalez and his wife, Andrea Gonzalez. The other class is First communion, which continues to be taught by Reina Segura. So far, more than 25 children have completed the class. Also about 17 of our members have signed up for the upcoming Diocese theology class. And last but not least, some of our children are attending the Path to Shine program.

I. BUILDING & GROUNDS

By Alex Massie

The building and grounds committee continues to work on keeping our beautiful church and school looking the best it can both inside and out.

This year we've had several major hi-visibility projects including:

- Buildout of the Nursery as well as a School & Church Work Center (complete with copier, paper cutter, laminator, etc.)
- Dry proofing the underground storage space under the kitchen so it could be utilized by the church and the school
- Trimming trees and removing dead limbs
- Installing a closet along the parish hall hallway

We are coming due for another "staycation" work day, we have a large building and lots of little things that crop up. During our last work day we all had fun spending time with everyone while making everything shine and sparkle. If you are interested in helping coordinate the next work day, please reach out to Betsy Shuford or Alex Massie. For the first time in St. Benedict's history we now have a facility manager working full time. Technically an employee of the school, the Facilities Manager helps manage the transformation of the space from church to school and school to church as well as constantly performing minor repairs and coordinating larger efforts with vendors.

We've also tackled some less glamorous tasks such as plumbing, painting, and making sure that we are up-to-standards with the Fire Marshall. We are still evaluating proposals to repair gutters along the front of the church as well as replace rotting fascia and trim boards. If you have any connections let us know!

If you have any skills (such as carpentry, landscaping, plumbing, electrical) or even just the desire to learn new skills we would love to have you on our crew. Our events are always fun opportunities to learn new things and just hang out with a great group of fellow parishioners. Also, if you have any ideas or things you would like to see happen here at St B's, we are always happy to hear what you have to say.

J. REGISTRAR

	Active Members & Active Others as of 9/1/15	1320
Increases	New Members	60
	New Members San Benedicto	65
	New Active Others	32
	New Active Others San Benedicto	4
		+161
Decreases	Deceased Members	0
	Members Made Inactive	62
	Members Transferred Out	12
	Others Marked Inactive	12
		-86
Net		+75
	Total Members & Active Others as of 9/1/16	1395

The chart on this page reflects changes in the number of members and active others during the twelve months ended on September 1, 2016.

Highlights

- Total active members and active others: 1394
- Average number of new members joining the parish each month: 10
- A member is someone who is baptized and has formalized membership at St. Benedict’s.
- An active other is someone who has not formalized their membership but is involved in the life of the parish.

K. STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

By Kate Wiley
 Committee Members: Sister Hood, Walter Massey, Alisa Purify, Leonard Wallace



2016 was a very rewarding year with regard to Stewardship. The "Building our Future" campaign brought in more pledging units and dollars than ever before. In the spring we ran the 150/150 to raise \$20,000 for a part-time priest and we exceeded the goal by getting 157 pledges for \$28,850! In late summer a committee was formed to explore how to continue the momentum going into 2017. Our focus in the "Living Generously" campaign will be on the talents and passions of our parish and how to share those gifts. Time, talent and treasure all an important part of stewardship are integral to the growth and continues success of St. Benedict’s.

L. SOUND

Team Lead: Randy Shuford
 Team Members: Mike Kirshner, Barkley Russell, Stuart Erkes



The St. Benedict’s Sound Ministry provides sound engineering and support for worship and fellowship events. This ministry started on the very first St. Benedict’s service at the Campbell Gym and continues today. Sound engineering is provided for Worship Services at 10:30. The 1:30 Hispanic service has a separate sound team.

M. FLOWER GUILD

By Helena Harris
 The Flower Guild at St. Benedict’s is made up of flower-loving individuals who use their talents to beautify the Nave on Sundays. The Nave is also decorated for Lent, Christmas and other appropriate holidays. Throughout the year the guild also decorates the Nave for weddings, renewal of vows, funerals, la quinceañera’s and any other specific requests. As our church grows, the flower guild continues to look for new members to swell its ranks. We are very fortunate to have a great pool of talented flower-loving individuals. The Flower Guild of St. Benedict’s thanks its parishioners for their support, without it, we could not do what we do. The following persons are on the flower guild: Helena Harris, Mindy Sullivan, Tinsely Patterson, Wallis Smith, Charlotte Mustard, Alisa Purify, Elizabeth Stuk, Jennifer Vaughn, Margaret Smith, Anna Best.

N. ALTAR GUILD

By Peggy Kessler
 This year the Altar Guild was busy with our normal weekly activities of setting the altar for Sunday services and everything that goes on to do that including caring for linens, filling candles, ensuring supplies and consumables are on hand, keeping silver and brass shining, etc. We received a funeral pall thanks to a memorial donation from the family of Dorothy Pierce, a longtime member of St. B’s. New linens were either purchased and/or donated and we helped stock the Acolyte closet. The brass on both torch candles was refurbished and two silver ciboria were repaired. All this was accomplished while staying just under budget, partially due to time and treasure being donated by Altar Guild members.

O. ACOLYTE MINISTRY

By Courtney Vaughn
 The acolyte ministry at St. Benedict’s is open to 3rd – 12th graders who are called to serve the church. The ministry of acolytes is a very old tradition in the Church. Acolytes have served as ministry helpers at God’s altars for over seventeen centuries. The position of acolyte covers not only servers, torchbearers and lighters of candles, but also crucifers, thurifers and banner-bearers. The acolyte’s role is to serve – to help in the presentation of the worship service. Acolytes work in close coordination with members

of the larger worship team: the clergy, altar guild, intercessors, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, ushers and more, for each service.

We currently have 39 acolytes serving in this ministry. We will add 7 new acolytes this fall. This year 3 of our acolytes attended the Diocesan Acolyte Festival. This was St. Benedict's first time to participate in the festival.



Parents share in leadership responsibilities in the acolyte ministry by:

- helping their child learn their role and duties
- reviewing the Acolyte Manual with their child just prior to their scheduled time
- ensuring their child arrives, minimally, 20 minutes before their scheduled time
- teaching their child the importance of honoring this commitment
- assisting their child in choosing appropriately sized albs and cinctures
- finding a substitute if their child will not be available for their scheduled time and informing the acolyte coordinator of any schedule changes
- placing a bulletin and hymnal on the acolyte bench before services begin for the acolyte to use during the service
- sitting where they can see their acolyte during the service so they can follow-up with them after the service if they need to be reminded of their roles and duties
- making sure everything is hung back in place properly after the service to be ready for the next week

In addition to the above expectations of all acolyte parents we also have a few parents who take on greater leadership roles in the acolyte ministry. Including training supervisors, schedule coordinators, robe coordinators, and recognition coordinators.

The ministry of the acolyte is a life-long ministry or service to the church. An acolyte, whether serving at the altar, worshipping in the pews, or going to school, has accepted a call to serve God.

Traditional Acolyte Prayer

Almighty God, who has called us, your servants, to the sacred office of Acolyte in your Church, that we may minister before You; we pray that in your great mercy You will guide, strengthen, and sanctify us by your Holy Spirit, that always doing your will, we may both by our service in your House and by our daily lives, please you and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contemporary Acolyte Prayer

Gracious God, the epitome of light and love: You call us to light the way for your people in a world of change and uncertainty. Grant to your acolytes reverent hearts, steady hands, and the will to persevere in service at your altar and at prayer. Bless and guide us by your wisdom and help us to spread your word throughout the world Through Jesus Christ our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

CHURCH CLERGY

The Rev. Brian Sullivan, Rector (brian@mysaintb.org)
 The Rev. Ramon Betances, Vicar of the Hispanic Ministry (ramon@mysaintb.org)
 The Rev. Bronson Bryant, Priest Associate (Retired) (bransonb@bellsouth.net)
 Deacon Edith Woodling, (edith@mysaintb.org)

CHURCH STAFF

Betsy Shuford, Parish Admin (betsy@mysaintb.org)
 Courtney Vaughn, Dir. of Children's Ministries and Registrar (courtney@mysaintb.org)
 Hayley Tyler, Youth Director (hayley@mysaintb.org)
 Carol Kirshner, Church Web Administrator (carol@mysaintb.org)
 Brook Garrett, Bookkeeper (brook@mysaintb.org)
 Lynn Swanson, Music Director (lynn@mysaintb.org)
 Kate Chastain, Associate Music Director (kate@mysaintb.org)
 Niccole Winney, Asst. Children's Choir Director
 Rachel Oliver, Children's Choir Accompanist
 Karen Sawyer, Seminarian

Treasurer

David Oliver, Treasurer (docu91@yahoo.com)

PATH TO SHINE

Deacon Lesley-Ann Drake, Dir. of Path To Shine (lesleyann@pathtoshine.org)
 Sandy Meier, St. Benedict's Sunday Program Coordinator (lynn_meier@hotmail.com)
 Jim Ell & Ellen Mauzy, St. Benedict's Monday Program Coordinator (jell7@hotmail.com & emauzy@att.net)

Vestry—Class of 2018

Bob Drake, Music (bobdrake55@gmail.com)
 Amy Lancaster, Children & Youth Ministry (alancaster@macoc.com)
 Michael Jones, Finance (michael_a_jones@homedepot.com)
 Gail Sickling, clerk (Sickling@mac.com)

Vestry—Class of 2017

Jose Betances, Spanish Ministry (josebetances19@gmail.com)
 Kate Wiley, Stewardship (katewiley26@aol.com)
 Alex Massie, Jr. Warden, Building & Grounds (alexjmassie@yahoo.com)
 Davis Loftin, Parish Activities (dkloftin@gmail.com)

Vestry—Class of 2016

Nick Loadholtes, Sr. Warden (nloadholtes@gmail.com)
 Robin Cahill-Roberts, Finance (rlr1217@aol.com)
 Ron Wilson, Mission & Outreach (ron.golf@att.net)
 Gil Morgan, Adult Formation (gil@propellerinvestments.com)