

## **Sr. Warden's Report – Jane Hunter**

Senior Wardens Report  
Annual Meeting - January 28, 2018

My first term started in January of 2017. I had previously been on the Vestry a few years before so it was not a completely new situation. The major activity over the year was consultation with the Rector regarding issues facing the church. We met monthly in the last week before the meeting and discussed a variety of things. Some minor issues we simply settled and some we brought forward to the Vestry. Between meeting we often conferred by phone.

My primary concern for the Vestry was good communication with the congregation, which led undoubtedly to my being assigned as the Vestry liaison for the Communication Ministry Team. Unfortunately, this committee has had a hard time getting under way but it has made a very good start for 2018.

Another important aspect of the Senior Warden position is commitment to activities of the parish and the diocese. During the year I attended all the Vestry meetings, the deanery (Panhandle) that were held, and the Annual Meeting in North Platte (Diocese). In addition, I often attended the coffee hour and also helped as a hostess several times. I attended the Lenten soup suppers last spring and of course, regularly attend Sunday services.

I am looking forward to serving a second term and finishing some of the projects that were started during 2017.

## Jr. Warden's Report – Rick Gable

Dear fellow Parish members

I want to take this time to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our church as the Junior Warden for the past three years. It has been rewarding to learn what it takes to keep a church up and running. I think so many times we take for granted that things will just get taken care of by someone else. I have enjoyed the fellowship of working with the vestry and hope that we have made good decisions for the best interest of our church. We accomplished so many things over the past years and there are many more things we can continue to do to keep our church from getting run down. I especially want to honor Terry Haney for all the help he gave me and things he did on his own. We were very blessed to have someone like Terry be a part of our church. We had a lot of good times working together. For any of you that have never served on the vestry, I would ask that you volunteer when a position comes open. It helps you understand more what goes on and a better understanding of how the church operates. I know I have a good feeling as to how it operates and the good people that are on the committees that help make our church what it is. I will be readily available to help the new junior warden with any questions or concerns they may have. Thank you so much and God Bless!!

Richard

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## **Christian Formation Ministry Team Report – Fr. Mark**

Current Members of our Ministry Team – Fr Mark (Chair), Jeanne Anderson (Vestry Liaison), Joyce Hillman-Kortum, Rae Whitney, Dael Cron, Gretchen Foster, Jamie Selzer, Sarah Williams, Peggy Wymore

This was an area of real focus for the parish this year. We held one meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>, as we prepared for the fall and winter programming, and discussed what was working and what needed.

### **Adult Formation**

We concluded that we have a good number of adult studies at this time, and that our focus for 2017-8 would be more on small group bible study and discipleship groups and less on large group programs. To that end, we currently have the following small group/discipleship group studies:

Sunday 9:00AM	Lectionary study in the library
Wednesday 7:00AM	Men's bible study in the library
Wednesday 3:00PM	Women's bible study in the library
Wednesday 6:00PM	Women's bible study at Rae's apartment
Thursday 10:00AM	Ecumenical study at Presbyterian church
Thursday 12:00PM	Discipleship group in the library
Thursday 6:00PM	Bible study in the library

Other programs this year included:

Lenten study on "Engaging the Prophets" dvd series with Walter Brueggeman  
"Dying to Know" seminar on making end-of-life preparations by Mo. Karen  
Preparing for Confirmation individual instruction

**Youth Formation** -- We have two main area of focus:

Godly Play -- we have a large group of dedicated volunteers who plan, schedule, recruit, train, and provide this programming for elementary-age youth on Sunday mornings upstairs above the parish hall. We are blessed to have been able to purchase the entire set of Godly Play Materials through a generous donation of our Foundation. This program seems very well received by kids, parents, teachers and helpers, and we will continue to use it for the foreseeable future.

Youth Group – we meet on the first and third Sundays of every month, and our two youth group leaders, Dael Cron and Gretchen Foster, have done a wonderful job this year engaging more of our middle and high-school youth in our meetings and

activities. In addition to teaching and sharing on Sunday mornings, the youth group has written and sent cards to, and visited and sung Christmas Carols with shut-ins. They have gone together to art shows and gone bowling with the youth from First Presbyterian. Many of them attended Camp Canterbury in the summer, which continues to be an integral part of our formation program. Fr. Mark has begun a Catechism Class for 14-15 year olds to prepare them for the sacrament of Confirmation.

The purchase of the van this year allowed us to take more kids to camp, which is a real blessing.

## 2017 PRAIRIED TREASURES eBay OUTREACH MINISTRY

For those not familiar with this St. Francis outreach ministry, here is the short version. We have a small group that meets a time or two each week and sells items on eBay that have been donated by our church members. The net receipts from these sales are then distributed to local, national and international outreach programs. During 2017 we were fairly successful in selling 50 to 60 items a month. This brought in an average of about \$400 to \$500 a month.

When possible, we try to keep track of the sold items by individual donor and provide a year end report for tax purposes if applicable. The amounts of the sold items are tax deductible for the donors as this is just another form of a charitable donation. Our main problem with this ministry is keeping a steady supply of items to sell. The items we look for are generally small enough to reasonably ship and consist of just about anything you would consider giving to Goodwill or Potters Wheel, except clothing and furniture. The items we are unable to sell are then given to one or the other of those organizations.

We all have "things" to downsize and the revenue goes to very good causes. It is really amazing what will sell on eBay. If you have any questions as to whether an item is appropriate to donate please ask Don Kepler, John Wymore or Al Williams. Also, keep us in mind to your friends and neighbors and inform them of this ministry here at St Francis, as we will accept donations from anyone.

In 2017 our outreach ministry distributed \$4,686 among the following organizations:

Doves	Samaritan's Purse
Special Olympics	Habitat For Humanities
Diaper Depot	Salvation Army
Fire Fighters Ministry	Heartland Food Bank
Compassion International	Panhandle Humane Society
Doctors Without Borders	School Backpack Program
Thanksgiving In The Valley	Make-A-Wish Foundation
Food For The Poor	American Red Cross
Skippers Cupboard	

We, along with all of these organizations, thank you for the support of this ministry.

Don Kepler  
Treasurer

## Pastoral Eucharistic Visitors Committee Annual Report

There are currently three active members on the Pastoral Eucharistic Visitors Committee, two less than 2016. The active members of the committee are Pati McLellan, Santana Tamarack and Father Robert Manasek. At the present time they take Eucharist to ten members of our church family who are unable to attend church on a regular basis, and the Eucharistic Visitors are their only contact with St. Francis. A few of them attend church sporadically when they are brought by friends or relatives. We greatly appreciate their efforts, but so much depends on the weather and the health and mobility of the person.

Recently Rae Whitney, Gretchen Traw, Barbara Manasek and Father Bob have been conducting a church service at The Village in Scottsbluff on a regular basis. Usually ten or more of the residents attend the service. If you can't bring Mohammed to the mountain, bring the mountain to Mohammed, or whatever that phrase is.

If you know of a church member who is unable to attend church on a regular basis and would like to receive Eucharist in their home, please let a committee member know. Also, if you would like to join the committee and be trained as a Lay Eucharist Visitor please let a committee member know that, too. Training is not difficult or lengthy. It is an opportunity to keep in touch with those members, who we don't get to see very often. These parishioners very much appreciate a visit. Being a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is also a very rewarding experience.

## 2017 Annual Report of Altar Guild

The function of the Altar Guild is to assist the priest and prepare the altar for services. The Altar Guild consists of 16 women in teams of four who serve a month at a time. We prepare the altar for every Sunday and Tuesday service, for baptisms, and for funerals and weddings when a communion service is requested. We wash and iron the linens used at each service. We clean the sacristy and altar area monthly. We change the frontal and lectern hangings according to the seasons of the church.

During 2017 Altar Guild assisted with 4 baptisms, 5 funerals, and the Deanery Meeting. We made 200 palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

We welcome new member Christy Anderson.

Fr. Mark and Altar Guild members meet to discuss ideas to keep our church lovely and the services meaningful.

"Duty makes us do things well. Love makes us do things beautifully" --Phillips Brooks

Nancy Kepler and Collette Suhr, Co-Chairs

## **St. Francis Church ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Report 2017**

**St. Francis Church Women had another busy year in 2017, with many activities and projects.**

- **Birthday, Get Well, and Sympathy cards were sent to the youth and other members of the Parish by the Courtesy Committee**
- **Our Reception Teams served 5 Funerals receptions, 4 Baptismal receptions, 1 Graduation Reception, Ray Whitney's Birthday and Library dedication, Sing-a-long Luncheon, Consecration Sunday Potluck, Deanery Luncheon, and the Annual Meeting Potluck.**
- **We collected and sent the United Thank Offering totaling \$534.33.**
- **We paid \$300 towards the cost of the Wall Hanging of St. Francis in the Narthex.**
- **We held a Mother/Daughter Brunch and style show, hosting over 75 mothers and daughters.**
- **We completed 20 lap blankets and delivered 14 of them to Parishioners.**
- **Our Christmas outreach to families in need in the Valley was a continued success. A total gifting of \$1571.00 was collected from the Parish during Advent. Four families, one from Gering, one from Lake Minatare, and one from Scottsbluff Preschool, and one from Scottsbluff were each given \$300 in Wal-Mart gift cards. Father Mark was given \$200 for his discretionary fund along with \$100 in gas cards, this year.**
- **A Christmas Cookie exchange was held and tins were filled and delivered to 14 shut-ins in the Parish.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barb Manasek**

**President ECW**