

**THE CHURCH OF
ST. JUDE AND THE NATIVITY
LAFAYETTE HILL, PA**
in the
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

(Published May 6, 2018)

The Church of St. Jude and the Nativity

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The Vestry

Jo Ann Fricker (2018) - Sr. Warden & Facility Rentals	215-680-5634
Jean MacKenzie (2020) - Jr. Warden & Christian Formation	215-528-7610
Penny Brodie (2019) - Garden & Labyrinth	610-416-5707
Celine Childs (2020) - Pastoral Care & Stewardship	610-825-3714
Donna Koryn (2018) - Worship Committee	484-231-8874
David Pierce (2018) - Property Manager	215-317-8911
Titi Lakeru-Rivers (2020) - Communications & Fundraising	610-564-6153

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I M P O R T A N T

PLEASE join us for our Annual Meeting on May 6th at 10 AM.
It is important that all members are informed!!
We need you!!

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

In 2017 my focus was on increasing pastoral care for individuals and families in our church community. With our senior warden, Jo Ann Fricker, I made visits to the sick at home, in hospitals and nursing homes. Weekly Bible study and healing prayer continue, with prayer for every member and friend of St. Jude's.

In addition, I interred the ashes of Don Austin in Albany, NY. I visited, anointed and attended the funeral of Roberta Schafer-Reppert's mother Dorothy Schafer in Reading, PA with several members of our congregation.

Special worship services included the funeral of Susan Henigan in April, the blessing of our St. Jude statue at Easter, the wedding of Jody Scheibe and David Pierce in September, the baptism of Jessica Alexandra McDonnell on All Saints' Day, and the dedication of new memorials on All Saints' Day. I also held a Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis Day in October.

With members of the vestry, I attended several meetings of Families CCAN, a pro-active support group for families of adults with special needs. A meeting was held at St. Jude's last summer to form a small cohort of families committed to creating community and solving the housing needs of their family members together. This cohort of local families continues to meet monthly at St. Jude's.

I also attended and participated in leadership with Jo Ann Fricker at monthly meetings of Rejoicing Spirits, a Lutheran worship service for special needs adults, their family members and/or caregivers at Christ's Lutheran in Oreland.

As your Priest-in-Charge, I also attended monthly meetings of the clergy of our deanery and quarterly meetings of the laity and clergy of our deanery. With your representatives, I attended the Absalom Jones Day celebration, pre-convention meetings, the annual Diocesan convention and volunteered with Jo Ann Fricker at the SHARE Food Program weekly.

The Rev. Judith B. Meckling
Priest-in-Charge
The Church of St. Jude and the Nativity
Lafayette Hill, PA

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During 2017, the parish of St. Jude and the Nativity has been blessed to work with our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Jude Meckling. She has truly been our Partner-in-Ministry, sharing in every aspect of this parish. She has so freely and compassionately given to this vestry and parish her wisdom and understanding in supporting us as we define a “new church model” in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Pastor Jude, for your invaluable leadership and your immeasurable time!!

The major focus of the vestry in 2017 was to step back for a moment and evaluate where we see ourselves in five to ten years. Since we are operating with only seven members on vestry, each of the vestry members has given many hours in keeping us a cohesive and functioning parish. Please thank each one of them!!

We examined our books very carefully with our new accountant, Betsy Wolford, in anticipation of completing a self-audit in the fall. Jean MacKenzie, junior warden, Jo Ann Fricker, senior warden, and Michele Foley, parish administrator, met six times to align our funds with our current practices. Most of the memorial accounts established in the past decade have been satisfied with a purchase that enhances our worship space; we have three more to fulfill.

On a hot mid-summer’s evening, we held an informational meeting for Families CCAN. With 92 present from around the Delaware Valley, we helped them disseminate valuable information to families with adult children with special needs. A smaller group of about 20 continues to meet monthly in our undercroft.

The vestry again approved a balanced budget for 2017.

We extended our two-year contract with Pastor Jude for another two years. Our annual clergy compensation package was \$44,236 including salary, health benefits, pension, and housing allowance.

We were under contract with Eden Presbyterian Church for 2017 to use our building each Sunday from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM at a rental fee of \$7,200 per year. Their service began at 2:00 PM. They had also added a Wednesday evening prayer meeting in the Guild Room at a rental fee of \$600 per year.

We have been receiving donations through the Amazon Smile program. If you shop on Amazon, please name us, Saint Jude & the Nativity. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the sales of eligible items to our parish.

We received permission from the attorneys representing Church Foundation to increase our quarterly disbursement to the maximum allowable 7% of the principal funds. As the rate of growth of the fund is less than 7%, this would involve dipping into the principal – which would be our goal.

We paid half of our Diocesan assessments. We were proud that we were able to pay something towards our assessments, even though the amount may not have granted us voice and vote at convention. We did have voice and vote.

Our budget does not (yet) include expenses for some of the major work that needs to be done to our property – tree work, electrical system, furnace/heating system, duct cleaning, etc.

On the next page, we have included the 2018 budget as adopted/revised by our vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Fricker, Vestry
Jean MacKenzie, Vestry

BUDGET 2018

We are ending 2017 with a budget deficit of \$0 since a substantial 2018 pledge was pre-paid in December 2017. Unfulfilled pledges totaled \$4,587, including \$2,430 from relocations/deaths. We paid \$2000 toward our Diocesan assessments. We continue to pay \$50 monthly toward the \$50,000 low-interest Diocesan loan.

The Vestry met December 12, 2017 to discuss this proposed budget and adopt it as a working budget for 2018. As of 1/14/18, Eden Presbyterian Church will be seeking a place to hold morning worship. We cannot at the present time rent the rectory. We do not know the extent of damage to the pipes that were frozen during the ice storms this winter.

We have contracted with Pastor Jude to continue her weekly hours at 15 hours through her retirement on May 20, 2018. Her pension and insurances will be covered through May 2018.

REVENUES		MINISTRIES		ADMINISTRATIVE	
Possible Additional Pledges	\$ 3,560.00				
Giving		Christian Education		Staff	
3-01-4000 Giving - Pledge	\$ 54,328.00	4-01-6001 Church School	\$ 200.00	4-01-6701 Salary	\$ 22,460.00
3-01-4010 Giving - Non-Pledge	\$ 1,500.00	4-01-6002 Adult Education	\$ 100.00	4-01-6705 Payroll Tax	\$ 1,725.00
3-01-4100 Giving - Plate	\$ 800.00	Total Christian Education	\$ 300.00	Total Staff	\$ 24,185.00
3-01-4103 Giving - Christmas	\$ 500.00			Other	
3-01-4104 Giving - Easter	\$ 500.00	Music		4-01-6710 Copier	\$ 2,000.00
3-01-4105 Giving - Other	\$ 200.00	Staff		4-01-6711 Postage	\$ 250.00
3-01-4106 Giving - Initial Offering	\$ 20.00	4-01-6101 Organist	\$ 13,500.00	4-01-6712 Office Supplies	\$ 400.00
3-01-4107 Giving - RDF	\$ 0.00	4-01-6105 Payroll Tax	\$ 1,000.00	4-01-6713 Business Expense	\$ 1,200.00
3-01-4108 Giving - Garden	\$ 600.00	4-01-6107 Supply Organist	\$ 1,000.00	4-01-6716 Telephone	\$ 1,400.00
Total Giving	\$ 58,448.00	Total Staff	\$ 15,500.00	4-01-6717 Payroll Process	\$ 225.00
		Music Other		4-01-6718 Bank Fees	\$ 50.00
Other Revenue		4-01-6110 Supplies	\$ 700.00	4-01-6719 Advertising	\$ 100.00
3-01-4202 Rentals - Rectory	\$ 22,000.00	4-01-6111 Choir Music	\$ 300.00	4-01-6720 Workers Comp Ins	\$ 300.00
3-01-4204 Rentals - Hall/Church	\$ 1,700.00	4-01-6112 Instrumentalists	\$ 0.00	4-01-6721 Accounting	\$ 500.00
3-01-4205 Fundraising Events	\$ 3,000.00	Total Music Other	\$ 1,000.00	Total Other	\$ 6,425.00
3-01-4210 Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00	Total Music	\$ 16,500.00		
Total Other Revenue	\$ 26,900.00			TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 30,610.00
		Worship		PROPERTY	
Investment Income		4-01-6204 Liturgical Supplies	\$ 700.00	Buildings & Grounds	
3-01-4300 Church Foundation	\$ 37,200.00	4-01-62XX Liturgical Memorials	\$ 0.00	4-01-7001 Property - Cleaning	\$ 3,000.00
Total Investment Income	\$ 37,200.00	Total Worship	\$ 700.00	4-01-7101 Liability Insurance	\$ 3,800.00
				4-01-7102 Supplies	\$ 500.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 122,548.00	Deanery & Diocese		4-01-7103 Repairs	\$ 2,000.00
		Deanery		4-01-7104 Snow Removal	\$ 2,000.00
EXPENSES		4-01-6301 Deanery Assessment	\$ 240.00	4-01-7105 Lawn Care	\$ 2,000.00
OFFICE OF THE RECTOR		Total Deanery	\$ 240.00	4-01-7107 Pest Control	\$ 780.00
RECTOR		Diocese		4-01-7108 Township Taxes	\$ 500.00
Compensation		4-01-6309 Convention	\$ 300.00	4-01-7109 Garden/Labyrinth Care	\$ 2,000.00
4-01-5001 Rector - Salary	\$ 9,000.00	4-01-6310 Pledge	\$ 100.00	4-01-7110 Garden Memorials	\$ 4,000.00
4-01-5002 Rector - Housing	\$ 5,000.00	4-01-6311 Assessment	\$ 3,307.00	Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 20,580.00
Total Compensation	\$ 14,000.00	4-01-6312 Retired Clergy	\$ 716.00	Utilities	
Benefits		4-01-6313 Clergy Financial Aid	\$ 237.00	4-01-7201 PECO	\$ 12,000.00
4-01-5004 Pension	\$ 3,200.00	4-01-63XX Payment Diocesan Loan	\$ 600.00	4-01-7202 Water	\$ 3,200.00
4-01-5005 Health Insurance	\$ 4,500.00	Total Diocese	\$ 5,260.00	4-01-7203 Sewer	\$ 2,200.00
4-01-5006 Travel	\$ 2,000.00	Total Deanery & Diocese	\$ 5,500.00	Total Utilities	\$ 17,400.00
4-01-5007 Telephone	\$ 0.00	Other Ministries		Rectory	
4-01-5008 Subs & Pubs	\$ 0.00	4-01-6401 Stewardship	\$ 300.00	4-01-7301 Fuel	\$ 1,000.00
4-01-5009 Continuing Ed	\$ 0.00	4-01-6402 Hospitality	\$ 1,000.00	4-01-7305 Repairs	\$ 1,500.00
4-01-5010 Business Expense	\$ 0.00	4-01-6403 Pastoral Care	\$ 200.00	Total Rectory	\$ 2,500.00
4-01-5011 Life Insurance	\$ 0.00	4-01-6405 Communication	\$ 500.00		
4-01-5012 Dental Insurance	\$ 0.00	4-01-6407 Vestry	\$ 750.00	TOTAL PROPERTY	\$ 40,480.00
Total Benefits	\$ 9,700.00	4-01-6408 Outreach	\$ 50.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 125,990.00
TOTAL RECTOR	\$ 23,700.00	Total Other Ministries	\$ 2,800.00	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$ (3,442.00)
		TOTAL MINISTRIES	\$ 25,800.00		
Other					
4-01-5010 Clergy - Supplies	\$ 0.00				
4-01-5102 Clergy - Supply Clergy	\$ 5,400.00				
Total Other	\$ 5,400.00				
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE RECTOR	\$ 29,100.00				



**DEDICATIONS
ALL SAINTS' 2017**





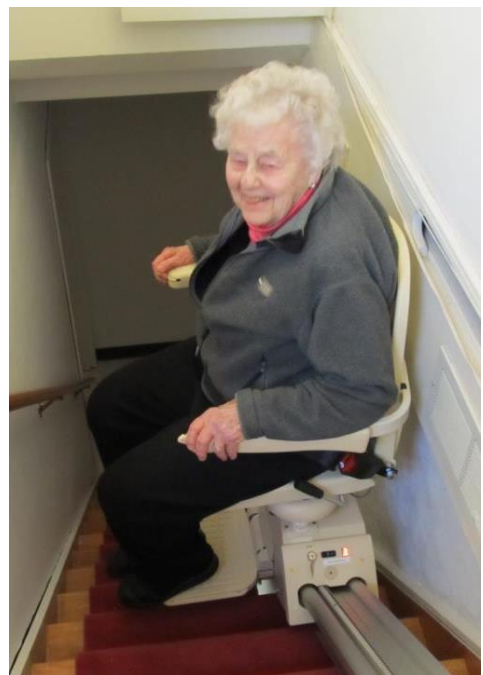
Margaret Evans Clark was a member of the Altar Guild and the Crafters' Guild at St. Jude's. She also served as an usher on Sundays, loved the Eucharist, and participated in the midweek healing service. Her contributions to potlucks included Texas sheet cake and her famous broccoli salad.



Susan Porter Henigan was an usher and a reader at St. Jude's. She also participated in dramatic productions, loved the Eucharist, and enjoyed being around her church family. She made a mean spinach dip and photo bombed pictures of Bishop Gutierrez at the St. Jude's Deanery Picnic.



Bob Evans raised his family at St. Jude's. Together with his wife Sarah, Bob served as an usher and folded Sunday bulletins. He also helped with parking at the church flea markets and cooked for the annual Pancake Breakfast with other members of the Men's Group.



Ruth Twelves Nevergole was a Sunday school teacher, coordinated the annual Christmas caroling visits and organized the sharing of flowers from the altar with those who could not get to church on Sunday. She donated the St. Jude's Christmas Creche in honor of her husband, J. Mack Nevergole.

STEWARDSHIP

Our fall pledge drive resulted in approximately \$54,328.00 in pledges for 2018, a significant drop of \$5,560 from 2017. It is concerning.

Our per-family giving is still well below the average for the Diocese and National Church. We should continue to examine our relationship with God, and how to best use our time, our abilities, and our financial resources in God's service.

We continue to ask that members pledge a percentage of their income between 3% and 10% as the first fruits of their labor. That way, the amount will automatically adjust for increases or decreases in your income.

Another and equally important way that our members have exercised good Christian Stewardship last year was by generously volunteering their time and talent to a whole host of ministries. Many have helped to host coffee hours, plan fundraisers, read lessons, sing anthems, and teach church school, to name just a few. Many who have done this work have done so quietly and with little, if any, recognition. If you have exercised this kind of stewardship, thank you. You have made our church better. If you have not volunteered, please reach out to any Vestry member or committee chair and share your time and talent in these efforts or other similar projects.

On behalf of the Vestry, I want to thank you for your continued support of this parish over the past year. We all believe that, together, we can, and will, do all that God is calling us to do.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Childs, Vestry

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care committee had no members. Rev. Jude Meckling and Jo Ann Fricker visited all the people in our community that were sick, undergoing or recovering from surgery, or residing in a care facility. They provided the most recent news from the parish, a Sunday morning leaflet and a celebration of the Eucharist.

This ministry also helped our membership to keep in touch with parishioners with cards, phone calls, rides to doctor appointments, or meals. This is an important part in supporting members of our community.

Morning Prayer Group continued most Tuesday mornings in a member's home. During the healing service each week, the group of three prayed by name for each member and friend of this community asking for support and help for their specific needs.

It is a very rewarding feeling to be helpful to one in need!

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Childs, Vestry

GODLY PLAY

Godly Play for children 3-6 enjoyed its fifth year at SJN. Lessons take place on the second and fourth Sundays, but we also met every week during Advent and Lent, as the lessons build on previous lessons week by week. The children are attentive and interested in the lessons, and now recognize and re-tell familiar stories. The roster has been quite small – typically three or four children from two families.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean MacKenzie, Vestry

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee comprises those parishioners who oversee these individual ministries and works very closely with Pastor Jude. The ministries under Worship are: Ushers, Readers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, and Music. All parishioners are encouraged to volunteer for this committee or one of the ministries under it. Worship Committee meets monthly with Karen to select liturgical music for our services and closely with Jean MacKenzie to plan for Shrove Tuesday.

This is a very important ministry and serves our Lord in so many ways. We thank all currently involved in one of these ministries and welcome anyone who may wish to join with us. Please contact me or the head of one of the committees.

Blessings to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Koryn, Vestry

READERS & CHALICE BEARERS

A big thank you to all of you who give your time and service every week to read and be a chalice bearer during our services. You are a faithful group and a very important part of our church service. Thank you for dedicating your time to this important ministry. Anyone who may be interested in being a reader please contact Barbie.

A huge thank you to the following people:

Chalice Bearers: Celine Childs, Jo Ann Fricker, Donna Koryn, Chris Murphy and Dan Ronca.

Readers: Penny Brodie, Jo Ann Fricker, Martha Fuller, Ranjit Itteryah, Titi Lakeru-Rivers, Noeleen Laing, Jean MacKenzie, Chris Murphy, Lisa Murphy, David Pierce, Jody Pierce, Dan Ronca, Heather Ronca and David Stevenson.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbie Smiley

ALTAR GUILD

Caring for the Lord's Table is a very important ministry in the church. It is a ministry that is open to everyone in the church. Duties include setting up the altar each week, including special holidays, funerals and weddings, arranging holiday flowers when needed, polishing and caring for the silver, laundering and maintaining the altar coverings.

I appreciate everyone's time, dedication and commitment to this important committee at St. Jude and the Nativity.

Over the years we have lost several members and are always looking for new members. If anyone is interested in joining our group, please call Patti DiMariano (610-313-9226).

The additional current members of the Altar Guild are:

Sarah Evans
Donna Koryn
Noeleen Laing

Heather Ronca
Tomasia Stevenson
Babs Zulick

Respectfully submitted,
Patti DiMariano

USHERS

Thank you to everyone who has served as an usher in the past year. It is a duty not taken lightly and everyone who has participated has done so with cheerfulness and purpose.

We wish to thank the following people who have ushered in 2017:

Penny Brodie
Patti DiMariano
Gary DiMariano
Martha Fuller
Shantha Ittyerah
Noeleen Laing

Chris Murphy
Jean Mackenzie
Dave Pierce
Jody Pierce
David Stevenson
Babs Zulick

Again we welcome anyone who would like to usher. Ushering is part of God's work and it can be a great way of welcoming new people to St. Jude's Church.

If anyone has been left off the list or would like to be removed from the list, please contact Penny Brodie.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Brodie, Vestry

ACOLYTES

Our current members include Emma Smiley, Julia Ronca, Andrew Ronca and Shane Murphy.

I would like to thank all of our acolytes for their time, commitment and years of service, along with sincere thanks to Alastair Reeder who serves as a crucifer and has served for many years at our church. Also, I would like to give Andrew Ronca a special thank you for his role in carrying the wooden cross during special services and for transitioning into a full time acolyte.

We are currently down a member, so we are always looking for new members to expand our program. If your child is interested in joining, please see Patti DiMariano.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti DiMariano

MUSIC MINISTRY

This season in the life of the St. Jude Choir, more than I've ever seen before, each member has stepped up and been a more vital, energetic, and precious jewel in our music. For both our Sunday services and the special times of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, this choir has amazed me with its 'big thinking small choir' dedication. We have been a bit leaner than last season without Barbie Smiley, due to illness and injury. [Barbie, you are never out of our thoughts or our hearts! We hope that in the not-too-distant future you can rejoin us.] That Barbie was able to come to a few services and sing from the congregation – by memory – our Easter anthem is a testament to how much the choir means to her. Every other choir member – Jo Ann, Celine, Titi, and Dan – has shown his or her great joy of singing, especially in their church. I have sung in, directed, and accompanied many choirs in my career. St. Jude is simply the most special choir I've ever been a part of. I am incredibly proud of them. Their diligence, love of their church, and can-do spirit moves me every single week.

All Saints' Day, Advent, Christmas, and Easter were all lovely, especially with the beautiful addition of strings on Christmas Eve. For those who were here on Maundy Thursday, the combination of this poignant service and its music seems to have been particularly meaningful. If there is one service I will remember most this year, it is this one.

As all of you know, each member of the choir has served on the vestry, chaired one or more committees, headed up the Flea Market or Christmas Bazaar, taught the children about the Creche at Christmas, and/or been part of the Crafters. This extraordinarily dedicated, small but mighty group of people also comprises my beloved St. Jude Choir. Thank you, and God Bless You ALL.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hepler
Director of Music

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Parish Life had a successful 2017 season.

Hearty soups were shared during our Souper Bowl Sunday. Many to-go containers left the building!! Our official dessert taster was Sarah Evans. She declared them all delicious!!

The Annual Pancake Breakfast during Lent was hosted by the men of the parish. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all, especially the ladies.

One of my favorite events was when we all came together as a spiritual family for the Maundy Thursday Service and Pot Luck Dinner. As we have come to expect, the food was awesome and each year seems to be getting better. Thanks to all for making this such a success. After dinner we had the foot washing (massage) and then went to the church for the Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar.

To kick off the 2017-2018 season, we held our annual Welcome Back Luncheon in the undercroft. We had a great turnout and shared delicious food and good fellowship.

Santa visited the ever-popular Pizza with Santa on the Sunday before Christmas after the Greening of the Church. Santa posed with the children and adults alike for many pictures. A good time was had by all. Several pairs of Duluth compression socks mysteriously appeared in the office for Pastor Jude!!

Once again I have to thank David and Brian Pierce who are always ready to pitch in and help whenever we need them to set up and break down after an event. These functions would never come to be without them. Thanks so much, guys, you have the heartfelt thanks of the Parish Life Committee.

Parish Life is ever expanding and, sadly, we have lost several of our members. We are looking for some new members, so please contact me. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with this dedicated group of ladies. A special thanks to: Penny Brodie, Celine Childs, Sarah Evans, Jo Ann Fricker, Martha Fuller, Shantha Ittyerah, Titi Lakeru-Rivers, Jean MacKenzie, The Rev. Jude Meckling, Lisa Murphy, Jody Pierce, Heather Ronca, and Tomasa Stevenson. They are always ready to jump in and do everything needed to pull off these events. THANK YOU LADIES!!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Koryn, Vestry

COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to the many volunteers who contribute to this weekly gathering. We all look forward to friendship and fellowship along with simple and delicious refreshments provided by our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses.

This summer we are also bringing back Sundae Sundays (the first one is on Sunday, May 27th) and they will be held on the 4th Sunday of the month in June, July and August, too. This year, we tried a new method of sign-up using Sign-Up Genius – an online resource to make it easier. The “old” way on the sheet can still be used, and communication is key.

Please remember that this relaxed fellowship time is what coffee hour is all about. Coffee Hour can be and should be simple. **One or two items** (something healthy, something sweet) and beverages is all you need. Purchased or homemade snacks, a baked good, juice, fruit or veggies and/or cheese and crackers, anything you would like to serve is fine. Coffee and paper products are provided.

We are still looking for hosts/hostesses to cover the rest of the Sundays this year. Please feel free to partner with another member or buddy up with someone if you’d like. If you have any questions regarding Coffee Hour, or want to volunteer, please contact Lisa Murphy at 610-513-5660.

Thank you to all our members who have volunteered to host Coffee Hour throughout 2017-2018:

Celine Childs
Patti DiMariano
Jo Ann Fricker
Martha Fuller
Shantha Ittyerah
Noeleen Laing
Titi Lakeru-Rivers
Jean MacKenzie
Lisa Murphy

Jody & Dave Pierce
Heather Ronca
Heather Rosa
Roberta Schafer-Reppert
Rosie Sheahan
Barbie Smiley
Tomasia Stevenson
Babs Zulick

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Murphy

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The mission of the Communications Committee is to increase the visibility of St. Jude and the Nativity in the immediate community and also the community at large. The committee maximizes the use of free electronic and print media to advertise events and post updates about St Jude's ministry. In 2017, this committee has requested a small budget in order to expand the advertising reach.

Have you visited our website lately? Is there anything that you would like to see included? Significant changes have been made and continue to be made as we search for what best serves our parish and community. The objective is to have a website that is welcoming, user-friendly and informative. A few years ago, we introduced the ability to make payments online for pledges, donations, event payments, etc. Do you make your pledge online? You can pay whenever you wish or set up automatic recurring payment for your convenience. The event photos are maintained with information provided to this committee by the parish family; please continue to submit updates and photos so that we can keep our pages fresh and current.

St Jude's Facebook page has quite a few followers. Are you one of them? We continue to work on fresh ideas and ways to build and retain interest.

The bulletin boards in the Guild Room need to be consistently updated. We need to maintain them as they are a vital source of information within our parish and also for visitors. Do you enjoy creating info boards? If you need a creative outlet, this might be the ministry for you.

We advertise all of our special events on Craigslist, Facebook, our own website, in the Whitmarsh Enterprise and other local newspapers. We send postings to Parish-to-Parish Weekly and Episcopal News Weekly. We also post a small amount of flyers in areas where they are permitted.

The committee welcomes any opportunities to increase the visibility of our church. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Titi Lakeru-Rivers, Vestry

PROPERTY REPORT

The Property Committee remains a small group. The aging property demands more than one or two people can really tackle. Due to our continued budget situation, many issues and projects go unaddressed. I do my best to keep the building from failing any further.

We had to fight some flooding that fortunately left minor damage to the undercroft. We are very blessed to have a building available for rentals. Thanks to Jo Ann's work we have some rentals still to come this year. During a warm September wedding, the A/C unit seemed to be struggling. The week after the event, Titi Lakeru-Rivers had the A/C unit serviced with her generous donation to cover the cost. It was much needed and long overdue.

The winter season, which seems to have dragged on, presented the usual snow and ice storms. They took a heavy toll on our rectory building. The family in residence had decided to move out. In the confusion, the propane fuel for the heater ran dry. This happened at the worst possible time during the coldest weather of the year. The end result was some broken water pipes. So currently the rectory is off the market. As our budget for this allows, we will discuss the necessary repairs.

Many maintenance issues persist, but we have been able to keep the buildings and grounds in good condition to host our Flea Market and a wedding or two. We continue to pray and hope the building will continue to stand as our home of faith. As always, any donations of time and talents are very much welcome.

Prayerfully submitted,
David Pierce, Vestry

CHARLOTTE'S GARDEN AND LABYRINTH REPORT

The Committee is comprised of Heather Ronca, Tomasa Stevenson, Babs Zulick, Dave and Jody Pierce, John Ogza, Titi Lakeru-Rivers and Penny Brodie.

We had 2-3 cleaning, mulching, and planting events in Charlotte's Garden both in the spring and the summer along with weeding the labyrinth, placing newspaper and mulching the entire 36'x36' area to keep the weeds down. All this was completed in May, July, and August.

A spring weeding and mulching was completed by Tony DeLuca, which helped the volunteers to move ahead with a planting schedule.

In July, donated plantings from Tomasa and Dave Stevenson's gardens were planted including liriope, columbine, rudbeckia, red champions, ajuga and others.

Flats of annuals were also donated through the Farmers' Market in Roxborough. These plants included portulaca, coleus, begonias and more. Five red cannas were also donated by Gorgas Park and planted on the right side of the labyrinth near the back. Plant tags were made for these plantings.

The five serviceberry trees and three American hornbeams trees, which were planted through the PHS Tree Tender Program, of which St. Jude's Church is a member, and the fringe tree in the memorial garden are all thriving thanks to a systematic watering program in 2017, as it was dry most of the summer. The trees were planted in 2016 – late in the year.

In September, two beautiful hydrangeas donated by Sachiyo Searles were planted to the right of the labyrinth and marked with plant tags.

In October of 2017, Martha Fuller and Jean MacKenzie generously donated a number of plants for the garden. Volunteer Cynthia Brancato and Penny Brodie dug up these plants and transported them to Charlotte's Garden and planted them on October 8 and 14. These plants include vinca, hostas, New York Ironweed, ageratum, primrose, columbine and lamb's ears.

In November, over 600 bulbs were planted by Babs, Penny and Carla Bates. Crocus, daffodils, tulips, iris, allium and hardy glads were planted throughout the Memorial Garden and the area to the right of the fountain.

A shed was constructed in the summer of 2017 at a nominal cost of \$300 and it houses our garden tools, wheelbarrow, and snow implements.

Easter "Dollar-a-Day Jar" donations and other generous donations by members of the congregation helped to keep the garden budget in line.

God looks at this world and at us as a gardener does, seeing this year's potential and not last year's failures. Like any gardener, God looks around, sees the endless possibilities and gets to work. And the work continues, some of us planting, some watering, while God gives the growth. 1 Cor. 3:6

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Brodie, Vestry

FACILITY RENTALS



All events and reservations should be planned through the Facilities Coordinator, Jo Ann Fricker. She can be reached directly on her cell phone 215-680-5634. Requests for information can be sent to her email address: teachjo@comcast.net. A calendar of reservations is being maintained on Google.

Since our last Annual Meeting, we have also rented to Colonial School District for some of their Advanced Placement test days, a monthly meeting of a Thyroid Cancer Support Group, Colonial Business Association (CBA) for some of their executive meetings, Journeys of the Heart for training, social functions and weddings, Flanagan's Preschool from Conshohocken and Plymouth Meeting for their graduations, several family functions, and several private parties.

The following fee guidelines apply for the use of the facilities at St. Jude's under this contract:

Group Type	Single Event	Recurring Event
For-Profit (non-member)	\$100 security deposit; \$300 rental fee for first four hours; \$50 per hour thereafter;	\$100 security deposit; \$50 per hour fee; \$50 sexton fee
Not-for-Profit (non-member) Groups under 20	By prior arrangement	By prior arrangement or \$25 deposit; \$10 per hour; \$50 sexton fee
Not-for-Profit (non-member) Groups 20 or more	By prior arrangement	\$25 deposit; \$25 per hour; \$50 sexton fee
Pledging Church Member	2 uses per year without charge; Additional uses: \$10 per hour; For all uses: \$50 sexton fee	\$10 per hour; \$50 sexton fee
Non-Pledging Church Member	\$25 deposit; \$25 per hour; \$50 sexton fee	\$25 deposit; \$25 per hour; \$50 sexton fee

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Fricker, Vestry

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The various fundraisers offered by members of the parish play an important role in our financial planning and have become regularly scheduled events that generate a consistent amount that can be factored into the annual budget. Any newly suggested fundraisers are evaluated as to whether they are in alignment with our Mission Statement and Core Values. If they don't pass the "test", we don't start them. On behalf of the Vestry, I would like to thank you for your hard work on all of our fundraising events. They are as follows:

Spring Flea Market: Occurred on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017.

Net profit: \$3,000 approximately

This event is a community staple and showcases our parish at its best due to the fact that all hands need to be on deck to pull it off. Reservations open on May 1st and our website and sales website have been updated.

Christmas Bazaar: Occurred on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017.

Net profit: \$3,000 approximately

The bazaar is on a bi-annual schedule and is held on the first Saturday in December. It showcases handmade crafts and homemade candy made by our parishioners. If you love to make crafts, the Crafters Guild is the group for you. See Jo Ann Fricker if you would like to join them. Save the December date and stop in for great shopping, lunch and, of course, Santa!

Respectfully submitted,
Titi Lakeru-Rivers, Vestry

CRAFTERS' GUILD

It is never too early to think Christmas! The Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for the first Saturday in December, 2019, only nineteen months away! We have lots of new ideas underway!! We deposited over \$3,000 from the Christmas Bazaar in 2017!!

We are continuing with our pre-order sales!! During the Flea Markets in June and/or October, we will have a sample of each of the tissue boxes that we have been stitching. So, browse through, and with a \$5 deposit, order the ones you like!!

The Crafters' Guild meets every Tuesday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Thank you to so many people for making the last two years so successful: Celine Childs, Sarah Evans, Jo Ann Fricker, Donna Koryn, Jean MacKenzie, Pat Paillard, Heather Ronca, Roberta Schafer-Reppert, Barbie Smiley, and Ellen Yunker. They have worked tirelessly to help with the behind-the-scenes projects and details.

If you are hiding a talent, we will find you!! Do you like to paint, knit, crochet, stencil, tat, embroider, sew, stencil, scrapbook, bead, cook, bake, can ... ?

We hope to expand to canning projects this summer. Do you have favorite family recipes that your grandmother canned? I can't wait to make some cranberry ketchup, apple butter, mango chutney, and zucchini pickles. If you would like to help out during the summer of 2018, please contact me.

Does anyone have an old wooden 6-foot ladder that we could paint and use for display? Would you be willing to paint? Please see Jo Ann Fricker.

Do you shop at Lowe's or Home Depot? Often they have wooden pallettes for free. If you have an empty SUV and see a few pallets, will you bring us a few? We have some pallet crafts that we would like to try!! Please see Jo Ann Fricker.

Thank you to all the parishioners who contributed cakes, cookies, and candies to our food tables. We will need your help again in December, 2019!

See you at our pre-order sales or on our upcoming Etsy site!



Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Fricker, Vestry

**Christmas Bazaar
December 7, 2019**